

Thought for the Day

Monday 15th June 2020

Listen! What do you hear? One of the things that many people have commented on during these last 12 weeks is the quiet. The noise of traffic hushed, the noise of people about their work quietened and we can hear birds singing, the rustle of wind in the trees or maybe just silence. We have been enabled to hear something which has been there all the time but is usually drowned out by the busyness of life.

What is true of our auditory perception is true in other ways as well. For many, if not most, our days are different. The diaries are empty. I looked at mine for this week and saw the only entry, "Write a TFTD for Monday". The consequence of this is that we have time. We are not rushing from one activity to another with barely time to breathe let alone reflect. We have time to think, to reflect, to meditate and to listen. This is important. Remember Martha and Mary. Martha, busy with preparations, frantic activity making sure everything was right. Mary sat listening to Jesus. It was Mary who was commended for doing the right thing. In what we call 'normal times' it is easy to get absorbed with activity; services to attend, groups, meetings, rota's, planning, preparing. It's easy to forget that the important thing is listening. Being attentive to God can be drowned out by busyness.

As a church, before we were shut out of the building, we were beginning to explore listening prayer, with once a month meetings to just sit quietly before the Lord to hear His voice. Of course those meetings can't happen now. But God, in His wisdom, has instead given all of us more time to listen, to hear His voice and receive from Him.

On Friday Rachael in her TFTD, spoke about God doing a new thing. This was also the heart of the message Peter brought to us on Sunday. This is a word for us in these times, an exciting and encouraging word. But we will only know what these new things are if we listen to God. It's no good thinking about what we've done before or what other churches have done which has been 'successful', copying successful strategies of the world or coming up with bright ideas. Our God isn't like the BBC, He doesn't do repeats! These are new things we are being led into and we will only discover them by listening to God. So the challenge is, to put away the prayer list for a time this week (and beyond!) and just sit listening, being attentive to God's voice. If God speaks to you about something to do with the life and ministry of Christ Church please be sure to pass it on to Peter and the leaders.

***Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways.
Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it.
Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.
For those who find me find life and receive favour from the LORD.***

Proverbs 8:32-35

John Langridge

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Or ring: (01743) 583215

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