

Dear Church Family,

*'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'*

*Galatians 5:22 & 23a (NIV)*

The presence and work of the part of God we call the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world is the influence of 'ultimate good' in us and around us - the 'Stable Witness' on whom we can rely.

The Old Testament prophet Joel spoke of God pouring out the Spirit on all people.

In 2 Corinthians the apostle Paul writes that where the Spirit is there is freedom. Freedom to reflect the Lord's glory; to be 'transformed into God's image', by the Spirit.

In the verses from Galatians above Paul refers to the fruit of the Spirit as the evidence that people are reflecting the character of God and are being transformed into the image of God.

When people are loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle and self-controlled we know that God is growing God-like fruit in them.

These multiple aspects the 'fruit of the Spirit' often show up most clearly in us as a response to their opposites. This fruit may only be most apparent when it is seen in contrast to hate, misery, turmoil, impatience, cruelty, fickleness, brutishness and self-centred, self-serving behaviour.

Our call is to live in the image and likeness of God - so let's allow the Spirit to grow that fruit in us.

~

### **Congratulations To:**

- Lauren Rigby for achieving a 2:1 B.Sc. Honours Degree in Integrated Children and Young People's Practice.
- Allyson Blundell for achieving a 1st B.Sc. Honours Degree in Operating Department Practice.

### **One-Off Outdoor Service**

As most of you will know we won't be starting services in the building in September but we will be reviewing the situation on a monthly basis.

We are hoping to hold a one-off outdoor service in a month or so which will need to be thoroughly planned and risk-assessed.

We will let you know as soon as the plans are clearer and the necessary safeguarding protocols have been formulated but it will be dependent on the local rates of infection and the weather.

### **Online Media**

Our next online service will be available this Sunday from 06:00 onwards.

All services can be found on the HBCC Facebook page and some are also on YouTube.

<https://www.facebook.com/Hesketh-Bank-Christian-Centre-137989929662209/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI-q5TmlygGFnooTXluT6kg>

The Wednesday Devotionals and Friday Focus will continue but the after service Zoom Catchup is taking a rest for the month of August.

## **Online Holiday Bible Club**

This will be going out at 10:00 Monday to Friday next week on the HBCC Facebook page or Youtube Channel.

## **Life Groups & Small Groups**

Many of the regular groups have continued to meet virtually throughout Lockdown and as some restrictions are being lifted. Whilst groups may be taking a break during the main school holiday period we want to actively encourage all groups which are able to plan to connect via Zoom into the Autumn.

Some of you have expressed an interest in either reconnecting with a Life Group or connecting with one for the first time so we will be organising some groups for this Autumn.

These will most likely meet on Zoom as meeting in person could present too high a risk for everyone concern; we'll keep you posted.

If connecting with a small group online is something you're interested in doing immediately, please can you contact either Stuart Taylor or Steve Barrett (contact details below) - and they will work with you to find the best arrangement possible.

Stuart Taylor - [stutaylorhbcc@gmx.com](mailto:stutaylorhbcc@gmx.com) 07739 236815

Steve Barrett - [stevenbarrett7@gmail.com](mailto:stevenbarrett7@gmail.com) 07703 798279

## **Stories, News and Celebrations**

If you have some news, a story, or if you would like us to share special birthdays, anniversaries or occurrences in our weekly bulletin....send details to the church email address at [hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hbccentre@tiscali.co.uk)

## **Giving**

There are still ongoing expenses as a church community even though we are not meeting in the building. Many of you give regularly and very faithfully and we're so grateful for your continued support. If anyone would like to make any one-off gifts you can do this through online banking.

Bank Sort Code: 40-24-14

Account No: 10429627

Finally, if you need help or support during the week, you can reach us on the numbers below:

Mark-07526 989665

Linda-07732 074420

Steve-07484 268297

Alex-07701 042458 (Youth and Young People)

Steve - on behalf of The Leadership Team 06.08.2020