

Wavelength

October 2019 - edited for website



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What is Heaven Like? by Rory McClure

“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now... Come further up, come further in!”

C.S. Lewis,
The Last Battle

If you were about to emigrate to Australia you'd want to know what it was like before you got there. You'd wonder about the climate, the houses and the people. Assuming you don't like Britain's grey, cloudy winters, you'd probably be looking forward to more sun and less clouds. If some of your friends and family had emigrated several years before you, you'd be looking forward to being reunited with them. For some people, going to Heaven after you die is a bit like emigrating to

Australia. There's a better climate in Heaven, the housing is nicer and they'll get to be reunited with their family. However, for Christians this is only a very small part of the joy of Heaven.

**“But what
are our
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about
Heaven?”**

But what are our priorities as we think about Heaven? John Piper asks this challenging question: “If you could have Heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all

the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with Heaven, if Christ were not there?” No. Comfort and ease like this would get boring. Many a lottery winner discovers this the hard way. We need something more and this verse tells us why: God “has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). In other words, we have an infinite, eternal hole in our hearts and we are too limited to fathom out what God has done. Or,

as Peter Kreeft put it, “Everything smaller than Heaven bores us because only Heaven is bigger than our hearts.” Perhaps this is why the Bible tells us so little about the climate, geography and people of Heaven. Instead, when the Bible talks about Heaven it focuses on the glory of God because only this will be able to fully satisfy us for all eternity.

The Bible also says, “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9). That sort of gives us a problem, doesn't it? It is like trying to describe chocolate to someone who has never tried it. You could say that chocolate is sweet, but so is honey and chocolate tastes nothing like honey. You could say it has a sort of waxy texture, but who would

want to eat wax? Or say its texture is buttery or creamy, but chocolate isn't greasy like butter or runny like cream. You could say that chocolate melts in your mouth like ice cream, but it is not cold. In the end, the only way someone can know

**“Oh, taste
and see that
the LORD is
good”
(Psalm 34:8)**

what chocolate tastes like is to taste it.

Paul tell us how he was “caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” (2 Corinthians 12:4). That sounds intriguing, but it is also a bit frustrating. We want

to know more!

Thankfully other prophets were given permission to utter what they saw when they were caught up into Paradise. In the first chapter of his book, Ezekiel describes a vision of Heaven. Ezekiel experienced the glory of Heaven and then had to use images of glorious things on earth to convey to us something of the glory he experienced and something of the glory we will experience when God takes us to Himself. Over the next few articles we'll be looking into what Ezekiel's first vision has to tell us about what Heaven is like.

Ezekiel tells us, “I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The centre of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what

looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was that of a man, but each of them had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze. Under their wings on their four sides they had the hands of a man. All four of them had faces and wings, and their wings touched one another. Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved.” (Ezekiel 1:4–9)

If you've ever watched a lightning storm from safety or watched a TV programme about a metal foundry you'll know that curious feeling of both awe and gratitude. We've all seen what lightning can do to a tree and the noise of close thunder can shake us to the bones, so we've got every reason to fear. What would it be like to be exposed outside and in left in the open with

all that fury? But when you are safely inside a house with the rain pounding down on the roof, the terror can switch to awe coupled with comfort and gratitude for safety. When we see the elements glowing orange on an electric cooker we

“The image of God

coming in awe-inspiring clouds should remind us of the pillar of fire and cloud that God used to deliver His people from **slavery in Egypt.”**

feel cautious awe, so when we see the same metal being poured out in a foundry on TV that awe increases. What terrible heat it must take to turn metal into liquid! There is a beauty to these things and an

amazement that if we give them the proper respect that they demand they can bring blessing to us. God is clearly revealing Himself in a way that demands the same respect.

The image of God coming in awe-inspiring clouds should remind us of the pillar of fire and cloud that God used to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 13:21). Psalm 18 tells us that those glory clouds came to bring destruction on David's “enemies and... the hand of Saul” but they also brought him deliverance. The good news is, what brought judgement to those who were harming God's people is also what brings safety and rescue to us, the people of God. Those clouds remind us God “has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we

have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13–14).

