

Some thoughts after Easter from Parish Pump

Don't be afraid of clouds

Have you ever sat and watched the clouds drift by? Some of them are vast, towering up and up into the sky.

There can be clouds of discouragement and suffering in our lives as well, circumstances that temporarily blot out the sunlight of God's love for us. You may have such a cloud hanging over your life right now. You may be in a hospital bed, or suffering discouragement, fear, despair or bereavement.

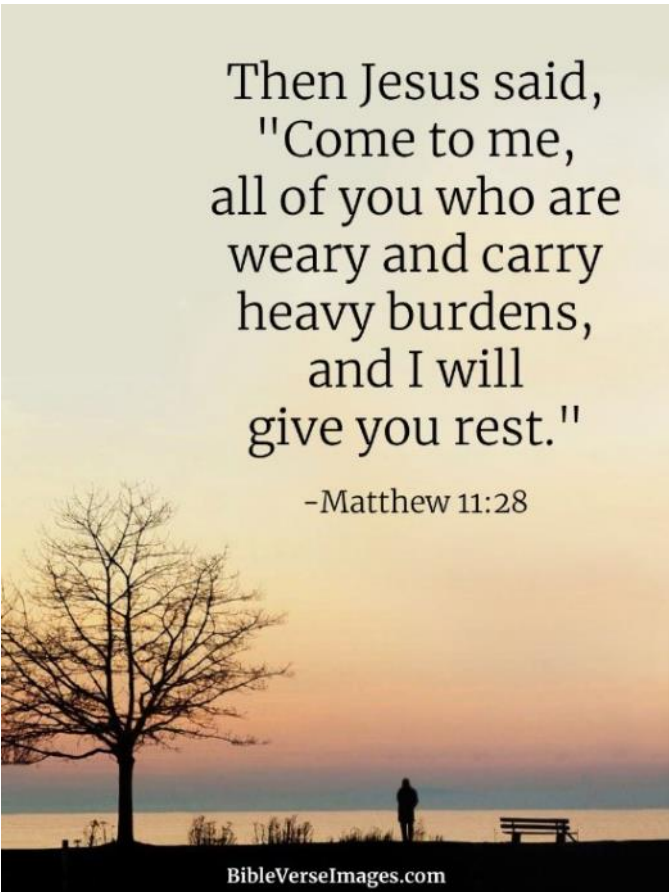
Have you ever noticed that sometimes, when you board a plane, the sky is like a thick grey ceiling? It looks impenetrable. But the plane does not hesitate – it climbs steadily onward and upward straight into the cloud. And what happens? Nothing! The cloud cannot block your progress, it must give way before you.

The simple truth is, you may not be able to see through clouds, but you can go through them. The plane uses navigational aids for guidance, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us through the darkest times. And finally, we emerge through the cloudbank, and there before us is a sun-drenched sky of blue and golden glory, far above the dismal and disappointing things far below.

Whatever cloud is hanging over you at present, whether suffering, discouragement, fear, there IS something you can do about it NOW. Pray – pour out your heart to the Lord about it. He has promised that His grace will be sufficient for anything that we encounter in this life.

And – look up. Look towards heaven, think beyond those clouds, and remember His promise that the sufferings we may be undergoing here are nothing compared to the glory that God has prepared for us there.

The Bible assures us: 'The Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man that trusts in you.' Psalm 84: 11-12



Then Jesus said,
"Come to me,
all of you who are
weary and carry
heavy burdens,
and I will
give you rest."

-Matthew 11:28

BibleVerseImages.com



"No matter how
long the storm
lasts,
the sun always
shines behind
the clouds."

~Khalil Gibran

BobBaron.tv

Weston Church News

We hosted the Western District Rally/Conference in March. In addition to the business items, there were craft activities and a soup and roll lunch was provided. Most congregations in the District were represented.

Lorraine ran a series of discussion groups during Lent based on the Words of Jesus on the Cross. These were enjoyed by both those present and those who joined online. Another series of Bible studies are being planned for early May.

The Modelling Club and the Games Board evenings are now regular monthly Wednesday evening events in the Hall (along with Roundabout crafting and the TWG). Please come along and join in these events when you can.

We also started a weekly Pickle Ball session in the church. Unfortunately although this proved fairly popular, we have had to cancel it for the time being because the church was not suitable with it's wooden floor, plus the dias trip hazard.

The District Maundy Thursday Service was held in our church, and as well as the many people there in person, Sue Groves enabled it to be on their Zoom so that others could attend from their homes. Then on Good Friday the Cross Walk of Witness was from All Saints, and was followed by a service at our church led by Sr Lorraine. Both services were well attended and greatly enjoyed. Our thanks to Rev Lorraine for arranging and leading these special services.



