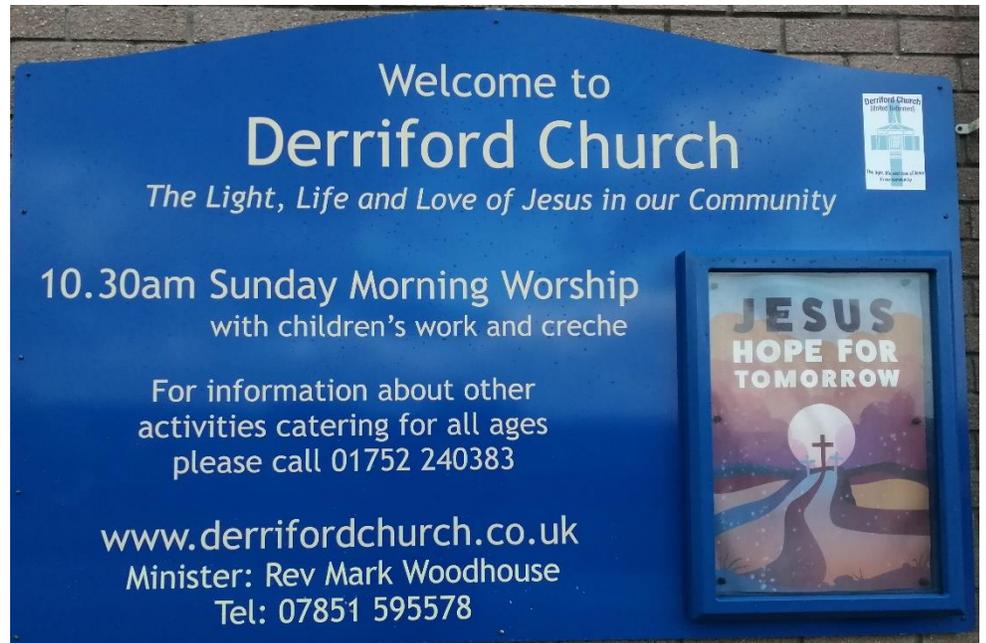


# Derriford URC

## Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> March  
2021



As those that were at our Zoom service on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March will know, our new theme for Sunday mornings is 'Get excited about the Bible'. Over the weeks and months ahead I want us all to get (more) excited about reading God's wonderful word for ourselves.

So, over the coming year I am asking everyone to increase their time in the Bible and I absolutely promise you will not regret it. Your faith will grow, your desire to engage with the Holy Spirit will increase and your ability to talk about God will become a much more normal part of life.

Now I do understand that this is not always easy, especially at the start. With this in mind, later in the Newsletter there are some resources to help us all in this task. I promise you though the more you do it, the easier and more enjoyable it will become – so much so that if you miss reading your Bible (and praying) one day you will feel you are missing something!!

So, are you ready for it? Are you ready to 'Get excited about the Bible'? After all it is the account of God's action in the world, and His purpose for all creation including you and me!

# Caleb – Faithful Warrior

## Joshua 14:6-15

Caleb was born into slavery, in Egypt. His father may have been a gentile, Caleb means dog and was used as a derogatory term!

He was an adult at the time of the twelve plagues and so went through the first Passover, with the blood of a real lamb painted on the door of his house.

He left Egypt with the rest of the Israelites under Moses' leadership, growing in faith and faithfulness, and by the time they reached the borders of Canaan, he was of such standing that he was viewed as one of the leaders of the tribe of Judah, such that he was chosen as one of the twelve to spy out the land and bring back a report.

He was with Joshua and they gave a positive and encouraging report being sure that God would keep his promise and deliver the land into the Israelites hands, of course we know that is not what happened, and he spent the next 40 years wandering in the desert with an unfaithful people, while he remained wholeheartedly faithful to God.

Our story is similar to Caleb's, born into slavery to sin and in a foreign land – we too are redeemed by the blood of a lamb, God's lamb, his son, Jesus.

