

Tilly Times

Church news from Rumney Baptist Church



Message from the Minister:

Nov 2020

As I write this we are 5 weeks away from Christmas! Maybe you are like me puzzling over where the last year has gone - it has certainly been different and what none of us would have expected. Although we may look back with disappointment that we have not been able to get to know each other as we would have hoped - I am confident that God will bring all things into order and that this time would not be wasted but will be used to prepare us for what is to come. Church for some time will continue to have restrictions and limitations however our God is not limited and this provides us with an exciting opportunity to explore God in a different way. I am really excited about what is going to happen at Christmas - this year will be unlike others and very different but the truth remains the same God breaking into our darkness to bring us Jesus as Light in the World. I will write to you with all the plans and information for the next month.

Yours in Christ - Rev'd Hayley Young

Thoughts, Prayers & Thanks:

It is with great sadness that our Church lost a long standing and much-loved member Mrs June Eades on 20th September. June's wish was for her funeral to be held in the Church, which it was on Tuesday 6th October, with Covid-19 restrictions in place. Our Minister Reverend Hayley officiated. A thanksgiving service for June's life and her service to our Church over many, many years will be held next year. This will allow all Members & those who would have wished to attend June's funeral to attend. We ask that you keep Bill and the family in your thoughts and prayers during this sad and difficult time.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Emilia and Miguel Diakiese and family following the recent sad loss of Emilia's sister.

On the 14th September Hayley officiated at the funeral of Mr. Leonard Watts, dearly loved Dad and Grandad of Judith and Gemma Lodge. Many will know Len as a regular supporter and attendee of our Church events and fundraisers. The Lodge and Watts families wish to thank our Minister Hayley for the wonderful funeral service administered for Len. Her support and guidance were greatly appreciated by the family during this difficult time.

Please keep in your prayers everyone who may be struggling in some way at this time, be it due to illness, loss, circumstance or loneliness the Lord knows each of them by name.

Adapting to Change:

How many of us can honestly say we like change? Change is something that not many of us are very good at embracing when it first comes along. There are some people who long for adventure and can't wait for the next challenge or change of scene, but most of us are happy with our pattern of life and how things are. We have our daily routines just how we like them and our home comforts just so. When change comes along it disrupts, causes anxiety and we have difficulty in facing the uncertainty that comes with it. We have a longing for things how they have always been, but life just isn't like that, is it, because change is constant, it's inevitable whether we like it or not.

Over the past year our lives have been changed in ways we never imagined they would. We have all faced uncertainties and difficulties and continue to do so as we face the winter months. In February/March as a Church family and after a long process we found ourselves embracing change and with great joy welcomed Hayley into our Church and our family. In those few short weeks, she started to challenge us to look at change and how it can be something positive if we adapt and embrace it. During Lockdown Hayley's introduction of online services and sermons on the sofa have been a welcome and much appreciated response to the changes this pandemic has brought to our lives.

I know like me, many of you are missing attending Church services and events and dearly missing seeing Church family and friends and it has been difficult to understand why our Church has not rushed to open its doors again. If you saw the piles of paperwork, the never-ending guidelines and restrictions, the 48-page risk assessment to be followed and checked every time the doors open it may be easier to understand. At this time keeping everyone safe is paramount and for those who feel able and comfortable to attend services, for the time being it is going to be a very different experience from what we are used to and what we long for.

Change is sometimes hard to adapt to, but as Christians we know our heavenly Father is in charge. Even when everything around us seems to change, God does not. **“He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”** *Hebrews 13:8* The plan he has for us as individuals and as a Church is one of incredible purpose, may he give us the strength and wisdom to adapt to the different changes and situations ahead.

Every Blessing, Stay Safe, Gemma x

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