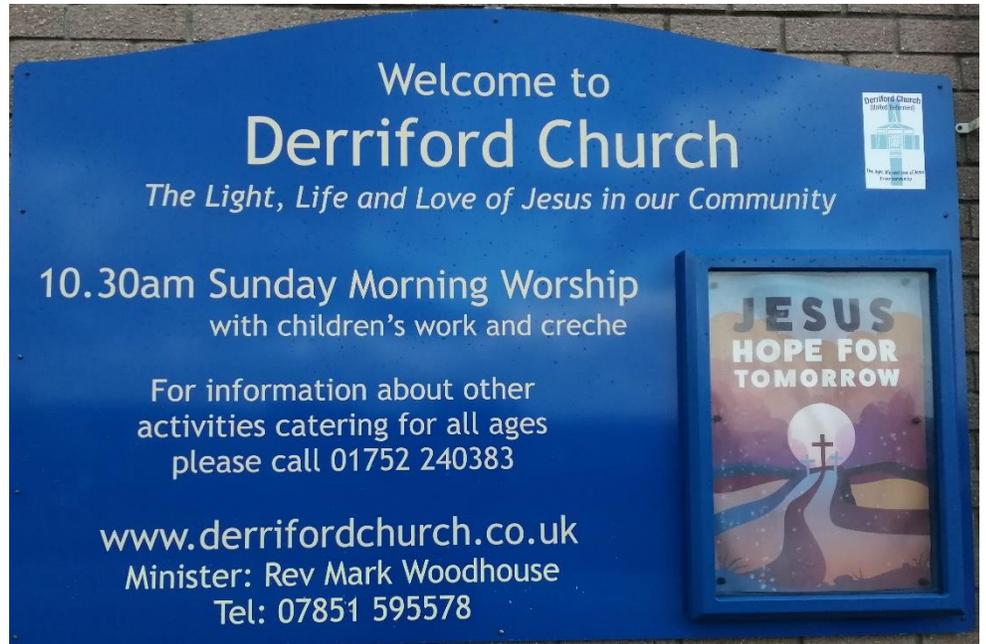


Derriford URC

Newsletter

28th February
2021



I want to ask us all a question. How much effort do we put into our faith? Now, we have Chris' sermon later, so I don't want to preach another! But I do want to ask us all, right at the beginning of Lent, how much time and effort we put into developing our faith. I guess (hopefully anyway) we would all say that our faith is extremely important to us, well if so, how much time and energy do we employ to grow in it?

I wonder if we looked at the time we spent on other things (say the TV, but it could be anything) and compared it to the time we spend on our faith, with the Lord I wonder how it would compare. If an alien came to earth and looked at your life what would he (it?) see as your priorities?

It is a question that each one of us needs to ask ourselves, especially as we enter Lent which is that time of the year where we are to asked to do this.

Our time and how we use it is a choice we all make. What is important to you? To me?

Matthew 5:13-18

This reading is from the chapter where we find the Beatitudes. These verses, 13 to 18, show Jesus preparing his disciples for the work ahead. He expounds three areas about salt, light and the law, that when grasped and acted upon will grow their maturity and faith and help build God's Kingdom. For them, and us, it requires a paradigm-shift in thinking and takes their knowledge and experiences of their culture, environment and religion and realigns it with Jesus.

Upcoming Events

Sunday Morning Service (10:30am)

Tuesday Prayer Meeting (9:15am)

DURC Film Night 2nd March (7pm)

Next Nooma 16th March (7:30pm)

The church as salt and light in our communities has the opportunity of bringing the taste of God's seasoning into the life of every person and to shine the light of Jesus into the darkness. With this combination we can enable God's healing balm and the kaleidoscope of His love to be manifested to His Glory in Derriford and Plymouth.

- 1) What do you think Jesus means by telling them and us to be salt in the world?
- 2) We have the very essence of God's life and light in us because of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Easter Services

Good Friday Service

2:00pm in the Carpark

Easter Sunday Service

10:30am in Church.

- (a) How do you feel about being known and seen in the community as a follower of Jesus?
- (b) Would you rather feel safe and hide your faith away?
- (c) We would love to offer you prayer support and encouragement. (contact the minister).

- 3) Jesus told the disciples He was the fulfilment of the law and the prophets. As we know He was the word of God made flesh and God's plan to bring the fallen world back into fellowship with Him.

