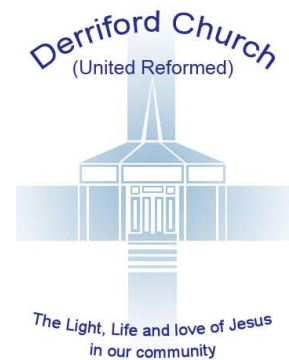


DERRIFORD URC NEWS LETTER

THE LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE OF JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY



SEPTEMBER 2021



As many of you will know, Sheila and I have just come back from David's Tent, a 72-hour non-stop worship event in Sussex. No teaching, just 100% worship (although Charles Wesley may disagree with that statement, saying worship songs or hymns are teaching in themselves). Anyway, it was wonderful. We had a wonderful time simply receiving from the Lord. Interestingly I am normally one who is up the front; hands in the air; however, this weekend we sat at the back in our chairs simply allowing God to rush over us. It was just a beautiful time spent in the Lord's presence.

However, I have to be honest and say one of the lessons I took away was about 'first love'. Looking at some of the many people (men, women, old and young) who were just sobbing their hearts out, flat on their faces or on their knees crying out to God and receiving a real blessing from him, I wondered if I had lost some of that longing to receive from God. People were so 'lost' in His presence – it was wonderful to watch, but I did feel that perhaps I needed to get into that place, my desire for more of God, more of His presence. To be broken in His presence.

I wonder how many other people feel like this too?

I hope you enjoy this edition of our church newsletter. It has information about most of the events we have going on and lots of other information and some theological help too! What else could you want!?

God Bless you all.

Mark

Godly Thought...

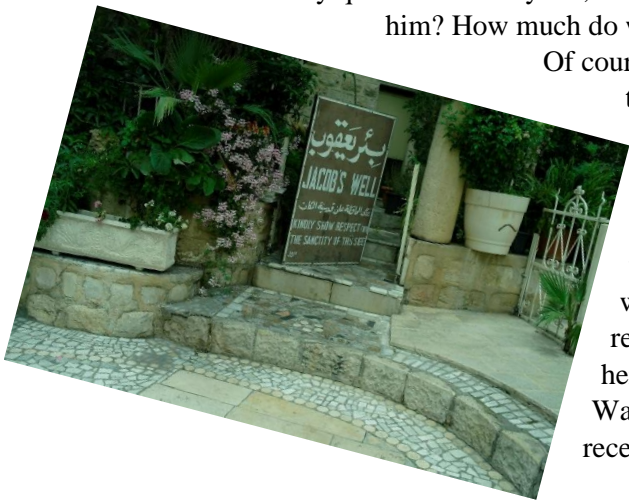
On the 22nd August I finished a two part series on the wonderful vision of Ezekiel about the water flowing from the Temple in Ezekiel 47. We finished with the amazing news that because of Jesus and His Holy Spirit we are now the living water that flows from the temple into the world where God has placed us. As we see in John 7:

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them."



We also went on to say that if we want this living water to flow from us, we first have to receive the Living Water that Jesus speaks about and to receive it we have to desire it and if we desire it, we have to seek Jesus with all our hearts, as Jeremiah says “we will find Him, when we seek Him with all our hearts”. My question to everyone, including myself, is how much do we really desire and therefore seek him? How much do we hunger and thirst for more of God in our lives, in our situations?

Of course, this is a personal question and a personal decision. We each have to walk in our own path with God.



We also need to remember that receiving is not everything, it is not enough. We also have to give this ‘living water’ away too. Like a glass being filled with water once it is full if we don’t pour any out, we can’t pour any more in! We looked at the Woman at the Well whom Jesus spoke to in John 4. What was the first thing she did after receiving this living water from Jesus? She went and told everyone in her village, she gave it away! And they all wanted Jesus’ Living Waters as well. They believed in the Messiah for themselves and received their own Living Water!

We need to receive it, by seeking God with all our hearts and give it away. You know, how we do this is not rocket science. We pray, we ask God, we read our Bibles, we get involved in church life and of course we worship Him (privately and corporately). We put time into the relationship between us and God and like any relationship that we invest in it grows and blossoms. Then to give this Living Water out, we become what Christ became, a servant to all. We care, love, serve the world, the community, the church where God has placed us and we share the gospel.

So, do you want all that Jesus has for you? Do you want to be filled with this Living Water? The call is yours and it’s not a once in a lifetime thing – we need to continue this process time and time and time again! Being filled and filled and filled and then releasing and releasing and releasing.

