

# Coach House Church BEACONS

---

## 2020 ROUNDUP

---

23RD DECEMBER 2020

Hello everybody welcome to this very special Coach House Beacon as you can probably tell I'm Jamie apparently I've got a good voice for radio but not a good face for TV so Pastor Andy says , as you can hear we've got Andy is with us, we've got Mell with us and we got the most beautiful woman in the world here to my wife and she's called Bekah. Ok so what we thought we'd do is we would rather than have another Beacon we were going to just have a little chat amongst ourselves about what we think is the best Beacon that we all individually think, what we've got out of the Beacons over the last few months and now the Beacons will return so don't worry about that but we are just taking a little seasonal a rest so Andy first one for you..

Question 1: What have you got out of the Beacons what is it about the Beacons that has really clicked with you

Andy - people's willingness to engage with it, and to put something in and being somebody who puts together sermons and things and has difficulties to do and then the time constraints of it take to actually put something in 10-minutes is worse than putting it into 30-minutes. It's a harder task, so to see people go to produce such quality is, with such willingness, as a pastor has been fantastic. In my role, having to look after people it's been something that's been a real blessing to me but I think people are found during the Beacons I found it's been a blessing for them as well I'm doing the preparation doing the work and submitting it and then seeing just the joy that it brings two people has been a real benefit to all of us

Jamie - yeah I would agree with that actually seeing people's responses and people saying you know I'm really enjoying it, this is really touching me and affecting me has been great. Same question to you Mel

Mel - You're always looking for inspiration somewhere so like no, in those dim and distant days have been in Anglesey by the sea, that long lost memory when people hanging on to attend on the Headland in 70 mile an hour winds you thinking about you will your anchor hold another such verses and you do think about different aspects of the Bible and how it all links in and how can you sign a beacon what's the message in this. Also listen to somebody's Beacon you think that reminds you no matter how many times you've read the Bible no matter how many times you've heard a story there's always something new in it. That's what's been brilliant

Andy - very true that you know because I'm the practical one so I'm helping them peg a tent out in the wind and Mel's in the cosy warm writing a beacon about.

Bekah - just seeing different people's perspectives on part of the Bible and it always seems to come at a time when you need it, when you're having a down day there's one on encouragement or there is always something that you need whenever you need it

Jamie - ok basically I went to Andy with this crazy harebrained idea - we should try and get people connected once the first lockdown hit. I didn't quite realised that it would be basically 200 plus straight days editing these things and then post them on the website and also taking people's notes and I'm also doing that, but I've just been I've literally been blown away by what it's the response. I think when you're sat in your home recording these things planning them, and then you put them out and you're like, I'm not sure because you get no personal response from it at all, it's just you recording it in your phone or whatever but then when it comes down to it and then the next Sunday someone comes up and goes "oh that Beacon was amazing, that really touched me where I was", you actually realise then how much God is in the thoughts that you've got and actually how you deliver them and almost kind of things. So for me it's has sometimes been difficult, been hard work some some late nights trying to get it done but actually it's worth it and you know for me my stance is that if we're not doing it for God who are we doing it for? You know in terms of everything we do in our lives . I think that's that's something that's definitely driven me on, sometime's at 6 in the morning trying to get someone's Beacon out because I forgot to do the night before has been a bit a bit tough.

Question 2 - How has both planning your Beacons and recording them and also listening to others affected your walk with Jesus? How would you say that?

Andy - wow that's a big deep question but actually think that's because as a big role to play in it and I think one of the things in the last 9 months for me it's been evaluating and looking at people's journey anyway. So just seeing that natural progression in in people's lives in the way that they put the truth across and the way the people have become honest and open about their own circumstances and how scripture is has helped them through certain things that has been great and I just I love the fact that people are just able now so just to be very honest and this is me I don't care what people say this is me and I think that's been an amazing to see. We've all been on that journey - me included - so you can as you are doing The Beacon as you as you progress through them and you doing them one after another after another I think what what starts to hit your is this is this is the reality of being a Christian this is what it actually means and just when you listen to a lot of the Beacons are produced by people you just get this truthfulness of this is what it's like for me today to walk, this is how I understand the scripture. Some one the scriptures have been have been repeated not because we've can I set out to do it's because they've changed the meaning for people, as one person speaking gone out with a particular scripture it's triggered something is somebody else and so what you get is this peeled onion affect which scriptures like anyway but it can mean one thing and then the next day can mean something completely different on another level, and that has come out and because I think as well and it's gone out in my life and I'm sure everyone's life as we've been doing. Sometimes it's a real struggle to get a beacon together sometimes you feel dry and you don't feel like you've got anything other days it's like I can write three or four on the bounce here. On the days when it's a struggle I think sometimes when you have to really push in because of time constraints to get them to you Jamie. When you have to push in to do it, you just think you'll just have to let the Holy Spirit speak through you and just be honest about where you are and I think some of the best Beacons I think have been where people have just been at a bit of a blockage and then they gone "OK and I don't really know what to say but what I say is from my heart and the Heart comes out in all the Beacons that's probably the best way to say it

Mel -Its about making the Bible relevant to know how, to explain it in the best way you can, so that it actually is up-to-date so like one of the verses i use a lot is Proverbs 3 " Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" which sums up thew whole year really. I think it's just making it up to date and relevant and take what you see around you and being able to explain it

in such a way that isn't wrapped up in church language but his actual normal language and everyday.

