



LINK UP!

‘And with that [Jesus] breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”’ John 20:22

Points for Prayer

- Here’s something to thank God for: Norma had some great news which she’s asked me to pass on to you: the doctors have given her the all clear from her cancer! Thank you, Lord! And thanks for sharing your good news with us, Norma!
- Let’s keep praying for all those working in our hospitals and care homes. My friend who is a radiologist says they’re currently spending about 3 hours x-raying patients and 7 hours cleaning every day! They are all still working crazy long shifts, and will carry on doing so, I think, for the foreseeable future.
- Pray for chaplains - I spoke to someone who is a chaplain in a hospice where there is a breakout of COVID-19. Please pray for staff and patients alike, and that in spite of restrictions, the chaplains will still be able to demonstrate the love of God in difficult circumstances.

Calling all Gift Aiders!

- * Here’s a note from our church Finance Team to all of you who gift aid your offerings:

12 Symptoms of a Spiritual Awakening

1. An increased tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
2. Frequent attacks of smiling.
3. Feelings of being connected with others and nature.
4. Frequent overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
5. A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than from fears based on past experience.
6. An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
7. A loss of ability to worry.
8. A loss of interest in conflict.
9. A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
10. A loss of interest in judging others.
11. A loss of interest in judging self.
12. Gaining the ability to love without expecting anything in return.

Dear church family

Lists of symptoms are everywhere at the moment, aren’t they? So I was pleasantly surprised to find the above list on Facebook, which someone had sent to the Northumbria Community, where I go for my retreats if I can. I love these ‘symptoms’! And aren’t they challenging?! Wouldn’t it be amazing if we could experience a real ‘spiritual awakening’ at Longfleet? By that, I mean that every single one of us would become more and more open to the Holy Spirit transforming our lives - which is particularly applicable just now, given that we’re coming up to Pentecost in a few days’ time. Recently, I’ve been thinking about how important it is to let God transform us, on a daily basis. If we ever get to the point

* "Letters advising Gift Aid donors of the amount of their giving in 2019/2020 will be distributed after the lockdown is over and the church is open. If any donor wants to know their figures before then please contact George by email."

A strange request!

"We need beefy men!" That's the interesting response I got when I asked our friends at the Foodbank what they really need! The thing is, they have plenty of volunteers to sort the various donations, but they really need some strong arms (those arms don't HAVE to belong to men, of course! But I thought you'd be amused to see the quote as I heard it!) to help lift cartons of tins around, which can weigh a huge amount. So, if you know anyone strong people who are looking for something to do (maybe they're still furloughed, or at home from university etc), then why not get in touch with Poole Foodbank on 01202 669566?

Quotes to chew on!

"Only the obedient believe, and those who believe are obedient."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 'The Cost of Discipleship' (1937)

"No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience...God sometimes delays, but He always comes."

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

where we think we have 'arrived' - in other words, we think that there is nothing left in our character for God to work on, or where we have learned enough to get by - then I think we're in dangerous territory. The devil loves a bit of complacency and pride. It gets in the way of us growing as Christians. So, why not go through this list item by item during the time you spend alone with God? Pray each item through - you might want to focus on one a day - and ask God to show you anything in your life that is contrary to these 'symptoms'. For instance, I find it quite easy to smile frequently - but harder to stop worrying! That's what I need to ask God to help me with. How about you?

Keep trusting! With love, your Pastor,

Suzie

