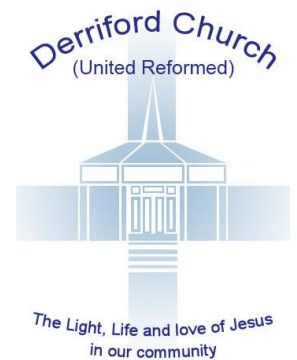


DERRIFORD URC NEWS LETTER

THE LIGHT, LIFE AND LOVE OF JESUS IN OUR COMMUNITY



27TH JUNE 2021

Time is a funny thing. On Monday it was the summer solstice (the longest day of the year). So (I'm sorry to say this) the days are getting shorter now and we are on our way to winter! I hear you cry but summer hasn't even come yet! So true, but this is where we are.

You know, time goes by so quickly and our time here on earth is short even if we make it to 105! And like Jean whose funeral is next week at some point we will 'meet our maker'. Many of you will be thinking, well that is a gloomy way to start a newsletter! But I want to say the opposite is true, for all of us who claim Jesus is our Lord and continue to allow Him to lead our lives. Our greatest day will be when we say goodbye to this world and hello to the next. And we will be there for all eternity, forever and ever! Where,

"every tear will be wiped from our eyes and there will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Rev 21:4)

All because we put our trust and hope in Jesus and then continue to obey Him. That is a pretty good promise isn't it? And one that we need to remember as we live on this earth, following our Lord.

Summary of Sunday's Sermon/Service

The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

The previous time I led on a Sunday morning and last Sunday we looked at two parables. Parables are very important in Jesus' ministry. So before you read the summary of this week's sermon can I suggest that you watch the Bible Project's video on the Parable of Jesus; especially if you didn't see it on Sunday. This can be found at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XX-aAg4_U2Q

As I have said a number of times (sorry to repeat myself) if you ever want to have a summary of a Biblical book, or better understanding of a biblical concept the Bible Project is always a good place to start.

Anyway, on to The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

The story opens with the expert in the law quoting to Jesus the Shema the very famous, and extremely important statement found in Deuteronomy 6:4–9. Read it for yourself. Notice however the New Testament adds part of Leviticus 19:18 to it .

*“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people but **love your neighbour as yourself**. I am the LORD.”*

So the story is set, with a man who was walking from Jerusalem to Jericho. As can be seen from the map below it is not very far, only about 16 miles, but it is over very rough terrain (see picture below) and in those days it would have been very very dangerous. Hence the base for the story.



So, the man gets attacked by robbers and is stripped, robbed, beat up and left for dead. The scene is set.

So, along comes the hero – **The priest**, fabulous - all will be fine now. Everything will be sorted now. He will help the injured man – but shock / horror, he passes by on the other side! But not to worry hero number two comes along **The Levite**, all will be well now – but again shock / horror he again passes by too!

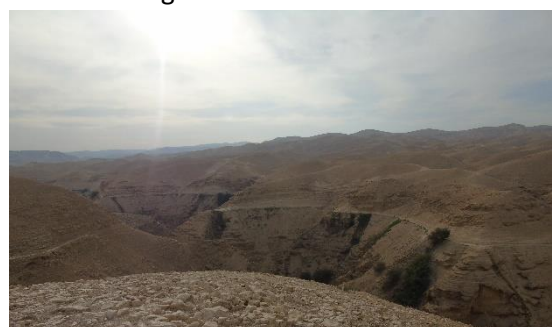
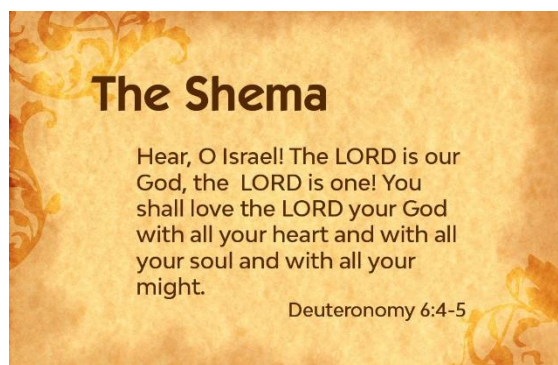
And last, the hated, the despised, the loathed, the Samaritan comes by. Now if the priest didn't help and if the Levite didn't help the Samaritan isn't going to, is he?

