

# Petersfield and Liss URC

## 'In Touch'



## The Second Sunday of Advent

# PEACE

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
2020



## Hello and Welcome

### God's got this

**'When they call on Me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble.'** Psalm 91v15 NLT

When we're going through a tough time, it can sometimes feel like God's silent. We might think that He's forgotten us, or that He's leaving us to face it alone. But that's not true. He's always with us.

The Bible says: 'The Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you' (Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV). He's not only always with us, but He also promises to answer every time we call on Him. 'When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble.' We're not always going to get the answer we want, or when we want it. God will answer in His own timing, and in the best way.

We might feel like we've been left, but the reality is that God's working. When we're struggling to remember that, we need to think back to all the times He's come through for us before. The more we reflect on His faithfulness, the more we'll begin to trust Him in the situation we're facing. It's also important to remember that when God answers, the trouble doesn't always disappear. So why doesn't He always calm the storms in our lives when He has the power to do so?

Maybe it's because He wants us to learn something from it, or so He can bring something good out of the situation afterwards. Romans 8:28 says: 'In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose' (NIV). The good He'll bring from it will advance us and the kingdom, as well as glorify Him. So when we're wondering where God is, and if He's hearing our prayers, we can remember that He's working and still in control.

© 2019 UCB Ltd 'Word for Today' written by Bob & Debbie Gass

**If you are in need of any assistance during this time, we are more than happy to help out, whether you need some items of shopping or just a chat, please do call one of us on the numbers listed below.**

Josh – 01730 263433, Carol – 01730 893489, Jo – 01730 301377,  
Esmé – 01730 266636

### Psalm 30 v 1-7, 11-12 - NIV

- 1 I will exalt you, Lord,  
for you lifted me out of the  
depths  
and did not let my enemies gloat  
over me.
  - 2 Lord my God, I called to you for  
help,  
and you healed me.
  - 3 You, Lord, brought me up from the  
realm of the dead;  
you spared me from going down  
to the pit.
  - 4 Sing the praises of the Lord, you  
his faithful people;  
praise his holy name.
  - 5 For his anger lasts only a moment,  
but his favor lasts a lifetime;  
weeping may stay for the night,  
but rejoicing comes in the  
morning.
- When I felt secure, I said,  
"I will never be shaken."
- 7 Lord, when you favored me,  
you made my royal mountain[c]  
stand firm;  
but when you hid your face,  
I was dismayed.
  - 11 You turned my wailing into  
dancing;  
you removed my sackcloth and  
clothed me with joy,
  - 12 that my heart may sing your  
praises and not be silent.  
Lord my God, I will praise you  
forever.

## Being in control

My eldest daughter Ruth and her partner Jonno got married last July. They got married in a barn in Sussex: a civil ceremony followed by a blessing. (I did the blessing and I was very excited!) After the formal ceremony, we went into the courtyard for coffee whilst the room was prepared for food, and after the food that same room housed a barn dance. Of course, things are a lot different these days. When I married, I married from home and my mum and dad were heavily involved in all the preparations.

These days with so many couples already sharing their lives it is often the couple themselves who carry out the bulk of the arrangements, and certainly this is how it was with Ruth and Jonno. Yes, I went with Ruth to help her choose her wedding dress, but things such as flowers, catering and seating arrangements had all been organised by the couple themselves. Understandably, Ruth wanted everything to be perfect, not just for her and Jonno. But also for the guests, and she wanted to be in control. In the nicest possible way, she wanted to be at the barn on the morning of the wedding, supervising the flowers and the lights and the arrangement of the cupcakes, but she couldn't because she was busy having her hair and make-up beautifully done and being dressed by her mum and her bridesmaid. I keep telling her, it would all be fine, but she just wanted to double-check, and she found it increasingly frustrating to have to let go and let other people take responsibility.

Letting go – letting someone else do something that either we know we are good at, or we want to do ourselves – is never easy. But letting go achieves two things. It encourages trust – trust in someone else, and it encourages growth – encouraging someone else to develop and achieve his or her own potential. And it removes some of the worry and responsibility from our lives.

Just before he died, Jesus put a towel around his waist and, like a servant, washed his disciples' feet. That simple action teaches us two things.

1. We must learn how to serve other people, and
2. Sometimes we must allow other people to serve us

We all have gifts and skills and we should use these gifts and skills for the good of other people, but we must learn to stand back sometimes so that we can encourage and enable the gifts and skills of others.

©2013 Rosemary's Ramblings

## Two Saints

As we are getting into this Christmas Season, celebrating the most precious gift from God to us, by giving us His Son. We are once again supporting **Two Saints** and bringing joy to their clients. They would love the following items to help their clients. Practical things like shower gel, shampoo, socks, scarf, hats etc, as well as luxury items like biscuits, chocolate, nice snacks etc. You don't need to stick to this list, but any gift will help. Please don't seal the presents, but put it either in a gift bag or wrapped it around with a gift paper without sealing. Two Saints will seal it, as they need to know what are the gifts.

You can drop your items at the church office on Tuesdays, from 8<sup>th</sup> December, between 9.30am and 12:30pm. The deadline to drop off items will be Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. The church office will be open once a week (Tuesdays), due to the lockdown tier restrictions.

## Many thanks The Church Office

## Christmas Card

Thank you very much to those of you who have already sent me messages for the Church Christmas card. If you would like to include a message, there is still time, but please let me have it by this coming Sunday 6 December.

## Many thanks Mary Evans

