



Message from Rev Sam Funnell

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter the weather has taken a bit of a turn: after all those hot sunny days, which some enjoyed very much and others not so much (that's me folks!), we now have grey skies, rain and thunder.....I'm just waiting for the lightening!

Dog walking, which I obviously do quite a lot of (but not so much as I did back in May – thanks for all your sponsorship of Daisy and I!) isn't so good in the hot, dry and very sunny days, as the poor dogs can't cool down like we can and us owners have to take great care not to expose them to too much heat in case they end up with heatstroke. Recently I've found out that a good way to see if it's too hot to take your dog out, is to place your hand on the pavement and see if you can hold it here for 7 seconds; if not and it's too hot for your hand, it's too hot for their paws and it's time to stay inside!

After too many of the 'too hot' days, I'm actually quite glad to see the rain and imagine that the natural world around me is quite relieved too. It certainly makes dog walking easier, if slightly damper!

Many's the time I've thought about parallels between walking Daisy (my DOG) and walking with my GOD but I don't think I often think about walking with the Holy Spirit – do you?

We know, or I hope we do, that God is always with us, by the presence, promise and peace of the Spirit but when I think about walking with God, it's most likely Jesus that I envisage or feel beside me.

So I was interested to come across the following in one of my numerous 'books of stuff':

WALKING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT – by Frances Hawkey (Associate of the Iona Community)

*We walk together,
you and I,
talking sometimes,
often in awesome silence.
Wandering and wondering with you,
Holy Spirit,
unrestrained as the wild winds,
ever-moving as the tides.
Fire of passion.
Still small voice.*

I think I'd like to ponder that idea a bit more in the coming days – perhaps you would like to do so too, maybe even adapting it to your circumstances, if walking isn't your thing or you find it hard right now. Maybe all of us can see it through the lens of 'walking together through each day of our life' and perhaps this could be our prayer for the week, as we do so!

Enjoy your time wandering and wondering!

Sam.



MS Clip Art

A Word in Season 67 – A New Song and a new Start

‘O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.’ (Psalm 96:1-4 NRSVA)

On Sunday morning we did ‘greatly praise’ our Lord as we sang sensibly, but with good voice, ‘Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of Creation!’ (StF 88). But it was a new song for we had come through a difficult time and are not out of it yet. We could sing with a new depth of feeling and understanding the significance of how God had been with us, while we were unable to sing out loud for so long. We must remember that Covid 19 has not gone away. Many of us still believe it is sensible to wear a mask and maintain a sensible distance in crowds, on public transport, or when in large groups or in enclosed spaces. Others have decided not to wear masks or socially distance. We are free to choose: this is new.

The virus has had a significant effect on our church life both in terms of the uses of our premises, acts of worship, ministry and pastoral care. New ideas are being explored, Trinity is becoming involved in new initiatives such as Working Phone Friends, Intergenerational Music Making (IMM), Reaching Out to Socially Isolated People (ROSIP). It is at a time like this when Paul’s words to the Corinthian Church become so relevant.

‘So if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation: So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; (2 Corinthians 5:17a, 20a NRSVA)

We are at the beginning of a new era for Christ’s church and we all have a role to play as ambassadors for Jesus. To spread love, compassion, faith and hope to those around us and further afield. So often it is in the ‘little’ things that are significant in our service for the Lord – a smile, a kind word of encouragement, support or understanding, a compassionate listening ear, a helping hand, a shared pleasure/joy, an opportunity to share an element of our faith, but above all to share the open hearted, unconditional love of Jesus for all.

With the relaxing of the legal restrictions opportunities are becoming available to take a break, a holiday somewhere, to relax with family, friends and neighbours. Dan and I had Isobel for a couple of days last week and we have Clara coming tonight for a couple of days. I am booked for a week ‘cat sitting’ in Chesham, then a week ‘granddaughter-sitting’. Hopefully a few Days Out too, and, of course, three services to plan and sermons to prepare. You can probably see where this is heading... as my time is going to be somewhat scattered, I will be unable to produce ‘A Word in Season’ every week in August, so I wish you, through the words of this hymn/song by Jeremiah Rankin that -

‘God be with you till we meet again, may his counsels guide uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you, beneath his wings protecting hide you, daily manna still provide you.

When life’s worries thick confound you, put his arms unfailing round you, keep love’s banner floating o’er you. God be with you till we meet again.’ (From 954 Salvation Army Song Book, adapted)

Graham

PS. The Cats are Sooty, a tiny, clever, jet black female, and Oreo (he looks like the biscuit) a male, Sooty’s ‘muscle’ and slightly worryingly inclined to bring in ‘headless’ creatures from outside...



Photo: Isobel Warr



Shout out for help! Transforming Lives Through Jesus with Disabled People

Be a Roof Breaker....Roof breakers enable inclusion, participation and belonging for disabled people in churches and Christian activities, "they went up on the roof and lowered the paralysed man on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus" (Luke 5).

