



‘So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.’ (Rom 12:5)

I was recently listening to a podcast that included information on the Portuguese Man-of-war. These fascinating creatures are a ‘colonial organism’ which means they are made up of many specialized, though genetically distinct, parts. And hearing this reminded me of the passage we had one Sunday recently about all of us having different gifts but each of us being part of the whole. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

After listening to the podcast, I wanted to see what these creatures looked like (see above in case you were wondering). I couldn’t tell by looking at it that it was made up of distinct parts. I think it is surprisingly beautiful – despite the fact that its poison is very painful and has been known (though rarely) to kill a human!

If, as a church we are meant to be one body, that means we are all working for one purpose. We all belong to one another and no part is more important than another. In the case of the Portuguese man-of-war this purpose is simply to eat and survive. No part of the Portuguese man-of-war can survive alone. It needs the other parts.

What is the purpose of the body of Christ? It is more than to eat and survive! There are many angles to take in answering that question, but simply I believe we are to further God’s kingdom on earth and we do this by sharing the love of God in the way we support and look out for one another. Just like the Portuguese man-of-war no one part of the body of Christ can survive without the other. I am not my own, I am God’s and I am yours, we are each other’s. Throughout this time of lockdown, I think we have shown what the body of Christ can do. I know many stories of people looking out for one another. As lockdown begins to ease let us not forget about each other, about those who (for good reason) remain fearful, ‘each member belongs to all the others.’

Remember, you can send your prayer request to: Prayer@baystonhillchurch.org Or ring: (01743) 583215

May you feel connected to the body of Christ this week.

Rachael