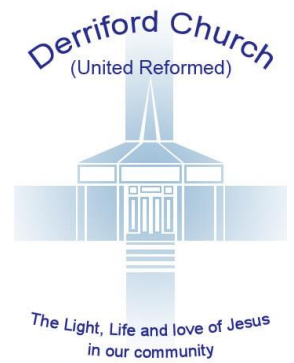


# DERRIFORD URC NEWS LETTER

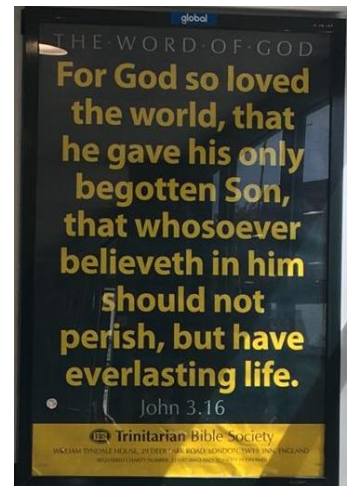
THE LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE OF JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY



23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2021



I love this poster. Well spotted Lucy, who saw it in Plymouth Train Station and photographed it. Brilliant! What a wonderful witness to our God. Let's pray that God uses it mightily. Think about all those people who walk through the station (even in lockdown) who will see this poster! We pray that it will prick their conscience to thinking more about our saviour and all He has done for them and us. Also, please pray for a blessing for Trinitarian Bible Society who paid for it to go up there.



**God is Good.**

## Summary of Sunday's Sermon/Service

### The Power of Gideon – part 2

Last time we looked at the context of the story of Gideon, both within the book of Judges and the Old Testament as a whole. If you would like to watch The Bible Project's summary of the book of Judges (which is worth watching) you can find it on their website at:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/judges/>

I would recommend The Bible Project; I often watch the relevant video when I start reading a particular book in the Bible. There is a video for each book of the Bible and lots of others too.

Anyway Gideon! Do read through Judges chapters 6,7 and 8.

There are two great and very well-known stories about Gideon. They are:

- Gideon testing God with the woollen fleeces
- and second Gideon going into battle with only 300 soldiers.

I wonder if you have ever noticed that this is the second time that Gideon asks God for a sign. Have a read of verse 17 (Chapter 6). You see that he has already asked for a sign which God performed and

then of which we are clearly told that Gideon was convinced (read V22). So why does he ask for more signs? So now that Gideon knows that God is with him, he is strong, brave, courageous, full of power, ready to do whatever God asks him to do. Is that right? Sadly no! Have a look at V27, he does what God asks him in the dead of night when no one is looking! He does this 'because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople' (V27). Don't you think this is a little comforting for us mere mortal! I don't know I always feel brave when God asks me to do something. But you know God always comes through.

I do think that the reason that Gideon asks for the signs with the fleeces, is not to try and see if the word is actually from God but hoping that the request fails and then he need not do what God asks! In other words, he scared and is trying to avoid God's request. I think this is so much like us too. Often, we know God is saying something but actually we don't want to hear or do what he is calling us to do. And let's be honest we are not alone, are we? Look at Jonah, Moses, Jeremiah, Ezekiel to mention just a few, who were all reluctant to do what God called them to!

Gideon seems to learn to trust God though, which is good news. In our second story from Gideon, when God asks him to go into war with only a handful (300) of his soldiers he doesn't ask for a sign (Judges 7:1-21). Yet God being gracious and knowing Gideon inside out (as he does all of us, read through Psalm 139) knows that Gideon is nervous and shows him a way to see that this will work out well and He (God) is with him and in control! I find this so comforting. God knows us and knows what we need when we need it.

You know, the one sad thing about this story is that after all the good that Gideon does and the great statement that he makes in verse 23 he still messes up and all Israel goes back to its old ways! We all need to be so careful and keep putting God right back at the centre of our lives. We do tend to mess up so often, but the good news is that God still wants us back on His righteous path! Hallelujah, Praise God.

Above is a summary of my sermon from Sunday, if you would like to listen to the whole service including, the sermon, the hymns, and prayers you can find it on the link below. It really was a great time and great service well worth watching:

<http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk/sunday-16th-may-2021-morning-service/>

This **coming Sunday morning's service** is being led by Chris James and is Pentecost, what a great celebration – the birth of the Church. Chris' theme is ***Pentecost, John's Revelation Vision and Our Reality Today***. Our reading this week is **Revelation 4:1-11**.

There will be no newsletter next week as Sheila and I are away on holiday.

