

BEARING FRUIT AND SHARING FRUIT

Matthew 7 v. 20

When we speak about 'the fruit of the Spirit', we are talking about these nine qualities of character: 'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control' (Galatians 5 v. 22 - 23). These fruits are not for 'show', they are for sharing with others; otherwise they're no better than fruit that was never grown in the first place.

Suppose you drive up to a roadside produce market with your heart set on buying fresh vegetables. You see home-grown tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, and several varieties of peppers – everything you need and more. Just as you start to select your items, the farmer who owns the stand says, 'Sorry, this produce isn't for sale. I just like to grow it and enjoy looking at it until it rots. Then I throw it away.' Huh?

Now you likely haven't encountered such an absurd situation, and probably never will. That's because farmers and customers know that produce is for consuming. Sure, it's beautiful to look at, but its God-ordained purpose is to bring nutrition and health to people. If all we do is go to church and preach about fruit, analyse fruit, and examine each other's fruit, we are failing miserably.

It's not enough to bear fruit, we must share that fruit with others so they can be blessed and impacted by the kingdom of God. Paul writes, 'For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago' (Ephesians 2 v. 10 NLT).

Bearing fruit and sharing fruit are two sides of the same spiritual coin.

The story's told of a mother, who woke her son one Sunday morning and said, 'Get up – you're late for church!' He replied, 'I don't want to go. I've no friends there, the music's awful, and the sermons are boring!' The woman replied, 'You've got to go – you're the pastor!'

Seriously, why should you go to church? Because 'Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish' (Ephesians 5 v. 25 - 27). Pastor and President Emeritus of Taylor University Dr Jay Kesler gives us five reasons for going to church:

1) It's the only organisation that still deals with issues like salvation, death, judgment, grace, purpose, heaven, and hell. 2) It adds value and dignity to human life. We live in a secular culture that contributes to our sense of inner worthlessness. The church counteracts this negative message by preaching God's love and acceptance. 3) It provides a moral and spiritual compass. Society has revised, resisted, and rejected absolutes, embracing relativism, but the church stands on the timeless bedrock of God's Word. 4) It's where you find compassion, healing, and community. There – we're all on par. There – God's Spirit is working to knit us together as believers, guaranteeing us all 'equal access to the Father' (Ephesians 2 v. 18). 5) Unlike other institutions, it has motivated the most lasting, unselfish, essential, courageous endeavours on earth. Things like missions, schools, hospitals, food pantries, rehab centres, and orphanages.

Why go to church? Because Jesus loves the church – and so should you.

CHURCH FINANCES FOR THE MONTH TO 29th APRIL 2018

Budgeted offerings needed (incl. Gift Aid) for the month of April = **£3,479.17**

Cumulative offering for April = **£3,122.37**

Gift Aid still to be claimed for April = **£598.47**

IN HAND from budgeted offerings for the month of April = **£241.67**

(Shortfall is determined by Gift Aid still to be claimed)

Please not IN HAND is due to April being a 5 Sunday month

PRAYERS POINTERS

- Pray for those of our fellowship who are still unwell at this time.
- Please pray for those who work in mental health services. Pray that they will bring comfort and relief to those they take care of.
- Pray for those who will be spending their holidays on Isle of Wight.

MARCH WINDS AND APRIL SHOWERS
BRING FORTH MAY FLOWERS



Come and buy those plants ready
for the summer

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, RYDE

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday 12th May

10 till 12

Visit our new church shop selling greetings
cards and much more



BOOK STALL - New and second-hand books
for Sale

Book Signing by local authors

CAKE STALL

REFRESHMENTS ON SALE ALL MORNING

ENTRANCE FREE

St. Blasius Old Parish Church

FLOWER FESTIVAL

"Wish You Were Here"

Friday May 11th until Sunday May 13th

10.00am – 4.00pm

Refreshments Served

St. Blasius Old Parish Church, Church Road, Shanklin, PO37 6QY

**BMS BIRTHDAY
SCHEME FOR MAY
2018**



**10th May
Loraine Hitchman**

**19th May
David Lambert**

Many Thanks Today Goes To...

Serving Tea & Coffee today are ...
Elaine Carrington

Flowers today were provided by ...

Our Stewards today have been ...
Hillary Lambert & Rene Duff

**Welcome to
SANDOWN BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Our Vision is to ...
Reach others with Christ's love as we learn to follow Him**



SUNDAY 6th MAY 2018

We give a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us today, especially if you are new here or are just visiting us for the day.

If you are visiting then please take the opportunity to sign our visitor's book before you leave today. If you are new to the church and wish to find out more of what we do here, then please make yourself known to our Minister or one of the Welcome Team.

Please stay seated throughout the service if you prefer. Refreshments are served at the end of the service in the vestibule and you are very welcome to stay and fellowship with us.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday 8th May

Prayer Meeting 10.00am - 11.00am
Friends Unlimited 7.00pm - 9.00pm
(Book Folding)

Wednesday 9th May

Coffee & Bible Study 10.00am - 11.45am
We will be looking at Colossians 3 v. 1 - 17 ~ New Clothes

S.O.C. (Sandown Outreach Club) 4.15pm - 5.15pm (ages 5 - 7)
5.30pm - 6.30pm (ages 8 - 11)

Thursday 10th May

Housegroups 7.30pm

Friday 11th May

Noah's Ark Toddler Group 9.30am - 11.30am

Sunday 13th May

Morning Worship 10.30am
(Rev. Ian Lovell will be leading the service today)

10.30 am Morning Worship

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian Lovell
Preacher: Rev. Ian Lovell

Theme: The Anointing Of Jesus At Bethany

Reading: John 12 v. 1 - 8

Our Church Text for 2018

I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonders.
I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 9 v. 1 - 2

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