



## WEEKLY WELCOME – 'AT HOME' 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020

[www.brixhambaptist.org.uk](http://www.brixhambaptist.org.uk)

### **Just a thought ... Learning zone – Jim Collins**

At the College where I used to work, I remember a poster on one of the doors of the Learning Resource Centre which read "You are about to enter a Learning Zone!"

As the years go by, I become increasingly aware of how much I still have to learn and the need to remain teachable.

When it comes to guitar playing; I know regular practice and watching or playing with other musicians is the only way I will improve my skills on the instrument. All learning takes time and determined effort. I came across a quote which said: "If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you!"

Throughout life, we will all learn new skills, either by practice or being taught by others and also accumulate knowledge about many different things.

In addition to the gifts and abilities God imparts to us, the Bible reveals He desires to teach, lead and guide us through every decision and circumstance in life. Each day (with its challenges and responsibilities) is a 'learning zone.'

Isaiah the prophet declared this promise from God - "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go." (Isaiah 48:18) God teaches us 'how to experience life to the full' as we put our trust in Him. The psalmist acknowledged, "Since my youth, O God, You have taught me, and to this day I declare your marvellous deeds." (Psalm 71:17)

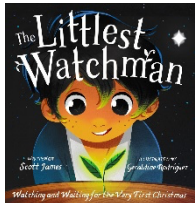
When I'm preaching, I often say, "What will we do as a result of what we've heard today?" If we don't put into action what God asks of us – it will become just information - but if we practice what the Bible says, it becomes our learning experience and we will continue to grow in our faith.

God is patient, loving and merciful as we learn to trust Him. Some lessons in life take longer than others. The apostle Paul said he had 'learned to be content' in any and every situation.

With the outcomes and changes brought about by Covid 19 – the Lord is teaching me more about my priorities and motives, appreciating and serving others, empathy, trust and prayer. Every experience that comes our way in life is a learning curve and an opportunity for God to do His work in us and through us as we seek to bring glory to His Name.

Paul learnt about the spiritual discipline of 'contentment' through many seasons of his life; when he was in need, or living with plenty, being well fed but at times going hungry. (See Philippians 4:11-12) He also learnt Christ would grant him strength to do all things, in the good times, but also in his troubles. Jesus will do the same for us as we choose to obey what He teaches in His Word.

### **Littlest Watchman – Jenny Beard writes:**



Christians in Brixham have joined in a project for Christmas based on a book "The Littlest Watchman" from The Good Book Company.

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/the-littlest-watchman>

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/the-littlest-watchman-advent-calendar>

The Front Room windows will have an illuminated display of the storyline. A family trail will be available, and the project will run from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 6<sup>th</sup> January. 60 church families (approximately 100 children) will receive packs with the story book, Advent calendar, badge, trail form and pencil (all Covid safe!). It will be advertised on Facebook directing to the window display and trail form downloads for other interested children.

Please pray for this project to bring the message of hope to everyone.

Any queries contact Jenny Beard 01803882147

### **Christmas Cards – Jim Collins**

Roy from Choice Words has delivered a selection of Christmas Cards to us. If you would like to purchase some, please contact Marian or myself to discuss what is available. We can then put these through your door - while we are still in Lock-down. If you are looking for any specific book to give as a present, Choice Words can order and post direct to you. Thank you. (Jim and Marian 858340)

### **The First Church Meeting? - Edwin**

We as a fellowship are currently looking to strengthen our leadership team by means of nominations and a membership vote. Is this something that has evolved to become a tradition, or is it founded on Biblical principles? It is both actually, although it has become the traditional way in many churches, it closely follows the principles used to appoint the first deacons, at what I would call the first church meeting.

We read in Acts ch's 1 and 4 how the church grew rapidly and that those who had plenty gave to the church to help those Christians who were in need. However, as the church continued to grow rapidly, one group felt that they were not being looked after as well as the others materially. They brought this to the attention of the apostles who decided that their first priority was to teaching and prayer. How did they solve this problem? They asked the assembled Christians to choose 7 men from among them that were honest, wise and spiritually minded to oversee the distribution of finance and goods. This is what they did, hence the system we use is both traditional and biblical. These men were the first

'deacons', leaders whose primary duty was to look after the practical needs of their fellow believers.

As the churches were established and the apostles moved on, so it became necessary to appoint leaders to oversee them. Hence you will see later on in the NT, references to overseers, elders and bishops. These titles could all be translated as pastors, ministers or under shepherds today. Their primary occupation is to be teachers of the Word and to look after the spiritual needs of the 'sheep' they are called to shepherd.

Note that these two roles, deacons and pastors, are not exclusively practical or spiritual ministries. Philip, one of the first deacons, proclaimed the Gospel and became an evangelist we are told further on in Acts. If the roles of deacons and pastors are somewhat interchangeable, what are the two things that all church leaders must have? They must be spiritually minded and have a servant heart. They must be prepared, as under shepherds, to unreservedly serve God and His people. How? By following the example set by Jesus, who even as the Son of God, that great shepherd on the sheep, came not to be served but to serve those around Him.

## **Church Facebook Page – Joy May**

Brixham Baptist Facebook page is up and running again! Church isn't just about Sundays and when face-to-face contact is limited, social media is a way of providing fellowship for one another throughout the week while also reaching the un-reached, perhaps not just in Brixham. If you're online, check out the page @brixhambaptist for updates on what's happening for all ages, for encouragement and maybe a bit of challenge in your daily walk with God. If you're online but not on Facebook and would like to be, please get in touch with Joy May and she is happy to answer your questions.

## **AGM – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Church members are reminded that we are holding an Annual General Meeting on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020. This meeting will also include an election of Trustees. Nominations need to be received by 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020. If you are unable to attend by reason of Covid 19 you can apply for a postal vote. Please contact Chris Forster for further details.

**I have taken on the task of collating the Weekly Welcome – At Home whilst it is needed. If you do have any news or words of encouragement do email me at [geoff.andrews61@gmail.com](mailto:geoff.andrews61@gmail.com) or telephone and leave a message on 01803 854718. Space is limited but I will try to incorporate these. Geoff**