The term 'Roofbreaker' comes from this account in Luke 5 about the paralysed man coming to Jesus.

Roofbreakers are individuals (or teams) in churches or ministries who listen to disabled people and respond to the issues that arise, to enable full inclusion. Some prefer to be known as a 'disability champion' or similar, and that's fine. Through the Roof has over 350 Roofbreakers across the UK and are praying for more people to join.

Trinity has got ourselves 'on the map' with Through the Roof. We are visible on their interactive map as a disability welcoming church. If you would like to be **our** Roof Breaker, please contact Rev Sam directly or via Dan in the Church Office.

Thank you!

Volunteers: Sunday morning coffee after worship

Dear Friends,

Now that Covid restrictions are beginning to be lifted, we would like to offer refreshments after morning worship again.

This is a lovely time of fellowship for many of our congregation, even more so now, as time to linger and chat after church has not been possible for so long.

So we would like to resume this in September. The Leadership team have considered how we can do this safely, but we do need a team of volunteers to make it possible. Some of you will have helped in the past and we would be really grateful if you feel it is something you could help with again. If you haven't helped before, is this something you feel you might be able to do on an occasional basis, even perhaps if you don't usually stay for coffee yourself? We can make sure someone is available to help and 'show you the ropes'. The more volunteers we have, the less often each will have to do it. If we could have eight pairs, it means helping out once every 2 months. More people – then even less frequently. If you are on your own we will pair you up with someone else.

Serving coffee is an important part of our welcome, service and fellowship. I would like to put a rota together starting at the beginning of September in the next week or so. Please can you let me know if you are able to help with this.

Thank You.

Helen Bowerman



MS Clip Art

The Climate Change Agenda: CJ4A campaign

As part of the British aspect of the CJ4A campaign, the team have been running 'Have Your Say' consultation sessions to try and hear the voices of as many Methodists as possible in the run up to the UNs Climate Change Conference (COP26).

If you didn't attend any of the Have Your Say sessions, CJ4A encourages you to fill out the google form linked below so that your voice can be added to the many who are making contributions in this all-important moment for climate discourse.

Please feel free to pass the link onto your church communities to get them involved too. The voices of young people and BAME people are currently underrepresented in these consultations, so please do pass the firm onto young people and BAME people in your community if you think they would be interested. *Daphne Lander*

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeXg30V_OQMZUc70QL9AcX8mBz4qZqBADdB98Ztrr_H-KMQsA/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1gEHEHsde70iYQYTi1eI-AVLA4KWz2NABHNMI3yDpo4CACckm6BBECxk

Valerie's Quiz Corner!

Answers from the last quiz:

1. Which retailer says "Every Little Helps"? *Tesco*
2. What is the name of the process when meat is soaked in a flavoured or spiced liquid? *Marinade*
3. Eric Carle wrote a series of children's books about a very hungry ...? *Caterpillar*
4. Where in England is the Jurassic Coast? *Stretches from Devon to Dorset*
5. Who played the title role in "The Godfather," released in 1972? *Marlon Brando*
6. Amarelle, May Duke and Morello are types of which fruit? *Cherry*
7. What nationality is Agatha Christie's detective Hercule Poirot? *Belgian*
8. In the Bible, who led the Israelites out of Egypt across the Red Sea? *Moses*
9. 'Moonshine' was slang for which type of beverage? *Alcohol*
10. What traditional English dish is made from pork trimmings and Pig's head? *Brawn*
11. Which British novelist married Frieda Weedley in 1914? *DH Lawrence*
12. Name the biscuit that contains currants and is named after an 18th Century Italian leader? *Garibaldi*
13. What is a Percheron? *A type of Horse*
14. What traditional English dance, usually performed by one person, is associated with sailors? *The Horn Pipe*
15. What is a Scotch Bonnet? *Chilli Pepper*

Here is your August Quiz!

1. In which classic British novel is there a dog called Bullseye?
2. Which river separates Devon from Cornwall?
3. What is the name of the enclosed space in a Law court where the accused sits?
4. Which British chef is synonymous with Fish T.V. and Padstow?
5. What does O P E C stand for?
6. What is the name of the oath taken by doctors?
7. Who demanded a pound of flesh in Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice"?
8. What is the art of cutting shrubs into ornamental shapes called?
9. Which arm did Horatio Nelson lose in 1797?
10. What in the culinary name for a bag of herbs and used for flavouring in cooking?
11. What is the alternative name of a Mountain Ash Tree?
12. What is the capital of Germany?
13. What is the name of a word that can be spelt the same backwards and forwards?
14. What type of animal is a Rhode Island Red?
15. Where will you find the Temperate House, the world's largest Victorian greenhouse?

Methodist Church Prayer of the Day – 28 July 2021



Methodist Church

Yesterday at 07:30 · 🌐

#Prayer of the day:

God of my salvation,
when my soul is a parched land, summon me to drink deep from
your living waters.

<http://ow.ly/DF7y50FEozE>

Methodist Church Social Media

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