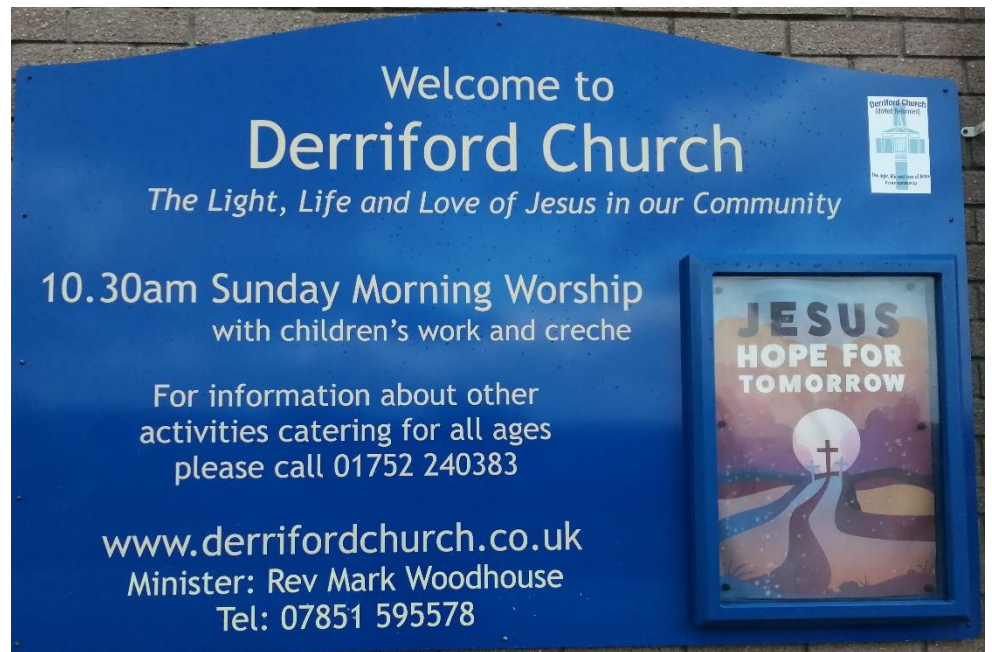
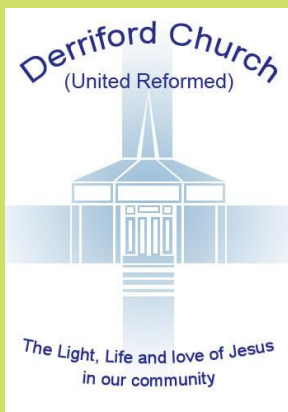


Derriford URC

Newsletter

28th March
2021



Well folks, it has been a year since we first went into lockdown. Easter last year, if you remember, we had our first 'on-line' service through Zoom. Well, what a lot of water has gone under the bridge since then.

This week it is Palm Sunday and the following week it is Easter weekend.

hallelujah Jesus is risen, he is risen indeed hallelujah!

I hope you can come to either one (or both) of our Easter Services in church. Please see below for more information.

It is so good to be able to get back together and worship God as his family in our own buildings. Please do put both dates in your diary.

I would also like to draw your attention to the flyer attached for '*The World of Jesus*' and encourage you to book. It is a big commitment, but I believe of real value to our Christian Walk.

Have a great read, there are some exciting things in this week's newsletter. Enjoy.

Amos

Prophet and Intercessor.

Upcoming Events

Sunday Morning Service (10:30am)

Tuesday Prayer Meeting (9:15am)

DURC Film Night 6th April (7pm)

Next Nooma 20th April (7:30pm)

Easter Services

Good Friday Service

2:00pm in the Carpark

Easter Sunday Service

10:30am in Church.

The Old Testament book of Amos is often considered to be full of doom and gloom with threats from an angry God followed by death and destruction. In fact, it is the epic tale of an ordinary man called by God to serve God's plans to save the very soul of Israel. Amos steps up as a Prophet who speaks God's message to Israel and thus upsets a lot of those who heard him. However, we must note here that Amos also steps into the role of an intercessor for Israel.

Prophecy is not necessarily a prediction of the future but rather the invitation to work with God to shape the future according to God's intentions.

I wonder how Amos felt moving from working as a shepherd and keeper of fig trees to be a Prophet and Intercessor for the nation of Israel? Frankly, I would have been scared! How about you? Yet Amos, no matter how scared he may have been, went and did it. What courage! "When God reveals through a prophet that He is about to judge an individual, church or nation, is there any point to asking God to change His mind and show mercy? Yes! Amos models the power of one person's empowered prayers to stall God's judgement.

