

**Dear God, I pray that you will bless me and my church. Send people into our fellowship,
and protect us all. In Jesus' name. Amen**

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Sunday 15th April 2018

'More than a Song...'

Amos 5



Good morning and welcome to worship!

We've had an incredible fortnight with some of the Church family in Kenya and I'm sure much will be said about the trip and its effects in the coming weeks. I'm also very aware that the whole thing didn't just happen and wasn't an accidental success- lots of people, particularly from the wider Church family, worked very hard to pull it off. One of the (many!) things that struck me about the "Kenyan Way" on this trip was the very intentional way that people stop to say "welcome" and "thank you" regardless of how busy they are or how behind time things are running and not only do people say "thanks" in a polite way but they often take the time to say why they are thankful. In that same spirit, I offer a few intentional words of thanks!

- **To all of the "Cheerleaders" (and yes, that probably includes you!):** thanks for your fundraising, your giving, your generosity, your encouragement, your prayers, your driving, your running about, your dedication and your investment. You went above and beyond in making the trip happen and most of you didn't even get to come. Asante!

- **To our new and reacquainted friends in the Kenya East Territory:** thanks for your welcome, your hospitality, your friendship, your commitment to the cause, your embrace of us and for all you have taught us about following God. I'm always incredibly humbled, particularly by colleagues, who show such dedication amidst danger, difficulty and even severe drought. You have demonstrated to us the Gospel that is as transformative as it is holistic. We've so enjoyed the partnership this past fortnight. Asante!

- **To the Transformers Team:** Thanks for being you! Thanks for the way in which you entered in to everything, for digging deep and hard, for 'nomination', for caring for one another, for being a team, for shining from the inside out. Each one of you surprised me and taught me something in your own way- being your corps officer is a privilege and we're proud of you. Asante!

- **And, finally and perhaps predictably if not a little cheesy-** Thanks be to God for your faithfulness, your new-every-morning-mercy, thanks for the work you have done in our lives and for the promises yet to be fulfilled. Asante Sana!

It was John Stott who said that preachers should have their Bibles in one hand and a newspaper in the other. In other words, he's saying that what comes from the pulpit cannot be unaffected by the events we experience in the world around us. This morning, then, we are going to turn to a passage from Amos which has been on my heart and mind as we've travelled around Kenya and seen some of the stark injustices that exist in the world. Today, we'll see how Amos speaks into injustice, calling the people of God to be a people whose lives match up with their beliefs, who aren't afraid to challenge the status quo and who anticipate with readiness the Kingdom of God amongst them.

Let it be so for us!

Callum



The gift of flowers greatly enhances our worship environment, this week we thank Eric.

Prayer Requests

Marilyn Simpson had surgery this week and is recovering well.

Please continue to remember Buddy and the family in your prayers following Frances's promotion to glory. The funeral is at 1:00pm on 1st May at Ashford Salvation Army.

Please continue to remember Lilian Cardy in your prayers following the promotion to glory of her sister, Polly.

Cate who will have surgery on 2 May.

Eric who has a cataract operation on Thursday.

Date for your diary...

Saturday April 28th "TOTAL PRAISE" featuring the South East Youth Band; South East Fellowship Band & the Shepway Community Choir. 7pm in Hythe Bay School – admission free with a retiring collection.

== NEW DATE FOR YOUR DIARY! ==

Sunday 29th April will now be designated as 'Kenya Celebration Sunday' when the team who visited Kenya will lead us in our worship, share testimonies and give us a taste of the trip, whilst giving thanks to God for all that he did through the trip. It'll also give us a chance to thank the whole Church for all they did to make the trip possible. This will be a great morning's meeting- not to be missed!