

Petersfield and Liss URC

'In Touch'



Sunday 16th May 2021

"THE LORD
BLESS YOU
AND
KEEP YOU."
- JAMES 1:8

Hello and Welcome!

HAVE WE GOT TIME?

'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. Eccl 3:1 NRSV

I remember painting the church railings, a tedious job if ever there was one! After what seemed like an hour, I discovered I'd only been at it for ten minutes. At other times, caught up in something, I've been amazed at where time has gone. Time is slippery: we have it, or we don't; we keep it, lose it, make it; give it, take it; don't know where it has gone; it flies, it drags - all in the framework of 24 hours. How is time for you now? Is it hanging heavy? Do we need to find a way of using it constructively?

The apostle Paul suggested that we pray always (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That may sound like a tall order - there are other things we have to do in the day too. But prayer is not confined to saying words; it's also about growing in a relationship. Juliun of Norwich, a wise woman of the twelfth century, said that God delights in our prayer and wants it. Rowan Williams said it's like sunbathing, relaxing into the warmth and light of God's love. It's how God nourishes us in our relationship with him.

When time hangs heavy, it's an opportunity to remember that we are chosen and precious. Let that truth sink in, and be thankful.

Prayer

Lord, when life seems to have no purpose, nourish us with your life and love, and help us to grow. Amen.

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If you are in need of any assistance during this time, we are more than happy to help out, whether you need some items of shopping or just a chat, please do call one of us on the numbers listed below.

Josh – 01720 263433, Carol – 01730 893489, Esmé – 01730 266636



Jonah and the Teacher

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales and how she had heard in Sunday School about how a whale had swallowed Jonah. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl remained steadfast in her position and reiterated that indeed, a whale had swallowed Jonah. Irritated, the teacher again stated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "I'm not sure how it happened, but when I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah."

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to Hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

<https://upjoke.com/jonah-jokes>

IS IT YOU?

The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' John 21: 1-7 GNB

John is an enigmatic figure, isn't he? The son of a wealthy fisherman, he and his brother James must have earned their nickname, Baonerges, Sons of Thunder, somehow!

You had to be tough to be a Galilean fisherman and you need guts to risk everything at the foot of the cross. Yet Revelation also reveals a scholarly, poetic mind and you get the impression that John was more sensitively in tune with the ministry of Jesus than possibly all the rest of the disciples. He was chosen to care for the beloved mother of Jesus, and was the first of the men to believe in Jesus' resurrection. Now we meet him again, and again he is the first to put two and two together and realize that the solitary figure standing on the shore bellowing about where to cast their nets is in fact Jesus.

Jesus had told them that sheep will always recognize their master's voice, but I don't think it was the voice that John recognized, distorted as it must have been by the wind and the sea. Who else but Jesus had ever asked them to do crazy things which always turned out miraculously? Feed ten thousand people with five rolls and two fish. Fill water jars with water and pour out wine. Cast your nets on the opposite side of the boat and end up with enough fish to open a chippy. Yes, it was a crazy enough command. It had to be him!

But this troubles me. Am I sufficiently familiar with the workings of the Lord in my life that I know when it is him asking me to do something radical and not just silly old me? Will I know his voice when it comes to 'This is your Life' time after I die? Will you?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, shout to us today through the winds and waves of our lives, we beseech you. Help us to learn to recognize you.

Please. Amen

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You're Always There for Me

When the world comes crashing in
And chaos rules my mind,
I turn my heart to you, Lord,
And pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble
You comfort me in pain;
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,
Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,
When things are going right,
You lift me even higher,
And fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers;
You hear my every plea;
I'm safe because I know
You're always there for me.

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<https://www.poemsource.com/Christian-poems>

Notice

Don't forget! The deadline for items to go in the June Messenger is Sunday 16 May. Please send your items to Keith and Mary.

Please note the new address of Di & Tony Lugg

3 Swan Court

Swan Street

Petersfield

GU32 3FD

Their telephone number stays the same as in the Directory but the phone will only be connected in about 2-to-3-weeks' time.