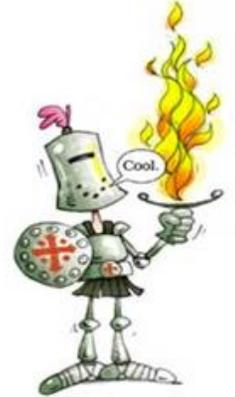
We then journey through the world, which is always set against us, working to keep faith in our wonderful God and to know him above all.

Then the day came when it was time for the promise to be fulfilled, God promised Caleb the land where his foot had stepped as a reward for his wholehearted faith in Jehovah and as he moved in to take possession of the promise, we too often have to fight to take possession of the things that God has promised us. Caleb never lost his trust, we need to make sure that we never lose our trust, that when we take those risks that God calls us to make, we trust that he will come through for us.

There are four actions we need to be engaging in:

- 1 Be fully yielded to God.
- 2 Know and believe God's promises.
- 3 Be willing to step out in faith.
- 4 Depend on God at every turn.

It worked for Caleb; it will work for us!



## Upcoming Events

Sunday Morning Service (10:30am)

Tuesday Prayer Meeting (9:15am)

DURC Film Night 6<sup>th</sup> April (7pm)

Next Nooma 20<sup>th</sup> April (7:30pm)

## Easter Services

### Good Friday Service

2:00pm in the Carpark

### Easter Sunday Service

10:30am in Church.



Our Zoom  
Meetings Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83803659404>

Or via the phone: 0203 901 7895  
/ id 83803659404

Superb, thank you Lynne. Great word, great service. As I try to remind people every week the above is only a summary of the word that Lynne shared on Sunday, the whole service including the hymns, prayers and sermon can all be watched by clicking on the link below (and of course if you have no access to the internet and would like to receive the service on either on CD to listen to or DVD to watch, please let me know – I am happy to make a copy and get it delivered to you). The link to the service is:

<http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk/durc-sunday-service-140321/>

## Prayer, Praise and Worship

### Prayer.

This week's prayer Help from Lucy:

**Praise:** I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you. Jeremiah 31:9

**Church:** Let's begin praying for how we want our church to "look" as we hopefully emerge from the pandemic. Ask the Lord what He wants from us, who does He want us to engage with, ask how we can make a difference to the city of Plymouth.

**Local:** Pray for our city as changes implemented during the pandemic might have a lasting effect on all of us. Pray for our councillors that they will be given wisdom to plan the way forward, that Christians working in that area will have a voice too so that Plymouth will be known a city of integrity. *Below is a link to Plymouth's Councillors. Will print it for those that have the newsletter via post*

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/CouncillorWardMap202021.pdf>

**National:** The royal family. Such a sad time for them: broken relationships, illness, loyalty gone, things that should have been kept private exposed whether it was the truth or not. Pray for the Queen especially, all her years of being our public, and everybody else's, property, that she will know peace and happiness. Pray for reconciliation of the family.

Our Church prayer chain is run by Lucy Parker. If you would like to join us in interceding for our church and the wider world or you have something you feel you would like people to pray into please contact Lucy on either email or phone: [lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk) / 07503 003250.

### Sunday Morning Worship

As I indicated at the start of this newsletter our theme for this year which each of our preachers will focus on is 'Get excited about the Bible'. So, over the months ahead they will share their favourite Bible stories from both the Old and New Testament with the hope that they get us all 'fired up to read and engage with the Bible and in doing that help us all to grow in our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. I am very very excited about it. Reading and understanding the Bible is not always easy and it is really helpful to have some resource alongside. So here are a few books etc that were recommended at the end of the service on the 7<sup>th</sup>:



*Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. (Psalm 34:3)*

**Unlocking the Bible - David Pawson.** This is a very readable and helpful textbook to the Bible as a whole. David Pawson is my favourite Bible teacher who sadly – although not for him, died last year. If you are a Kindle user you can currently buy this for £2 (otherwise it is about £12.99)

**David Suchet's Bible.** Reading the Bible is often difficult, especially with its very unusual names and places which are often hard to pronounce. One way to help with that is to have the Bible read to you and who better to read it than David Suchet (who plays Agatha Christie's Poirot on TV) and who is a wonderful Christian.