Sometimes God acts unilaterally. But, more often God links His next move, in part, on our prayers. Often, heaven and earth (God and people) are linked together in a symbiotic relationship to bring God's plans into reality.

God's method all through the Bible in advancing His Kingdom and dealing with crisis is to call ordinary people, anoint them with His Spirit, equip them, and then send them out as His co-workers into the situation. Depending on the crisis it could be a Prophet like Amos, a warrior like Joshua, a King like David, or an Intercessor like Moses to name a few. God's intervention in the apostasy taking place in Israel which was rapidly culminating in national catastrophe was to send Amos as Prophet and Intercessor.

Dear friends of Derriford church, shall we look to speak God's Word and Truth into the lives of the community as His prophetic people and to intercede for those who live here that they may encounter Jesus and know Him as Saviour? Co-operating with God and each other we have the opportunity and privilege of speaking and praying God's plans into reality.

Thank you, Chris, Great stuff, bless you. You know folks please remember our wonderful preachers. They dedicate massive amounts of time listening to God and preparing sermons and organising services for us. If you get the opportunity, please say thank you to them.



Our Zoom
Meetings Link

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

Or via the phone: 0203 901 7895
/ id 83803659404

Chris's service, which the sermon is summarised above, can be watched in full by following the link below:

<http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk/durc-sunday-service-210321/>

This includes all the songs, prayers, reading as well as the sermon itself and if you don't have access to the internet and would like to receive the service on either on DVD or CD to watch / listen to, please let me know – I am happy to make a copy and get it delivered to you. The link to the service is above.

Prayer.

This week's prayer Help from Lucy:

Praise: Recently someone had a word from God about prayer in churches, this is what He said: I am maturing the "prayer arm" of the church". We need to be excited about this because it means that God still has a purpose and a plan for Derriford URC.

Church: The church buildings issue is not going to be a quick fix so perseverance in prayer is needed. Pray especially for the Deacons who are working tirelessly to source materials, engage with tradesmen, keeping the church virus free and a myriad of other jobs.

Local: Let's continue to pray for our schools, for the dedication of the teachers under difficult circumstances, for mental health of the students who are suffering all kinds of issues, and for those students who have lost family members due to the virus. Pray for an understanding and a tolerance across all strata of school life.

National: The violence towards to the police in Bristol has shocked a great many people. The enemy is using this to undermine all the good work our Forces do around the country. Pray for their protection, and for wisdom and sense to prevail.

Prayer Chain

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 / 07503 003250.

Tuesday Morning Prayers

Please, if you are available, on Tuesday morning come along to our weekly Zoom prayer meeting. We have a wonderful time meeting with the Lord and interceding for our church, our city and the rest of the world. It is on our normal Zoom link and starts at 9:15am on Tuesday. Love to see you there.

Sunday Morning Worship

Our service this week is only on Zoom. However, you are more than welcome to join us. It is a great time of worship as we worship the most amazing God together as His family here in Derriford (even if we are in different buildings). The link is our normal Meetings link:

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

I do hope you are able to come and join us it is always a very blessed time. The title this week is:

'Hosanna to the Son of David!' "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!"



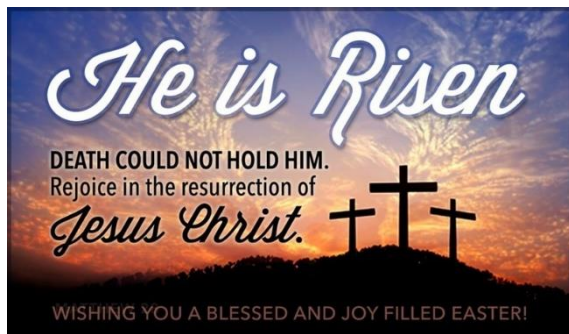
Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. (Psalm 34:3)

and our reading this week is:

Matthew 21:1-11

If you can, please read Matthew 21:1-11 beforehand. Phil also says if you are able to read the other three gospel Triumphal Entry passages (Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44 & John 12:12-19) that will be very beneficial. It always helps to get more out of the service / sermon if you have already read the day's passage. Remember our theme this year is Stories of the Bible - it's a great book.

Our Easter Services



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

Good Friday Service

(2nd April 2:00pm) in the Carpark.

Easter Sunday Service

(4th April 10:30am) in Church.

Rule and Regulations...



It is great that we can meet together in the church and in the carpark. I am very excited indeed. **However**, we do need to follow the rules and regulations. We are not out of the woods yet. So obviously please, no shaking of hands, no hugging and please keep two meters apart and when you are in the church keep a mask on. There will also be plenty of hand sanitiser available for you to use. And last but not least please listen to what the stewards are saying and abide by their rules.

