

The Outlook

from Hope May 2004

Strangely Warmed

In a recent piece of research on the spirituality of those who don't belong to a church there are a number of fascinating observations.¹

In particular, the number of people who speak of having experiences that might be described as "spiritual" almost doubled in the 13 years leading up to 2000. So for example the percentage of those who have had a sense of the presence of God has risen from 27% -38% . Those conscious of a pattern in events has gone up from 29% -55% and 25% have sensed the presence of evil as against 12% in 1987.

The researchers were not sure whether more people are having such experiences or whether it is just that people are more willing to talk about them. Either way the net result is that we are increasingly aware that there is a mysterious side to our existence, a mystery that we cannot comprehend and which makes us aware of the spiritual dimension of life.

When did you last experience a sense of God's presence? In the last few months have you been aware of God's ordering the circumstances of your life? As we celebrate Pentecost at the end of May we thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit through whom we are meant to experience the presence and guidance of God in our lives. This is not meant to be a rare, occasional experience but a regular, life-long relationship.

There are two dangers in the Christian life when it comes to spiritual experiences. Some people get caught up with seeking such experiences and feel that if they don't actively sense God's presence then he is absent. Others have no expectation that they will encounter God in daily life and settle for a comfortable distance in their relationship with him. The healthy balance combines faith and expectation, trusting in the Lord's presence and care even when we don't actively sense it, expecting that there will be occasions when we do unexpectedly have our hearts strangely warmed by the touch of God.

This Pentecost is a good time to ask yourself again: 'Is my experience of God up to date? Is it characterised by expectancy and trust?'

Andy Saunders

¹ Understanding the Spirituality of People who don't go to Church: David Hay and Kate Hunt, August 2000, sponsored by Bible Society.

Smiling

Smiling is infectious
You catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin
When he smiled – I realised I'd passed it onto him
I thought about that smile
Then realised its worth
A single smile just like mine could travel around the earth

So if you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic
And get the world infected

Everyone needs a smile

Hello everyone.

I would like to thank all of you for your kind get well cards, thoughts and prayers during my illness. Particularly thank you to Pam for the lovely flower arrangement, and Jenny, Andy and Nicky for visiting me. The Knights have also played a big part in helping me on the road to recovery. I am now feeling much better, and have had lots of rest, although didn't realise how incapacitated I would be. I shall be returning to toddlers and look forward to seeing everybody in Church very soon.

Many thanks again.
Love from Kelly xxxxx

Prayer Focus

Give Thanks

That the 40 Days of Purpose helped focus our minds on what a Christian's purpose in life should be. That Marilyn Fray was able to join in the celebrations for Easter Sunday following her operation.

People

Pray for Joyce Thomas and all those who care for her at the Underhill Residential Home.

Pray for Ursula Doddridge who had a fall in March.

Viola Woodward has been in Derriford Hospital but is now back in Mount Gould Hospital and needs our prayers.

Pray for Linda Henagulph who had a throat problem which needed hospital treatment.

Pray for Glendora Phillips, who is in Derriford Hospital.

Church

Pray for all nations Ministries, their services and activities. Pray especially for their football team.

Happy day, the second of May – the Lord loveth a cheerful giver.

Pray for the Buildings Developments committee.

Pray that the Youth Concert at Hope on Saturday 22 May in aid of BMS World Mission will be well supported.

Open House

On Monday 17th May we will be meeting in the church hall at 2.15 for a 2.30 pm start. Our speaker will be announced later on the Sunday Notice Sheets.

The tea will consist of a variety of sandwiches and cake, washed down with a cup of tea and a good chat. So why not come along and try us out. As usual, the suggested donation is £1.50 which all goes to the charity of the day. Everyone is welcome.

If you require a lift to or from church, please contact Cynthia Hedges, on Plymouth 364292.

Dates for your diary are 7th June when we go on our annual outing and cream tea. 19th July, join us here at "Hope" for a trifle tea. 6th December will be our Christmas lunch at "The Plume of Feathers", Princetown.

Everyone is welcome at any of these events, even if you do not join us regularly at "Open House".

Thank you all so much for making my baptism such a special day.

Even the water was lovely and warm!

I was overwhelmed by the number of cards I received, and how everyone contributed to make it such a joyful occasion. My friends and family all commented on what a lovely church we have joined.

I would also like to thank everyone for the warm welcome Chris and I

have received since coming to Hope, and for how you have made us feel part of the family already. It has been so encouraging to see God moving in this church and we are both really excited to be part of the future.

