

† LFC In Touch

Hello

Autumn 2021

As I look out of the window I see that the seasons are starting to change and that we are moving from Summer to Autumn..

With this in mind our theme this time is things that change and others that stay the same.

Change

We are all subjected to change on a daily basis, but, as a general rule, do you like change? A common answer to this might be 'well it depends on what it is' and of course that makes sense. However, there are those who welcome change with excitement whilst others avoid it as much as possible whether consciously or subconsciously.

Attributed to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, is the saying "the only thing constant is change". Change can bring about uncertainties, possibilities, happiness, fear, loss, conflict, rejection and many other positive and negative emotions, as well as open-mindedness, education, prospects and other benefits.

One thing we have discovered for ourselves over the last year or so is that loss of freedom restricts our choice, after all isn't that one of the penalties of being imprisoned, and our isolation may have been a bit like that – Imprisonment. There are endless reasons which govern the choices we have, responsibilities, finances, health, abilities, talents, personality, life circumstances and so on.

Sometimes we hear it said 'that was a coincidence' or 'we were just in the right /wrong place at the right/wrong time'. As Christians we believe that God already has a plan for us even before we are born so there are no coincidences. You may well have experienced making a phone call to someone who just at that moment needed that call. Likewise you may remember something someone has said to you, in that moment when you needed to hear it. When people say 'I just had a hunch' – as Christians, these hunches are mostly not hunches but the working of the Holy Spirit, directing our lives. We believe everything changes except God, for it is his abiding presence that sustains us and it is him whom we can always trust and turn to.



My name is Chris and 6 years ago I was at work, and suddenly I thought....I am in the wrong place doing the wrong thing. I need to get out of here. I wasn't sure how I was going to make it work as I had commitments, and anyway what was I going to do with all that free time?

I started praying about it, and just over a year later I left my job, with a vision of getting people together at Langley Free Church. Mainly to be able to open up the church to anybody that wanted a bit of company, friendship, fun and refreshments. Also, with the hope that if anyone needed prayer, then by mentioning it to a member of the team, we could help with that too.

In July 2016 the Monday group opened up, for a couple of hours over the lunchtime period. Up until Covid restrictions it was well attended, and we enjoyed a lot of laughs and Companionship.

During the past 18 months, I have had a lot of time to think, and this has led to a bit of a revamp. I am pleased to announce that a new group called 'MONDAYS', has started up. I hope that people will come and join us, anytime between 10.30am and 2.45pm.

Pop in for Tea/Coffee and biscuits, or bring your own lunch and stay for longer. We hope that you will find a warm friendly atmosphere, and that new friendships may be formed. There will be board games, table tennis, and puzzles available too, but if you would like to bring a craft or hobby with you, please feel free to do so.

Hope to see you soon

Project Possible



Although when Cyrus king of Persia comes to rule in Babylon he releases the exiled Jewish people to return to Jerusalem (Ezra 1:1-3), it is not until around 20 years later that the work of Nehemiah to rebuild the walls occurs. After a secret inspection at night he convenes a meeting of the local leaders:

Be the spark "Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace." I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, "Let us start rebuilding." So they began this good work. (Nehemiah 2:17,18)

The small Christian charity involved in overseas social action which many of you have supported over the years, previously called Rope, has become Project Possible. Things are changing. The world and its needs are changing. God blessed the exiles return under Ezra. The temple was rebuilt. Worship resumed. Yet Nehemiah, under 'God's gracious hand', comes in to re-invigorate the rebuilding work.

After 30 years as Rope the natural development of our work had shifted even more towards partnering tightly focused projects to support ideas from local communities and individuals that lift them out of disadvantageous, impoverished and challenging circumstances. The renaming of the charity as Project Possible is a fulfilment of God's blessing on the work and His obvious heart's desire to set us on course to help communities over the next 30 years or more.

Just as Nehemiah challenged the leaders to get involved and organised all the teams of everyday people to rebuild, we too are asking you to be ever more enthusiastic to help rebuild people's and children's lives in the oft-forgotten communities of the world.



Mohammad preparing food

We are inviting you to be the spark; "In the small corners of the world, people with a tough start in life are making their move. They have ambition, the ideas to make life better. But they need someone to back them, to be their 'spark'." For example, be the spark for the Good Food Apprentices of Worcester, South Africa:

Addictions and gang life left us feeling trapped and isolated. Growing up in broken homes, with little money or opportunities we ended up doing things that

we regret - but deep down we wanted a better life. Yet it's hard to make a fresh start when no-one believes in you.

