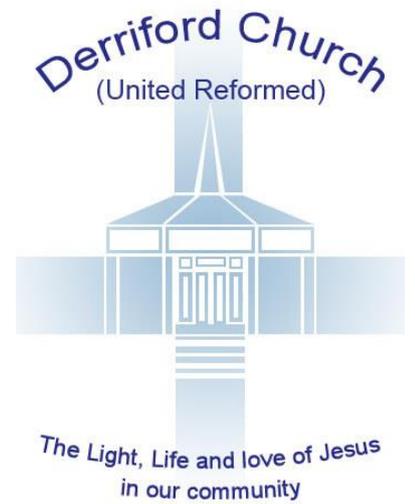


# NEWSLETTER

# DERRIFORD URC

THE LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE OF JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY



25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021



Welcome to this week's, reformatted, newsletter. We hope you enjoy it. We hope/plan to produce this most weeks. Each week we will have:

- a summary of Sunday's service/sermon,
- helpful areas of prayer
- news from within the fellowship
- suggestions and help in our own discipleship
- and future events
- And more...



As always we would love to hear your thoughts and any ideas that you think would be good to include and any exciting family news that you would like to share. Have you got a family wedding or a special birthday coming up? Let me have a photo or two with a few words so we can celebrate with you.

Well, did you have a good Easter? Did anyone get to attend Spring Harvest online? Or any other event? What did you think of our Easter Services? Good Friday and Easter Sunday? We (Sheila and I) attended Spring Harvest – it was all about Whole Life worship. As always it was great and great to spend time simply listening to God with no other responsibilities. WONDERFUL.

What of the future, as we come out of lock down? We need to begin looking at how we start church life up again. One of the thoughts I had was, what about a fellowship walk on May Day bank holiday (3<sup>rd</sup> May)? Perhaps we could go somewhere nice and spend an hour or so walking (Dogs very welcome)? We would need to keep in groups of 6, but other than that we would be able to chat and catch up with each other. What do you think? Let me know and if it is a goer I'll try to organise something.



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

## Summary of Sunday's Sermon/Service

There are lots of prophets in the Bible but for me the one that stands out is Elijah. Although brave, and sometimes what might appear to us as foolish, there is no doubt that he had a close walk with God, and because of this God used Elijah in mighty ways.

My talk about was the episode in Elijah's life where he was used to bring a prophecy, to the most wicked king in Israel, and then apparently laid aside for 3 years, but if you take the time to read 1 Kings 18 you will discover that God used Elijah for another miracle, or two, in the interim!



So the story begins with Elijah telling King Ahab that there is to be a drought for 3 years. No mention is made of Ahab's thoughts on this and God tells Elijah to go and hide near a brook where he will be fed meat by ravens and obviously could quench his thirst at the brook.

Once the 3 years are up, again Elijah has to meet with Ahab but this time he doesn't bring a prophecy, he simply tells Ahab what he thinks of him, a risky business indeed given that God Himself described Ahab as the most wicked king in Israel! He also issues orders to the king telling him to meet him on Mt Carmel, as well as

the 450 prophets of Baal, 400 prophets of Asherah, and the Israelites, whom I'm guessing number about a thousand, that would be a total of around two thousand people.

Now imagine a mountain, that's more wide than high, and picture if you can, approximately 2,000 people gathered there. Elijah begins by berating the Israelites saying: "How much longer will it take for you to make up your minds? If the Lord is God, worship Him, but if Baal is God worship him".

Two bulls are brought and Elijah instructs the prophets to cut up one bull (he would cut up the other), then they would each place their bull on the wood provided, and see whose god would answer first with fire.

The prophets of Baal went first. It seems they spent hours shouting for Baal to answer them, getting more frenzied with each passing hour, even cutting themselves, but nothing happened.

When it was Elijah's turn, he upped the ante, and had 14 litres of water poured over his sacrifice, and then he simply prayed, and God immediately sent fire which burnt up everything.

Apologies I have to finish here as I'm too close to the word limit, but there's much more drama in the story, so I recommend you read it for yourselves.



Thanks Lucy for this, if you would like to watch the whole service it is on our website. The link is:

<http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk/sunday-4th-april-service-video-2/>

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Sunday 18th

Next Sunday morning's service is being led by Paul Whittall and his wife Penny is leading us in our worship too. What a great time that will be! The Reading for next week will be **Ephesians 2:1-10**. Please do try to read it before the service and also please keep Paul in your prayer as he prepares the service this week,

THIS WEEK'S  
NOTICES

- Tuesday: Prayers on Zoom (9:15am)
- Wednesday: World of Jesus (7pm)
- Sunday Service (10:30pm)  
*Both on Zoom and in Person*

Also please remember our next  
Feast of Fun on 27<sup>th</sup> April

### Prayer Pointers...

**Praise:** The righteous person has many troubles , but the Lord rescues him from all of them. Ps 34:19

**Church:** Well we are heading for our "new look" church. It's not going to be instantaneous, so prayers for each step of the journey, and grace and patience as kinks are ironed out. Remember it's God who is in charge, let's keep looking towards Him.

**Local:** As another Feast of Fun draws near which blesses a lot of families, please continue to pray for Transforming Plymouth in their mammoth efforts to make sure everyone has what they need.

**National:** Let's pray for our queen, in her sadness of no longer having the devotion of Prince Philip. Let us praise the Lord that she is a Christian, and ask that her Heavenly Father will bring her joy, and peace, despite the difficult years ahead. Pray for William too, that he will make his own commitment to the Lord.

Any prayer requests please text / email Lucy on :  
[lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk) / 07503 003250

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## Future Events...

**Feast of Fun** on the 27<sup>th</sup> April. Please contact Helen for more info ([hmrothwell@msn.com](mailto:hmrothwell@msn.com) / 07814 989438). We are hoping to do another in May and hopefully we may be able to have children in our building.

**Derriford Film Club.** Our last film, Risen was enjoyed by all and our next film is on the 1<sup>st</sup> June at 7pm **Pay it Forward**. Future dates 6<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Nooma.** Nooma will start again once we have finished with The World of Jesus in June.

**Church Fellowship Walk.** Are you up for a church walk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May? Keeping to all the rules of course. Please let me know what you think?

## Other Church stuff...

**Church Hall.** Sadly still no news about the church hall. We are still waiting for people to come back with quotes and other information. However the council removed the Pews from Church on Wednesday, This should give us a more flexible space which hopefully will be of more use to our hall leasing community.

**Our Zoom meeting** Link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83803659404>

**Overseas Mission.** What do you think about looking for an overseas mission that we could support? This could be an organisation / project that we could all pray into, and financially support. We could ask them to provided us with regular updates and perhaps (in the future) even arrange for us to go and see what they do and physically help them,

Well God bless you all, hope to see you on Sunday at our worship service either in person or on Zoom.

Mark

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