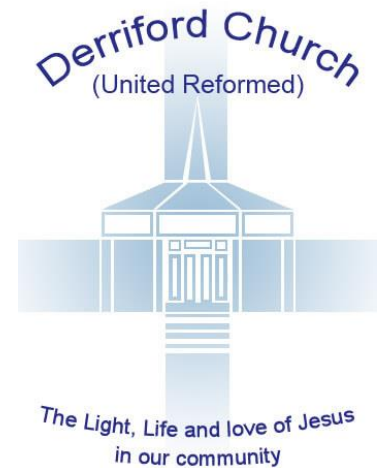


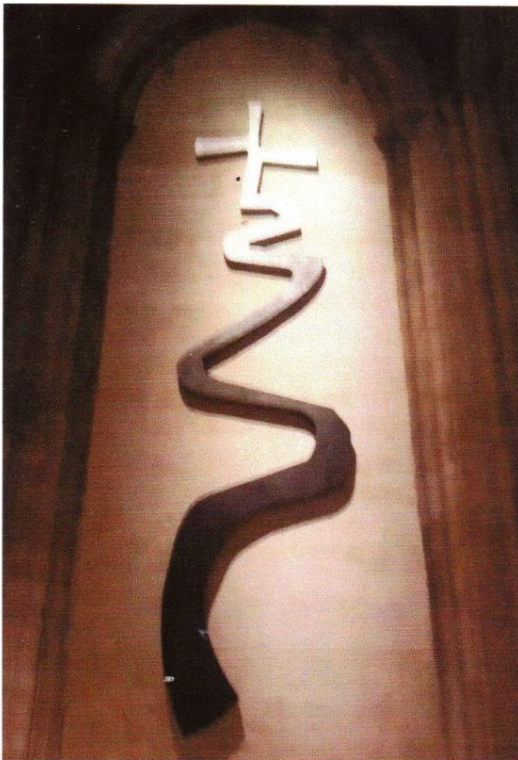
# NEWS SHEET

# DERRIFORD URC

THE LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE OF JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY



2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2021



I always think it is a little strange to say that you like a cross. It is a bit like saying you like torture or you like gallows or the guillotine! A little strange. However, that said, I do like this cross. Anyone who has come into my study in the Manse will recognise it as there is a picture of it on my windowsill. The original is in Ely Cathedral just north of Cambridge.

The reason I find it so interesting, and I like it is that it sort of indicates that we are on a journey, in two ways. First, we have all been on a journey to come to the Lord in the first place. We all have our own testimonies that we can share. Secondly, in a slightly different way none of us are there yet and we are all on a journey to holiness. Each one of us is making this journey with twists and bends on the way, but ultimately we will end up there at least when we get to Heaven.

## Summary of Sunday's Sermon/Service

Although the passage we're studying is found in what we know as "The book of Ephesians," in the earliest manuscripts, there is no mention of the church at Ephesus. It's not that this book wasn't meant to be read by the Ephesian Church, but it wasn't only for them and Paul is writing this as a general letter to Christians living in the western part of Turkey and to all converts who need to understand more about their faith, which includes us! Paul is writing

this when Christ's death and resurrection is recent history; the Gospel is spreading like wildfire and new converts are being made. Paul writes so that they can be certain that they now have a relationship with Almighty God, because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Paul reminds the readers that before becoming Christians they were "dead in their sins" and subject to the power of the devil (the ruler of the kingdom of the air). However, sometimes when we look at non-Christians, they seem to have the body of an athlete, the mind of a scholar and the personality of a stand-up comedian; they don't appear to be at all dead, but Paul reminds us that in the sphere that really matters, they're dead

Paul goes on to tell the readers, that we have a choice, either to be dead in our sins, or alive in Christ because of God's grace to us; that grace is a one-way direction of travel from God to us. Grace is undeserved and unmerited love that reaches down to rescue and provide.

Paul goes on to warn of the danger of gospel plus or gospel minus. Christians and the Christian church, in both past and present times, have required people not only to experience God's grace, but to do, or not do certain things in order to be assured of salvation. This is quite wrong and Paul makes it plain to the readers that we are saved by Grace alone. Our natural reaction is to feel we need to do something to contribute to God's grace, but God has done everything that's required. This is what makes the Christian religion stand apart from every other religion. Every other religion tells people what they have to do to qualify for Heaven. Paul reminds us that as Christians we can do nothing, Jesus has done everything that is required.

If you're thinking, surely doing good is meant to be part of the Christian faith somewhere, it is, but it's not in the column marked, "how do I get accepted by God", it's not there, it's in a separate column of, how do I live now I've been accepted by God.

"It is by grace you have been saved, it is a gift of God so that no one should boast."

A final warning from Paul that only Jesus is worthy, all the glory must go to Him.

