

Churches Together Picnic in The Park



The following is a picture, which was brought to us during May.

The picture begins on the inside of an airport hall. People are coming in, some are going out. There are many shops around with customers going in and out. There are a lot of people and some of them are just sat around, others are queuing at the airline desks.

As people are getting closer to the desks there is a lot of concern as people are being told that they are not allowed to take any bags on the flight. The airport staff are telling people that they do not need their bags with them for the journey, and that everything they need has been provided for them. Therefore, they must leave their bags in a special place that has been made in the middle of the hall. Many of those queuing are uncertain as to what to do, because they do not

want to be separated from their possessions. Some turn away and take their bags with them. Others turn and look for the area set aside for bags to be left in. They find this area in the middle of the hall.

In the centre of this area is a post, at the top of which is a cross beam on which is written: 'Baggage reception area'.

A number of people are leaving all their bags in this area and then making their way through the departure gate, luggage free. Others refuse to leave their bags and go away still carrying them.

Jesus invites us to travel with Him, without any of our possessions. His invitation is to leave all our baggage at the foot of His cross. His promise is to provide all that we need for the journey, relieving us of our burdens.

Items for the next Newsletter to be handed to Charles by: Sunday 28th June. Thank you.

May Income: £2215.00
Expenditure £1909.00

On Sunday 3rd May Charles Claydon preached from 1 Kings 17.17-24 about Elijah and the widow of Zarephath and her son, whom God raised from the dead at Elijah's request. Charles said that there were two things the widow asked:



as was the case with Lazarus being raised.

Charles explained that sin is what we willingly do, whereas iniquity is something that is in

our inherited make up, making it more likely that we will act unrighteously in certain areas.

The good news is that Jesus paid the price to deliver us from our sin and iniquity - Isaiah 53.5

Charles went on to say that Elijah firstly brought God into the situation and this is what we must do as we face difficult circumstance.



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On Sunday 10th May Bob Allen spoke from Ephesians 1.15-22, especially verse 19-20: his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, ²⁰which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,



Bob spoke about the:

- 1) Unique miracle of the resurrection of Jesus. He had a changed body, initiating a new beginning.
- 2) It was powerful miracle.

3) It was an earth shaking miracle. From Matthew 27.51-57 we read that the veil in the temple was torn in two, there was an earth quake, graves were opened and the dead were resurrected and appeared to many in Jerusalem. This looks forward to the final resurrection.

- 4) The final resurrection brings cosmic catastrophe as all things are shaken and evil is punished.
- 5) The believer needs to take this on board and be diligent, living holy and godly lives - 2 Peter 3.11-13.



On Sunday 11th May John Foster preached from 1 John 2.12-14:

¹²I write to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name. ¹³I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you have known the Father. ¹⁴I write to you, fathers, because you have known him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one. John asked the question: Are you growing? He said that God moves in our life and that we should hear from Him, so that we move from being spiritual infants and grow into maturity.

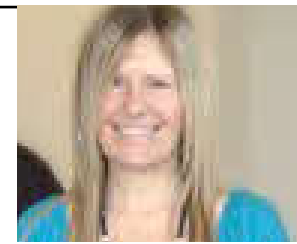


Spiritual infants are new believers, who do not know much, therefore, they need a lot of teaching, love and security. They need the right atmosphere in which they can grow and feel a part of the church. They need to be taught how to pray and read the Bible in order to be strengthened. Testimonies are also a good aid to growing up in Jesus.

The food of the believer is the Bible; therefore, it is necessary to have a good Bible reading plan. This allows the Bible to possess us and mould our way of living. John went on to speak about the excitement there is in reaching spiritual adolescence, then to become spiritual fathers, who serve Jesus within the body, to bring others into maturity.



On Sunday 24th May Helen Tomlinson brought a word from the Lord on the theme of Love holding us together from Colossians 3.13-15.



Helen went on to say that we must learn to forgive one another and forget the wrongs that may have been done to us. We must also avoid gossip, which, though we may enjoy it, causes hurt. We may be

tempted to gossip, but we must not give into it. If we do, then we should repent. Love means that we accept one another, even those we may not get on with. God is not restricted by our relationships. In all things we must examine our hearts, think how we should speak to one another, not measure others by our standards. We must all realize and accept that it is God who has placed us here together, to be united in His body.

She said that though we are a diverse group we have one common aim to worship God. In Mark 12. 29-32 we read that Love for God sets the standard for our life together, yet we sometimes find it hard to love some people, however, Jesus said that we should love our enemies. In 1 John 4.21 we read that we cannot say that we love God if we hate our brother. Therefore, we need to ask God to help us to love.

You are invited
to join the course on:
The Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The course starts on:
Tuesdays at 7.30pm

John & Mandy Foster will host the course at their home:
85 Redcliffe Street,
Sutton-in-Ashfield

It lasts about four or five weeks.

It will be led by:
Charles & Rachel Claydon.

The course is more of a workshop, giving us all the opportunity to explore together what the Lord Jesus has provided for us.

