



Richard's Ramble:

During this lockdown, Carolyn and I have been decorating in between working. We decided to take on the task of doing all four bedrooms in our house at once. We have completed two, nearly completed the third but got stuck on the fourth. Why? Because the paint we bought for the fourth bedroom is faulty and leaves lines and streaks all over the wall. Now we are living in chaos until this issue is sorted out with the manufacturers since there is nothing else we can do until the painting of this room is complete. If our raw materials are faulty, then the end product will be faulty. 'You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear'. All of us are born faulty. We have the corrupt genes of our forefathers within us. Naturally speaking, nothing good can come from us. But God takes that which is faulty and fixes it. His objective for each one of us is that we will be perfect. In the meantime, we are each a work in progress. However, in contrast with the world, God can bring forth something that is good from that which is faulty. He can take our good works and multiply them, just as he did with the bread on the shores of Galilee. He can take the offering of our service and use it to bless others. During this time, each one of us has the opportunity to bless others, whether through our words or our deeds. Take the opportunity to be a blessing to your friend, your neighbour or to other members of our community.

God Bless, Richard



The Marriage Sessions - In your lounge

Starts 11th May - 4 sessions for ALL couples who wish to enrich their marriage.

Just sign up and then every Monday you'll be sent a link for the hour session.

www.careforthefamily.org.uk/courses/marriage-courses-the-marriage-sessions



No calendar of events this month due to the current restrictions on meetings. Any alterations please be assured that you will be notified. **PRAY SAFE-STAY SAFE.**

Resting in God and renewing your strength – a meditation.

Isaiah 40:31 They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Start by being still and knowing God is God. Be aware of Him being around you. Be aware that God is in you.

Now you are aware you are resting in God bring to your awareness any worries you have. Thank God that He is with you and tell Him you are giving Him these worries. Ask Him to do His will. Thank Him that He will carry the burdens.

Now ask God to fill you with His love, peace, joy and hope. Is there anything else you need from Him? Spend a few moments resting in God and receiving what you need.

Now spend some time thinking of the things you are grateful for now. Whether it is a friend or a family member. Sunshine or rain. A tree or flower in the garden. Bird song. A loved pet. A good book. Food. An act of kindness. Music. Whatever you are grateful for at the moment.

Thank God for the things you are grateful for.

End by asking God to help you to walk in His strength, clothed in His armour, enjoying the life he has given you. **Angie**



Clarks's Ramble (!) :

As lockdown started we, the Clark family, were thrown into this strange place of being the musicians and sound people and the techies! It all seemed a bit daunting at first but thankfully due to Sean's technical expertise and Nicholas's knowledge of sound, we managed to find a way! I'm so very thankful to everyone in the house for all their help and support as they selflessly follow my lead! (and it isn't always what they want). Thanks to everyone who has helped. Not that I'm the boss of all things but when it comes to the worship, I am.....!

It's strange how we think that social distancing is something that will tear people apart, but with the Holy Spirit, we are united as one! It's more of a physical distancing but a social bringing together in many cases. We are still the body and we still function as one body. So many people in the church are doing so many things for all sorts of people, I couldn't name them all! It is so incredible to see how God has taken something that the enemy meant for evil and has turned it into something good!

Ephesians 4: 1-6

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

We are one and we function as one. Let's continue to support everyone as the weeks go by and encourage our friends and family, especially as we get further into this shutdown. Be as generous with your time as you can.

May the God of peace be with you all this week.

Nat

