

Sunday 12th
March 2017



Being Disciples by Rowan Williams

“The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, He said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to Him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where He was staying, and they remained with Him that day.” (John 1:36-39)

I have been reading Rowan Williams’ book *Being Disciples* and have found it very insightful into how we can all become better disciples. He says that discipleship is a state of being, it’s about how we live; not just the decisions we make, not just the things we believe, but a state of being. In the scripture above, it is very pertinent that the disciples remained with Him that day. What makes us good disciples is not just turning up from time to time, but abiding in Jesus’ love and remaining there.

One translation of discipleship is ‘being a student’ but we are not called to be the type of student who occasionally turns up to lessons or lectures, jots down a few notes and then goes back to their social life. We are called to be more like the student from the ancient world who hangs off their teacher’s every word not wanting to miss any pearls of wisdom, follows in their steps, watches their conduct at the table and in the street, commits themselves to living in the same atmosphere and breathing in the same air. There should be nothing half-hearted about it. The most fruitful disciples are placed where they are in order to be changed so that the way they see and experience the whole world changes.

‘Being where Jesus is means being in the company of the people whose company Jesus seeks and keeps. Jesus chooses the company of the excluded, the disreputable, the wretched, the self-hating, the poor, the diseased; so that is where you are going to find yourself. If you are going to be where Jesus is, if your discipleship is not intermittent but a way of being, you will find yourself in the same sort of company as He is in.’ These are

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Bringing Life to the Heart of 1066 Country, and beyond

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challenging words from Rowan Williams but we should not be alarmed. Jesus may call some of us to travel further afield but for most of us we should be seeking these people in our own communities and coming alongside them as He would do if He were physically here. He will be our guide and helper if we choose to abide in Him at all times.

'Being disciples means being in His company; learning stillness, attentiveness, expectancy; being willing to go where Jesus is going and to be in the company of those He's in company with. And it means letting the action come through, letting the relation be made; letting Christ's action come through us as the Father's act comes through Him.'

Much of this article came from the first chapter of Rowan Williams' book. As I said at the beginning, I have found it very helpful in looking at my own discipleship and my walk with Jesus. I am looking forward to learning more this weekend through the teaching weekend. Do let me know if you'd like to borrow the book!

Your servant in Christ

Jenny Dudgeon

News, notes and prayer-opportunities

● Please note **Friday morning coffee** has moved to the later time of 11am while Alpha is running. ● Pick up a booking form for the next **men's breakfast** on 1st April 8-9.30am with speaker Jo Marriott. ● The second **Lent Lunch** is this Wednesday 12-2pm at St Mary's Church in Battle. ● Date for your diary: **Women's breakfast** Saturday 20th May. ● Please pray for **Melvyn** this morning as he preaches at Newhaven. ● A helper is needed once a month in the **Sunday club at 5pm**. Please speak to Andy or Ben if you can help out.

Foodbank Update

Many thanks for your generous support of the foodbank. The volunteers who sort the food on Tuesdays have been overwhelmed by everyone's generosity.

We have had a couple of quieter weeks but would still value gifts of tinned fruit, custard, steamed puddings, coffee, rice pudding and fish and also shampoo, shower gel (just standard size bottles, please) and deodorants for men and women.

What's on this week...

Caterpillar Preschool (Monday to Friday) and Caterpillar Crew (Monday to Friday) plus:

Sunday, March 12th. ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering and communion plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 10.45am Chapel Gathering plus Creche & Sunday Club.

Monday, March 13th. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7.45pm: Elders meeting.

Tuesday, February March 14th. ● 9.15am: Prayer-for-Healing Group (prayer room). At 10.45am there will be prayer for all who come. ● 2pm: Tuesday Fellowship. Speaker: Eric Restall MAF. ● 6.30pm OpenDoors Lent Course.

Wednesday, March 15th. ● 10-1.30pm Games Emporium in the Manna House. £1. ● 12-2pm: Lent Lunch at St Mary's Church. ● 5-6pm: BBFC Youth training. ● 6pm: BBFC training at Claverham 3g. ● 7pm: Battle Baptist Runners meet at the church.

Thursday, March 16th. ● 9.15-11:45am Caterpillars Parent and Toddler Group. ● 7pm: Alpha.

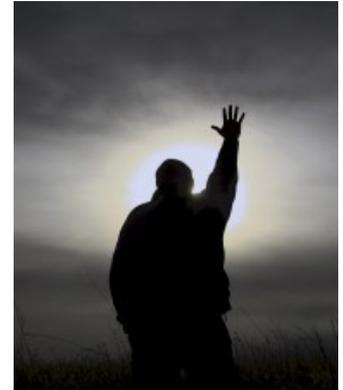
Friday, March 17th. ● 7.30am: Early Morning Prayer in the Youth Room followed by a 'do it yourself' breakfast. ● 9.15am Chatterbox for mums, dads and carers (upstairs). ● 9:15am: Alpha. ● 11am: Coffee Club (upstairs). ● 3.30-5pm: After School Club. ● 7-9pm: 4:12 Tramps Supper.

Sunday, March 19th. ● 8am Breakfast in the Manna House. ● 8.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 8.45am Chapel Gathering and communion plus Youth Group. ● 10am Refreshments in the Manna House. ● 10.20am: Pre-meeting Prayers in the prayer room. ● 10.45am Chapel Gathering plus Creche & Sunday Club. ● 5pm Informal Worship in the Chapel with Creche, Sunday Club and Youth Group. Refreshments from 4.30pm and after the service.

A prayer during Lent

Loving Lord,

Let me be aware of the many ways you reach out to help me today and let me stand in awe of the power that you use in such loving ways, Amen



This week's prayer pointers

- ◆ Pray for Ed and Craig as they visit Israel this week. Pray that relationships and contacts would be cemented and that both grow closer to God through the experience. Also remember their families in prayer.
- ◆ Thank God for the response to the SportsReach offering and sign up last Sunday. Pray that God would bless and multiply the offerings of time, money and prayer.
- ◆ Pray for our outreach to pre-school aged children. Pray that those involved in providing activities and running the pre-school would witness effectively, God's love and grace.

Dates for your diary

- ◆ 1st April Men's breakfast.
- ◆ 5th - 9th April: SportsReach
- ◆ 7.30-9pm: 2nd May Church AGM
- ◆ 20th May Ladies breakfast

Church maintenance issues: zionpremisesteam@gmail.com

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Ed Jones (Pastor) Francis Willoughby and Mark Hirst (Associate Pastors).

Our other elders: John Southam (Church Manager); Rob Duffill (Treasurer); Andy and Jo Garlick; Ben Garlick.

