



Link Up!

**‘But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.’
2 Corinthians 12:9**

Coming up in August:

On Sunday 11th August we have John Good from Ocean Church coming to lead our worship.

And on Sunday 18th August we have Rev Derek Stringer coming to lead our worship.

Then from Monday 19th August until Friday 30th August our long-awaited Annex Demolition will be taking place. The building will be out of bounds for the whole of that period.

Ken and the Deacons have decided that rather than arrange something to replace our Sunday service on **25th August** we will not meet as a church, leaving everyone to make their own arrangements for either worshipping elsewhere on that Sunday or just having a ‘day of rest’ at home.

I remember as a child losing my grandmother in a large toyshop. One moment she was standing next to me, the next she had disappeared. Initially I was frightened; but soon my emotions changed to confusion and annoyance. Where was my Nan? How could she have left me, didn’t she care, didn’t she know that I needed her? What was she thinking to leave me alone? A member of staff helped find her and she hadn’t even realised I wasn’t still by her side!

Perhaps you have similar memories. Perhaps there was a time as a child when someone seemingly abandoned you. Perhaps you felt abandoned when one of your parents died, or more recently perhaps your spouse or another loved one passed away or went into care. Did you experience fear and panic? Or were you confused and annoyed that the person disappeared?

It can feel like people let us down when we need them, whether deliberately or out of ignorance, or simply because they are unable to help us. But surely we should be able to rely on God? Surely if we have faith in Him; He will be there for us no matter what? Yet so often it seems that He is hiding from us; it seems as though He is not there and even if He is, does He care, does He really want to be part of our lives?

It can feel wrong to question God; to challenge Him to act, to ask why He allows things to happen and so instead we fall away from Him or start feeling bitter towards Him and other Christians. The Bible, the very Word of God, is chock full of human complaints and questions that have been brought before God since ancient times.

Ken & Nicky and the family will be on holiday from 8th August until 21st August inclusive. In Ken's absence, if you need to speak to someone then please do get in touch with Janet.

Both our Monday Night Bible Study group for young adults and our 'Wednesday Night In' Zoom Bible Study group are taking a break for the month of August. They will start back on Monday 2nd September and Wednesday 4th September respectively.

Can you use:-

John Waite has a set of cassette tapes of the Bible and a cassette player that he no longer wants. If anyone would like them then either get in touch with John direct or have a chat with Janet on a Sunday and she'll convey the message.

The writer of Psalm 13 eloquently describes the way we sometimes feel - 'How long O lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me. How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?'

Does it feel as though God has forgotten you? That he is hiding from you? Do you wrestle with your thoughts and have sorrow in your heart that God is seemingly unable or unwilling to do anything about? The answer or at least part of it, is found at the end of Psalm 13 'But I will trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing praise to the Lord, for he has been good to me.'

Like the psalmist, we shouldn't be afraid to complain to God, but also like the psalmist we shouldn't give up on God or start believing that He is deliberately hiding from us. Instead, we are to draw closer to Him, to spend time in prayer and worship, spend time reading or listening to the Bible, spend time with other Christians.

Jesus said 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.' When God seems to hide from us, we really should ask a bit more loudly, seek a bit more diligently and knock a bit more forcefully.

Rev Kev Adolphe



An Olympic-themed cartoon this week from Alec