



St David's Church

Outlook

April- May 2022

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Worship is Beautiful not Practical *(from an idea by Skye Jethani)*

Our culture has formed us to think of almost everything as transactional. In other words *'Is what I will get equal to or greater than that which I am being asked to give?'*

This mindset even shapes about how we think about gathered worship:

If I sacrifice my Sunday morning (or evening), what will I get in exchange? Will the teaching be inspiring or at least helpful? Will the music be uplifting? Will my kids learn something useful and positive if I go through the hard work of getting them up and ready? Will God bless me if I give him my morning?

But what if we're thinking about it in completely the wrong way. What if God never intended our gatherings as Christians to be practical? What if gathered worship was never meant to be transactional?

Psalm 27 Reveals a very different motive:

'One thing have I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.'
(verse 4)

What if like, David (who wrote the Psalm) we understood that worship isn't supposed to be a transaction?

What if worship is all about God, rather than us, and about our offering to him – *'to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord?'*

If you get a minute, take a look at Mark 14: 5-6. Here we have a woman coming to Jesus and pouring an expensive jar of oil on his feet – an expression of adoration. The disciples tell Jesus this is a waste...but he doesn't agree at all. *'She has done a beautiful thing to me.'*

The disciples were thinking about a transaction – what could the oil be exchanged for? Jesus, by contrast, is blessed and moved by this woman's actions – because he knew what was in her heart.

What the disciples interpreted as a waste, Jesus saw as priceless. He saw the oil outpoured as an act of worship.

True worship can never be wasteful because it doesn't seek any return on its investment. True worship is never a transaction – it is an offering; a gift from the human heart to God.

True worship is generously giving to God and desiring only God in return.

St. David's is blessed to have a range of expressions of worship each month, each different but each an offering to God above all else. Our service this Easter Sunday will include elements from all these expressions – something which we should be celebrating – God is doing great things among us in our diversity. People are joining our church, people are coming to faith and people are growing closer to Jesus. Lives are being changed.

Maybe not every aspect of our Easter worship this year would be your preferred choice – but then that's really not the point is it?

The point is that worship is an offering to God, not a transaction and not a consumer experience.

So come along and celebrate the resurrection at 9.15 on Easter morning. Come along and meet with people you may have never met before. Come along and rejoice in all that God is doing.

Come along and, with all God's people; offer your all to Him this Easter.

Our Bubble Group

Why did we join a Bubble?

David and I moved to Holmfirth in October and have been worshiping at St David's since then. We have always been part of a small group and consider them to be an essential way of discipling people in the church. Being new to the area and the church we were really keen to join a small group as soon as possible to get to know people better. The Bubble we joined has been fantastic and has really helped us to settle in and feel at home. It has been such a blessing to us.

What do we do in our Bubble?

Our Bubble has been meeting regularly since November. We meet in each others' homes or over Zoom sometimes fortnightly, sometimes weekly. There are six in the group which is a good number – not too large, not too small. People share ideas and thoughts but there is no pressure to. We generally do a bible study and then pray together. We had an initial session with Nick, to share ideas for resources and then a very special session getting to know each other through sharing our individual stories. We then decided to spend the next 5 sessions doing the Prayer Course 2 which is based on Pete Greig's Book 'God on Mute' about unanswered prayer. This involved watching a video and then moving on to discussion questions. Although David and I had done the course before we enjoyed it again and still found many new things to learn. We are now following Nick's Lent Course which is excellent and has led to some great discussions. We pray for each other as well as wider issues when we meet but we also have a WhatsApp group so we can share issues for prayer during the week.

Why is the Bubble such a blessing?

We have got to know a small group of people better than we would have done just chatting at church. You can learn so much from each other as you study the bible and pray together. Living the Christian life is not easy, but it wasn't meant to be lived alone; we are designed to be in community, to support and encourage each other and at times even to challenge each other. I have been amazed and delighted by people's honesty and openness in our Bubble. This has already led to a real depth in our relationships and as time goes on we will be able to encourage each other more and more to become the people that God has designed us to be, to use our gifts in His service, to be salt and light in the world. The Bubble is so good. If you're not in a Bubble I would highly recommend you to join one!!

What's on at St David's Hall

Common Threads Saturday 2nd April and Saturday 7th May. New members welcome, no prior experience or skill needed!. To book a place/for further information contact catherine.davie@btinternet.com

Table Top Sale Table Top Sale at the hall. Fundraising event for Ramsden Road. 23rd April. Sale of vintage, bric- a – brac, jams, pickles, cakes. 9am – 2pm. Contact Christine Senior on 07856844432 for more information or to enquire about hiring a table.

