

St Peter's

Hartshorne

Dear all

We start with some words from Bishop Libby:

Psalm 137 asks, "... how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?". It is a Psalm of lament, sorrowing and angry, honest about what has been lost to God's people as they have been taken from their own land into exile.

Singing represents the practice of their faith. Their question is, "how can we be the Lord's people in these alien circumstances?". That is our question too, as we adjust to a Covid shaped world. Of course, we are having to deal with actually not being able to sing - and that is a specific sadness - but our losses are broader, as they were for God's people in Babylon.



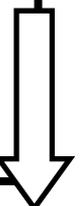
So, our question is the same:

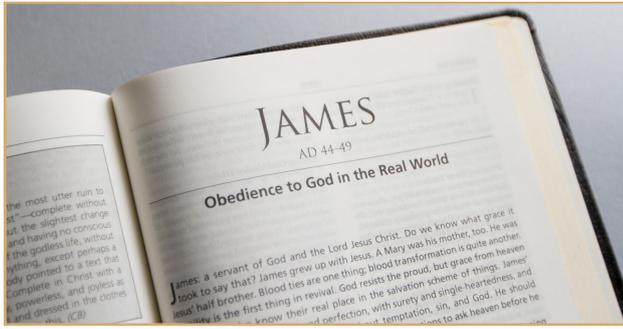
"how can we be the Lord's people in these alien circumstances?"

Like those in exile millennia ago, we discover that God is with us as we weep, God is alongside us as we are angry, God holds us in our confusion. And all that may be worship if God is at the heart of it, as much as singing can be.

It is too soon to name all our losses, to understand all that has changed. Individually and as community and society, we are in a season of lament still. And that is a Godly place to be. Those in exile so long ago learnt how to be faithful in new ways, and to be ready for when they could return to places they had loved - not back to how things were before, but taking with them the insights and revelations of God's purposes discerned in a hard place.

+Libby





In talking to many of our fellowship, we have all found different ways through the difficulties we have. One example is how reading the Book of James was a reminder of how God is with us through trials, heartache and tears and that despite everything we have been through, we are still here and God is with us.

Don't forget to send your photo's of either staycations or vacations. We would love to see where you have been ..

Send your photos to Debbie....

Email to: debbiepatrick50@hotmail.com

Post to: Debbie Patrick
4 Falcon Way
Woodville
DE11 7QT



God Bless you

Stella

After church coffee

Don't forget to join us if you can for coffee after church on Sunday 16th August

If you would like to join us but are not sure how, then please get in touch.

Sunday at 12:30am Note the new time :)

Please join us on the link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87324356137?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87324356137?pwd=ckdVMTN6eS9GMjRveUMyMWwvT1ZVZz09)

[pwd=ckdVMTN6eS9GMjRveUMyMWwvT1ZVZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87324356137?pwd=ckdVMTN6eS9GMjRveUMyMWwvT1ZVZz09)

Or by telephone on 0203 481 5240 quoting Meeting ID:
873 2435 6137 and Password: 721159