"Project Possible helped us kick our addictions and now they're giving us the opportunity to develop usable skills in catering and horticulture. Throughout the pandemic we've had the chance to work in a weekly soup kitchen, serving food to local people in need. Now we can't wait to begin to learn the art of growing organic vegetables, preparing delicious meals and running a pop-up restaurant."



Soup kitchen

Meet the challenge of change. Keep rebuilding lives in other parts of the world. Be an ongoing spark for one of our 'Next generation projects', hands-on, early-stage nurturing projects.

www.projectpossible.org.uk/next-generation-projects

Thank you Langley Free Church for endorsing your pastor, Rev John Bernard, to become a trustee of Project Possible this year. We so value his God inspired contribution into the work.

Tony Houghton, Trustee, Project Possible.

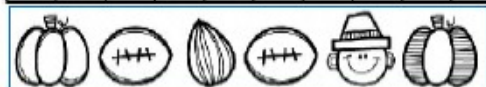
ONE

ANOTHER

LOVE

START

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



Direction Puzzle

For example, F → → ↓ = Q

I	G	E	C	X	D
K	H	P	W	V	Y
H	X	R	Y	M	T
F	L	Z	E	K	C
D	T	Q	H	O	E
N	J	W	S	U	B

1. S ← ← ↑ = ____

2. G ↓ ↓ ← = ____

3. L → ↑ ↑ ↑ = ____

4. O ↑ ↑ → = ____

5. F → → ↑ = ____

6. J → → → = ____

7. V ↓ ↓ ← = ____

8. Z ↑ → ↑ → = ____

9. P ← ← ↑ = ____

10. Q ↓ ← ← = ____

11. M ↓ ↓ → = ____

Jesus said, 'I am _____

Do you know where this verse is located?



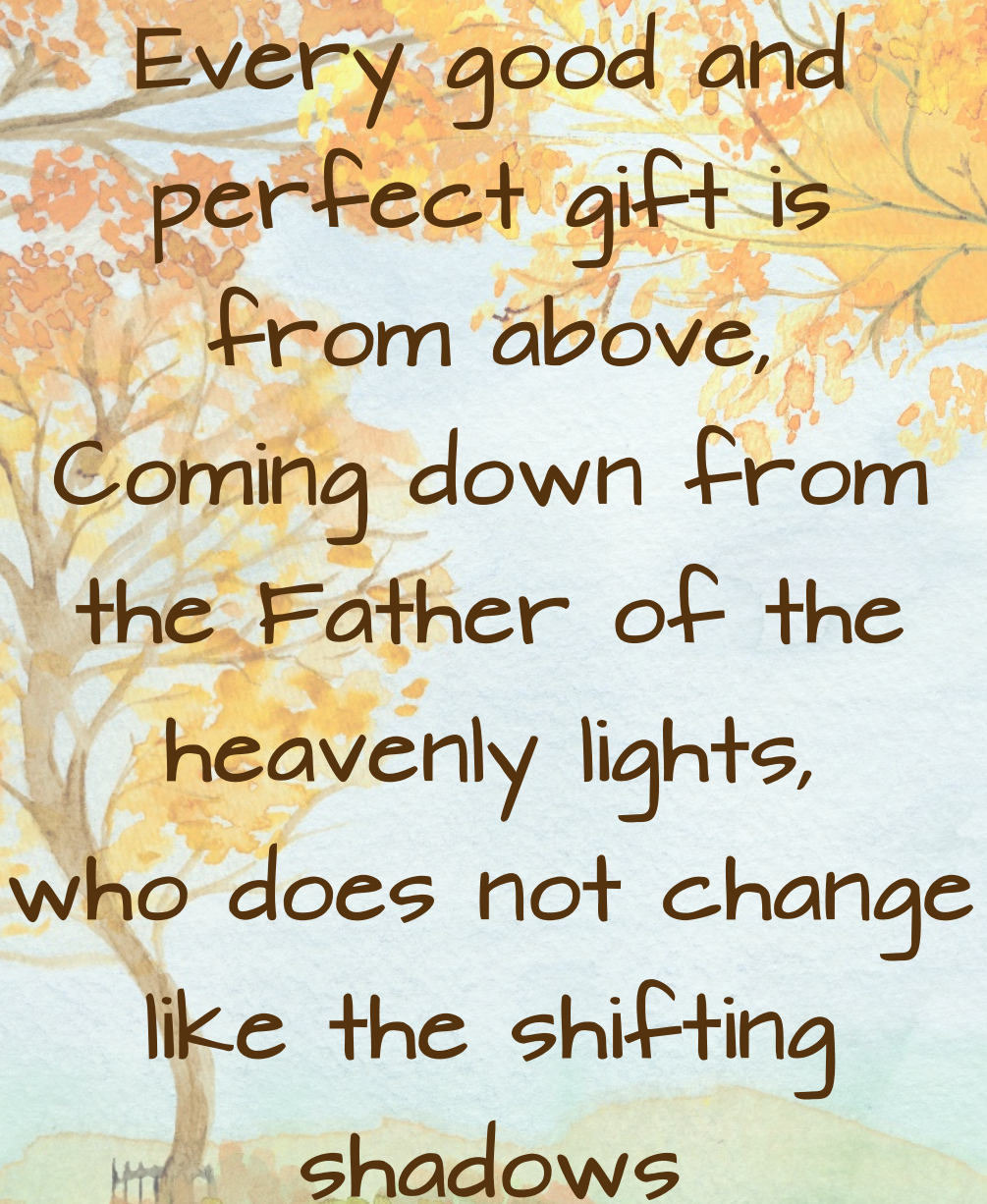
O	E	R	D	E	L	I	V	E	R	E	R	E	T
H	L	O	R	D	Y	S	R	A	H	P	L	A	D
E	M	T	A	F	A	T	H	E	R	A	M	A	J
G	N	I	K	B	E	L	E	U	N	A	M	M	E
D	O	G	I	T	B	H	O	O	R	E	A	Y	S
R	T	R	U	T	H	A	R	O	I	V	A	S	U
E	D	A	G	E	M	O	O	M	A	O	P	C	S
P	L	T	R	I	N	I	T	Y	M	L	P	H	G
L	A	U	M	O	S	T	H	I	G	H	L	R	R
E	N	W	M	I	G	H	T	Y	O	N	E	I	O
H	R	B	R	I	D	E	G	R	O	O	M	S	S
O	E	M	C	G	H	A	L	M	I	G	H	T	Y
H	T	G	G	L	E	H	E	W	H	A	Y	H	I
O	E	R	F	R	A	D	V	O	C	A	T	E	L

