



## Bulletin 16

I remember, as a child, being given part of the garden to look after and grow things in. I cleared it, dug it over and then felt rather disappointed after all my labours. Nothing was growing in it. I remember planting some seeds and inspecting them each day, but nothing showed. So, in my impatience I picked the flower-heads off my mother's favourite tulips and placed them in the ground on my patch. I then went very excitedly to get my mother to show her my beautiful garden. You can imagine her response as the tulip flower-heads had already started to wilt.... Patience has rarely been one of my natural virtues!

**Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**

But we do well to realise as Christians that fruitfulness takes time. St Paul wrote to the Colossian church in these terms:

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. Colossians 1:9-12*

One very much gets the impression here of the pastor *growing* his congregation. As a home group, Nicky sent everyone a pack of chilli pepper seeds at the beginning of the lock down. We are all going to meet for a chilli-con-carnie supper, using our chillies, to celebrate when the pandemic is at last under control. It's taken five months for our labours to come to fruition. Even then, some of us still have no chillies yet! We do have some flowers though!

I don't know about you, but I find myself increasingly frustrated by the shackles we're experiencing in our church life. I just want to get back to normal **NOW!** But in the midst of these trying times I am aware (in my more positive moments!) that fruit is beginning to be born out of our adversity and frustration. James writes:

**i.e. be patient and let the Lord cultivate these things in you!**

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything, not lacking anything. James 1:1-4*

Quite soon I'm going to try and set aside a morning or an afternoon in a place that is immune to the hustle and bustle of the day and take time out to think through what we have travelled through and what we have learned by it. In short, what the Lord has been working on within me to bring my life to a greater fruitfulness. Like my childhood tulip heads, I don't think it's something that can just be lifted and dumped on a page. I think I will need time and space to reflect and perceive. Then, the important bit, not just to recognise, but to *capitalise* on the lessons learned. To cultivate them so that they may bear lasting (not wilting!) fruit and beauty. I hope to lead us in either a physical or zoom gathered meeting towards the end of the summer to help us all do the same that we might bear increasing fruit in our church and community. I'll publicise details later.

And in the meantime, here's what's on to support us through the days of summer by way of gathering together online or in person.

Every blessing in Christ,  
Rev Karl

## Services and Online Gatherings at Emmanuel and St Paul's over August and early September

*Services you can attend in church are in blue  
& those on Facebook are in red*

### **WEEKDAYS:**

- 9.00am** ***Monday – Saturday: Morning Prayers at 9.00am on Facebook ‘Go Live’***  
*(From September we will probably have it earlier in the morning at a time to be decided).*
- 10.30am** ***On Wednesdays: An informal service breaking the Word & Bread together at 10.30am at Emmanuel Church,*** using both bread and wine (in individual cups) to celebrate the Lord's grace, mercy and covenant of salvation. *25 individuals or more if seated in households.*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFpVqkyXFy4>
- 9.00pm** ***Every day of the week: Compline at 9.00pm will be on Facebook ‘Go Live’***  
the Emmanuel and St Paul's page and available afterwards as a recording.
- 10-12Noon** ***Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, Open for Personal Prayer at St Paul's.***

### **SUNDAYS:**

- 8.00am** ***A simple service of Holy Communion in Emmanuel Church,*** (At the moment, legally, this has to be with bread only). *Capacity: 25 individuals or more if seated in households.*
- 10.30am** ***OUR MAIN GATHERING,***  
***...breaking the Word & Bread together, on Facebook ‘Go Live’.***
- 6.30pm** ***A simple service, alternately of Holy Communion and Evening Prayer at St Paul's***  
alternatively of Holy Communion (At the moment, legally, this has to be with bread only)  
*Capacity: 20 individuals or more if seated in households.*
- 9.00pm** ***A short service of Compline on Facebook ‘Go Live’***

A 'pack' has also been sent out to our families with youngsters to enable a Sunday family gathering around the Bible, computer screens, family discussion, prayer, and some practical application! If you have not received it and would like to, please ring in to the parish office (01752 260317) and Jeannette will arrange for one to be sent out to you.

*All Facebook ‘Go Live’ services will be available on the  
Emmanuel with St Paul's Facebook page and the website after they have been recorded.*