Wedding Fair Sunday 24th April. Come and meet some of the area's finest suppliers. 12.30 – 4pm. Pimp it up! Wedding and events stylists and hirers. Pimpitup2020@gmail.com

Comedy Club Saturday 30th April. Doors at 7pm, show starts at 8pm. Tickets £15, call Guy on 07791916055 or pick up from Read Bookshop, Holmfirth.

Holme Valley Singers Concert Sunday 15th May 3pm – 5pm in the church hall. Tickets are £10 contact 07464361858

Mondays 10.30 – 12 Dance Fitness Call Grace 01484 657291 for info

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9 Holme Valley Singers

Wednesdays 1.30 – 3 Square Peg Activities
7pm onwards Anne Glee Ballroom Dance, Call Anne
07719892432

Thursdays 10.30 – 12 Monkey Business Playgroup
6pm Jan's Disco Bootcamp Contact Jan to book 07792217687
7.30 – 9pm Vocal Expressions



Jubilee Sunday 5th June 2022 at St. David's

10am Messy Jubilee Crafts & Refreshments

10.30am Worship Together

Followed by a 'bring and share' lunch in the hall

KEEP THE DATE FREE!



How to have some happiness this April

'April is the cruellest month,' wrote TS Eliot at the beginning of his magisterial poem, *The Wasteland*. And it is a good description of what April may bring us, between the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices.

But apparently, major problems do not mean that we can't enjoy anything. According to the 'science of happiness,' fuelled by advances in brain-scanning technology and a cultural shift towards seeing happiness as a key index in human development, there is a way through the deep gloom that hangs over this month.

Neuroscientists suggest that even while we are dealing with the big problems of life, we can also make room for 'small, fleeting moments of fulfilment'. These can range from holding the hand of a loved one, to appreciating the daffodils in your garden, to enjoying a cup of tea with a good friend. Such moments of quiet contentment are 'joyful vignettes' which can be the bread and butter of our daily human happiness. As one writer has said: "Hold on to the small moments and the bigger picture of gloom doesn't have to be as overwhelming as it first seems."

Parish Pump

*With our church meetings in mind - **Dem Bones, dem bones***

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

There are the Wishbones – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

There are the Jawbones – who spend their time talking about the problem.

There are the Knucklebones – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

Finally, there are the Backbones who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

Which type of bone are you?

Riziki Children's Home, Nakuru, Kenya

In 2008, a friend of ours, on a two-week safari to Kenya, met some of the children on Nakuru rubbish dump and wanted to improve the conditions in which they were living. He started to raise money to help such children and eventually, Riziki Children's Home was born. Riziki took in its first six children in 2010. They were all living on the Nakuru rubbish dump.



Riziki Children's Organization is a registered non-governmental organisation in Nakuru, Kenya with a mission to provide care and protection to abandoned and destitute children, with the objective of nurturing these children's whole being (mental, physical and spiritual) so they are instrumental in shaping their own lives and in extension the community around them once they are reintegrated into society.

We have just received news from Liz, the acting director of Riziki:-

Greetings from a very hot Nakuru. We have had such hot weather the last couple of days with some odd light showers here and there. Our weatherman says heavy rains are expected and so we have been preparing the shamba for planting.

All the children have closed school and are at home with us for about 7 weeks. It is good to have everyone at home and it has been busy. They have come back with a lot of assignments which we are trying to help them get out of the way, so they can enjoy more restful days ahead.

It has been good to see them happily take on chores around the house and really put in an effort to help. I had mentioned that we are now grinding maize, at a fee, for our neighbours and it's been very pleasing to see Emmanuel voluntarily take responsibility for that. Alex, Tony, Tabitha help him as they learn.

The grinding project is growing slowly but steadily and we are happy to hear good feedback from our customers on the good quality of the flour. We are hoping with proper growth of the project it can help us offset some of our costs. We are very grateful for the contribution towards the maize grinder; projects like these give us hope for the long-term in our task of providing care and protection to children that are desperate for it.

We have four national exam candidates this year, all in secondary school. How time flies. Neema, Emmanuel, Precious, and Ann finish their high school this year and what a journey.

