



Link Up!

God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us. Ephesians 3:20

Sunday Lunch & Notices:

Well, they do say a week is a long time in politics and so it is in church life too! For the last few weeks I've been telling you that Suzie was finishing her sick leave and taking holiday from 21–28 September. Then, just at the end of last week, Mike developed some COVID-like symptoms of a high temperature and a cough and following advice from NHS direct they have cancelled their holiday in Cornwall and are self-isolating at home in Poole for 14 days. He was able to get a test at the weekend and is awaiting the results but we should pray for a speedy recovery for him anyway. The upshot of this is that Suzie is starting her phased return to work, that would have happened after their holiday, this week. **That doesn't mean that everyone should ring up to have a chat with her** as she's only working one day this week and two days a week from next week and has to catch up with everything that's come in since she's been away.

So, for this coming Sunday we are recommending that you watch another reflection from our SCBA minister Dave Llewelyn. It's called 'Getting Older'. If you consider yourself still young don't let the title put you off! Click the link below the picture as you've done before.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTx_DQ1k88U&t=10s



What's in a name? (part 3) El Shaddai

Dear church family,

So far, we've looked at two different names that God called himself by when he was revealing his character to his people – Yahweh & El Elyon. This week I want to look at another name God used in his dealings with Abram. You'll remember the story of how God promised to make Abram the father of a great nation even though he was already quite old, and his wife Sarai was childless. Time went by and still God didn't seem to be carrying out his promises and eventually Abram decided to short-cut God's way by having a son with Sarai's servant girl, Hagar, and Ishmael was born. It wasn't what God wanted or promised at all.

Then in Genesis chapter 17, when Abram is 99, God appears to him again and tells him "I am God All-Powerful, if you obey me and always do right I will keep my solemn promise to you and give you more descendants than can be counted". The name translated 'All Powerful' in our Bibles is the Hebrew name El Shaddai. Although translated 'Powerful' it can also be translated Sufficient. So, God is not just All Powerful but All Sufficient. God is telling Abram that He is powerful enough to bring about His promises and He is All Sufficient. 'No need to rely on your own ideas and resources to bring about my plan for your life Abram,

And a song to think about or sing:

*El Shaddai, El Shaddai
El Elyon na Adonai
Age to age You're still the same
By the power of the name.
El Shaddai, El Shaddai;
Erkamka na Adonai
We will praise and lift You high
El Shaddai*

Through Your love and through the ram
You saved the son of Abraham.
Through the power of Your hand,
Turned the sea into dry land.
To the outcast on her knees
You were the God who really sees,
And by Your might You set Your children free
*El Shaddai, El Shaddai
El Elyon na Adonai.....*

Through the years You made it clear
That the time of Christ was near.
Though the people couldn't see
What Messiah ought to be.
Though Your word contained the plan
They just could not understand.
Your most awesome work was done
Through the frailty of Your Son.
*El Shaddai, El Shaddai
El Elyon na Adonai.....*

(words & music 1981 Word Press Publishing—Words Michael Card - Music John Thompson)

put your trust in me and my power and provision will bring it to pass.'

So, what does this have to say to us in our walk with El Shaddai? Well in the strange times we find ourselves in at the moment it should be a great comfort to know that the One we follow is All Powerful – He can bring about an end to the pandemic. He is also All Sufficient – He is the One we can rely on when all the human resources available seem to not be enough.

But its not only in this time of COVID 19 that God is El Shaddai. He is All Powerful and All Sufficient for us as a church going forward. We may feel we do not have the power or the energy to do what we believe God is calling us to do, but in the words of the old A. A. advert 'we know someone who can'. If we find ourselves in our own personal struggles reaching the end of our energy and resources too then the One we serve and follow – El Shaddai - is All Powerful and All Sufficient for our needs too. It reminded me of that verse from Ephesians 3 vs 20 that I've used at the top of the sheet. Let's take encouragement from that.

*God bless
Janet*

