

Café Explore – September 2021 for those who couldn't make it to the Church Rooms

Opening prayer

*Generous God, we thank you for all the blessings you have given us;
for our home,
our families and friends,
and for the community we are a part of.*

We thank you for the company and conversation we enjoy, and for your presence among us in fellowship.

*In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.*

Thinking time!

Memories. My mum often told me her memories of growing up in wartime. I was so glad that it hadn't happened to me but ...

Memories of a pandemic!! (Pictures on screen of PM stood at podium, an empty road plus 'Next slide please'.)

Questions to ponder Imagine a child asks you in 10, 15 or 20 years' time 'Were you alive during the pandemic? What was it like?

Recall the **good** things and the **bad**.

What did you find you could live without? Did life become simpler?

Imagine - If the pandemic had happened 40 years ago – how different would it have been?

The biggest differences – social media and tv channels!! Can you think of more?

Scripture As usual read the passage noting any key verses, phrases or words that strike you.

Can you link these to the pandemic?

Matthew 6:19-21, 24-26

¹⁹ 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²⁴ 'No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

²⁵ 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

What about your faith?

How did your faith fare over the last 18 months?

Did you actively do anything to: -

Increase your knowledge, Improve your prayer life, Love others, Worship, Witness
or did God seem far away? Or was He a true comfort?

Scripture -

As before reading the passages noting any key verses, phrases or words that strike you.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

1 Corinthians 12:28 New Living Translation

²⁸ Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church:

first are apostles,
second are prophets,
third are teachers,
then those who do miracles,
those who have the gift of healing,
those who can help others,
those who have the gift of leadership,
those who speak in unknown languages.

1 Peter 3:15 - Bearing Witness

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

Thinking time again!

Did the passages make you think about what we need rather than what we want?

Can you identify any gifts, or any fruit of the spirit given to you?

Are you able in a simple way to bear witness to our Lord?

Where do we go from here?

Does everything go back to how it was?

As we plan for the future can we offer ideas for the growth of our church family?

For Café Explore? How can we all be involved, maybe in a different way, a simple way?

We can pray

In silence we pray for the following,

Our thoughts shared about the last eighteen months; We remember those who have died;

We pray for those who care for others; We pray for all who are in need;

We offer our hopes for the future.

Prayer used at the Café Explore Feb 20 when we last met together.

Dear Lord, When I'm at home

Be at the centre of my life

When I'm out and about

Be at the centre of my life

When I'm alone

Be at the centre of my life

When I'm working

Be at the centre of my life

When I'm relaxing

Be at the centre of my life

When I'm with friends

Be at the centre of my life

In everything I do

Be at the centre of my life, Amen

Next Café Explore is **NOT** on a Thursday!!!!!! BUT on **Wednesday 27th October**