

TFTD Saturday 28/03/2020

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Romans 12:10-13)

I don't know how you're feeling right now. I don't know how the current situation is affecting you. Are you anxious about the future? Are you twitching your thumbs because you want to be out there helping people? Are you stressed with all the family under one roof at the same time (it's like Christmas but without the presents!)? Are you enjoying the sudden peace from the usual stresses?

All these feelings are possible right now. We all respond differently, and we all have individual problems that are unique to us.

The scripture today has many things we can take from it; whichever way we are feeling and whatever our personal situation. Despite not coming together physically during the week for worship or prayer we are still one body and we can still be devoted to one another in love. We can still pray for each other, we can pray for the God's peace to be on those who are feeling anxious, we can pray for joy to be in the hearts of the stressed, we can pray for those enjoying their time in the garden to remain protected from affliction.

The end of this passage encourages the Romans to practice hospitality. We all know we can't invite people into our homes anymore but there are things we can do. There are phone calls we can make and for the technologically savvy – video calls you can have. Offer someone a listening ear, offer someone a laugh, remind someone there is hope. You can even brew a cuppa together and share it over the phone.

In these unprecedented times lets, '*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*'

Remember, you can send your prayer request to:

Prayer@baystonhillchurch.org

Or ring: (01743) 583215

May you find joy in God's presence.

Rev Rachael Farnham