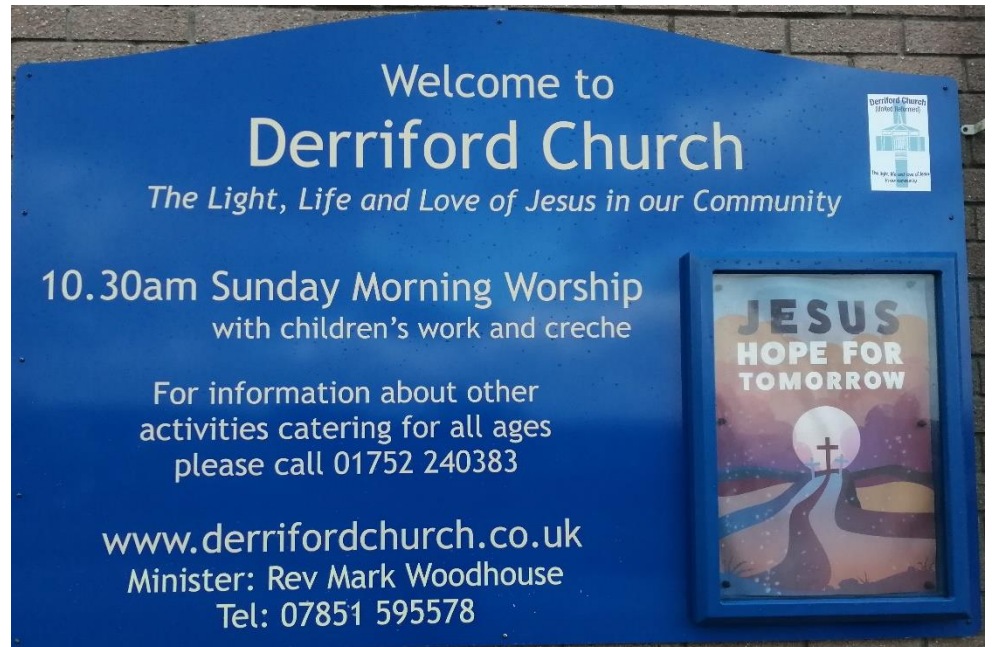


# Derriford URC

## Newsletter

7<sup>th</sup> March  
2021



You know I think the world is looking like it will soon be back to some form of normality – with Boris' road map plans. With life returning to a place where we can travel, meet friends and family, shop where we like and even go on holiday (perhaps only in the UK for the moment) and even hug each other!

As we come out of this time it is really important, I think, to continuing to do the things that were good and beneficial through the lockdown, as well as to pick up the things that were good which we had to lay down for a while, as individuals and as church.

I know for Church, we want to keep the Tuesday morning prayer meeting (on Zoom) going and the broadcasting of our services even when we are physically meeting again

A question for you: What else do we need to be doing? Picking up from pre-Covid or keeping the things we started while in lockdown or something completely different? Let me know your thoughts?

## John 21:1-24

### Encouragement

I am sure that we are all in need of encouragement at times. Good words are worth much and cost little and to give a word of encouragement is to be like our Lord Jesus. Encouragement is to inspire with a word of hope, courage, or confidence. In the New Testament, six out of seven uses of the verb 'take courage' comes from the mouth of Jesus.

#### Upcoming Events

Sunday Morning Service (10:30am)

Tuesday Prayer Meeting (9:15am)

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

Next Nooma 16<sup>th</sup> March (7:30pm)

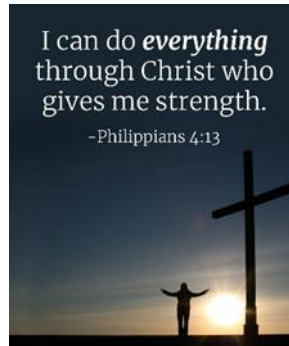
#### Easter Services

##### Good Friday Service

2:00pm in the Carpark

##### Easter Sunday Service

10:30am in Church.



Everyone can become discouraged over situations or lack courage to take on a responsibility or face a daunting task. You might be pondering whether to try something new. In these troubling times, perhaps you are facing the threat of unemployment and you fear the future. Or perhaps you are facing the agonies of bereavement, where although the death may be some way in the past now, the sense of insecurity and loss is catching up with you and you are feeling alone. For older people you maybe on the verge of being housebound and feeling increasingly isolated and marginalised from what is happening in the community. Perhaps there are others who feel unwell. Something is wrong with your body. Tests have been carried out and you are anxiously awaiting the results. Situations like these take us from the security of what was to the insecurity of the unknown. The future holds a question mark. Fortunately, we have a loving Lord who, having given His all for us, is committed to our need and wants to encourage us. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever! This is how God gives us courage or encouragement:

**Encouragement of Scripture:** This is our most important and fundamental source of encouragement as it is God's special and authoritative revelation to us of both Himself and His plan of salvation in Christ.

**Encouragement of the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit in Greek is translated as the Counsellor, Comforter, or Intercessor. It is our spiritual enabler that is vital within our overall encouragement.