Thank You

Debbie (and Chris) Reed

May Rotas

Communion

16 Ray and Cindy (*set-up and wash-up*)

Flowers

02 Judith Pinch. In memory of her parents, Hilda and Tom Stevens

09

16

23 Lin and Jim Pringle. Marking the 6th anniversary of them joining us at "Hope".

30 Jenny and Ron Weeks. Birthday remembrance of both their mothers.

Creche

02 Linda Snell & John Pinch

09 Jackie May & Merrilyn Duook

16 Pat & Steven Dodd

23 Jenny George & Miranda Crowley

30 FAMILY SERVICE*

Coffee

02 Mary-Jane Scott and Rebekah Beard

09 Debbie and Chris Houston

16 Rebekah Beard and Chris Mooney

23 Claire Worrall and Nicky Hatherell

30 Debbie (and Chris) Reed Nick Beard and Kate Hatherell

Stewards

02 Nicky, Pam Smith and Judith

09 Wilf, Marg T, Peter Man

16 Jean, Marian, Beryl Chun

23 Marian, Pat D, Graham D
30 Ron Dalton, Marg U, Tim

May Diary

Sun 02 10.00 10.00* Prayer in the Lower Guildroom
10.30 **THANK OFFERING OPENS!** Rom 8¹⁸⁻²⁷
Mon 03 Car Treasure Hunt. An afternoon event concluding
With a picnic
Tue 04 'Celebration'
10.0 10.0 Mums and Baby Group*
1.0 1.0 Parent and Toddler Group*
Wed 05 10.00 Parent and Toddler Group*
1.00 Parent and Toddler Group*
Thu 06 10.00 Coffee Morning*
Sat 08 Marriage Works! A course for Couples to enrich
Relationships, at St Pancras 1.30 – 5.30
Sun 09 10.30 **Fire** Matt ³¹⁻¹²
6.30 6.30 St Pancras 'Sunday Night Live' Joint Service
Tue 11 Fellowship Groups
13-14 13-14 **Prayer with Purpose** Interactive prayer space at
Come any time
Tue 18 Church Meeting
Sun 16 10.30 **Wind** John 3¹⁻¹⁶
7.00pm **Prayer with Purpose.** Praying into God's purpose
for Hope, at the church
Sat 22 **Youth Concert.** A concert at Hope in aid of BMS
Evening
Sun 23 10.30 **Councillor** John 16⁵⁻¹⁶
Sun 30 10.30 Pentecost Family Service, including the dedication
of Harry Walker

*These meetings are held weekly

BMS Birthdays for May

01 01 Mrs Viola Woodwood

May Transport

02 David Brown
09 Peter Brown
16 Mike Lummis
23 Mike Munson
30 Bill Wonacott

After-Care Rota

For under 8's in Thee Bar (Nutkins' Room)

May

2 John & Judith Pinch
9 Bill Wonnacott & Anne-Marie Dalton
16 Paul Sumner & Jenny Saunders
23 Tony Jopson & Amanda Harris
30 Pentecost Family Service

I would like to say thank you to everyone who gave flowers and cards and those who visited me during my time of confinement and hospitalisation. It was very much appreciated.

Gladys Gardiner

I Like Hugs

It's wondrous what a hug can do.
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.
A hug can say "I love you so", or I hate to see you go."
A hug is "Welcome back again," and great to see you,"
Or "where've you been?"
A hug can soothe a small Childs pain.

And bring a rainbow after rain.
The “Hug” There’s no doubt about it.
We scarcely could survive without it.
A hug delights and warms and charms.
It must be why God gave us arms.
Hugs are great for fathers and mothers.
Sweet for sisters, even for brothers:
And chances are some favourite aunts.
Love them more than potted plants.
Kittens crave them puppies love them
A hug can break the language barrier
And make the dullest day seem merrier.
No need to fret about the store of em.
The more you give, the more there are of em.
So stretch those arms without delay, and give someone a hug today.

This Outlook was compiled by Claire Worrall. The June edition of The Outlook will be put together by Nicky Hatherell who will be grateful for your articles or information by **16 May**. If you would like to pass on anything by email Nicky’s address is Nickyhatherell@aol.com

Please note that if you do send it this way we will always acknowledge receipt of it, so if you do not get a reply then we will not have received it – remember email is not always 100% reliable.