Coming Up in Weston!

Wed 3rd April	Lorraine's Roundabout Crafting 7.00 pm - 9.00 pm For more information talk to Rev Lorraine on 07536 457050
Mon 8th April	Lorraine will be running another Lego Building session for young people (who must be accompanied by a grown up). It will be from 1 pm to 3 pm (Note Monday not Tuesday)
Wed 10th April	Childrens Film Afternoon 3.00 pm The Lion King Admission free, donations towards refreshments welcome
Wed 10th April	"Board games Evening" - 7.00 - 9.00 pm. Every 2nd Wednesday in the month. £3.00 per person. Under 16's free, but must be accompanied by an adult. Refreshments available
Wed 24th April	"Moravian Modellers" 6.00 pm - 9.00 pm Every 4th Wednesday in the month. £3.00 per person. Under 16's free, but must be accompanied by an adult.
Friday 26 April	6.00 pm - 8.00 pm Family Evening for young people and their parents
Sat 18 May	Our next film night - The Greatest Showman - 7.00 pm Admission free, but donations towards refreshments welcome

The Weston Local History Society are now meeting regularly in our church. They will be meeting on the third Monday of every month at 7.30 pm. On Monday 15th April the Talk will be on Bath and Bristol's Hotwell in the 18th Century, and then on Monday 20th May the talk will be about the key events and characters of Keynsham Abbey. You are welcome to come along and be informed and entertained. Refreshments will be available

Sally Biggs 31 March 1957 - 5 March 2024



Sister Sally Biggs passed away at the beginning of March after a very long battle with cancer. Sally was a much loved member of our congregation, often leading our café church services. Sally was our resident artist painting our beautiful welcome sign, the church with the sheep at the roundabout, and the mice on the stairs!

How well she was loved by all was shown at her funeral where so many people came to say goodbye that many had to stand at the back or along the sides of the church.

The order of service for the funeral included a beautiful goodbye letter to her friends, which Andrew has agreed can be included in this edition of the Buzz.

GOING AWAY

I'm going on a journey.

This time I will be travelling alone.

My plans are vague; I am not yet certain when I will be leaving, or where I will depart from.

I am unsure what I will need to take with me. Clothing, toiletries, bedding or books will not be needed.

I have completed my lifetime diary, so I will leave that behind. I will forget worries, stress, appointments, pain and illness too.

My pictures will remain at home; enjoy them if you wish. Instead I will take images in my mind of the wonderful things I have experienced and carry those with me to what is to come.

This time I will pack memories, thoughts, feelings, faith, hopes and prayers.

My family and friends have encouraged and supported me every step, with my aspirations, plans and decisions – though I know it was sometimes difficult. I love and thank each one of them.

And my star, my soulmate, is my heart. But this time he cannot come with me. Keep twinkling!

So I will wait, watching, somewhere out of sight, and ping reminders of me as you continue to journey through your lives. Travel safely and look out for each other.

Keep smiling and search for the funny side.

I'm going on a journey. And I shall be flying.

All my love, Sally x

Boys' Brigade News

The BB have been busy again in February and March. We started February practicing for the West of England Sports Day with our older sections. These were held in Yeovil and our team did very well. We had over a whole team, so we also ran a joint team with 1st Martock. We came second in the Dodgeball and third in Unihoc and under 14s 5-a-side Football. Our joint Over 14s 5-a-side team also came 3rd in their competition.



The following weekend we took all of the Company to a Somerset BB Activity Day, where they joined 50 others from around the county in eight different activities. These ranged from active things like archery to creative things like cake decorating and slime making to problem solving as part of an 'escape room'. Great fun was had by all and planning is already underway for next year's event.



In March we attended the Junior Sports Day and came away with thirds in both Unihoc and Dodgeball. These events are a great opportunity for members to get to know others from around the region, making friends as they meet at various events through the years. Also in March was the Bath Half Marathon. We helped with the Newbridge Water Station, handing cups of water to the runners as they came by. Although hard work, this was really enjoyable and an opportunity to give something back to the community. Thank you to the boys and family members that helped out.



We also thank all of our volunteers who put in lots of time and effort to make these events and all of our weekly activities possible."

Rob

Loneliness in young people - A Boys' Brigade study

Young people in the UK are feeling more lonely, and yet are less likely to have a stable relationship or friendship than they did, even a decade ago.

So finds the Boys Brigade, which carried out an extensive study as part of its recent 140th anniversary events.