**Encouragement from members of the body of Christ:** In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul portrays both the unity and diversity of the Church as an organic body made up of individual parts all designed to work together in a caring and functional way.

John 21 teaches us how Jesus encourages His followers. Verses 1-4 highlight how we may look in the wrong direction when we are discouraged. Peter and the others were impatient for their Lord to appear. They began to look back on the good old days and Peter declared that he was going out to fish and they went with him. Peter was ready to give up and revert to what he knew best – fishing!

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



Our Zoom  
Meetings Link

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

Or via the phone: 0203 901 7895  
/ id 83803659404

He wanted to be in his comfort zone. Looking back though highlights what happens if our orientation is in the wrong direction – they caught nothing! Read Philippians 3:13-14 – keep your eyes focused on the job that God is calling us to do. Verses 15-17 highlight challenges of what is behind our motivation of what we do – is our passion based on God’s kind of love? Jesus is asking Peter ‘how much do you love me?’ Peter eventually realises that there is nothing he can do without Jesus and it is at that point that Jesus declared him fit enough for ministry. Servanthood is so important. Verses 18-22 explain that we should not compare ourselves to others using Peter and John as examples.

God is calling us to be encouragers or courage builders helping people to experience the sufficiency of Jesus our Saviour and to persevere in the race with our eyes firmly fixed on the finishing line regardless of the obstacles that obscure us. Some people have to be helped across the finish line. Some have stumbled over their own feet; others have been tripped by family members and so-called friends. We must help those who have fallen into the snares of the devil; we must lift up the fallen, bind up their wounds, and help them on their journey toward home.

Here are a few questions we can consider further:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12 – what does this passage teach us about spiritual gifts and their application?
2. What has God used most to encourage you in your walk with Him?
3. How can you be an encouragement to others?
  - a. Fellow believers
  - b. Friends & family
  - c. Local community



Superb, thanks Phil. Great word, great service. If anyone has any thoughts about the service or sermon each week that you think would be helpful for others, please let me know and we can publish it in the next newsletter. I am sure the preacher / leader would be interested in hearing your thoughts. My contact details are at the end of the newsletter.

Please remember that the above is only a summary (400 words). The whole service, including the readings, sermon, hymns / songs, hymns and prayers can be watched by following the link:

<http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk/durc-sunday-service-280221/>

As always, please feel free to share it with neighbours, family and friends.

... as well as being available through the internet the service is also available on DVD, CD or WhatsApp. Let me know if you would like to receive it through any of ways?



## Prayer, Praise and Worship

### Prayer.

Let’s especially pray for the schools, teachers, staff and parents and children as they start back on Monday when we start to come out of the 3<sup>rd</sup> national lockdown. Let’s pray that everything goes according to plan!

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

This week's prayer Help from Lucy:

**Praise:** Lam 3:23. Your compassions never fail, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

**Church:** As we lift so many people up in prayer help us to practice PUSH - Praying Until Something Happens.

**Local:** Pray for the Plymouth churches that as we head towards a time when we can physically meet together that the message of the Cross, of a God who loves His creation, will be received by all who hear it.

**National:** Let us pray against the new strains of the virus that have appeared, especially that they will not send us back into lockdown. Pray for the scientists too who will be working hard to combat any new strains.

I know I keep on about this, but we really do need **YOU**. If you are not on the prayer chain please volunteer. let Lucy know ([lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk) / 07503 003250). It is so valuable, and **exciting**.

If you have a prayer request, please also let Lucy know – we would love to be praying into that with you. We have seen God doing miracles – that's pretty exciting isn't it? It can be anything that is on your heart, a family, friends, national or international concern / need.

### Sunday Morning Worship

I have been saying for the last few weeks to watch this space for the announcement about our sermon theme for the next year. Well we are here, or at least we will be on Sunday! This Sunday I will be sharing what we plan to be doing within our sermons over the next 12 months. I am truly excited about it. I hope you are able to come on Sunday via Zoom, on the normal link. Our reading this week are:



### Psalm 119:1-8

May I encourage everyone to read this passage before the service? And if you have time try reading the whole of Psalm 119, it is long but well worth it.

Also don't forget your homework! Think about what your favourite Bible Stories are? Old or New Testament? And last, we are going to share communion together on Sunday, so please remember to bring your bread and wine.

As I said last week, if you find physically reading the Bible difficult (and lets be honest some of the words are hard to pronounce) why not buy an audio Bible. There are a number of good ones on the market using either MP3 or CDs. One of my favourites is read by David Suchet (the actor who played Agatha Christie's Poirot on TV). You can buy it in most good bookshops or online from Amazon.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Complete-NIV-Audio-Bible-International/dp/1444786407/>

The cost is about £25, it is a great investment.

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

## Easter Services.

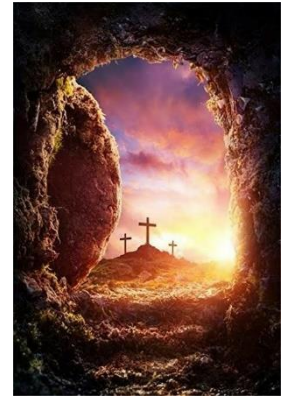
*'Hallelujah He is risen, He is risen indeed, hallelujah'.*

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.