This is really important for the safety of everyone who attends but also as a witness to our neighbours, that as a church we are abiding by all the rules and regulations.

It is going to be great to worship together, the King of Kings on this very special and exciting Easter weekend.

Feast of Fun



Feast of Fun is back! We are planning another delivery of Feast and Fun Parcels around Easter. The dates for your diary are Tuesday the 6th April and Tuesday 27th April. As always, we would value your help to pack and deliver the parcels. Please let Helen Rothwell (hmrothwell@msn.com / 07814 989438) know if you can make one or both dates.

This is a great opportunity to care for those in and around our community who are in great need especially at this time of struggling through the pandemic we are all in. We also try to provide (through the wonderful help of Transforming Plymouth – who do a fabulous job) fresh foods, as well as tinned and packet food alongside items for the children to use and enjoy.

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Change of dates



The Elders meet on the 23rd March (via Zoom) and felt that **The World of Jesus** event (see separate flyer and note below) is of real value to everyone and we wanted to clear Tuesdays in April / May so that as many people as possible are able to attend. So, with this in mind we have changed dates or even cancelled meetings on Tuesdays.

Please do think about attending this wonderful opportunity to 'visit' Israel.

Derriford Film Club (*please note change of dates*):

Thursday 8th 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*):

1st June (7pm): Pay It Forward (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfW0wCV9iFI>)

6th July (7pm): War Room (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx5kpJ5mkeE>)

3rd August (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

Please note there will be no Nooma in April or May to allow people to attend *The World of Jesus* online event.

Church and Church Hall

Further update on our hall. We are currently looking at various options around the idea of whether it would be better to pull the building down and start again, rebuilding it in such a way that it will be even more of a resource to be used both for church and as a community centre or repairing what is already there. Costs will be one factor that will play into the final decision in all of this. Of course,

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once we have more information of possible plans, we will share them with all the fellowship and look to agree the best way forward.

Whichever way we decide to go, it is clear that our hall will not be available for a considerable time. I suspect even with the quickest option it will be way over a year. Remember whatever we do we have to raise the money before we even start to do the work.

With this in mind, it means that we have very little flexible space to use for church or for the community. To help us with this we plan to remove the pews (they will initially be stored in the hall). We will then be able to use the sanctuary space in a more flexible way. This is something, as we all know, which has been planned for a while now. Initially we will need to use the chairs that we currently have, but we also plan to ask the URC for a grant to help us buy new church chairs.

Further to this, the council have asked if they can use our church for the elections in May, which we have done (albeit in the hall) for many years. We have said yes, and they have agreed to send strong men and women to come and move the pews into the hall for us. God is good. We think this will be done over the next couple weeks (before Easter)

May I ask us all to keep this in our prayers and if you receive any, words of wisdom, visions or ideas from the Lord please 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:**

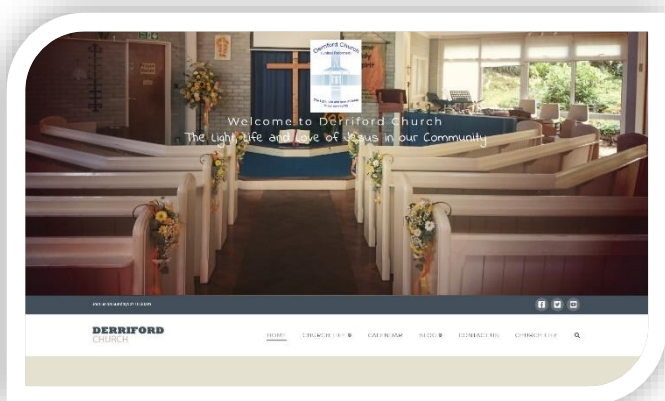
**Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.**

Church Website

Dan Brewer has been working hard on our website, it is now up and running although we still have some work to do. May I ask you to have a look at and share with people who may like to access it. The more people that use it (so I understand) the higher up it will be in search engines (like Google). Also if there is something you think would be useful to add to the website, please let me know.

The web address is:

<http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk/>



Focus on the Fellowship.

Here is Mary's second instalment. Thank you again Mary:

When I left school, my mum had got me a job at the sub post office on the square, behind the counter, I lasted 10 months there having met a girl from school who went to the GPO as a telephonist, which was a job I had always wanted ,but as I had got a job to go to the head mistress wouldn't let me attend the interviews. My mum was mad and told me to go and find out why, she said she wouldn't bother with me because I had the sub post office job! God opened the way for me. I had given my heart to Jesus when Billy Graham came to our church in 1950, the year I left school, before he set out on his campaigns. I was baptized a year later and became a Sunday teacher of 5-

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

year-olds and YFC chairman eventually after some help from my baptism sponsor and her husband who became a Baptist minister in London later.