Bekah - I think in preparing them, you often discover something, so you'll see something in bible and wonder what that means, so you then do some personal study on that. This means you find truth at the same time as preparing it.

Jamie - I agree with that. It's as much a journey for us, the people writing these Beacons as it is for the people listening / reading them. We're all still going through a mill at this point in December 2020 were you know, we don't know when these lockdown's are gonna finish and we just don't know any of that and actually being able to have have that resource for us to lean on and press into. Just because for the next few weeks they're not going out on a daily basis doesn't mean that you can't go back and listen to another one.

Andy - I find myself do not more & more. There's something new in every time yeah because it's fresh insight into something that struck them just there and then and then write them down in a way that they can express. We're all different and that's one of the things that's so beautiful, everyone's character comes out

Jamie - We're talking 200 + Beacons, little mini sermons effectively so with that in mind can you pick out one, that you would say someone who's may be listening to this for the first time to go and have a listen to this one. Which would you say?

Andy - You've got 213 to choose from, you know what I probably couldn't choose just one if I'm totally honest because I think that would be a little hard to do because on different days, different people's Beacons actually hit you a different levels because it depends on where you are when you listening to somebody. But so what I will say is I've really seen and liked is the journey that people have been on Those people who timidly said I'll do one and and then seeing as they progress through maybe 2 3 4 5 6 Beacons later seeing that progression not only in their professionalism in the way that are able to do it, but actually about what they stand on what they believe. You can almost taste the certainty that's now become part of their lives That's why I think actually we know that we all benefit from it because it's very apparent in the way that we speak, the way that we talk together. To sit around the table as four people and just chat about it with no script it is just that tells you that something is working and something's having an amazing impact. I don't think any of us saw that doing this for 70 people was going to reach the people that it's actually go out to.

Jamie - You may not know, it's been quite crazy, we're onwards past half a million people now that have listened to the Beacons. It's quite something I'll be honest.

Mel - I'd read an article in the paper that talked about harnessing or measuring sound waves from stars and I just thought wow that's amazing that's to do with creation. From a biblical point of view is God said let There Be Light so there was sound and it did create the universe but now scientists are now saying this sound waves measured from the stars and you think you know you just need to read the Bible. Also Corrie Ten Boom quotes and what she put up with so many good Beacons to choose from.

Bekah - I think if your going to start with one, then I'd choose Freedom to Try Again by Jonny Knight. This is about God's grace and the foundations of our faith and why we believe what we believe.

Andy - That a brilliant Beacon it shows that we will be dealt with in a way we don't deserve and it comes across in that Beacon.

Jamie - Mine, and it's not because she's my wife it's Bekah's "Why Does it Hurt" it was incredibly honest and it was one of those defining moments for me where I realised that we'd all hit a point where we could open up enough to go, it hurts this it actually hurts me, you know I battle with this and from that it actually spurred me on to talk about the nightmares I sometimes get, because I think sometimes when you're stood on stage in front of people at church, your singing or your preaching or you're in I like we've had this morning Mel's been leading the carol service . people think you've got it all together they think you're all solid and actually because all too kind of be just a little bit honest and go actually don't have it all together and we are all a bit broken If you've never been to our catalyst meetings that we've be running on zoom, that is the perfect place for you to come and ask a question and let watch it all unfold. We don't always start with the same answer but more often than not we finish with the same kind of stepping the same journey The Honesty think that we've we've gained out of that and you know we've had we've had people write Beacons and stop for a while and some people have been there from the get go all the way through. Some people who have left us because of work commitments or various other things but everyone has invested their time and their heart in a journey that will hopefully continue and will hopefully help people understand more about the Christian Faith, more about actually that we don't know some answers and we may never know but actually our hope and our

trust is in God and God has all those answers and we've just got a kind of deal with that so I think from that point of view I think it's been amazing.

So just to rap it up. Any final things you want to say about the Beacons or to anyone maybe listening to this?

Andy - I was just going to say that you said about Bekah's Beacon there but actually you journey'd together on that one. I think being newly married that honesty and rawness that touched you (Jamie). I remember chatting to Jamie about it and just and I think you do something for you as well that's a really good platform to build the spiritual life on together and most most of us are couples and Mel and I will do the same. We will share our thoughts before we commit them to paper and it is always good to see where each other are journeying because it blesses us as well and God always in that trying to bless couples, people he's placed together, our gifts that we have in our wives and things. I think that's probably one of the things I've really enjoyed the diversity of not just the men speaking but our wives speaking and that to me has a real blessing. And a blessing to the church.

Mel - you can listen to different people telling the Beacons 'cause everybody's got a different style so if you want an Old Testament stance are from a viewpoint of what happened in the New Testament what it means now or a tricky question for the New Testament which will usually come from Bekah or just a few thought it's all different styles so you didn't you pick and choose whichever suits you as well.

Jamie - Its also fine to get through one and go , this isn't for me right now, and come back to it later.

Andy - The stamp of our church is on it. I listen to Beacons now and regardless when it was done and who's done it and I just I know it has the church's stamp on it

Bekah - yeah that's great just want to say thanks for listening

Jamie - thanks to everybody else who's been a part of the Beacons and continues to be part of the Beacons and we do want to say Happy Christmas. I also want to say if you're struggling with everything do give us a call . I'm going to sign off and say have a great Christmas however shorter how long it is and we will see you in the new year don't be lonely see you next year