So, **the Following Sunday** is being led by Phil Brewer and his theme is Jesus feeding the 5,000 and our reading is **John 6:1-13**. So, if you could read that before the service you will be even more blessed. It's a magnificent Story. Now if you are really keen you could also read the other accounts of Jesus feeding the 5,000 in the Gospels (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17)? You'd get a gold star!

## This week's Notice Sheet



### NOTICES

**Tuesday:** Prayers on Zoom (9:15am)

**Tuesday / Wednesday:**  
World of Jesus (7pm)

**Sunday Service (10:30pm)**  
*Both on Zoom and in Person*

### Advanced Notices

The Next Feast of Fun -1<sup>st</sup> June

DURC Film Night – 1<sup>st</sup> June (*Pay it Forward*)

***Pentecost, John's Revelation  
Vision and Our Reality Today***

## Prayer Pointers...

**Praise:** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Phil 4:13

**Church:** Pray a dual prayer of protection for our church building and its contents as well as a blessing on all those who use it.

**Local:** North Plymouth seems to be getting busier every week. Keep your eyes peeled for new developments and pray into them that they will be beneficial for the community and not just for the planners and developers.

**National:** Pray that a solution will be found quickly to stop the spread of the new Indian variant of the virus, and wisdom for the government to know how best to contain it.

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

## Future Events...

**Feast of Fun** The next Feast of Fun will be on **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June**. Let Helen know if you can help. I am sure she will be ringing around next week. It is a great witness to those in our community that are really struggling. Please get involved if you can.

**Derriford Film Club** 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. If you would like to watch the trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfW0wCV9iFI>

**Nooma** will start again once we have finished The World of Jesus in June. The next date for your diary is: **15th June 2021**.

## Other Church stuff...

### Our Building.



The only news this week, with respect to our buildings is that we have three of the organisations who used to use our hall have now booked to start using the church building. Which is great news.

### Mayflower Celebration, Worship event on the Hoe (11<sup>th</sup> July 10:30am).

On the 11<sup>th</sup> July there is a Plymouth wide service on the Hoe to celebrate the 400 years since the Mayflower. It starts at 10:30am and we have been loaned a minibus by Plymouth College which will enable us to take people to the Hoe for the service! ***Won't it be great to celebrate this very special event with other churches in Plymouth?***



*Please let me know if you want like a place on the minibus.*

Don't forget, in the afternoon there are all sorts of things going on, again to celebrate the Mayflower. More details on:

<https://www.mayflower400uk.org/news/2021/april/book-now-to-see-plymouths-spectacular-international-mayflower-commemoration-event-this-july/>

Please note, if you want to go in the afternoon you will need to book a place (see website above).

**Prayer and reading list updating.** We are looking to build up our lists of people within the fellowship who would be prepared to read the scriptures or lead us with our prayers of intercession in church. Please let me know which, or both, you'd like to do! We are going to be looking at some simple (and fun) training to help if you have not done it before.

**Overseas Mission.** I am still looking for ideas for overseas missions that we could support. We have had three suggestions, but I am still looking for more! Have you got any? As I said it would be nice if they were fairly small organisations / projects so we could help make a difference.

**Literacy in a Box.** Thursday and Friday last week we had 'Literacy in a Box' packing in church to send boxes out to schools in Zambia. What a privilege it was to go into church and see all the equipment ready to go into boxes and to watch the boxes being packed into the van ready to be shipped out to the schools in Zambia. If you would like to learn more, please follow the link below:

[www.facebook.com/LiteracyinaBox/](http://www.facebook.com/LiteracyinaBox/)

As we finish, Liz Basterfield at our Tuesday prayer meeting shared about a song that really blessed her so I asked if she would send me a link so we could all be blessed. So here you are: Sissel Kyrkjebø – Shenandoah. The Link to this beautiful song:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1EG\\_4IBzbA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1EG_4IBzbA)

Hope you all have a marvellous morning on Sunday celebrating Pentecost either in person or on Zoom.

Please do remember there is **NO Newsletter** next week as Sheila and I are away on holiday. Have a wonderful week; see you on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 9:15am for morning Prayers

God bless you all.

Mark


**Derriford URC**

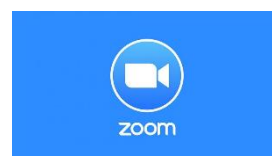
Powisland Drive, Derriford  
Plymouth  
PL6 6AB

**Rev Mark Woodhouse**  
Minister

Mobile: 07851595578  
Email: Mark.woodhouse44@gmail.com

*God is good and Jesus is exalted and on the throne!*





**Our Zoom meeting link, for  
All our meeting is:**

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