

Bishop Sutton Community Church Letter

We recently visited Erica Sharpe in Wedmore; Erica grew up beside us in Bishop Sutton and became a jeweller pioneering ethical fair trade gold and gemstone items. Her designs are beautifully crafted, often reflecting the natural environment like her “Stella” collection, inspired by delicate alpine flowers and named after Erica's mother who some of you may remember as a botanist and passionate nature lover. Erica has even used cuttle fish shells from Chesil beach, (where I enjoy fishing), to cast gold and silver sea shell jewellery. Her gallery / workshop is literally a treasure chest of the most stunning and valuable items but it was not the spectacular radiant diamonds nor the alpine crafted floral pendants and earrings that caught my attention. It was a half fresh-water oyster shell with four gleaming pearls embedded in the Mother-of-pearl casing.

Pearls form in oysters when an irritating object like a grain of sand becomes trapped within the oyster's shell. Layers of calcium carbonate called nacre are deposited around the irritating object over a number of years to produce a pearl. Thus, from irritating circumstances a thing of beauty can be made.

God can enable us to grow in love by putting difficult people around us, He can grow our patience by surrounding us with frustrating circumstances and develop our courage by placing us in situations that require us to be courageous. Paul said to the Church in Rome who faced great persecution from Emperor Nero “But we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope”... just like the grain of sand in an oyster.

So, when life gets tough, “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus”... 1 Thessalonians 5:18.

God bless,

Dave & Jenny Dickerson, Tel: 01275 332746 Mob: 07766331146.

Bishop Sutton Community Church Activities:

Sunday gatherings: 10:00am on Zoom for a time of worship, teaching, fellowship, encouragement and prayer; we can include live transcription for those with hearing difficulties.

Mid-week courses and fellowship meetings: On the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7:30pm on Zoom. We also offer a range of bible courses that can be arranged at a time to suit you. More details are on our facebook page and web site, please get in touch if you would like to join us.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday 15th April 8:30-10:00am at the Red Lion with Prof Stuart Burgess. Stuart is Professor of Engineering Design at Bristol University, he designed the fastest track bicycle in the world that gave the GB team a haul of medals at the Olympics. He is involved in satellite design including the Hubble telescope and joint mechanisms in animals... “the friction loss in a healthy human knee joint is one fiftieth of that of the loss in an Olympic track bicycle chain drive”. Tickets £10:00 from Dave or The Red Lion.

Ukrainian Hub: Please continue to hold these broken families and Ukraine in your prayers.

Keynsham Food Bank: The following can be donated at the Co-op in Chew Magna: Chick peas, Peanut butter, Squash, Sponge puddings, Instant custard sachets, Crackers, Mayonnaise, Razors, UHT milk (semi-skimmed, and whole). If you hear of people in difficulty, contact Dave/Jenny to help.

Lonely or self-isolating? If anyone is lonely or self-isolating and would appreciate a call, internet meeting or in need of help, please contact us.

To join us online on Zoom: Click on the link on our facebook page / web site or use the Meeting ID: 871 1725 3595 and Passcode: 578732.

Email: bishopsuttoncommunitychurch@hotmail.com

Web: www.bishopsuttoncommunitychurch.com

Facebook: @BishopSuttonCommunityChurch