- (a) Is God calling you to play your part in fulfilling the mission he has given the church?

If so, why not join us in prayerful discernment seeking God's way forward for Derriford church from today onwards.

If you are reading this and would like to discuss matters of faith or anything you do not need to be a member of Derriford church. Just send an email or pick up the phone – don't wait we'd love to chat.

May God Bless you and your loved ones.



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

Or via the phone: 0203 901 7895
/ id 83803659404

Thanks Chris, for your service on Sunday – great stuff. For those that watched it (or will watch in online) I would love to hear if anything spoke to you? Or, as Chris says, you want to discuss something. 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-210221/>

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

... and don't forget if you can't get online and you would like to watch the service, it is available on DVD – let me know and I'll get one in the post to you. We have a number of people who receive the service on DVD. Also, if you haven't got a DVD player and would like to listen it on CD again let me know and I can produce one and get it out to you.



Another thought, if it helps and you would like our weekly recorded service on WhatsApp then please let me know and I will put you on the list.

Prayer, Praise and Worship

Prayer.

As I write this, we have just received Boris' Road map. When we can do what. Let us continue to pray for wisdom for him and his team and all those that will be involved in the implantation of it. It is all looking very promising, as we move to the June 21st date. Also pray into what we should do as a 'Welcome back' type event!

This week's prayer Help from Lucy:

Praise: Psalm 113:3. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Church: Continue to pray for our church building and hall, that we will know God's will for His church. If in your prayers you get a "word" or a "picture" from God then please share it with Mark so that we might all be encouraged or at least know which "path" to take.

Local: Pray for our Plymouth schools and all that that entails: pupils, teachers, parents, assistant teachers, general school staff... it's still going to be a difficult time for all concerned may they know that they are upheld in prayer.

National: There's still a long way to go before we are virus-free, so please continue to pray for our Prime Minister and all those involved in government decisions. Pray specifically that men and women of God who are politicians and advisors that their voices will be heard.

Please don't forget the prayer chain! If you are not on it, please, please do join it. We **ALL** need **YOU**. Let Lucy know (lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk / 07503 003250). It is so valuable, and exciting. Also, if you have a prayer request, please let Lucy know – we would love to be praying into that with you. It can be anything that is on your heart, a family, friends, national or international concern / need.

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

Sunday Morning Worship

This week's service / sermon is entitled Encouragement. I am sure we all need a bit of that currently. I'm looking forward to it and our reading this week is:

John 21:1-24

May I encourage everyone to read this before you come to the service on Sunday? By the way if you find reading the Bible difficult (there are some very interesting words that are often hard to pronounce) there are a number of audio Bibles out there, one of the best is read by David Suchet (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.

Watch this SPACE for our Future Sermon theme. We will be starting and announcing our new sermon theme on the 7th March. Keep a look out in future newsletters for information about this – we will be doing it for about a year! I am so excited about it and hopefully (and prayerfully) it will be especially helpful for all of us with our discipleship.

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 (2nd April 2:00pm) in the Carpark.
(Please note the change in time)

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

It all depends of course on the latest rules and regulations! Let's keep praying and believing, but please put the dates for both in your diary.

What's Happening within DURC....

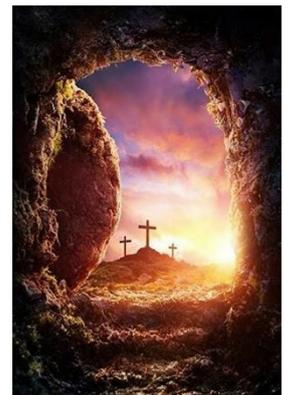
A Film together



Date/Time
2nd March (7pm)

You can watch the trailer at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2KDj7qxnds>



Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. (Psalm 5:3)

Our following months' films:

6th April (7pm): **Risen** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcTVLfn5i8g>)

4th May (7pm): **Pay It Forward** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfW0wCV9iFI>)

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!

Other things ...

Spring Harvest @ Home 2021

Many of you will have been to Spring Harvest in the past I am sure. Well this year, as it was last year, it is livestream online. May I suggest if you are available to log in, 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. It'll be great I'm sure – I'm going. Why don't you come too? For more information click on:

<https://springharvest.org/>



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

This is a joke for all you younger folk out there!

God Bless you all, have a blessed week and hope to see you all on Sunday for our Worship Service (Please remember to read the passage for the week, see above).

Be blessed, as you are being a blessing.

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.