

Coach House Church BEACONS

'SPRING' CLEAN

10TH JULY 2020

The team here at The Coach House Church in Stockport, UK, have been, since the lockdown began, working and serving hard producing these daily Beacons, to enrich your lives with God's love and care. I don't know about you but I am completely amazed with the togetherness and how God has spoken through them. We give all the glory and praise to Him for his abundance of blessings and inspiration. If you haven't ever listened to them, check them out on Spotify, iTunes or our website. There is loads to listen to... and don't be put off if you think this one is rubbish... As long as you find one that speaks to you

As well as the team smashing out the Beacons, we've also had a faithful team doing well needed maintenance on the House. From clearing out rooms of old unused and out of date literature, and basically junk, crawling (belly-style) under the floor to pull out and reuse cabling, to being in the roof and fixing broken lights and finally removing old signage from the front. They have done it all.

Yesterday saw a big jump in the House. The day started with the usual suspects arriving early, turning on the water heater to make a brew, and then getting down to the tasks at hand, although this day was going to be very different. At 12.00 we were expecting a crack team of cleaners, some of our golden oldies, to come and start a deep clean of our main sanctuary in preparation for us trialing a prayer meeting in a weeks time. What was really lovely was before they started we managed to sit, socially distanced of course, and prayed together. Most of us felt quite emotional and this defined step into the future, of getting ready to receive our Church family back again was something more profound than I thought it would be.

After a quick spot of lunch, thanks Soo, they ventured off to clean all of our chairs and also give the floor and all surfaces a bit of love. Now Spring is usually a time to start fresh—to wash windows, sweep the doorstep and sort out all of your clothes. Sometimes our spiritual lives need a deep cleaning, too.

As we refresh our space at the start of this new season, I urge you to not neglect the space inside—your very soul, the core of who you are. I want you to ask three questions of yourself as we take a spiritual inventory

1. What Needs to Go?

Let's be honest, some things should go straight in the bin. We're talking broken, falling apart, cobweb-covered this and that we probably should have never owned in the first place.

If you think of Sin it's like a tucked away box that hasn't been opened in ages. We can harbour all this guilt and shame over past mistakes and hide them away in the untouched corners of our hearts, never to see the light of day... or so we think. What if we unpacked all that baggage and laid it before God? What if we actively turned away from our sins (that's called repentance), and said, "Here you go, God. All the broken pieces of my life are yours now."

John 1:9 in the Bible says

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."

God is ready to give you a new start. Take the first step by seeking His forgiveness and asking for His direction as you move forward in your newfound freedom.

2. What Can You Give Away?

It can be daunting, but also gratifying, to cutting down on your possessions. So often, we hold onto things we haven't used in years because maybe we'll need them one day. Just like my Dad, before he moved house we had to throw away a considerable amount of wood from his Garage. When I say considerable, imagine the amount of wood Noah needed..... ok not that much, but it was loads. We can also feel an attachment to something and can't bear to release it to the donation pile.

But those things have a tendency to bog us down and clutter our lives. In the end, it feels good to let them go. But that's the physical / material things but what part of your faith life can you give to others?

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” —Matthew 5:14-16

As followers of Jesus Christ, we aren't supposed to keep Him all to ourselves. He commands us to share His Good News with others. Think of someone you can talk to about Christ's love. Ask a friend to become a prayer partner, or read the Bible to someone who's unable to. Keep your eyes open for opportunities to mentor a new Christian. Look for ways to serve as Jesus would serve.

3. What Needs Some Love?

Don't worry, you don't have to let go of everything. Perhaps the pillows just need to be fluffed, the shelves dusted or the universal “junk drawer” reorganised.

Our spiritual lives can usually use some tidying up, too. Think of all the letters the Apostle Paul wrote to churches about keeping the faith. He told them It takes work, constant energy to get along, set a good example and generally be faithful to Christ. (you can Read lots of Paul's journey in Acts in the bible)

There's no shortcut to a great relationship with Jesus. The easy part is accepting him as your Saviour. He is waiting at the door of your Heart for you to accept Him. But after that point It takes time and effort elbow grease, you could call it.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” —Deuteronomy 6:5

Whether your faith life needs a fresh coat of paint or total renovation of the heart, there's no better time to jump in than now. Start with one thing at a time—maybe it's alone time with God, spending time in the Bible or treating others as He would. Maybe it's calling a fellow Christian, and being honest how you feel and getting them to pray for you and help you through the situation you're in.

Wherever you begin, remember you're not spring cleaning alone. God Himself can help you cut through the spiritual clutter in each area of your life.

Maybe God's been knocking at your door, and you're yearning to let Him in, but you are not sure how. Please do drop me or any of the Church Leadership team a line if you want to chat, we would be honoured to talk to you.



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