**You Version Bible.** Also, the You Version which, if you have a smart phone, you can download for free. It has numerous Bible versions available, with many having audio option so they can be read aloud as you read the text.

**God on Mute – Peter Greig.** This is not particularly about the Bible. But is a very helpful book, especially if we are going through tough times. Also by Pete Greig is Red Moon Rising and How to Pray both are very helpful in our walk with Jesus (in fact I would go as far as to say Pete's books are always worth reading and also easy to read and very entertaining too). Also if you do have a smart phone it may be worth downloading Pete Greig's *Lectio365*. Daily devotions for the 24/7 prayer movement.

## This Sunday

This Sunday our service is as normal on Zoom. You are all welcome to join us. It is a great to worship God with our Derriford family even if we are in different buildings. The link is our normal Meetings link:

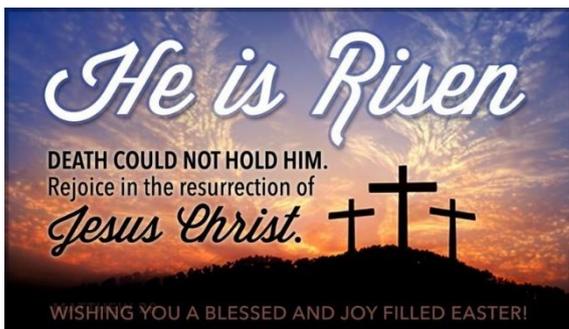
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83803659404>

I hope you are able to come on Sunday and join us for our Sunday Worship Service - which as usual is on Zoom (the normal link). The title this week is, '**Prophet, Intercessor and a Very Brave Boy!**' and our reading is:

## Amos chapter 1

As always may I encourage you to read it before the service, and if you can why not read the whole of Amos? It's a great book.

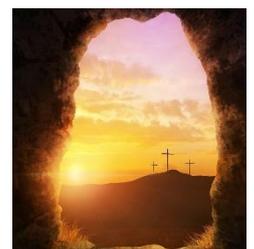
## Our Easter Services...



Our Easter Services this year are (and hopefully we can meet in person!):

**Good Friday Service**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> April 2:00pm) in the Carpark.

**Easter Sunday Service**  
(4th April 10:30am) in Church.



Of course, it all depends on the latest rules and regulations! Let's keep praying and believing, but please put the dates for both in your diary.

*Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. (Psalm 34:3)*

## Derriford Film Club:

**6<sup>th</sup> April (7pm)**

You can watch the trailer at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcTVLfn5i8g>

*This will be great way to continue that Easter celebration. It is a wonderful story about the Centurion from the Bible who watched Jesus die.*

*“Witness the manhunt that changed the course of human history”.*

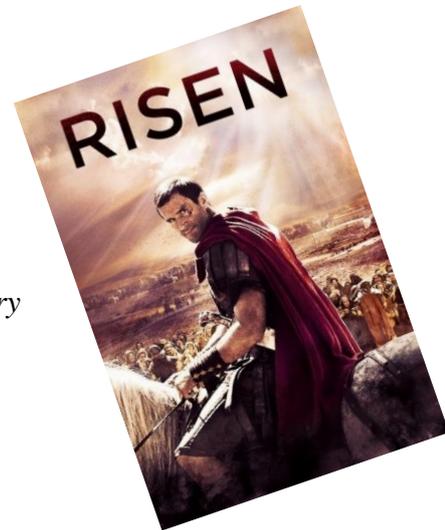
### Future films (for your diary):

**4<sup>th</sup> May (7pm): Pay It Forward** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfW0wCV9iFI>)

**1<sup>st</sup> June (7pm): War Room** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx5kpJ5mkeE>)

**6<sup>th</sup> July (7pm): Finding Your Feet** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-Cp6ba2Y0g>)

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE! The plan is that we watch the film and afterward have a chat over coffee about the film and anything that is on your mind!



