



## ‘The Lord is a Strong Tower’

By Andrew Carr, Reader



I took this photo many years ago when Claire and I were on holiday in the US.

This is the famous [Chrysler](#) Building in New York City, which first opened to the public on 27 May 1930 – 90 years ago today.

Then it was the tallest man-made structure in the world (1,046 feet high), a monument to the man after whom it was named, Walter P. Chrysler (1875-1940) an American automotive industry executive who had founded the Chrysler Corporation (who sponsor my team Manchester United, as an aside).

I am sure I’m amongst many, many people who have admired its elegant design over the years since it was completed.

### **So why choose it for a mid-week reflection..?**

We are daily reminded of the need to keep safe and to be safe if we need to go outside or go somewhere. We have a good idea of what that means – masks, distancing, hand washing etc – in practice even as the longer the lockdown continues the more frustrating it has or can become... and of being aware of events that would normally have taken place that didn’t; for example it would have been the FA Cup Final last Saturday...

But back to towers and a verse in the Old Testament Book of Proverbs that comes to mind:

‘The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.’

(Proverbs 18:10)

What might that verse mean, especially at present? For example, if we accept the old adage that ‘an Englishman’s home is his castle...’ then the home we live in however big or small (though personally I think turrets in this day and age are a bit much...) is our safe place, our strong tower, our sanctuary, especially at present.

Righteous is perhaps not as common a word as it used to be(?) – means ‘morally right or justified, decency, integrity, honesty...’ To me its means ‘treat others the way you want to be treated’ and if we all tried to that, even if we don’t always succeed, then the world might just be a better and safer place. If the pandemic has shown us nothing else, then the fact that so many have been so willing to watch out for, support and assist, family, friends, neighbours, strangers, even to the extent of putting their lives on the line has been so humbling, so inspiring.

I’ve left the first part of the proverb till last – ‘The name of the Lord’. I’m more sure that this is not as common an expression as it may once have been... It means God Himself, as he is revealed to us all in his faithfulness, love, compassion, power in the person of Jesus. To borrow an advertising jingle: “*It does exactly what it says on the tin*”, in other words “*it lives up to its name*”.

The Lord lives up to His Name. If He says He is a strong tower, a safe refuge, a sanctuary, He is. If He says: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' He will if you go to Him. And if He says: 'I will be with you always'. He always will be.

Until we meet again, keep safe, keep well.

**AMEN**