

The Bigger Picture

Doing Church Differently

4th October 2020

Word for the week

Words of wisdom from our Pastor, Mike...

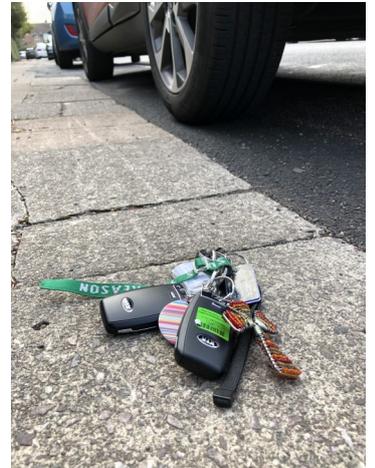
I enjoyed a few great walking days in Wales recently. One evening, I was queuing for a lolly when an old gentleman started asking whether anyone had lost their car keys. A few minutes later, he reappeared to say he had identified which car in the car park they belonged to! He further informed the bemused group of us awaiting our refreshments that he had left the keys on the appropriate windscreen with a note!

Just when I was wondering whether I should get involved in this mini drama, a group of people walked up and one of them turned out to be the person who had misplaced her keys. The old man then declared that having done his good deed for the day, it was possible that he would go to Heaven after all.

Then, a companion of the grateful driver took the old man by the arm and led him to a bench to sit down with him for a talk. I would love to think that the conversation was all about how a person could ensure that they would go to Heaven when they die!

Why was I in that place at that particular time to witness these events? Possibly, to remind you that in the book of Revelation we read about the one who holds, 'the keys of death and Hades'. Possibly, to lament the fact that so many people, if they talk about Heaven at all, then they do so in a light-hearted manner and yet it is the most pressing issue in this life of all.

Let us make sure that we are on our way to Heaven and let us help somebody else this week to understand how they can also go to Heaven.



Stop and Pray

A word of encouragement from Sharon...

Sometimes we can be so caught up in the stuff of the world, in doing things for other people, in our own situation and problems, in praying for emotional and physical upsets and illnesses, that we forget to pray for spiritual health.

We accept that we need to be fed through the teaching and reading of God's word, well, equally we need to be cleansed, healed and strengthened spiritually.

I was reminded of this recently, when walking in a wood. For a short distance there was a strong smell, like that of washing powder. I couldn't see anyone or anything that could be

the likely source of such an aroma but I was reminded of the need for spiritual cleansing.

So I encourage you to spend healing time with God, ask him to heal your spirit, to cleanse you of all negativity that gets in the way of you connecting with Him, to forgive your sins and wipe clean the dark marks that sin leaves on your spirit like bruises, and ask Him to strengthen your spiritual sensitivity so you are aware of the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

We live in a world where the devil is always ready to tempt us into disobedience and distract us from focusing on God. Seek God's help in guarding against this and stay strong in spirit

When should we pray?

Thoughts from Mike.....

Sometimes, we admit that we tend to pray less often when things are going well and more often when things are going badly. Is this how it is supposed to be?

Jesus prayed in the best of times!

Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 5:15-16

Jesus prayed in the worst of times!

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives and his disciples followed him. He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly.

Luke 22:39-42

You may be reading this article on Sunday 4 October. If you are, can I encourage you to get involved in the MRBC Prayer Day taking place this morning, afternoon and evening. Contact me asap if you're not sure about the details.

It shouldn't make any difference whether you are enjoying good times or enduring difficult times. The need for your prayers is just as urgent so please don't neglect to talk to God.

Sharon's Snippets

God of Creation

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

Romans 1:20

I have recently found the clouds a source of beauty and wonder and have even been known to stop the car to take a photo of the sky.

What aspect of God's creation moves you. It may simply be the warmth of the sun, the noise of the rain on the leaves, the intricate pattern of a spider's web, or the birds going about their business.

I encourage you to take time to study a small aspect of what God has made, for in it you will 'see his invisible qualities'.

What should we pray?

Please pray for....

Sunday

- our special prayer day. Pray that God would guide us, renew us, refresh us, as individuals and as a church, during our morning, afternoon and evening sessions.

Monday

- Glo as she walks around her back garden raising sponsorship money every day for the MRBC Family Fund. To sponsor Glo please contact Ivor.

Tuesday

- Chris H as he recovers and recuperates after his recent operation.

Wednesday

- John N as he won't be returning to his cleaning job at the end of furlough. Please also pray for Cecilia.

Thursday

- Mercy Ministries in India and the current fundraising schemes being implemented by Mark G.

Friday

- our second prayer day organised by Terry B. Ask God to be honoured through our continuous praying for 24 hours.

Saturday

- Graham, Rebekah, Alice and Lizzy as they recover from Covid 19.

