

Luke 10:2 *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"*

Dear everyone,

Coronavirus continues to affect our lives; we are still under severe restrictions, compared to life before lockdown. Our church building will be opening soon under very limited circumstances, but it won't be for normal Sunday services yet. The church building is still mostly closed but church is not closed; church continues. And what is our main challenge? Graham Dunn reminds us it's not Covid-19 – it's the challenge of bringing God's good news to a world (Oakham and Rutland) that so badly needs hope and good news.

Graham brings us the word today from Luke's Gospel, chapter 10. Jesus send out the 72 disciples, like apprentices, going out to see if they could carry out Jesus's mission "in the field" in the same way as he did. In Jesus's day, he told them that the workers were few, and that's just as true in the 21st century Rutland as 1st Century Israel. They were training to be his workers then, and we are training to be his workers now. We are reluctant to go – but what persuades us?

As Suzanne reminds us from 2 Cor 5:14-15 *"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again"*.

Here is the link for today's service which is led by Suzanne Johnson, ably assisted by Zoe. And Graham Dunn brings us a powerful word on the subject of our mission to Oakham and Rutland. George Brett brings us his version of the worship song, "Immeasurably more".

Here is the link to the service on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/bEtiA1VetEA>

Rhoda has put together the services for the children and youth on the YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuxgARly413TNTpGOPPzYyA>

and has provided these worksheets for each group.

Youth Service - 12 July - Connect and Encounter.pdf

Childrens Service - 12 July - Discover and Explore.pdf

Childrens Service - 12 July - Adventure.pdf

If you have time, you might like to listen to the Renovaré podcast from Jill Weber, "Holy Disruption":

https://renovare.org/podcast/jill-weber-holy-disruption?utm_source=Renovare&utm_campaign=cd7a81f151-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_02_09_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_78df7a4352-cd7a81f151-260952193

I pray that this email finds you well and still moving forward in your walk with Jesus. Each new phase, this year, has brought new frustrations and new challenges, but working through each new challenge has brought many blessings.

As usual, please feel free to email secretary@oakhambaptist.org.uk if you have any comments or feedback about these online services or about any other aspect of church life. Now lockdown is easing a little, perhaps you could invite someone without internet access round to your house/garden to watch the online service with you.

We are blessed to be a blessing

Yours in Christ

Julie