Next Month our Godly Thought will be produced by Phil Brewer,

Sunday Services

If you would like to watch / re-watch, any of the services over the last six (or so) months, the video recordings of the Sunday services can be found at:

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

If you would like to watch a recording of a Sunday service older than that please let Mark know and he will organise it. Also, if you would like a recording on a different media, that can be arranged too – again let Mark know.

This month’s services will be led by:

- 5th – Phil
- 12th Lucy
- 19th Mark – Luke through the eyes of Theophilus (please read the Gospel of Luke)
- 26th Paul Whitell
- 3rd October – Mark – this will be our Harvest Festival

Don’t forget you can come in person to our services, or you can watch it on Zoom, the Zoom link is our normal DURC link and can be found at the end of this newsletter. If you are coming in person (it will be lovely to see you) and we can sing, although we are asking everyone to still wear a mask.

Please also don't forget for my service on the 19th September to read through Luke's gospel, and reading it through the eyes of Theophilus - a very wealthy and well to do Jew.

This Month's Notice slide

September Notices



Weekly:

- **Tuesday Prayers** (9:15am) on Zoom
- **Sunday Service** (10:30am) on Zoom or in Person

Garden and General Workday (11th September 9:30am onwards)
(for more info, please see Carol – please come and help if you can)

Sunbeams - starting 16th September – please keep them in your prayers

Church Meeting – 19th September 12noon after the Morning Service

Lunch Club planning meeting - 1:30pm in the Manse

Nooma – 21st September 7:30pm – Luggage

Praying through the Prayer Chain – 27th September (11am – 4pm)

Prayer and Prayer Pointers...

As always when we read our newspapers, we find there is no shortage of areas we need to be praying into. Including:

- all that is going on in Afghanistan
- the effect of the Hurricane Ida in Texas (and New York)
- the Earthquake in Haiti

and of course, we still need to keep in our prayers all those that have been affected by the shooting in Keyham / Ford and also all the organisations who are helping / dealing with this horrific situation.

Shekinah have asked for prayers for the continued well-being of their staff and clients, both physically and mentally, as they move into the Autumn and the nights grow shorter and colder. In particular, some of their staff are still testing positive for COVID-19 even after having had both jabs. As that has the knock-on effect of reducing staffing levels in certain sections, they would appreciate prayer that they remain safe and well.

Please also keep all our friends and families in our own fellowship who are struggling at the moment and remember to use the Prayer Chain and keep praying for those people / situations. If you have something that needs prayer:

Any prayer requests please text / email Lucy on:
lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk / 07503 003250

Future Church Events...

Derriford Film Club. At our last Film night, we had a bit of a problem with hearing the sound. So currently we are on hold with Film Night, whilst we research how to increase the volume over Zoom. I hope we'll be back in October with another exciting and challenging film. Watch this space

Nooma Our next Nooma is on the 21st September at 7:30pm. It is Nooma number 7 called Luggage. Please put the date and time in your diary.



Feast of Fun. What a great time we had with the families who visited us on the two Tuesdays in August. A really really big thank you to everyone who helped, but especially to Helen who pulled it all together – great job Helen.

We are looking at what we can do in the Autumn half term break. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let Helen know.

Thank you again to everyone who helped.

Church Garden & general workday 11th September 10:30am onward...

Please come along. We need everyone's help – even if you feel you are not able to do much. We still need teas and coffees made! Also it'll be great just to chat with you. We have all sorts of jobs both inside and outside.



Hot off the press! An Evening of Worship

I said above in the newsletter introduction that I missed that 'getting before the Lord' and simply being broken at His feet. Well, here is an opportunity to help us all get in that place! We have organised worship evening where Barry Jones and perhaps some other friends have agreed to lead us into that very special place. The dates for your diary are:

Friday 15th October

Friday 12th November

Friday 10th December

Be there or miss out meeting with the Lord Jesus and being filled with the Holy Spirit!

Come Expectantly

Harvest Festival Service.

Don't forget on the 3rd October we have our Church Harvest Festival Service. Please feel free to invite friends, family and neighbours. Hopefully, we will have a wonderful time together celebrating God's goodness to us and to the world as a whole.

Day of Prayer for our Prayer Chain

For all those prayer warriors who are on our prayer chain we have a special day organised – a time for us to come together and pray. To pray for any of the prayer chain messages that we have received over the weeks and months, but also a time to receive too. This will be held on the 27th September (11am – 4pm). If you can't make the whole time, just drop in for an hour or so.

