



Link Up!

‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.’ Philippians 4:6

What’s on in June

Church Members don’t forget that this coming Sunday, 12th June, after the morning service, we will be holding our Church Members’ Meeting. Bring your own lunch along and drinks will be provided. Then when we’ve all finished our lunch, we’ll move into the Church for our Members’ Meeting. Church Members’ please make a special effort to stay for that, as it’s really important for us to try and ‘discern the mind of Christ’ together at these meetings. You should already have received your agenda and apologies for absence can be given to Janet before the meeting. The deacons really want to hear what you think, even if you don’t agree with everything we suggest. If you are someone who finds it difficult to speak up publicly in meetings, you can always come and talk to one of us privately and we will share your views anonymously during the meetings.

Talking to God

Talking to God should be easy, shouldn’t it?
We know He loves us.
We know He longs to hear our voices.
We know He has forgiven us in His beloved son.
We know this... And yet...

In some ways, it’s easier to pray intercessory prayers for other people. When we pray for others know we are making a connection to God on their behalf and feel rightly good about that. And Amen and yes, let’s go on praying for each other. But if all I ever do is go through a prayer list of needs other people have, but I am not seeking to know the Almighty and Living God, sincerely living out my own relationship with God.. then I lose the intimacy He longs for, and I turn talking to Him into a religious thing that I just... do.

I have learnt something new about prayer in the last few months... Praying out loud is where it gets REAL for me. Really honest, and real, and it’s really, really good... and really, really hard.. It’s not easy to talk to God out loud, by myself. It’s a struggle and a fight on every side. Standing in the bedroom with the door closed, talking to Him out loud, I feel exposed, I stumble over my words, I get hit with the thought *“this is foolish”* and to my ear I sound so childlike. And of course, when my ego gets busted like that... I smile, because humble is where grace is, and if the tempter is abusing me with his never very original lies of - *you’re not good enough*, and *you’re stupid for “talking to yourself”*, and - here’s a fun one... *if you encourage others to pray out loud, you’re just “showing off”*. I assure you, after a very emotional year of grieving and wondering, trying to

Other Notices

This year's Baptist Assembly will be featured on Songs of Praise, with interviews from some of those who participated in the Assembly and some of the content included. This will be broadcast on Sunday 26th June so set your recording device or watch on catch up, BBC iplayer, or live if you are at home.

We need to put together a small set of garden tools for the tenants at the manse to use as we want them to keep the garden tidy. We've sorted out a lawnmower but if anyone has some spare tools can you come and have a chat with John, and we'll see about making use of them.

Before Suzie left us, she gave me a lovely, Large Print, N.I.V. Life Application Study Bible that she had been given by someone in the church to pass on to anyone who is interested. It's quite a large volume with notes etc and if you are interested in really studying the Bible in a bit more detail you would find it really useful. Come and see Janet and she can show it to you if you are interested.

reach for God in pain (I know many relate) I can report that talking out loud in private to God has been an amazing revelation of His love... because He is comfort and peace too! So, I will keep coming back to the struggle against my flesh and mind (which seem to want to watch endless tv, rest and eat... not necessarily in that order) and talk to God with my own stumbling words.

I used to pray mostly in my head, and now I prefer to talk to God right out loud... it's worship in the silence of the bedroom behind a closed door.. just Him and me.

He is LONGING to hear your voice out loud too, for those of you who are talking to Him in your head exclusively – you CAN talk to God out loud if you are willing to. (Agree there's nothing wrong with praying in your head... let's do that too!)

We're either foolish and talking to ourselves... or we're talking to the Everlasting God, heavenly father, and Lord of all. I believe only one of these is true! May God bless us.

Kim Chaloner

