

ST PETER'S MILTON.

Part of the Four-fold vision of this church from 2002, but may need refreshing.

Last time.

CARING – For God's Honour and Name; for God's People; for God's World and for God's Mission. Key verse: 1 Peter 5v7 ' *Casting all your care upon Him because He cares for you.*' Song: Cast your burdens onto Jesus because He cares for you. Higher, higher, lift up Jesus higher...

The full list is CARING, SHARING, GROWING AND SHOWING.

The original words on your vision sheet gave the following under Sharing:

- a) To use our gifts to His glory. To share our faith and the 'Good News' in our homes, at work and with those we meet each day.
- b) To share our concerns and fears with sensitivity, love and in the grace of God.
- c) To encourage each other by sharing through testimony the good things that God is doing amongst us.

As I reflected on these aspects of sharing, I could identify the following:

1. First discover, develop and then use our gifts – spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit from the Ascended Christ as indicated in Ephesians 4v11-16 especially. These would take some time to unpack but the goal is every member ministry and growing up to maturity with Christ as our Head and each of us as active members of the Body of Christ. Currently LCC is looking at Gifts and Ministries over the next 2 months.
2. Sharing our faith in Jesus and the Gospel of Salvation, which is the Good News for everyone. We are called to start where we are living and working. However, we need the power of the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised to his waiting, praying disciples in Acts 1v8 '***But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you***

Vision 2. SHARING.

shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.'

3. Sharing our Concerns and Fears. With whom? If we only share them with each other then we can become overloaded but God is the One with whom we can share them best. He can carry them all. However, a burden shared is a burden halved and a joy or blessing shared is one doubled! Remember 1 Peter 5v7 ***Cast your care upon HIM because He cares for you.*** And Matthew 11v28,29 '***Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest... Take my yoke upon you and learn from me.. for My yoke is easy (well-fitting) and my burden is light'***. God's grace is so important but there is another sermon! GRACE is **God's Riches At Christ's Expense** – God's undeserved favour. We cannot earn or deserve it.
4. Sharing through Testimony to bring Mutual encouragement. Especially we can share answers to prayer and '***Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...***' Psalm 107. It is great when we can have a testimony time in church. It gives us hope and stirs us up to love and good works (Hebrews 10v24,25. ***Let us not forget to meet together but let us stir up one another to love and good works....*** STIR UP SUNDAY just before Christmas)

Remember 'What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear, What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!'

'God has not given us a spirit of fear but a Spirit of love, power and self-control' 2 Timothy 1v6,7. Paul's words to Timid Timothy.

But what about our Bible Readings for Today?

Isaiah 58v6-12. Here the prophet Isaiah reminds God's people that God is not so well impressed by their fancy liturgy or worship, their expensive sacrifices or their physical fasting. Instead God is looking for a compassionate heart to care and share with the poor, the hungry and even our own flesh & blood. **Then** God promises to hear our prayers, heal our bodies and provide for our needs. There is a call here to a Rebuilder, a

Restorer and a Repairer of what is broken. One TV programme that we love is 'The Repair Shop' with a team of expert restorers who work on family heirlooms – rocking horse, clock, vase, child's car, etc. We are similarly called to Restore lives, families and communities. *(These verses provided part of my call to Ministry especially in the Inner City from the 1970s till now)*

Romans 12v9-21 Paul's exhortation to love and peace come after his majestic and full explanation of God's grace and mercy to broken, sinful humans. V1,2 He appeals to us to offer our lives as living sacrifices to God as our spiritual worship. Be transformed by the renewal of our minds, not conformed to this world, and then discover and use our gifts faithfully to serve others (v3-8). Then, Paul encourages us to live out our Christian lives faithfully loving, sharing, caring, seeking peace and harmony with all, wherever possible. In particular there is a call to share our time with others and (in different times to now) through sharing our homes in generous hospitality. This is one way of welcoming others into the family of God.

Do you remember where you were in September 2001 when the Twin Towers were set alight by the two hijacked planes? 3 days later, I remember being with a mixed group of people in a Children's Centre in Sparkbrook, Birmingham. We had 2 minutes silence and at the end I read out the last verse from this chapter '***Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.***' Romans 12v21.

Some other Scriptures and Thoughts:

Luke 12v13-21. The Parable of the Rich Fool. Jesus warns about the dangers of greed and not sharing.

Luke 12v22-34. Jesus encourages us to Seek First His Kingdom and then all we need will come to us. So, do not worry.... Song: Do not worry about your life...

Share with the Trinity – develops peace and comfort and support as we pray.

Share both our sorrows and our joys – Romans 12v15 rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn. 2 Corinthians 1v3-11 The God of all Comfort
Share the Peace and the Right Hand of Fellowship. 2 Cor.13v13. The grace.
Share the Good News = Jesus, who alone can truly change us and our situations for good.

Summary for Application.

SHARE WITH THE TRINITY – PRAY to the Lord about our fears, our anxieties. We also share with God in Communion.