There is something wonderfully mysterious about clouds. How can a cloud that you cannot touch hold more water than you could ever lift? Clouds are a physical reminder of the spiritual nature of God, Whom we cannot touch yet Who has more strength than we could possibly comprehend. When the clouds cover the sun, it reminds us that God “obscures the view of His throne, spreading His cloud over it.” (Job 26:9) It also reminds us of the last time the disciples saw Jesus. He “was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.” (Acts 1:9) Although Jesus is hidden behind that curtain of clouds our “hope [is]... firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain,

where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever...” (Hebrews 6:19–20). Yet those clouds also remind us that “we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us,” (Hebrews 12:1).

“How can a cloud that you cannot touch hold more water than you could ever lift?”

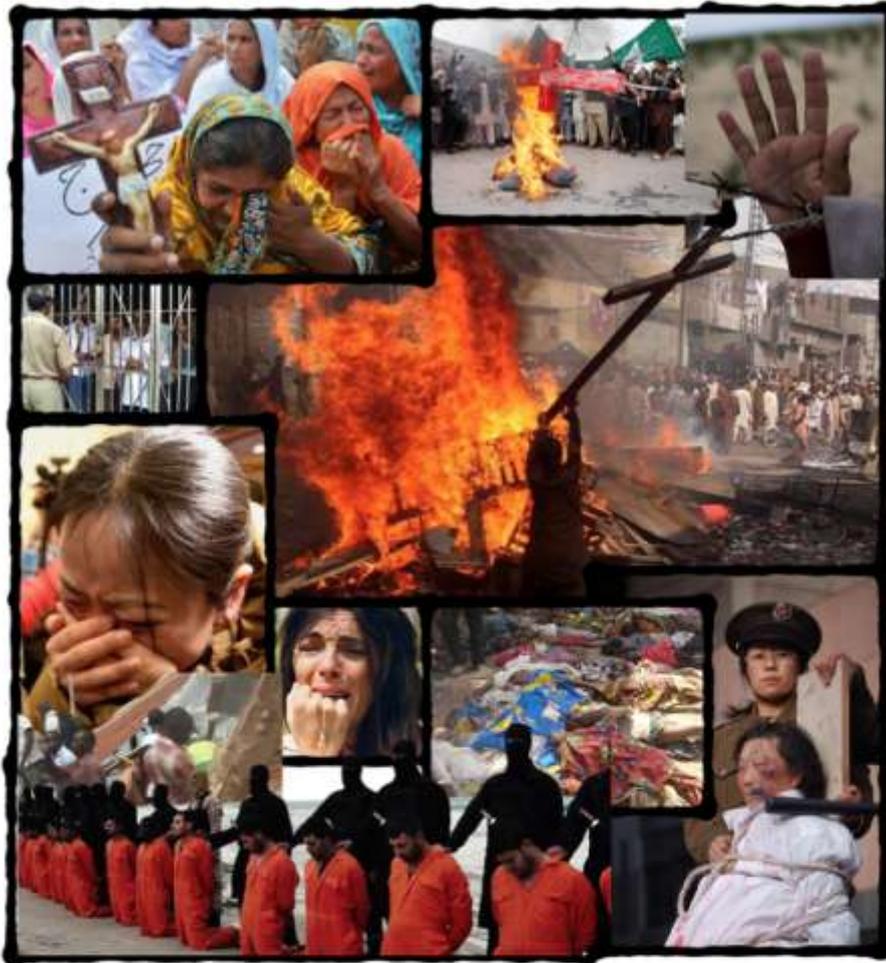
As innumerable as droplets of water in a cloud, so innumerable are the numbers of those who have gone on before us. That cloud includes everyone who trusted in

Jesus and it includes those you still grieve over. They may be veiled from our sight but they have been caught up into that glory cloud and they continue to surround you. We may feel separated from them, but they don't feel separated from us.

Finally, those clouds point us towards the day when “we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

But what can we expect when we get there? Next time we'll look into the mysterious life that thrives in the heart of God's glory cloud.





“Remember the prisoners as if chained with them — those who are mistreated — since you yourselves are in the body also.”

(Hebrews. 13:3)



Day of Prayer

Wednesday 30th October 2019

9 am to 9 pm

Parkside Evangelical Church

St Flora's Road

Littlehampton

Christians from Littlehampton's international community will be speaking about persecution in their countries of origin.

Ken Harrod of Release International will talk about their work throughout the day.



