



Link Up!

‘But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control Galatians 5:22-23

Notices

So folks, don't forget that Suzie is on leave until 12th July and Jill is also taking some leave this week but if you do need to chat to someone then Austin and I will be around all the time Suzie is off duty.

Our Thursday Night In will still continue at 7pm on Thursdays and don't forget to use our new Zoom account log in. If you can't find it then give me a ring.

This Thursday, 9th July, we will have a time when we can share any scriptures we have read during 'lock down' with everyone. It could be something from your daily quiet time or perhaps if you've read a Christian book with some thoughts on Scripture. Don't be put off if nothing comes to mind, come and hear what others share. We'll also be celebrating communion so come with bread/crackers & juice.

While Suzie is away she has a link on our You Tube channel to one of the SCBA ministers' reflections that they have been doing during lock down. They have been doing them weekly so you should also be able to look at their previous reflections too.



Dear Church Family,

Well last week I told you about the clear out I've been doing while I've been at home during the 'lock down'.

Now the other thing that everyone seems to have been doing during that past few months is getting busy in the garden. I know that a lot of you have been doing that too. Even some of our neighbours, who aren't very interested in their gardens usually, seem to have got the bug during 'lock down'. It's helped that for quite a long time during April and May the weather was really great and getting out in the fresh air helped to ease the boredom. I know not all of you have gardens but bear with me.

Now back in the Autumn of 2019 John and I made the decision to get rid of the vegetable patch at the bottom of our garden. We had been discussing it for quite a few years with John wanting to just try another year of getting the ground, which was poor, to yield enough vegetables to make it worth the effort required. Whatever we tried didn't really work and eventually he agreed with me that we should put that area down to lawn with a few shrubs like the rest of the back garden is. So we got a firm in to

A Prayer for Wisdom

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. Psalm 32:8

Lord God, You create and recreate us in your goodness and wideness.
Thank you for the many outreaches and programmes you have blessed us with,
Thank you for the ways they have changed us
Thank you for the ways they have changed our community
As we look to a time beyond lockdown,
Keep us listening to the ways you want to restore us
And the ways you may want to recreate us.
May we not cling to the old out of nostalgia,
But rejoice at the new wine you bring
And look for the fruitfulness after the pruning.
In this time of preparation make us flexible;
To contain new wine without bursting,
To be ready for harvest,
To embrace with joy all you are recreating.
May we look to you for comfort, not comfortableness.
In the name of Jesus, our foretaste and pioneer of all things new.

Amen.

Don't forget to fill out and send back your questionnaires, even if you can't think of anything to say for some of the questions. We want to hear from everyone.

prepare the ground and lay some turf both there and in the front garden. The wet winter really helped the turf to get established and now its coming on well as you can see. The shrubs we planted are also gradually growing and hopefully will mature in the coming years.

Now I'm not much of a gardener. You might say I'm the manager and John's the workman! But I do know that to keep a garden looking good you need to spend time working on it. You need to prepare the soil, battle the weeds that intrude, make sure it gets enough water if it doesn't rain and pray for sun if that doesn't shine at the right time.

The Bible uses pictures from agriculture and gardening to describe the spiritual life. The parable of the sower talks about having the right sort of soil to produce good crops. The letter to the church in Galatia talks about the Fruit that we should see developing in a Christian's life as they grow in their relationship with Jesus. As you know they are: - Love, Joy Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. How are these things growing in your life at the moment? Are there some spiritual weeds that you need to root out? Do you need to open yourself up more to the nourishing rain and light of the Holy Spirit? Do you need to feed yourself on God's word and prayer to help them to grow more? Why not try and spend a bit more time with God this week and see what He says to you about growing in one of these areas?

God bless

Janet