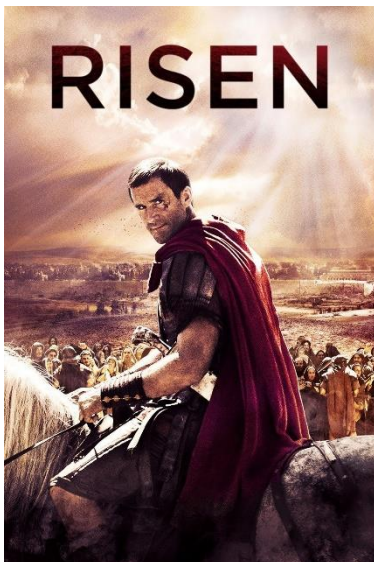
**Easter Sunday Service** (4th April 10:30am) in Church.

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.



### A Film together

Thank you to everyone who came to the *Derriford URC Cinema* on Tuesday. I think we had a wonderful time watching the film and then chatting about it afterwards. What a great inspirational film (God's not dead). There is something very special about watching it with friends. I loved it.



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

You can watch the trailer at:

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

*This will be great as we lead up to Easter. 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".*

### Our following months' films:

**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!

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

Don't forget the next **Nooma**.

16<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm (normal Zoom link)

This week it's entitled **Noise**.

DON'T MISS IT. Put it in your diary



### **Church and Church Hall**

At the moment we still don't know what the future holds for our buildings but we do know that God holds the buildings! These are big projects to pray about, and as we know NOTHING can be achieved if we don't pray! For the moment there needs to be two strands to moving forward 1) a steering committee and 2) prayer backup (intercession). Before we do anything we'd like to ask if there is anyone who **would like** the opportunity to be part of a prayer team to be praying into the ideas and plans for buildings. If so would you get in touch with Lucy. The aim will be to pray as often as you are able and then pass on any words, pictures, scripture, basically whatever you think you have heard from God, to Lucy, and every so often it will be fed back to the church fellowship for wider prayer.

The scripture we are going to use as our "byline/tag" is **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.**

### **Next Week: Mark & Sheila on Holiday**

The last thing to say is that Sheila and I are on holiday this coming week (back for Sunday). So if there is anything that you need next week, would you contact one of our wonderful Elders. Also, with this mind, please also note that there will be **no newsletter next week**. Normal service will begin the following week.

### **Focus on the Fellowship.**

Carol has provided part two of her Focus on the Fellowship – Brilliant thank you Carol.

As I was the first person to write about my life last year I only used 200 words as I thought this was the limit. So Mark has kindly allowed me to have another slot in the newsletter.

I was born in Maidstone, Kent and lived in a what was then a little village with my parents and two younger sisters. Although we didn't have many material things my childhood was a happy one and as the sun shone nearly every day I spent many hours outside! I attended a small village Primary School and then went to the Grammar School. I left at 16 years old and went straight to work for Kent County Council in the finance department. This was my only job and I stayed there for 9 years.



I attended our local church which was Church of England from a very young age and later helped in Sunday School. Wherever I have lived I have found a Church nearby and the children came with me to services. In Plymouth they both went to Pilots and Youth Club although neither of them regularly attend a church now.

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

A friend that I made on my first day at secondary school arranged for a blind date with Pete and the rest is history! (Pete does wonder why he is still talking to these friends!). We were married in 1973 and our daughter, Anne-Marie, was born in 1976 followed in 1979 by our son Daryl.

As I said previously we moved to Plymouth in 1976 when Pete was promoted and the post was in Devonport. I won't pretend I was happy to move away from all my family and it took me quite a while to feel settled but now I don't want to live anywhere else. As a stay at home Mum I knitted jumpers for a shop in Tavistock and helped at two playgroups. Once the children were at school I worked as a meal time assistant at their primary school. In 1988 I started work at the Schools Library Centre which served all the schools in West Devon with books for their libraries and topic work. It was a job that I absolutely loved and I also did shifts in several local libraries. I retired in 2012 and have been even busier since!



I am fortunate to still have both my parents who are in their nineties. Sadly they divorced over 40 years ago but I was lucky to have had a lovely Step-Dad and Step-Mum. We are proud Grandparents to Madelaine who is 17, Oscar, 14 and Theo 8, and Evie 5.

Blessings to you all and thank you for your support and love.  
Carol

Thank you so much again Carol, really good. Yes, you were actually the only one who obeyed the rules! Well done and bless you. Just to say 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. this year, as it was last year, it is livestream online. May I suggest if 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/>



Well you are available

God Bless you all, have a blessed week and hope to see you all on Sunday for our Worship be blessed, as you bless others.

Mark

#### Mark's Contact details:

- Phone: 07851595578
- Email: mark.woodhouse44@gmail.com

#### 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.