But what do we have here! He stops, he helps, he bandages him, he puts him on his donkey, to takes him to the inn, and he pays all the bills! This Samaritan not only cares for this wounded man, he goes way way way beyond anything that would be expected of him or anyone else!

Again like, the story of the lavishly loving Father we miss the shock of this story! We don't really understand the mistrust, the hatred that the Jews and Samaritans have for each other. You see, the teacher of the law may have expected that Jesus would have said that the Jewish person would have to show love to all, including the Samaritans but to depict the Samaritan showing love over the Jew and Levite – Wow! That is a shock!

As I said we miss the shock of the story. We have heard it so often and perhaps in our day and age and in our culture the priest (or the Levite) doesn't have the same respect. So perhaps if the story was told with the main characters being a nurse and doctor and the real hero (the good Samaritan) being a ISIS Terrorist or a drug dealer we may get nearer the disgust in the story!

It is a shocking story. Jesus shows what a true neighbour is, in a very graphic way and then points at the experts in the law and to all the hearers, and says, “and you go and do likewise”. You go do what the Samaritan did in this story. The Samaritan wasn't concerned about who the injured man was (did you notice, we're not told who the man was, we are simply told “a man”). He may have been a Jew; he may have even been a Samaritan but that is not important. What is important is that the Samaritan helped. He is saying exactly the same thing to us, go and do likewise. Go and be a good neighbour - to who? To all in need of course. But, I think, more than that. We don't have to wait for someone to have been robbed, or in serious trouble. The point is the Samaritan was there and helped – full stop! He put himself out to help. Not only 'put' himself out, but went the extra mile. He did far more than would have even been expected of anyone.



You know, the lawyer asked the question, 'Who is my neighbour' but Jesus suggests that the real question is "Do I behave as a neighbour to those around me?" What does this mean about our time, our money, our resources, our homes, our cars, how do we use all of this to be a 'Good Samaritan'. This is major stuff.

You know I think this is so important. It is interesting that the original question was 'what must I do to inherit eternal life'. Jesus is saying that even a Samaritan is nearer the Kingdom of God than the Pious Jew when he shows compassion, when he cares.

Salvation starts with faith in and through the Lord Jesus Christ of course but is sustained and continues through sanctification. Becoming more and more and more like Jesus. Caring, loving, showing compassion. 500 years ago, it was all about Indulgences, earning your way to heaven and Luther posted his 95 theses on the door of his church and the Catholic reformation happened. It turned the Church upside down, and it became by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

I think, the problem today is, the church has swung too far the other way. Salvation is absolutely by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone, but as our opening passages says without works faith is dead. Without being that Good Samaritan faith is of no use.

We are NOT saved by good deeds, but we are saved FOR good deeds. How we live here on earth is key, being the good Samaritan in our neighbourhoods, in our villages, in our estates, in our cities is what we are called to do. How are we being Good Samaritans?

Apologies, this week there was no recording of the service. This is completely my fault as I forgot to record the service! Not good. Also, may I also apologise for the sound on Sunday for those that logged in from Zoom, this was due to a technical issue with the mixing desk. Sorry again. Hopefully as the new technology comes online, this sort of thing will get less and less.

This is also why the summary above is a little longer than usual as there is no way to watch (or listen) online.

This **coming Sunday morning's service** is being led by Phil and his title is **The Heat is on**, and this week's reading is **Daniel 3:1-30** If you are able, please do try to read this before the service on Sunday. What a great story, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the furnace – Looking forward to it Phil.

And the **following Sunday morning's service (4th July)** is being led by me, and the title is **River flowing from the Temple**. Our reading will be **Ezekiel 47:1-12**. Please read it if you can before the serviced.

