

# DERRIFORD URC NEWS LETTER

THE LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE OF JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY



20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021



As many of you know, due to picking up a cough from somewhere, I had to have a Covid Test on Sunday morning at 8am and then had to self-isolate until the I received the results. Praise God that by 6pm in the evening I had received them, and all was fine. You know, as I was going through the Covid test process I was thinking about Church (after all it was Sunday). Although the process itself was uncomfortable (not very nice sticking things in the back of your throat and up your nose!) but the people who were there to assist were so helpful, polite and comforting and encouraging and I was

put completely at ease. Not a bad experience at all. They explained everything I had to do and ensured that I understood. It was quite a pleasant experience, one that I had never been through before. Now, and here comes the link with church, I wonder and hope that when people come in to church (and especially Derriford) that they have that same feeling of being in a place and with people who are friendly, welcoming and encouraging. I wonder what we can learn about how to do church, from this process?

I do want to say a really big thank you to all the NHS staff who were involved, including the people working in the background and in the labs (like our own Sam Young) who make all this possible. Don't we live in a blessed country. And also, to give God thanks for getting us out of this pandemic and for giving the scientists the skills to develop the vaccine and the tests! God is Good.

## Summary of Sunday's Sermon/Service

### Sink or Swim? Genesis 6:9-22

When I decided to choose Noah as my Bible theme I had no idea it was going to be so full of more questions than answers!

God gave instructions to Noah about building an Ark because He was so saddened that His creation was thorough evil. He choose Noah for this task because He deemed Noah to be a man of integrity.

As we all know this was not to be a small project, the Ark was colossal; the length of 1.5 football fields, the height of a modern 4 storey building with enough storage space for 450 semi trailers.

It doesn't say that Noah had any discourse with God, he simply listened and acted, how many of us can say the same thing when God gives us a job to do! There's no mention either of what his family thought!

There's a lot of speculation about how Noah would have embarked on finding all the animals and then making sure there was one of each kind and that there were male and female pairs.

BUT if we believe God gave Noah precise instructions of the materials needed to build the Ark then why isn't it simply possible that God "spoke" to the animals and had them practically queueing up to get in the Ark.

Noah choose a raven first to leave the Ark because ravens are a symbol of God's provision, and of course the dove and an olive leaf symbolise peace.

I also hadn't realised that it was at least another 8 months or so, after landing on Mt Ararat, before Noah's family even got to leave the Ark.

It's a truly remarkable account of God's love for us, and also how He would like us to respond to His requests by listening and obeying.

If you would like to listen to the whole service including, the sermon, the hymns, the readings, and the prayers you can find it at the following link. Even if you were there it is good to watch again.

<http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk/sunday-13th-june-2021-morning-service/>

This **coming Sunday morning's service** is being led by myself and the title is **The Good Samaritan**, and our reading is from **Luke 10:25-37** If you are able, please do try to read this before the service on Sunday.

## This Week's Notice slide



### Notices

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

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**Women's Day of Prayer**  
(4<sup>th</sup> July 6:30pm)  
At Church of the Holy Spirit

**Mayflower 400 on the Hoe**  
(11<sup>th</sup> July 10:30am)  
Minibus available (See Mark)

**The Good Samaritan**  
**Luke 10:25-37**

## Prayer and Prayer Pointers...

**Praise:** Great, is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite. Psalm 147:5

**Church:** Let's keep holding before God those who are struggling with grief and ill health.

**Local:** Pray for the ambulance service and paramedics who are extremely short-staffed which results in people like Mary being left unattended for hours.

**National:** Mental health of the nation as easing of lockdown is delayed until 19 July.

Also let's keep Ron, Andy and Lilly and all Jean's friends and family in our prayers - praying for comfort and peace for them. Also give praise for Jean's life and all the amazing ways God used her and to thank God that she is now in Glory, with no more crying, no more pain and no more suffering.

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

## Future Church Events...

**Derriford Film Club** We have had three of these now and I don't know about anyone else but I have enjoyed watching the films with all you folk. Our next film will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July (7pm) and will be War Room. This is a wonderful Christian film about the power of prayer. Have a look at the trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yx5kpJ5mkeE>

**Please note** the following Film night will be the 10<sup>th</sup> August (*a week later than normal*)

**Nooma** the next Nooma will be on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July (7:30pm)**

Please put the date in your diary.

We will be looking at video number 7 entitled Luggage.

## Other Church stuff...

### Our Building etc.



The building updates this week are that we have organised a meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> June in the afternoon with Raoul Hewitt. Raoul is the Property and Trust Officer for the URC South Western Synod. He is the man who knows all that there is to know about church buildings and halls etc. He is coming to give us advice about how we go forward with our plans, thoughts, dreams on our hall development. Both the Elders and Deacons are meeting with him. I hope that after this meeting we will have more information to share with the church as a whole. Please keep this project in your prayers and particularly this meeting. THANK YOU.

Also, we have ordered some sample church chairs (hopefully three or four different types) to be delivered to us in July (exact date not yet known). These will be with us for about a month so that we can all get an opportunity to see and sit on them. We will then be able to vote on which ones we want to buy. Once the chairs are here they will be available to see on Sundays, but if (especially for those who aren't getting out to church on Sunday) we would be happy to pick you up in the week and bring you over to see them.



### Women's Day of Prayer on the 4<sup>th</sup> July (6:30pm) at

Church of the Holy Spirit in Southway the regular Women's day of prayer is being held, this is open to everyone. Do come along, no tickets or booking is required.



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

**Please Note that sadly this has had to be cancelled due to the change in the plans for reopening after lockdown.**

**Prayer and reading list updating.** This is really important, and I am still looking for more names. I will be putting a sign-up sheet in the church entrance hall. Please do sign up.

**Overseas Mission.** Have you read Matthew 24:14 recently?

*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

One of the areas that is so important is reaching all the nationals. In the passage above we can see that all nations will be reached before Jesus returns. Part of our responsibility here is for the church, as well as local mission, is to reach out to those further away. We are trying to look at how we do this by supporting overseas missions. We would like your help. Who should we support? I have had a few (3) suggestions but would like more. Please, is there an organisation (preferably smallish, so we can see that we make a difference) that we could support overseas together?

Lots of blessings to you all over the coming week. See you on Sunday.

God bless.

Mark

