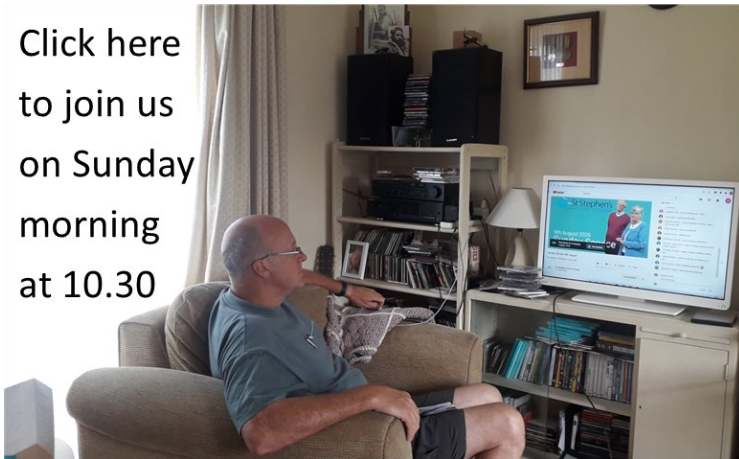


Church Without Walls

Issue 20 August 16th 2020

Click here
to join us
on Sunday
morning
at 10.30



The Accused: Damned or Devoted?

Is a BBC4 Storyville documentary first broadcast on 2nd March this year. It's available on iPlayer till the end of this month.

It has been recommended to us by a friend of Dave's, who ministers in Pakistan. He says "it is shocking to watch and will give you insight to the major issues Christians face in Pakistan"



The documentary follows the stories and fates of four people accused of blasphemy. The most famous of them is Asia Bibi, a Christian woman who was falsely accused of blasphemy by her Muslim co-workers after a disagreement.

As the world awaits the outcome of Asia Bibi's trial, Khadim Hussain Rizvi uses the blasphemy law as a key platform to run for prime minister of Pakistan in the upcoming elections. Amidst the hysteria, those who oppose him and even his own followers become pawns in the ultimate quest for power.

Watch it [here](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000fzpl/storyville-the-accused-damned-or-devoted) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000fzpl/storyville-the-accused-damned-or-devoted>

Please keep emailing in your thoughts and ideas for this newsletter. We want to hear each other's stories and see photos of each other, especially whilst we're still not able to mix and chat as much as we would like.



Have you any pictures of you or your family watching the online service? Or photos taken locally during lockdown - of you or of the area around us? We'd love to see them.

Send to administrator@ststephenspreston.org.uk

Online Services Survey

If you are a member of the church family & we have your correct email address you should have received a survey about our online services. If you have not yet filled in & returned this, please could you do so as soon as possible? If you haven't had a survey you can find one here:

[Survey 1—for church family members](#)

[Survey 2—for people who have begun to watch our services during lockdown](#)

Please send your completed surveys to church@ststephenspreston.org.uk

Remember to give this number to anyone you know who would appreciate being able to hear a message of hope at this time



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



**This week please
pray for the people
living in Riverside**

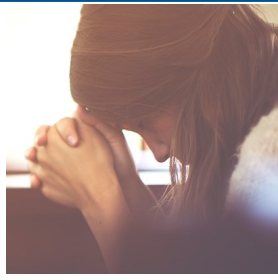


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The Habit of Prayerlessness

It's all too easy to slip into the habit of prayerlessness, yet prayer is (or ought to be) the central feature of the Christian life. Prayer is vital; not only for our own survival as individual Christians, but also for the life of the church.



After all, if we claim to be God's people, trusting in Him as our Father, we will talk to Him as His children, thanking and praising Him for all His provision for us, and asking Him to meet our needs.

One question we need to ask ourselves is: why do we pray?

Here are some reasons why Christians pray:

We know that God is our creator and we rely on Him for everything we have; so we pray for what we need and thank Him for what we have.

We know we are sinners, but that God is merciful; so we repent and pray for forgiveness.

We know we are weak and can achieve very little on our own, but God is powerful and can do far more than we could ever imagine; so we pray for His help.

We know that we are children of God, and that He is our loving Father who delights to hear our prayers; so we pray and praise Him for His love for us.

But if we have got into the habit of not praying, then we need to ask: why do we **not** pray?

The reasons we don't pray are the direct opposite of those above:

We think we are self-sufficient; so we don't need to ask our creator for anything, and we've no need to thank anyone for what we've gained ourselves.

We think we are basically good; so we presume God owes us, and there's nothing we need forgiveness for.

We think we are strong, and can achieve what we need by ourselves; so we don't need His help.

We think we are not really God's children; so we assume He doesn't want to listen to us.



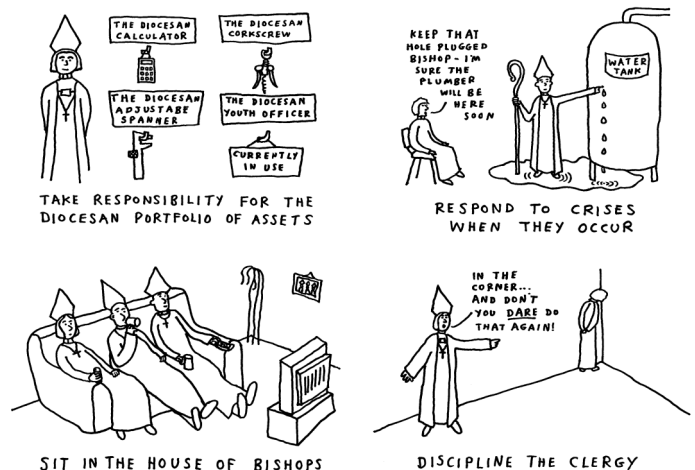
The Bible Society of Lebanon has asked for prayer after the blast that hit the capital Beirut last week

The Society's offices were damaged by the explosion but all of the staff are safe and have begun to clear up broken glass and other wreckage.

In a statement, the Society said: 'We praise God for the safety of our colleagues. We also ask you to join us in continuing to pray for the team serving with the Bible Society in Lebanon, for all people in Beirut who are injured or who have family and loved ones who died in the explosion, for the process of repairing the Bible Society Centre, and for the continued ministry of the Bible Society in Lebanon of sharing Scripture at this time.'

Just in case you were wondering...

BISHOPS WHAT THEY DO



CartoonChurch.com

The Preston Churches in Prayer



Tuesday morning Prayer Meetings:
now on zoom at 7.30am

Please email Andy Pratt for an invitation:
andrewpratt1@btinternet.com

Warehouse Clearance

10 of Those need to clear space in their warehouse for Christmas stock! (132 days to go at the time of writing)
So they are selling lots of books at knock-down prices.

[See here for more details](#)

10 of those.com

 **St Stephen's**
LEARNING TO LOVE AS JESUS DOES