Join Us For An Hour

- 9 am Open
- 10 am Britain & Europe
Rory McClure, Parkside
- 11 am Sri Lanka
Richard from Parkside
- 12 pm Nigeria
Kemi from Oasis of Love Church
- 1 pm India
Chris from Parkside
- 2 pm Pakistan
Sajeela from Parkside
- 3 pm Nigeria
Sister Patricia & others from Convent
- 4 pm Central Asia
Ken Harrod from Release International
- 5 pm China
Malcolm from Parkside
- 6 pm Egypt
Ken Harrod from Release International
- 7 pm Africa
Ken Harrod from Release International
- 8 pm Middle East
Ken Harrod from Release International
- 9 pm Finish

Renew & Refresh (R&R) by Sue Oldfield

What is R&R you may be asking?

Put simply, it is an opportunity for women of all ages to come and rest in God, knowing He cares and values us as His daughters. We will be able to get off the rollercoaster of our often busy lives and stop, reflect, pray, and also chat. We are following the examples of similar events run by other churches, although, unlike some of these, the afternoon will not be in silence! There will be a welcoming space in which to find quiet and peace, and there will be activities which aim to be relaxing, nurturing and creative.



During the afternoon, we will be employing some of our senses which we use less often in worship and prayer. One optional activity will be to make a small table centre flower arrangement: touch, sight and smell will help us appreciate God's beauty. Alternatively, you could consider God's beauty and the creativity He gives us, by choosing to learn Saishiko (simple embroidery), or by making cards (Christmas or other!) Another option will be to have your nails painted or have a hand massage, enjoying the touch and fellowship with that tangible reminder that we are special: to each other and to God. There will also



be an inspiring talk and refreshments.

We hope that this approach to communing with God and each other will appeal to many of you, and we pray that all those who come will be truly blessed. You may like to consider bringing a friend. Please pray for this new venture for us, before, during and after the event. It will take place on Saturday, 9 November from 2.00pm – 4.30pm, so save the date! Chat to any of us to find out more and/or book.

Sue O, Sue H, Val and Joyce

I am a Christian - a poem shared by Joyce Smith

When I say that “I am a Christian,”
I am not shouting that “I am clean living.”
I’m whispering, “I was lost, but now I’m found and forgiven.”

When I say that “I am a Christian,”
I don’t speak of this with pride.
I’m confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my Guide.

When I say that “I am a Christian,”
I’m not trying to be strong.
I’m professing that I’m weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say that “I am a Christian,”
I’m not bragging of success.
I’m admitting I have failed and need God to clean up my mess.

When I say that “I am a Christian,”
I’m not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I’m worth it.

When I say that “I am a Christian,”
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches so I call upon His name.

When I say that “I am a Christian,”
I’m not ‘holier than thou’.
I’m just a simple sinner who received God’s grace somehow!



While you're doing your shopping please remember the Littlehampton Foodbank and drop your goodies off in the yellow box at church. Here is the updated list:

- * Tinned fruit
- * Jam
- * Tinned tomatoes
- * Deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste
- * Tinned vegetables
- * Squash & UHT fruit juice
- * Biscuits
- * Rice pudding
- * Instant mash
- * Laundry detergent
- * Strong shopping bags
- * Tin openers

The Foodbank also needs financial help to buy essential items when stocks are low and to run the scheme, and also volunteer helpers. If you are interested, details are on their website. <https://littlehamptondistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Thank you!

Parkside in October

Tuesday	1	2.30pm	Home Group Meeting	
Wednesday	2	10.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm	Home Group Meeting Home Group Meeting Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	3	10.00am 10.30am 7.45pm	Oasis-Ladies Bible Study Service at St Winefride's Home Group	
Friday	4	7.30pm	Oasis-Ladies Bible Study	
Saturday	5	2.00pm	Arcade Knitters	
Sunday	6	10.30am 6.30pm	Harvest All Age Service with crèche Bring & Share Lunch Evening Service with Communion	Harvest Sunday Smyrna: Overcoming Tribulation
Monday	7	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	8	10.00am 2.30pm	Prayer Meeting Friendship Hour - Roger Collyer	
Wednesday	9	7.30pm 7.30pm	London City Mission Presentation Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	10	10.00am 7.30pm	Oasis-Ladies Bible Study Prayer Meeting	
Friday	11	7.30pm 7.30pm	Oasis-Ladies Bible Study Deacons Meeting	
Saturday	12			
Sunday	13	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service with Communion with crèche and children's groups Evening Service	Reach Out for Jesus Pergamos: Battling Balaam
Monday	14	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	15	10.00am 2.30pm	Elders Meeting Home Group Meeting	