The Names

of God

How many different names for God can you find?

There are more than 20 hidden here!



Every good and
perfect gift is
from above,
Coming down from
the Father of the
heavenly lights,
who does not change
like the shifting
shadows

James 1:17

Message from Pastor John

There are not many things we can be sure of in life, we may spend most of our time feeling that things are out of control. The last 18 months of living with the Covid pandemic have been difficult in many ways; some people have lost loved ones, others have been hospitalised because of Covid while other people have struggled to contend with the various lockdowns and restrictions.

The scripture verse below reminds us that no matter who we are or what we are going through, both individually and collectively, we know a God who is unchanging and always there for us. If ever there was a scripture to draw encouragement from, this would be it.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” Hebrews 13:8

This is a foundational truth written in heaven, Jesus does not change. He will not change his views and values. He will not revoke his offer of unconditional love and grace. As the world gets increasingly worse, Jesus is the anchor that will keep us safe until the very end of the age.

Amen

I have included a YouTube link below of a song which relates to this scripture passage called ‘Yesterday, today and forever’ sung by Geraldine Latty.

<https://youtu.be/4kQjEiY30yl>

With every blessing

Pastor John

LFC In Touch ‘Notices’

Please feel free to join us at any of the following activities

Sunday Service	Sunday 10.30 am (also available on live stream)
MONDAYS	Monday 10.30am - 2.45pm charge £2
Toddler group	Wednesday 9am - 11am charge £1
Oasis	Wednesday 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Small group (bible study)	Thurs am 10.30am (home group) Thurs pm 7.30pm (church building)
Chat Caf	1 st & 3 rd Saturday of month 10am - 12pm
Craft Afternoons	3 rd Sat of month 12pm - 4pm

For further information go to our website or the Langleyfreechurch Facebook page. If you want to know more about any of these activities contact us at intouch@langleyfree.org.uk

Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the grace to accept
the things I cannot change,
the Courage to change the things I can,
and the Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time,
accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it.
Trusting that you will make all things right,
If I surrender to your will,
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
and supremely happy with you forever
in the next.

Amen.

We hope you have enjoyed the this edition of In Touch and would very much like your views on it and any suggestions for future issues. Please take a minute to email them to intouch@langleyfree.org.uk or pop a note to In Touch in the church letter box Thank you,