Almost half of the young people questioned admitted that they were in regular mental distress, and yet had had no medical diagnosis or treatment.

Rates of self-harm, disability, and obesity have also gone up. One in every seven young people is even unhappy with their appearance.

The study, Youth Culture and Trends also found that the shift to spending more time online with others, rather than in face-to-face relationships, mirrors a reported decline in the satisfaction with friendships and rise in loneliness.



A Letter from the Provincial Board - Br Fred Linyard

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with sadness that I write to notify you of the death of Br Fred Linyard, who passed into higher service in the early hours of this morning.

We celebrate a life lived in service to Christ. Following completion of his training at Fairfield Moravian College and Moravian Theological Seminary, Br Linyard was called to serve Saint Peter's Moravian Church in Bedford in 1954. He went on to serve in the Yorkshire district. In 1962, alongside his late wife, Sr Olive Linyard, he was called to Jamaica. He was minister in Bethabara and later Trinity, Kingston as well as Moravian tutor for the United Theological College of the West Indies. Returning to the British Province in 1973, he continued his ministry in Ockbrook and Leicester congregations before taking office on the Provincial Board and British Mission Board in 1976. During his time on the Board, he also served Harold Road. He retired in 1994 to the Midlands District and further contributed as the editor of the Moravian Messenger until 2008.

Details of funeral arrangements will be communicated in touch course. We keep his whole family in prayer during this time.

Yours in Christ's Service,

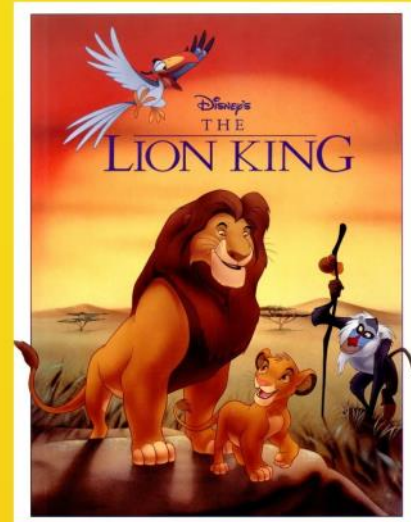
Robert Hoey



LEGO
Brick Building
FREE Monday 8th April
1pm to 3pm

(all children must be accompanied by a grown up)
Weston Free Church (Moravian)
High Street, Weston

Weston Free Church (Moravian)
presents



Wednesday 10th April
3pm

FREE Admission

Children must be accompanied
Donations towards refreshments
welcomed

Registered Charity Number 251211



How to "Just Do It"

Here's a sure-fire way to cross off every item on your To-Do list: Do the chores first, then write them down and then cross them off!

Church services at Weston Free Church (All at 11.00 am unless alternative time stated)

APRIL

- Sun Apr 7th Café Church Service led by Rev Lorraine Shorten
Sun Apr 14th Service with the Methodists led by Rev Lorraine Shorten. This service will include "laying on of hands"
Sun Apr 21st Service including Holy Communion led by Rt Rev Beth Torkington.
Sun Apr 28th Service led by Rev Lorraine Shorten

May

- Sun May 5th Café Church Service
Sun May 12th Service with the Methodists led by Kieran Hilton (Coronation Avenue)
Sun May 19th Service including Holy Communion led by Rev Lorraine Shorten
Sun May 26th Sunday Service led by Leigha Shakespeare (Coronation Avenue)

Prayer for April 2024 - -based on John 20: 19-end

Almighty Father,
In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh
the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.
Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection
peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.
Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.
We are your Easter people. Hallelujah. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Buzz Words for April

- "April is the gateway to the joys of summer."* Fennel Hudson
*"Our spring has come at last with the soft laughter of April suns and
the shadow of April showers."* Byron Caldwell Smith
*"On April Fools Day, believe nothing, trust no one, just like any
other day."* Unknown



BUTTERFLY CARE LUNCH CLUB

Held at Weston Free Church Hall
Every Wednesday from 12.30 pm

Come and enjoy a 2 course lunch and a cup of tea or coffee
and a chat all for the price of:£7.50

We have a few seats left - To book, contact:

Butterfly Care 01225 835888

Please call no later than Monday at 12.00 noon to inform us if
you are unable or able to come



Every Friday from
9.00 am to 3.00 pm.

Come along and
enjoy a reasonably
priced lunch or

coffee and cakes or just a chat and
natter with friends. We could always
do with new volunteers so please let
Shirley know if you feel able to help
out sometimes.



Please send contributions to our next newsletter (to email
davidsward@btinternet.com) by Wednesday 24th April