Wednesday	16	10.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm	Home Group Meeting Home Group Meeting Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	17	10.00am 7.45pm	Oasis-Ladies Bible Study Home Group	
Friday	18	7.30pm	Oasis-Ladies Bible Study	
Saturday	19	2.00pm 6.30pm	Arcade Knitters Skittles & Fish 'n' Chips	
Sunday	20	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service with crèche and children's groups Evening Service with Communion	Count Everyone In Thyatira: Beware of Jezebel
Monday	21	9.30am 1.30pm	Pastoral Care Team Meeting Paradise	
Tuesday	22	10.00am 2.30pm	Prayer Meeting Friendship Hour - Trevor Smith	
Wednesday	23	7.30pm	Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	24	10.00am 7.30pm	Oasis-Ladies Bible Study Prayer Meeting	
Friday	25	11.00am 7.30pm	Service at Oakland Grange Oasis-Ladies Bible Study	
Saturday	26			
Sunday	27	10.30am 6.30pm	Morning Service with crèche and children's groups Evening Service with Communion	The Work of the Gideons Sardis: Living or Dead Church?
Monday	28	9.30am	Pastoral Care Team Meeting	
Tuesday	29	2.30pm	Home Group Meeting	
Wednesday	30	9.00am 10.00am 7.00pm 7.30pm	Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church Home Group Meeting Home Group Meeting Men's Bible Study	
Thursday	31	4.30pm 7.45pm	Light Party Home Group	

New Vision by David Nickless

Have you been to the optician lately? Most people who are 50+ wear some type of glasses or contact lenses for correcting eye problems. I was 21 when I began wearing glasses and what a change this made as everything became so much clearer and sharper. Those who have had cataracts removed say what a difference this makes as you begin to see bright colours and shapes so vividly again. It is like living in a new world of colour and light.

Losing our physical sight is a profound loss but for the Christian to have a clear spiritual vision and insight is far more important. Sadly not many people today are aware of the need to have their spiritual vision corrected and it's not just about how clearly we can see but

also the need to correct our perception.

Last summer I ventured up the British Airways 360 tower in Hove to see some incredible panoramic views of Brighton and the coastline. As you ascend

“Sadly not many people today are aware of the need to have their spiritual vision corrected...”

slowly you look down on many houses and shops, and I was surprised to see colourful art work on the roofs of some of the tallest buildings. There are some small picture-postcard squares with ornate buildings. The old West pier looks like a

rusty metal rack in the sea. At the end of a long coastline the Seven Sisters cliffs appear like jagged white teeth glistening in the sunlight. Looking north are the rolling South Downs with massive clouds like cotton wool clinging to the tops of the hills. My perception of Brighton changed when I saw this city in such a new way surrounded by amazing scenery.

As we read the Bible, with the Holy Spirit guiding us, our spiritual vision and perception changes. We see life in a different way and ourselves too.

What a difference this would make to us if we really saw our life and future from God's perspective.

In a world where many people view life through

the media and fake news it is no wonder that there is so much despair and hopelessness.

Far from being narrow-minded our Christian vision has an eternal perspective on life and in a fast-changing world we trust in God who is unchanging. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and

forever." This gives us hope and reassurance in the present, and into the future, whatever that may hold.

If we want to have a correct vision we need to fix our eyes on Jesus for He is the great eye specialist - the divine optician - Who is risen, exalted and reigning in heaven.

Let's take these words from a hymn and make them our prayer:

*Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art -
Thou my best thought,
by the day or by night,
waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light*

Thank You

A Big Thank You

To all at Parkside,
Thank you for all your prayers and best wishes I have been blessed to receive over the past six months.

Your prayers have been a great comfort to me and sustained me in the dark moment.

The good news is I am now on the road to recovery.