It seems like just the other day - it was 2012 - that Julius got a call to go pick up a child at the Central police station - that was Neema. I remember joining them halfway through the journey to Riziki and being completely fascinated by Neema. At that time, she was 6 years old and had a very good grasp of events and she narrated them well and I kept thinking how brave she was, because we were strangers to her and it was painful story. But that is Neema; she has always had a confidence about her and has always been brave, sometimes has struggled, but ended up being brave again.

She has grown to be loved by the younger ones, particularly Sharon, who has said to Neema once she wants to be just like her. Neema reads stories to the younger ones and gives kind guidance. She is joyful, reads a lot, explores a lot and enjoys almost everything. I am glad we got to watch and contribute to the beautiful, and thoughtful young lady she has become. Whether author, pastor or lawyer, which have all been her dreams at different times of her life, she has a chance at them now.

They all have a beautiful story, of struggle and hope, and we have all contributed to that hope in our different ways. Money, prayers, encouragement - all of it has brought light to what had started very dark.

As I end, I must talk about our small team that is now the busiest they will be this year and my full confidence in their care and concern for our children. Keep them in your prayers. Evans had an accident with his bicycle on his way home two weeks ago and got a cast, so he joins us towards the end of March. All the rest are fine.

I will end it here, Ian and Diana, for today. Thank you for going out of your way to video call me, I am so glad I can receive your encouragement and support in this way. Asante Sana and God bless.

To all that contribute to Riziki in prayers, thoughts and /or finances a big 'God bless you'.

Baraka, Liz.

At the latest count we have 25 children at Riziki, plus five who have completed their secondary or college education or are close to doing so and no longer live in the home. Collins, our oldest boy, has just started work in a simple restaurant. He hopes this will be the start of a career in catering. We want to take in four young girls in the near future – at present we have more young boys than girls. If you would like to receive the regular Riziki newsletter, please let us know on hogleyan@gmail.com. Ian & Diana Hogley

What a hoot

One evening a bird-loving vicar strolled over to his huge country churchyard, and just for fun, hooted softly, like an owl. To his delight, an owl hooted softly back. The next night the same thing happened, and again, the night after that. Soon it became a regular habit, and every night for the following year, no matter what the weather, the vicar would go to the churchyard and hoot back and forth with his feathered friend. The hoots became longer and more complicated, and the vicar kept a careful log of the 'conversation'.

Just as he thought he was on the verge of a real breakthrough in interspecies communication, his wife had a chat with the neighbour who lived in a big house and garden next door to the church. "My husband comes here each night," she said, to "hoot to the owl in the churchyard." "That's odd," the neighbour replied, "so does my husband."

Eat, Pray, Love (Sharing food, prayer topics and asking God for guidance) 7.30pm
May 5th, June 2nd, and July 7th .

Junior Church Our children's groups currently meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month during the 9.15 service. All ages are welcome.

Ignite Youth Group The Youth Group currently meets monthly. In January we meet on 30th and in February on 20th. See website/Facebook for more info

BUBBLE GROUPS Did you know you were designed to thrive in community with other Christians and learn to thrive together? Bubble groups are the friends you grow, laugh, cry and serve with. Bubbles meet at a time which is convenient to group members and have access to a wide range of resources to use when they meet together. Bubbles are not 'another thing in the diary' but something which can bring so much to your life. If you're part of St. David's, you get to experience the life giving aspects of these groups See the Bubbles leaflet and talk to Nick if you'd like to know more.

St David's Worship Programme

- 3 April Spreading the News - Luke 10: 1-2 Mark 1: 16-
10.30 am Messy Church Together (Crafts and refreshments from
10am)
- 10 April Palm Sunday
9.15 Parish Communion (Junior Church)
6pm Thrive
- 17 April Easter Day Resurrection - Luke 24: 1-12
9.15 Easter Celebration
- 24 April 9.15 Parish Communion (Junior Church)
6pm Thrive
- 1 May Spot the Difference - Matthew 5: 13-16
10.30 am Messy Church Together (Crafts and refreshments from
10am)
- 8 May Community - Acts 2: 42-47
9.15 Parish Communion (Junior Church)
6pm Thrive
- 15 May Living in the Now - Matthew 26:25-34
9.15 Parish Communion
10.15 Refreshments
10.45 'The 10:45'
- 22 May Distinctive Living - Romans 12: 1-2, 9-21
9.15 Parish Communion (Junior Church)
6pm Thrive
- 29 May To be confirmed
