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KEEP
GOING

First and foremost ... Duty

When Queen Elizabeth II died many observed how strong was her sense of duty. Even leaders of countries strongly opposed to the concept of monarchy, such as the United States of America, the Republic of Ireland and France, spoke in admiration of her spirit of service.

Some observers worry that duty is not fashionable these days. I can see where these worries come from but I don't like simply labelling generations as being this or that. One online article headline I saw said that the current generation values feelings more than duty. I'd be interested to know if you agree or think that is a problem.

Duty is something we are obliged to do. We have duties to God, to ourselves and to others. If feelings are the polar opposite of duties, it is because feelings are internal emotions and need not lead us to alter our behaviour at all.



But who defines what our duties are and how do we know them? The summary of the Law given by Jesus must be the foundation: Love God and your neighbour as yourself (St Matthew 22:37-39). Love is patient and kind, it keeps no record of wrong but rejoices in the truth, love never ends, love leads Jesus to die on the Cross for us. We thank you, Most Merciful Saviour.

Everyone seems to agree that the last thing Queen Elizabeth II would have wanted to do 48 hours before she died was receive Boris Johnson's resignation and to appoint Liz Truss as Prime Minister. But it was her duty to do so and it will have brought her grace and joy to do it, even if she may have grumbled as she got out of the royal bed.

"When life seems hard, the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat; instead, they are all the more determined to struggle for a better future," Queen Elizabeth II

Love is composed of obligations. It is not a feeling because feelings pass but love endures. We might look to the commitments made when husband and wife exchange rings at the wedding service and ponder the obligations we owe to God, others and our selves: "With my body I honour you, all that I am give to you, and all that I have I share with you, within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."



Member of the month: Jenette Charles

Congregation Member, Head of Sunday School, Boys' Brigade Volunteer and all-round wonderful person.

What do you think the purpose of your life is? To bring people together and to make great memories as a family / community.

What's a weird habit you have? I like to dip my crisps into yoghurt!

What do you most often daydream about? Winning the lottery!

What is a way God has shown up in your life recently? When I pray I always find the answer or someone is placed in my love to give me the answer.

What does this world need more of? Kindness and that is FREE! Smile at someone today that you don't know, you don't know how much it might mean to the person :-)

FIND OUT ABOUT JOINING OUR BOYS AND GIRLS BRIGADE CLUB

Is it ever okay to give up?

There are times when we just don't want to do something anymore.
So what does The Bible say about seeing things through:

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

"The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Exodus 14:14
"I sought the LORD, and he heard me and delivered me from all my fears."
Psalms 34:4

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Scripture is clear, at your toughest times God doesn't want you to soldier on alone he wants you to submit and handover your problems to Him.



Exploring the Scripture

Genesis 11 - The Tower of Babel

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. 2 And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. 3 And they said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. 4 Then they said, 'Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.' 5 The Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built. 6 And the Lord said, 'Look, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down, and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech.' 8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. 9 Therefore it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Explanation. The first book of the Bible, Genesis is trying to explain why life is as it is. In Genesis 11 it's trying to explain why everyone speaks different languages. Whenever we read the Old Testament we should try to see how Jesus fulfils all that is said there (see St Matthew 5:17 to explain why). In the case of the the Tower of Babel we should look to Acts 2:1-13, the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended on Mary and the Apostles, sent by the Risen Jesus. The Spirit comes and the Apostles speak normally but they can be understood by people who speak different languages. It's amazing! The Church, the Body of Christ, therefore brings people together from different races and language.

In contrast, as people try to build this huge tower, we see that pride divides humanity. The sin of pride is revealed in verse 4 "Let us make a name for ourselves." The people want celebrity, fame, popularity and to be thought well of others.

God isn't having it. As is often the case in the Old Testament, God is spoken of in very human terms (anthropomorphic), for example He has to go down to see what is happening in verse 5. It's the same God in the Old Testament as the one we worship today but they spoke about Him in different ways sometimes.

Babel is in what is known today as Iraq and stood in the biblical city of Babylon, always a dangerous place for God's people, far away from where they called home (see Psalm 137).

Focus for the month

Finding the motivation to do things!

Homework, chores and even meeting up with our friends can be hard-work when all we want to do is watch netflix, sit on our phone or play computer games. But the longer we veg out the bigger that list of things to do gets.

Try these 3 faith based tips to get out of your lazy mood!

- **Pray about it!** God hears our requests "Ask, and it shall be given you" he tells us. Be specific, be persistent and have faith.
- **Consider the affect on others** What you don't do affects people. Who has to pick up your workload? how does your friend feel when you don't show up? and who do you let down when you dont do homework?
- **What would Jesus do?** The Bible is full of incredibly hardworking men and women who acheived great things in the faith. What will be your legacy?