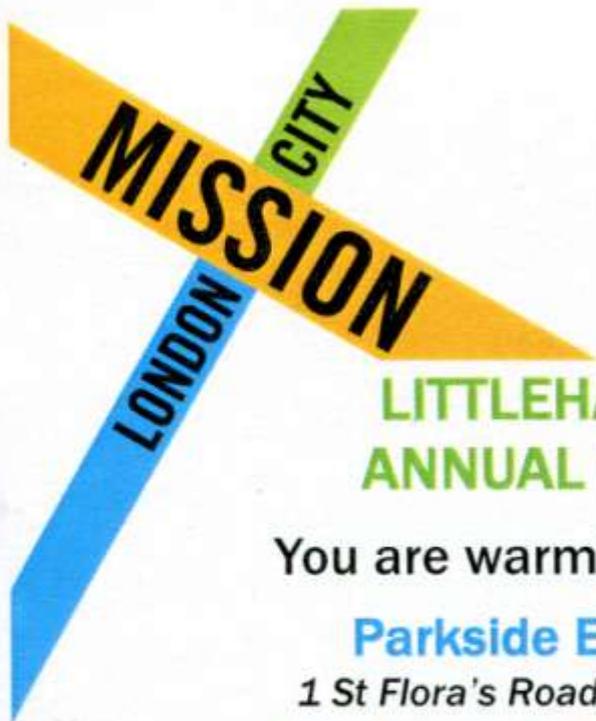
Thank you, *Ann Tyrer*



Another Big Thank You

To all at Parkside,
Thank you for all your prayers and support over the past months. The treatment on my eye has worked and I can now read the screen at the front of church again!

Thank you, *Sylvia Nichols*



BECAUSE LONDON NEEDS JESUS

LITTLEHAMPTON AREA ANNUAL PRESENTATION

You are warmly invited to join us at

Parkside Evangelical Church

1 St Flora's Road, Littlehampton, BN17 6BD

on **Wednesday 9th October 2019 at 7:30pm**

Chairman: Mr Malcolm Hyde

to hear about the work of the
London City Mission from:

John Dowling

London City Missionary working in Croydon, South London, undertaking gospel outreach in a diverse community with great social and gospel need, through door knocking, high street ministry, and other endeavours. John was born and grew up in South London so he has a real heart to see those in the area come to know their Lord and Saviour.



John Dowling

All are welcome - bring a friend!

LONDON CITY MISSION

☎ 0207 234 3590

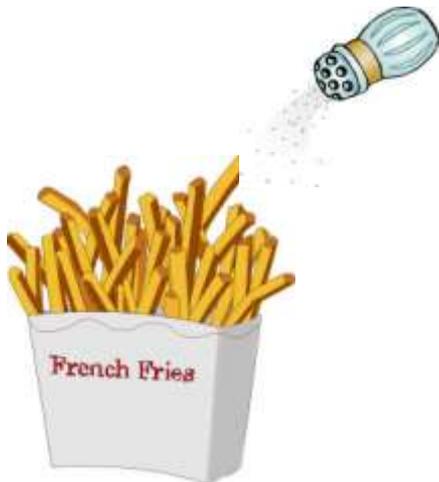
🌐 www.lcm.org.uk

✉ enquiries@lcm.org.uk



Fish, Chips and Skittles

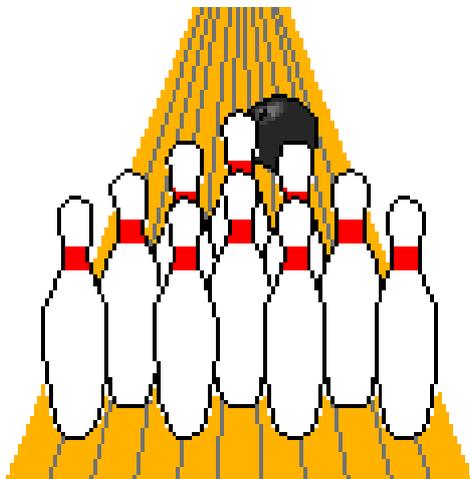
An evening



of



Fun, Food and Friendship
Saturday, 19th October 2019



at 6.30pm

Don't forget to sign up to order your
fish and chips!

