



Link Up!

**Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
James 1:4**

Church Members' Meeting and AGM

This is just a reminder for all Church Members that we will be holding a Church Members Meeting & AGM on Zoom on Thursday 26th November at 7.30pm. You should, by now, have received your copy of the agenda and some relevant paperwork to look at. At the top of the agenda are the details of how to get into the meeting. You can do this using either a computer, laptop, tablet or phone. We do want as many of you as can to join us so that we can keep you up to date with what is going on.

During the meeting we will be holding a diaconate election where Stephen Chaloner will be the only candidate. If anyone would like a copy of Stephen's profile, that we produced in March, please get in touch with me. The vote will be held using a voting system on Zoom that is a secret ballot and in order for each member to record their own vote it will be helpful if each of you use a different device/phone for that part of the meeting. If this is going to be a problem for you, can you let Janet know so we can set up the ballot differently.

If you feel that you can't join us that evening you can phone me or email me to give your apologies.



Dear church family

I don't know what you think about when you hear the word endurance. Do you think about those intrepid explorers who cross icebound wastes to reach the poles? Perhaps you think of those hardy folks who run long distance races like the marathon. Whatever you think of, if you are like me, the word endurance has you thinking 'why would you do that?!'. I'm definitely not built for extreme endurance situations and not many of us are really.

A few weeks ago, Suzie and Deacons were meeting and began by sharing how we were feeling about our current situation. This was before the current 'lockdown' but like so many I think we were all feeling a bit fed up. We've all had our ups and downs during this year haven't we? Sometimes I feel I'm coping OK and other times I'm decidedly fed up. So, when I read in my daily readings, the day after our Leadership Meeting, Jesus words from chapter 24 of Matthew's gospel, 'the love of many will grow cold. But anyone who endures to the end will be saved', I felt it was a word for me and perhaps for all of us. We are being called to endure to the end, not just of this pandemic but to the end of either our lives or until He comes again whichever happens first.

There are quite a lot of references in the Bible to either endurance or perseverance which mean the same thing

We will be using this song in Thursday Night In this week: -

Jesus You are changing me,
By Your Spirit You're making me like You;

Jesus You're transforming me,
That your loveliness may be seen in all I do.

You are the potter and I am the clay;
Help me to be willing to let You have Your way;

Jesus You are changing me
As I let You reign supreme within my heart

B.M.S. Birthday Scheme

Nicola Cornes who looks after the B.M.S. Birthday Scheme for us has asked me to mention it to you. For those of you who don't know what this is, if you sign up with her to join the scheme, you receive a birthday card on your birthday with an envelope inside for you to make a donation to the work of BMS World Mission. You return the envelope to Nicola with whatever you can give and she makes sure it gets to them. The money raised goes to support their projects that involve medical work. On the BMS website is an interesting video about the work being done in Chad at Guinebor Hospital funded partly by the birthday scheme money. We will be watching this on Zoom this Thursday or you can look at it yourself on:-

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/appeal/oc/>

really. It's clear that the Christian life is a marathon not a sprint. Hebrews chapter 12 uses the race analogy and says we need to run with perseverance the race that is marked out for us. So how do we do that? Well, my limited knowledge of running tells me that those who want to do it well need to have the right equipment or kit. What sort of equipment do we need in our race? Hebrews tells us to throw off the things that will hold us back, the sins that easily catch us out. Runners need to train, and the chapter goes on to talk about enduring hardship as discipline. Our training will involve learning from the expert, Jesus, and his word the Bible.

Something else I know is that to run a good race you need to focus on where you are going. It's no good constantly looking back at where you've come from, you'll probably fall over. You can't keep looking at the people who are running alongside you either or you won't run the course straight. The only way is to look at the finish line. So, in our Christian life we can't keep looking back to the past whether it was better than the present or not. Neither can we be constantly comparing ourselves with other Christians, whether they are so much holier or less committed than we are. Hebrews tells us each to run the race that is set before us and to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus who set us the perfect example by enduring the cross in order to buy our salvation.

So keep on running towards the prize,

Janet

As Suzie wrote last week she is on holiday this week until 21st November so she has recommended one of the SCBA Reflections for this weekend. It's by Dave Llewelyn, one of the Regional Ministers. It is called 'The Power of Words'



<https://youtu.be/lrPwKxK-lbA>