This Week's Notice slide

Notices

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

Women's Day of Prayer

(4th July 6:30pm)

At Church of the Holy Spirit

Mayflower 400 on the Hoe

Cancelled

Also please sign up on reading /
Prayers of Intercession

**Daniel 2:1-30:
The Heat is On**

Prayer and Prayer Pointers...

Pray for our church for the people and friends of those who attend, not forgetting those that have been on the prayer chain. Also, particularly for Ron. Andy and Lilly and all Jean's family and friends. Jean's funeral is on the 1st of July at 9:30am in church.

Please pray for the wider church in Plymouth, there is a real desire to work together but I feel how we do this is not so clear. Remember to pray for the church nationally that it will stand up and be prophetic in our world/county/cities/towns/villages.

May I ask that as we read our newspapers or watch the news on TV or on the internet that we use this as a memory jog to help us pray for the world around us. I am sure we all know that the world desperately needs God's intervention. Some areas of suggestion: Pray for the whole Covid pandemic, both in this country and around the world. Also keep praying for Israel and the Middle East that peace is maintained and developed. Places where war is still a reality: Afghanistan, Yemen and Somalia to mention just three.

Don't forget for all those things that you would like prayer for, whether that is personal / family, friends / acquaintances or church related there is our prayer chain. All those that are on it are passionate about prayer and would like nothing more than to be asked to pray what is on your heart!

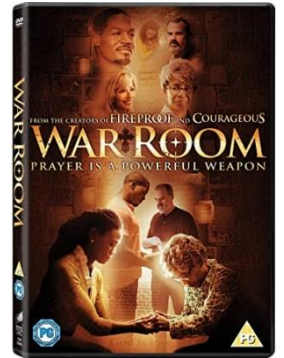
**Any prayer requests please text / email Lucy on:
lucyparker59@yahoo.co.uk / 07503 003250**

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 6th 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 10th August (*a week later than normal*)



Nooma the next Nooma will be on **Tuesday 20th 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.



As I have shared before we have had a wonderful gift of money to enable us to enhance our audio / visual equipment within Church. This will help improve the quality of both the sound and projection within the building and our on-line

services etc. through Zoom. We will see the first of these improvements this

weekend as our contractor starts to install a 75" TV which will replace the existing projector

and screen (the current one has been in a long time and quality is nowhere near as good as a

modern TV). We are also installing two 32" TVs for over the door into the sanctuary (for the preacher /

Service leader to view) and one in the back alcove. This will greatly improve the visibility of the songs,

slides, and video clips that we show. We are also installing a bracket for a third TV in the creche which

will we add when we have some spare cash. These smaller TVs will also enable the rooms to be used as

breakout / small meeting rooms.



Pam Caufield. As most of us know Pam has now moved to live closer to family. We do wish her well in her new home and promise to pray for her. She also sends her love to all of us and says she would love to hear from people, so with her permission here is her new address for anyone who would like to keep in touch.

14 Chamier Way, Bowerhill, Melksham. SN12 6XZ



Women's Day of Prayer on the 4th July (6:30pm) at St Mary's in Tamerton Foliot, this is open to everyone. Do come along, no tickets or booking is required. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION.**



Mayflower Celebration, Worship event on the Hoe (11th 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. There is a sign-up sheet in the church vestibule. Please think about challenging yourself and signing up to read or to lead prayers of intercession.

Church newsletter over the coming weeks, it will be less regular than usual. Below are the Sundays when it will be produced over the next three months:

- The next one will be for Sunday 11th July. This means there will be no newsletter next week.
- Then 8th August (I am away from the 15th July both on holiday for a week or so and also going Keswick Convention – A Christian Conference similar to Spring Harvest held in Keswick in the Lake District.
- And then next one will be the 19th September

After that, things should be back to normal.

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

God bless.

Mark


Derriford URC

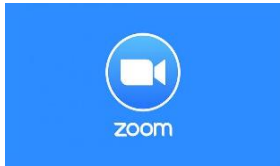
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Rev Mark Woodhouse
Minister

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God is good and Jesus is exalted and on the throne!





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

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