Parkside Evangelical Church
1 St Flora's Road



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR LIGHT PARTY



For all Primary School aged children

Wednesday 31st

October

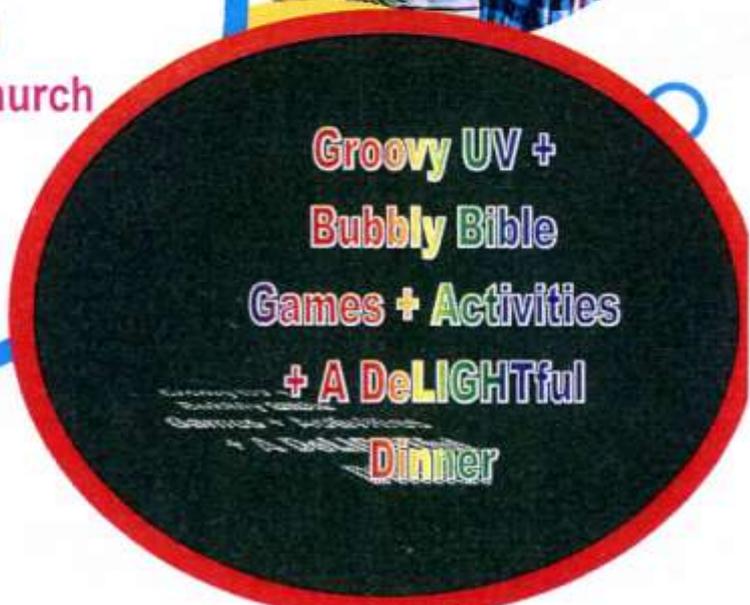
4.30 – 6.00pm

Parkside Evangelical Church

St Flora's Road

Littlehampton

BN17 6BD



Groovy UV +

Bubbly Bible

Games + Activities

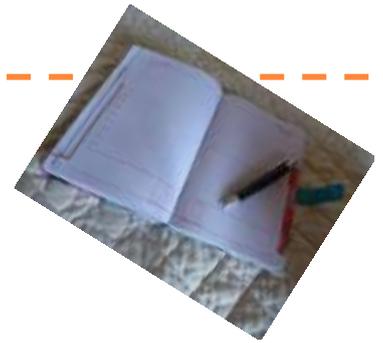
+ A DeLIGHTful

Dinner

Booking essential! Please ring Parkside Church on (01903 714670) or (01903 725374) to book your child's free place.

Each child will need to bring a plain white T-shirt to decorate.

Future Dates For Your Diary



Further details will be available nearer the time and please note that these events may be subject to change!

Items not included in previous issues or changed in some way are in bold.

6 October Harvest Bring & Share Lunch

9 October..... Littlehampton Area London City Mission Annual Presentation at Parkside, 7.30pm

19 October..... Skittles and fish 'n' chips Evening

30 October..... Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

31 October..... Light in the Night Party

9 November..... R&R see page 7 for further details

16 November..... Coffee Morning & Open Church

23 November..... Sussex Gospel Partnership Annual Conference, "A Praying Church", Burgess Hill

15 December Christingle Service

18 December Holiday at Home - American Christmas

20 December Local Carol Singing

21 December Carol Singing in the High Street

22 December Carol Services

2020 - 19 January.... Fellowship Meal

18 February Children's Workshop

25 March Holiday at Home

17 June Holiday at Home

24 June Prayer Retreat

11 July Parkside Church Day Out

October Meditation

“Come to Me, all of you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

“All of you, take up My yoke and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for yourselves. .

“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

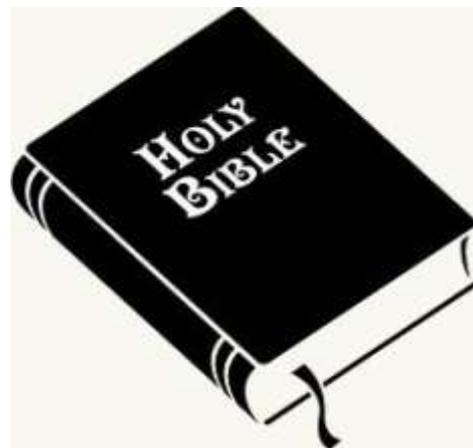
Matthew 11:28-30

1 St Floras Road, LITTLEHAMPTON, BN17 6BD

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Quote of the Month

Christians, like snowflakes,
are frail, but when they
stick together they can
stop traffic!

Vance Havner