Sunday  
25th April

Thank you for this Paul. What a great service we had on Sunday with Paul's sermon (summarised for us above) and Penny singing / leading our worship. The service, if you would like to watch the whole thing, is on our website. The link is:

<http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk/sunday-25th-april-2021-morning-service/>

It is well worth watching or watching again if you were there on Sunday.

**This Sunday morning's service** is being led by me (Mark) and the theme is Gideon.

You can find Gideon's story in the Bible in Judges chapters 6 through to 8. So can I ask you, before the service to read **Judges 6-8**. I suspect it will take you about 30minutes, not long and It is a great story, and I am sure it will bring back many memories from your Sunday School days. Gideon, of course, is one of the Heroes of the Bible!

## This week's Notices...

### *Judean Wilderness*



### **NOTICES**

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

***This Monday 3rd May (2pm)***  
*Social Distance Church Walk*  
*See Mark for details*

***Flower Rota***  
*Carol is still looking for volunteers*

***Church Preparation for Hiring Out***  
*Please remove any personal items*  
*by the 10th May*

## Prayer Pointers...

**Praise:** I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:14

**Church:** Hall survey - 5 May...Give God thanks and praise that the quantity surveyors have said they are able to do stage one comparison between refurbish & rebuild without fees, as this is part of their policy to support local communities.

**Local:** Elections - 6 May....as we know our church is being used as a polling station. Let's pray for the obvious, the right people to be in power who can make sensible decisions, for care packages (as Mary mentioned) to be a priority so folk can live safely in their own homes.

**National:** Pray for our Prime Minister and his advisors that they will be truthful and scrupulous putting the country first before their own needs.

**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. The one this week seemed to be very successful. Big thank you to Helen and all the team. Bless you.

**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.

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

### Church Fellowship Walk (3<sup>rd</sup> May 1pm)

- **The Walk:** walk around the Lake (Burrator)
- **Length:** 3.5miles
- **time to walk:** 1 to 1.5hours.
- **level of difficulty:** The walk is easy. suitable for most abilities.
- **place to Meet:** Burrator top Carpark at 1pm



## Other Church stuff...

**Church Hall.** Fabulous News! We have a Quantity Surveyor coming to look at our Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> May. They will then give us a general cost to repair our hall against a cost of totally rebuilding it. Not only that, but because they like what we are doing and our thoughts about reaching the community they are doing the first stage of this work completely **FREE!** God is Good! Please keep them in your prayers (the two people who are coming are called Guy and Stephen)



As the hall is currently out of action the Deacons ask that all members who do not need to access the building, please return their keys. Please hand them to one of the Deacons. Thank you.

One last thing. The Deacons will be getting the Church ready for hiring so if anyone has any personal items in the building can they please remove them by 10 May as we will be hiring a disposal firm to take the "rubbish" away. Thank you again.

**World of Jesus.** Some of us are logging into the *World of Jesus* on either a Tuesday or Wednesday looking in more detail about the land of Jesus (The Holy Land), which in my opinion is fabulous. The course is completely free; however, we have been asked (if we are able) to support an organisation called Shepherds' Society (<https://bethbc.edu/shepherd-society/>) in Bethlehem. The elders thought that it would be good if we made a church donation, from Loaves and fishes, of £500. Hope you are happy with this? If you feel you would like to make a personal contribution to this very worthwhile cause please let Chris know.



**Exciting News!** I asked in the last newsletter for any news in our fellowship and Ann Whitear rang me to say she was 80 years young on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April. So:

**Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ann**

Hope you had a wonderful day Ann!?

**Flower Rota.** There are still spaces on the flower rota if anyone would like to provide a vase etc of flowers. They will need to be taken away at the end of the service (and given to someone who would appreciate them). Also please remember no highly scented flowers eg lilies. The rota is on the wall in the church vestibule. See Carol Lant for more information.

**More Exciting News!** We have been talking about improving our audio / visual equipment / provision for a fairly long time. This has become especially important over the last year or so when we have been streaming our services on Zoom. To try and get both our in-person worship services as good as possible, but also to provide a really high-quality service for those who are logging in from home. Well, we have had a wonderful generous donation to help us specifically do this. One of the first things that will happen in the short term is replacement of the projector screen with a large TV. This will have numerous benefits and although it will not be as big as our current screen the quality will be 'massively' better which will enable the images / songs / slides videos etc to be seen much more clearly. It will also be quieter (No buzzing!) and will enable us to connect to the rest on the audio / visual system better – a more integrated system.

**Prayer and reading list updating.** We are looking to build up our lists of those people within the fellowship who would be prepared to read the scriptures or say the prayers of intercession in church. Please let me 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.** Thank you to those who have suggested places for Mission, I am still looking for more ideas. Have you got any? It would be nice if they were fairly small, so we could help make a difference.

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

Mark

**My (Mark) Contact details:**

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



**Our Zoom meeting.**

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