SHARE WITH EACH OTHER – our gifts and encouragement and God's peace. TESTIFY.

SHARE WITH THE WORLD – Jesus, the Good News of Peace with God. TELL & LIVE (eg. Online Alpha?)

Children's Song: Our God is a great big God.

Our God is a great big God. X3
And He holds us in His hands.

He's higher than a skyscraper; He's deeper than a submarine
He's wider than the universe; He's beyond my wildest dreams.
But He knows me and He loves me; Before the World began.
How wonderful to be a part of God's amazing Plan!

Simon Holloway.. October 2020. Simontholloway55@yahoo.co.uk

DEFINITIONS:

SHARING is the joint use of a resource or space. It can also mean giving something as an outright gift. For example share one's food = give some as a gift.

SHARE

Noun. 1. A part or portion of a larger amount, which is divided among a number of people or to which several people contribute or invest

2. one of the equal parts into which a company's capital is divided, entitling the holder to a proportion of the profits eg. See shares in BT.

Verb. Have a portion of something with others.

Cambridge English Dictionary

Share: 2+ share an activity = each do some of it eg. Share the driving, share party preparation

Dictionary.com:

Share, partake, participate = join with others or receive in common with others (eg Holy Communion)

Share = give or receive part of something or enjoy/assume something in common eg. Fellowship

Share another's experience, partake = take a portion for own use eg. Partake of food.

SHARE

Your life with someone

Your faith with others

Your joy

Christ's throne

Sacred space

Fair shares,

Market Share

Shares in a company = investments

Common Share = Diocesan Quota

Share nature, share the road, share ownership, share DNA, share screens

Shared values – agreed by all

'sharing is caring' eg share food = care for the hungry person.

POEM. 'Sharing is Caring'

Sharing is caring for others
Caring for our joint space on this earth.
We share this world with other people, but also with animals, fish and birds who also need the plants and trees, rivers and oceans...
This is God's world. He made it and He sustains it
but has given us a share in caring for it also.

Sharing is caring for others
It means that we share our homes, our lives, our food with those in need. The lonely, the hungry, the stranger.
We also share with the broken-hearted, the depressed, the hurting people the source of wholeness and well-being.
Jesus is good news for all people. He came to proclaim good news to the poor, to free the oppressed, to give sight to the blind and announce the year of God's favour.

Sharing is caring for God's honour and name in our world.
Speaking up for truth and justice, looking out for those in need and praying for His kingdom to come and for His will to be done now on earth as it is in heaven.

Sharing is praying for all people to come to know that God cares for them and has sent Jesus to share His life and through His death to provide forgiveness and peace with God the Father.

Sharing is giving and receiving from each other.
We all need each other in this fragile world. None of us was made to go it alone. Sharing bread and wine reminds us of the source of our unity, our fellowship and our connection with the Father through His Son in the power of His Spirit.

Sharing is loving our neighbour as ourselves. We cannot love others unless we also love ourselves. We can only love ourselves when we know that God truly loves us also.
And as we do this sharing, God promises wonderful things: Guidance, provision, protection, health, answered prayer.

Share our lives with God our Maker; both our joys and sorrows. Pray about everything.
Share our joys and sorrows also with each other,
halve the burden and double the blessing.
Share our faith with others so that God's kingdom will come now, on earth as in heaven.

Selah.

Some Scriptures: Isaiah 58; Romans 12; Ephesians 4v1-16; 2 Corinthians 1; Luke 12; Acts 1v8; Isaiah 61; Deuteronomy 6.

Simon Holloway. 4 October 2020

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SHARE WITH THE WORLD – Jesus, the Good News of Peace with God. TELL & LIVE (eg. Online Alpha?)

SAFE HANDS.

By Ben Holloway aged 13 years.

A basket ball in my hands is worth about £19.
A basket ball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about £33 million.

It depends whose hands it's in.

A tennis racket is useless in my hands.
A tennis racket in Pete Sampras's hands is a Wimbledon Champion.

It depends whose hands it's in.

A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.
A rod in Moses' hands will part a mighty sea.
It depends whose hands it's in.

A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.
A sling shot in David's hands is a mighty weapon.
It depends whose hands it's in.

Two fish and five loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.
Two fish and five loaves of bread in Jesus' hands will feed thousands.
It depends whose hands it's in.

Nails in my hands might produce a birdhouse.
Nails in Jesus Christ's hands will produce salvation for the entire world.

It depends whose hands it's in.

As you see now it depends whose hands it's in. So put your concerns, worries, your fears, your hopes, dreams, your family and your relationships in God's hands, because.....it depends whose hands it's in.

With His hands, you're in safe hands.

OUR GOD IS A GREAT BIG GOD

Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
Our God is a great big God
And He holds us in His hands!

He's higher than the skyscraper
Deeper than a submarine
Wider than the universe
Beyond my wildest dreams
And He knows me and He loves me
Since before the world began.
How wonderful to be a part
Of God's amazing plan