

Issue 1
August 2020

Pastor' Steve's Thoughts

Throughout July I have been speaking on the topic of, "What Can I do?".

The content of these talks have been all about the Great Commission from Matthew 28, the call of Christ to each of us. There is so much we may feel we can't do, but the Great Commission isn't one of them. The Coronavirus can't and hasn't stopped the mission of God. The only reason the mission would stop is if we stop living out the mission of God.

God has a call on each of our lives, even in these Coronavirus times. I keep hearing stories of relationships developed, prayers requested, prayed and answered, stories shared and faith grown. God is moving and God is at work.

Please, let me urge you to ask yourselves what can I do to show and share the love of God where you are right now! Some people have said I can't do much, but you CAN do something.

We can all do something. We can keep offering our hands, offering prayers, praying them, serving, helping and standing up for what is right. We can still do this.

Let's be a people who keep living the mission because we can! Then let's tell each other the stories of mission to encourage one another. Please do this. We all need to hear stories of God continually breaking through!

Keep praying, keep loving and keep sharing! God is with us and He is still at work! Be encouraged!



*Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall;
But those whose hope is in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow
weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40: 31-32*



*Hi My name is Les Dutfield
and I have been invited by
Pastor Steve to be the
editor and produce -*

From the Waters Edge

It's Main Purpose

To keep our people informed who are not on social media or the Internet and want to stay up-to-date with what has happened at Riverside since lock down.

The Plan is that -

The publication will continue until we are able to gather together again on Sundays. Then it will be reviewed.

This first issue includes news of -
Barry's Youth Update, Just Love @ Clementines, Annie Austin's Hanging Baskets, Hope & Kindness, Wyre Forest Food Bank, Wednesday Garden Church Gatherings and Dementia Cafe plus other topics.

To produce further issues, besides pastor Steve's input -

I need you to feed me interesting news, stories, testimonies etc. I can't guarantee all articles sent will be printed but it would be great to hear from you. If a photo will enhance your article ensure it is an original JPEG, not a photo of a photo. My contact details are at the bottom of the last page.

To ensure my spelling is correct I have tested this poem through my spell checker.

Eye Have a spelling chequer,
It came with my pea sea,
It plainly marques four my revue,
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

As soon as a mist ache is maid,
I nose bee fore two long,
And eye can putt the error rite,
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye strike a quay and type a word,
And weight for it to say,
Weather eye am write or wrong,
Bee four I carry on.

Eye have run this poem through it,
I am shore your pleased to no,
Its letter purr fact all the weigh,
My chequer's tolled me sew.

This following was written by C.S.Lewis in 1942 ...

Satan "I will cause anxiety, fear and panic. I will shut down business, schools, places of worship and sports events. I will cause economic turmoil."

Jesus "I will bring together neighbours, restore the family unit. I will bring dinner back to the kitchen table. I will help people slow down their lives and appreciate what really matters. I will teach my children to rely on me and not the world. I will teach my children to trust me and not their money and material resources."

... and it is still true today!



Barry's Youth Work Update

I have been encouraged by the ongoing engagement with the youth at Riverside.

Already they have in place a chat group through a mobile app called WhatsApp with which we were able to quickly share updates and plans. We have been able to connect throughout the weeks with a few activities.

Task Tuesday (See below) has involved the young people taking on a challenge, which has ranged from building the tallest free-standing tower to writing limericks about the youth team.

Throwback Thursday has encouraged them to share photos of past trips and remember times they have been brave or worried. We've then also shared videos on bible passages and spiritual thoughts.

Before Easter we were then able to make up a pack to deliver to each youth group member, which included a bible, a colouring in prayer book, a crocheted heart, some pipe cleaners shared as God and man holding a heart, some love heart sweets (all helping to remind them how much they are loved). Some tuck to snack on, post-it notes, a card and envelope to write, and other creative items. This gave us chance to see them face-to-face and check in on them. We were also able to then look at bible studies together and share thoughts on certain passages.

As we now ease out of lock down a little, we are exploring how we can gather in some smaller groups, which we have done in Jubilee Gardens, Highley Foot Golf centre, Wyre Forest and hopefully more as we look to open up Just Love

On Friday 7th August we are hoping to gather with some youth from other churches to watch a service online as part of the Limitless Festival we were due to attend, but has been postponed to next Summer.

Prayers are still very much appreciated for each young person. There are some who have not connected through this time and we hope to be able to reinstate those relationships in the coming months.



Task Tuesday has involved the young people taking on a challenge, which has ranged from building the tallest free-standing tower to writing limericks about the youth team.

Guess who won the tallest tower.

Just Love @ Clementines

The paperwork for *Just Love@Clementines*

was completed about month ago.

Since then it has been all steam ahead! A lot of painting has been going on, Windows inspected, all the outside area has been gutted including decking being pulled up for a complete make over in the back, paint colours chosen and so much more.

But there is still so much more to do!!! But we will keep going!!!!