I met Brian on a blind date in 1952 arranged by a work friend and her boyfriend, at the speedway. When we got there, I was very nervous and had been sick all day, He just asked me to turn around so he could use my back for his scoring cards. Then he took me home on the bus, though he thought I was engaged, he asked me for another date. We had a long courtship as he had to do national service,



he used to come to St Budeaux on Sundays but went to Embankment Road for recreation having to attend church every so often. We were married at St Budeaux church in 1957 after Brian had come home one weekend and got baptized. He had been corresponding with our minister and his padre on camp. As our minister was satisfied, he baptised him at the evening service. His mum came but his dad walked up and down outside and wouldn't come in. We were married there in 1957, honeymooning in London, for a week and then lived in a flat owned by an uncle in Beatrice Ave, St Judes. We were both able to walk to work. However, the following February I was made redundant, we had voted for only 95 % pay but the majority wanted 100%. so it

resulted in women being redundant for the men to be dominant; don't know how to put the results properly. Brian started searching for higher paid work, and ending up with a job in Bishops Stortford, which had a tied house with it. Then we had Stephen in January 1960. a very traumatic birth as the cord was around his neck 3 times, but a very good midwife, after telling me to work harder amidst bells and buzzers going off, in this little cottage hospital, she cut the cord before he was delivered to save his life, he was very blue, needed pumps etc to get him breathing. Then in the Bishops Stortford big hospital Alison was born in 1961. More trauma afterwards as I had retained after birth, which was putrefying and I almost died, being taken back into hospital. Thanks to modern antibiotics all went well.

We then managed to buy our own house the other side of town close to the end of Stanstead runway, an end of terrace house. We took in lodgers to help pay the mortgage, then we lost two girls. We had only been in the house for 18 months by then but the doctor thought a change would be good for me but that meant a move to Cheltenham which was better by far, another new estate, with lovely neighbours. We looked for a Baptist church again as we had had good support at Bishops Stortford; the minister had forwarded our details etc to Cheltenham, but it was in the centre of town and buses were not conducive to us getting there as we still had no transport. Brian had not passed his driving test and he had to have more lessons and money was short and so this was slow. We found a congregational church we could walk to across a farm lane called Warden Hill. We were given a warm welcome, so we stayed there. The children going into Sunday school during service like here. Then with a lot of medical help I was able to have two more children, Janice in 1966 and Mark in 1968. It was a difficult time but we enjoyed our stay there. We joined the IOF which we got into the social side of, although we had to work at this but started making friends all over the country giving us opportunity to travel even to other countries when we could afford it, travelling with friends gave us courage to go abroad.

Thank you again Mary, really great stuff. We will have the final part of Mary's story next week.

Other events:

Other than our own internal things there are three events I would like to draw your attention to. All of them I am sure will be helpful in our Christian Walk.

Spring Harvest @ Home 2021

The first is Spring Harvest at Home which I have shared over the last few weeks. This year, as it was last year, Spring Harvest will be livestreamed online. It is from the 4th – 8th April (just after Easter). There is a cost (£55) but if you can't afford it, there is a bursary scheme. You can also have two logins for this so you can share the cost with a friend. It'll be great I'm sure. The link to register is:



<https://springharvest.org/>

All Christians Together and Friend (ACTaF) in Plymouth

The second is a worship event that is run by All Christians Together in Plymouth. We (Derriford URC) are hosting this over Zoom. It will be an evening of worship, prayer and testimony. Which includes heartening testimony from a ministry group working on the streets of Plymouth in a new and exciting way and an opportunity to hear how we can fellowship and pray with Christians who often 'work' where it is too dangerous for missionaries to go. Please put in your diary: details of how to get in will come later.

The Date: Wednesday 31st March 2021 (7:15pm)

And the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86427708348>

Please note Derriford folk, this is **not** our normal Zoom address.

The World of Jesus.



Last, is a very special opportunity to see what we can discover about Jesus' ministry from the story of its people and the land where they lived - please see separate flyer. It will be a wonderful opportunity to engage with the Holy Land – almost a virtual tour. I highly recommend this, although it is a big commitment. 8 Tuesdays from Easter to Pentecost. Gordon Dey, who has designed and is running the course, is a good friend of mine. Before he retired (about 7 years ago) he was the vicar of a church on an ex-council estate where I served as the URC minister. He is extremely knowledgeable and has led probably 3 or 4 pilgrimages to the Holy Land every year for the last 25 years.

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

Mark

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