Other Church stuff...

Membership.

A question – if you are not a member of our church would you like to consider membership, thereby making a declaration that Derriford URC is your Spiritual home? For more information have a chat with Mark.

Derriford URC Lunch Club

We are looking to start Derriford URC Lunch Club again. Obviously, without all the facilities we had in the hall and without Sue's fantastic input we won't be able to do anything quite as grand as we use to do, but we would like to do something – perhaps something fairly simple like Soup and a Roll, Pasty and salad or a Ploughman's lunch etc.

We have organised a meeting for all those that would like to get involved with this new(ish) venture on the 21st September at 1:30pm in the Manse. Please come along, and if you can't make it but would like to be involved let Mark know.

Our Building etc.

The TVs are all installed and working well – which is great news. The next thing to be installed is a new camera which hopefully will be fitted in the next few weeks or so.

There are now 5 chairs to test in the church sanctuary – please try each one out and decide which one feels, looks and weighs right. We will be making the decision at the church meeting on the 19th September.

The next piece of work that needs to be done is our vision plan and as you know the Elders and Deacons met on the 17th August to pray and discuss where God is leading us in our future. We had a very full and (I believe enjoyable) day discussing this. The plan is that I (Mark) will write up a first draft of this vision plan to be shared before the church meeting; we will then have an opportunity to discuss the Elders and Deacons discussions which will then be added to the vision document.

News from the fellowship



This is a picture of Mary Pring's new Great Grandson. Please pray that he will be a great blessing, that he will grow up healthy and strong and will give his life to the Lord Jesus and be used mightily by Him!

Thanks, Mary, for the Photo. If anyone else has any wonderful family news please let me have it so we can share it with the rest of the Derriford family.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Windows in church. One request from the Deacons. If you are putting posters or flyers up on the windows in church, please don't use sellotape. It marks the glass and is extremely hard to get off. Please use bluetak. THANK YOU
- Also please don't forget that as from September we cannot just go into the Church due to the church being used by numerous organisation. Please check with a Deacon or Elder first.

Other things....

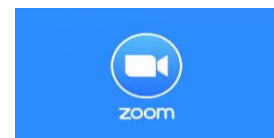
A very useful piece of information from Barry Jones. If anyone visits Tesco twice within the space of an hour (as he did collecting for Feast of Fun) you need to register your car registration with the customer service desk to avoid infringing the ANPR controlled parking system.

Is anyone interested in going to The Creative Craft Show, Westpoint, Exeter? If so, Liz is looking to go and perhaps we could go as a group from church? Let Liz know. I know there are already two others who would like to go. For more details see link below or chat with Liz

<https://westpointexeter.co.uk/whats-on/25470/the-creative-craft-show>

God Bless you all,

Mark (your friend and minister)



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

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

Church diary for your noticeboard

September/October

September

5th Sunday morning service (10:30am) in person or on Zoom.

7th Morning Prayers (9:15am) on Zoom

11th Church Garden and general workday (10:30 onward)

12th Sunday morning service (10:30am) in person or on Zoom.

14th Morning Prayers (9:15am) on Zoom

16th Sunbeams re-start

19th Sunday morning service (10:30am) in person or on Zoom.

19th Church Meeting – *please put this in your diary.*

21st Morning Prayers (9:15am) on Zoom

21st Lunch Club Planning meeting (1:30pm in the Manse)

21st Nooma on Zoom (7:30pm)

23rd Sunbeams

26th October's Newsletter will be available (deadline for input 20th September)

26th Sunday morning service (10:30am) in person or on Zoom.

27th Day of Prayer for all our Prayer Chainers (11am – 4pm)

28th Morning Prayers (9:15am) on Zoom

30th Sunbeams

October

3rd Harvest Festival morning service (10:30am) in person or on Zoom.

5th Morning Prayers (9:15am) on Zoom

7th Sunbeams

10th Sunday morning service (10:30am) in person or on Zoom.

12th Morning Prayers (9:15am) on Zoom

12th Elders Meeting – *please keep them in your prayers*

14th Sunbeams

17th Sunday morning service (10:30am) in person or on Zoom.

19th Morning Prayers (9:15am) on Zoom

19th Nooma on Zoom (7:30pm)

24th Sunday morning service (10:30am) in person or on Zoom.