We are so excited about this mission opportunity for Bewdley and cannot wait to open it. A massive thank you for all who have helped so far and if you'd like to help in some way then please get in touch with us! Thank you!

Pastor Steve



**This is a specially formulated diet designed to cope with STRESS
that builds up in the day.**

BREAKFAST: 1 grapefruit - 1 slice whole wheat toast -1 cup of skim milk.

LUNCH; A small portion of lean, steamed chicken topped with spinach - a cup of herbal tea - 1 miniature Mars bar.

AFTERNOON TEA: The rest of the mini bars in the bag and a tub of Hagen Daas ice cream with chocolate- chip topping.

DINNER: 2 loaves of garlic bread - 1 family size supreme pizza - 3 Snickers bars.

LATE NIGHT SNACK: A whole frozen Sarah Lee cheesecake (eaten directly from the freezer)

REMEMBER: 'STRESSED' SPELT BACKWARD IS 'DESSERTS'.

Annie Austin's Hanging baskets.



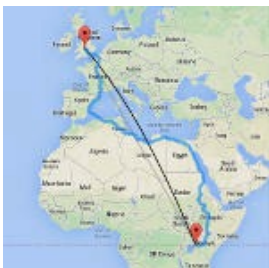
For years Annie's Hanging Baskets have become very popular.

The money raised for the baskets being given 100% to Hope and Kindness

This year was no exception and Annie had so many orders she could not make enough. Despite the lock down Annie continued to persevere and when it was eased her customers were able to collect the finished baskets from her front garden in Cleobury Mortimer, keeping social distancing.

The result of her efforts has meant this year she has raised **£454** from the sale plus some donations. The most ever for her hanging basket sales.

hope and kindness



Hope and Kindness charity started as an orphanage in Kismu, the third largest city in Kenya in about 2000.

Through Annie Riverside Church started to support **Hope and Kindness.**

How Annie became actively involved with

The charity is an amazing journey of faith.

In the next issue we will start to tell that story.

WYRE FOREST FOOD BANK at Franche Community Church.



Franch Community Church converted into a full time packing station since lock down.

At the beginning of this year packing was every couple of weeks delivered by 4 drivers.

When the lock down started, demand immediately increased four times and the main church hall converted into a full time packing station.

About 40 volunteers work 5 days a week, which includes 21 drivers collecting from Franche and delivering the food parcels.

Supermarkets and churches in Wyre Forest donate the food and all the work is voluntary.

The latest update from Franche.

There is little change to the Food Bank schedule at present, we are still delivering between 80 and 100 boxes each week and to approximately 27 to 30 houses that include families with children.

Currently we are short of a couple of drivers prepared to deliver weekly.

Stock is keeping up but it is often the sweet items Jam, Sugar, puddings and potatoes that are short.

The great need that the council is working on at present is for those children / families that were receiving school meals and how to continue feeding these families.

The team at Franche who run and organise the FOOD BANK are Pastor Sam and his parents Paul and Barbara Guille.

The church felt led some years ago to start this project.

Although 'theoretically' they work 5 days a week they have found since lock down it can be 6 or 7 days a week.

Wednesday Garden Church Gathering

Soon after the lock down was eased Mike & Jan Parkes restarted with Wednesday Garden Church in people's gardens.

The meetings are now arranged not only on Wednesdays but also on other days of the week at different gardens so four different people can attend.

They come prepared as you can see for all weather eventualities.

Due to lock down restrictions we are not allowed to sing hymns and choruses so we speak the words.

The 1st time we did it at our home we were amazed at the power of doing just that, speaking the words.. It was a WOW experience as we prayed together in unison to the Lord.



King of kings, Majesty,
God of Heaven living in me,
gentle Saviour, closest friend,
strong deliverer, beginning and end,
all within me falls at your throne.

Chorus
*Your majesty, I can but bow,
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve your majesty.*

Earth and Heaven worship you,
love eternal, faithful and true,
who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
brought this sinner near to your throne;
all within me cries out in praise.

One of Jan's Jokes.

A couple went to a supermarket, put on their face masks and went around shopping. At the till they paid for their goods and went to the car.

Once in the car the husband took off his mask and the wife was surprised to see that it was not her husband.

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Dementia Cafe

Following the easing of the lock down restrictions, Liz Walton arranged for the Dementia Support Group to have a Zoom meeting in mid June. It was good to see one another even it was only on a computer screen. Everyone seemed quite upbeat and are looking forward to meeting up for real.

It was agreed that we would each contact our clients and carers to see how we could support them during the time as we cannot meet on Thursday mornings at the church premises. Our support to be by phone, text, snail mail (card) or visit.

Liz set the ball rolling, helped by Denise Lloyd, by visiting all our clients and carers with afternoon tea, scones and flowers.

That is what we have been doing, keeping in contact with carers and clients.

In the meantime Dementia Cafe has been blessed receiving a donation of **£250** from the Monday Night Club. A gift well received.

A few verses from Psalm 27 NIV

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?

4 One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

8 My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.

13 I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

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