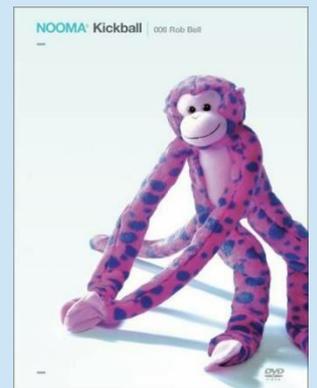
## Nooma.

This week's Nooma was entitled **Noise**. Thanks for the great discussion. If you would like to watch it again you can find it on Youtube:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XFoReR\\_XBE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XFoReR_XBE)

The next one (for your diary) is on **20<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm** (normal Zoom link) and is entitled **Kickball**.

DON'T MISS IT.



## Email from Oakwood Primary School

A wonderful email from Oakwood Primary school giving thanks.

Dear Muriel,

Thank you for the links to the Open the Book video stories for Easter. I have shared the links with the teachers who will use them with their classes over the coming weeks.

It is wonderful to have all the children back, they have been incredibly resilient during this challenging time.

Please pass on my thanks to your team for your continued support.

I hope you are all keeping well and safe.

Kind regards

*Jackie Sparrow*

Head of School

Oakwood Primary Academy



*Let's keep praying for all the teachers, staff and Children at Oakwood Primary School.*

*Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. (Psalm 34:3)*

## **Church and Church Hall**

We have no real details about the ideas for the buildings, as most of you know we've had the quinquennial, and especially with respect to the Hall, it was as feared and indicated that there is a major amount of work to be done. We must put some serious prayer into the way forward. We are currently obtaining information about costs of the work and rebuilding etc. Please be assured though, that no work will be agreed to without sharing the ideas / options with the whole church and agreeing a way forward. We will almost certainly have a church meeting at some time as soon as we are able to re-open without restrictions. This will be a long-term plan one that I am sure will be on our agenda for a number of years. In the meantime as we receive costings and other information we will share that with the fellowship either through the newsletter or through church services (or both).

May I ask us all to keep this high up in our prayer life and if you receive any, words of wisdom, visions or ideas from the Lord please share them and let me have them. It is so important through all of this that we hear God together as a fellowship. Please remember our tagline **Psalm 127:1-2:**

**Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.  
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.**

## **Focus on the Fellowship.**

For the next couple weeks, we have Mary's story for our Focus on the Fellowship. Bless you Mary.

My life began in Alexandra Nursing Home on the June 5th, 1935. I went to live with mum and dad in St. Levan Road in a flat. Dad was told to register my name as Doreen Elizabeth, but when he got home my mum was horrified as he had changed the name to Laura Mary! My mum refused to call me Laura and used only my second name Mary! That is why you all know me as Mary.

We moved to the top of Moor Lane in 1938, just before my brothers were born. I was sent to stay with my Aunt Edie in Edith Street St. Budeaux while my mum was indisposed, being spoilt with tea and biscuits in bed with Aunty Nora (who became Nora Hallie and mother of David Hallie lay preacher who some of you may remember living at the end of Upland Drive in later years).

I started School in September 1939 as the war started. I hated school because we had to carry our Gas masks and do air raid drill in the underground shelter. I was sent to Brixham every holiday to ease the burden on my mum. She would put me on the bus in the bus station in charge of the conductor and Gran would meet me in Paignton and then take me to Brixham.

I used to black lead the stove and clean the brass and when I got a little older, I was made to paint the kitchen chairs. One day as I was standing on her front doorsteps there was a daylight raid, no siren, and a German plane flew over the rooftops of the houses opposite, which were on a level with our steps trying to sneak out to sea unnoticed, he was machine gunning us as he went but missed. I could see his goggles he was so near! Another school holiday mum took us shopping in the square leaving one brother with Aunty Edie. We were on our way home when there was a raid, without warning mum threw us on the ground and laid on top of us by the library as he was machine gunning, no one was hit but they dropped an oil bomb. We clapped for joy because we thought the school had been hit by the amount of dust that went up, but it had dropped on the fields between Weston Mill and Bridwell Road!

*Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. (Psalm 34:3)*

When I was 7 years old dad who was in the navy had a shore base for a major refit, usually he was away for 3 years at a time; he took us all over to Belfast with him where the refit was taking place, it saved my life as I had lost half my weight in a fortnight, the doctor asked my mum what she had done to me! TB was thought to be the cause, but x-rays showed it not to be the case. It was thought that I was grieving over the raids as we had to sleep in the shelters every night for the previous 2 years. We also had war damage to the bungalow ending with a firebomb landing in the rafters over my bed, the ceilings over my bed were missing among others. We were then called back from Brixham for the war damage people to come and repair the house. As I was carried to the shelter from mum's bed, I saw her diving between little pockets of fire burning in the lounge to get some clothes from the airing cupboard. I was the last one to be carried down to our Anderson, mum had taken one brother, the other would jump from his cot and run down on his own. A good neighbour at the rear of our garden with only grown-up children had taken the fencing down to give mum a hand for all the raids. When we were not in the shelters, the year in Belfast, we only had 2 raids and we never left our beds.

Mum used to bring my brothers to pick me up from school at first, until they also went, and on our way home, she would buy some rock buns for us but one day there were only 2 left, she gave me one and broke the other in half for my brothers, Michael screamed at the top of his voice I don't want a broken rotten bun I want a mended rotten bun. Everyone was looking as if he was being murdered. We curled up laughing our heads off. Another time memory: the other brother shouted, 'I don't want cabbage dumplings.' when mum bought some sprouts.

We came home after the year, as dad went back to sea returning sometime later for another spell for damage repairs, but only stayed 3 months, where I was in bed all the time with yellow jaundice. I was allowed to have a puppy and kittens on my bed in the lodgings we were in this time, having been unable to rent a house. When I left Victoria Road School in 1945 having passed the scholarship I went to Stoke Damerel School, I still hated school as the school dinners were awful. One day a pupil and I were caught swapping ingredients and then things got worse as I was stood over to eat diced tinned beetroot. I needed a glass of water to get each mouthful down. When I had got so far I was told ok I could go and get my dessert but I couldn't and went out to the loos and was violently sick. I have not been able to look at beetroot ever since.

I left school at 15, one year early as I couldn't get to grips with trigonometry, I had lost almost all my second year due to breaking my left knee, which was in plaster for 3 months and told the only sports I could do was swimming and cycling, at twelve years old having sprained my ankles 7 times in the year before breaking my knee and not having a bike left me with only swimming, so in the summer months I went to Mount Wise every day with a friend buying buns on the way home, the baker used to tell us who could have the extra one as he always gave us a baker's dozen (13)

Thank you so much Mary, really great stuff. More from Mary next week. Well done and bless you Mary. Just to say again if anyone else would like to do a *Focus on the Fellowship* or write an extra bit please let me know.

## Spring Harvest @ Home 2021

Many of you will have been to Spring Harvest in the past I am sure. Well, this year, as it was last year, it is livestreamed online. May I suggest if you are available to log in, it is from the 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> April (just after Easter). There is a cost (£55) but if you can't afford it, there is a bursary scheme. It'll be great I'm sure – I'm going. Why don't you come too? For more information click on:



<https://springharvest.org/>

God Bless you all, have a wonderful and blessed week. Hope to see you all on Sunday for Worship.

Mark

### Using Zoom by Phone

For those of you who don't join into our services, meetings and socials because you don't have the technology let me encourage you to try and join using a standard house or mobile phone. It is really easy – details above on page one and if it is helpful we could do a little test (just you and I) so you know how to work it before the main meetings. Let me know if this is helpful. Honest though, it is really easy.

### Mark's Contact details:

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- Email: mark.woodhouse44@gmail.com