

Link Up!

Everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

Notices

Suzie is away in Whitby this week between Tuesday and Friday having a time of spiritual retreat. In her absence please do contact Janet if you need support or prayer.

As she is away there will be no Zoom Bible study this week. Then from the following week, 9th June, we will be moving the meeting to a Wednesday evening so why not join us then.

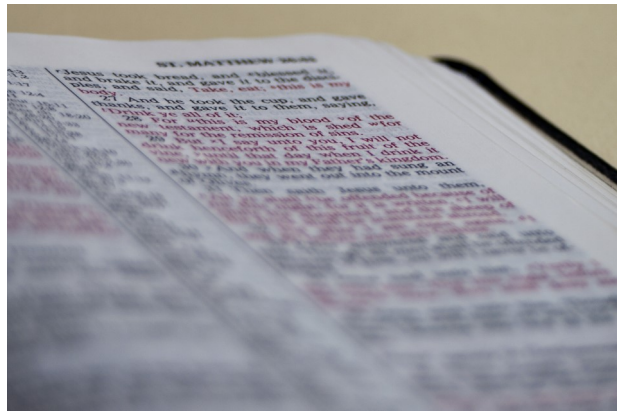
Suzie will be leading the service on Sunday for those who are able to join us, but for those still watching our YouTube reflections, then we recommend that you watch the following reflection by SCBA Minister Joth Hunt called 'The Changing of the Seasons'



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6gBAtsEqV4>

Attached to the email with this newsletter and in the postal copies too is a letter we received recently from SCBA thanking us for our support for Baptist Home Mission in 2020.

Copies of the minutes of the May Church Members meeting can be requested from Janet



Dear church family

The other week Suzie mentioned Shane Claiborne who was the main speaker at the Baptist Assembly this year. I know some of you will have heard him speak in the Sunday morning worship.

One of things that was mentioned about him and he referred to himself, is his book 'Red Letter Christianity' which he co-authored with Tony Campolo, another well known evangelical you may have heard of. Well, the title piqued my interest and I decided to read the book to find out what 'Red Letter Christianity' is. When I think about something described as 'red letter' I think about something being significant or important.

Red Letter Christianity is a term that Shane and Tony have adopted to refer to Christians who take seriously the teachings of Jesus as recorded in the four gospels. It comes from the versions of the bible where the words of Jesus are printed in red, in contrast to the rest of the text which is in black. It is a way of really making Jesus own words stand out.

Why is this so important? Well, when Jesus came to earth he came to show us what God is like but also to tell us how to live in the new Kingdom of God. He is God in human form so his teaching and his words should have more effect on us than any of the other words in the Bible.

For your prayers

Please continue to pray for ministers and leaders of churches in Poole. Particularly for those who are unwell, in hospital, or recovering from serious illness at the moment.

Pray for those in our town who are homeless or vulnerably housed and for the those who are working with them, either from BCP Council or from Routes to Roots.

Pray for the town pastors team who go out into the town centre on a Saturday afternoon and Ashley Road shopping area on a Tuesday afternoon.

Pray for the team at Poole Foodbank at Jimmy's Place as they try to offer more than just food parcels to those who need help to access other services.

And from Celtic Daily Prayer

Dear Lord. May we be lamps, lit and sustained by your Spirit's flame,

Spreading your light, usefully placed to illuminate the way ahead,

And encourage fellow travelers along the road of faith. Amen

If you've got one of the versions of the Bible with Jesus words printed in red try reading just those words yourself or, if not, try looking through Jesus teaching in for example Matthew chapters 5—7 or Matthew chapter 25 and then think about whether you are really living out even those few words in your daily life.

In Shane & Tony's book they go on to talk about how taking Jesus words seriously will affect how you think and, more importantly, how you behave in many areas of your life. From how you spend your money to how you vote in elections and from how you care for the environment to taking care of the poor in your own community. It was really challenging!

One thing in particular struck me in the book. They talked about how Christians are perceived in modern society more for what they are against than for what they believe. In contrast Jesus had more condemnatory words to say to those who were religious and thought they were OK, but welcomed and spent time with those others thought of as sinners and unworthy. If we are following His example we should be found welcoming those that others look down on too.

Jesus himself said 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor but those who are ill'. Let's try and model Jesus words to those we come into contact with.

Keep following!

Janet



Our Ladies Contact Group bravely ventured out to Upton Country Park recently for a picnic.