

Please Pray

The personal pain faced by those recently bereaved as we pass through a season very focused on family.

Staff at Cloverley who have tested positive and had to cancel their family plans for Christmas.

The indications from Government that we may be facing further restrictions in the New Year.

That God would reveal as much of His will to us as we need, and fill us with the confidence of a people who are loved beyond measure.

Give Thanks

For an encouraging 'return to normal business' at our Centres.

That only one group was affected by CM staff illness throughout the past year, and we were able to relocate them to the Quinta.

That University CU groups have reported a greater openness to their outreach this autumn.

For everyone that has prayed for us!

That love came down at Christmas...and kept coming down.

Love came down at Christmas

Earlier in December I had the great privilege of speaking at one of the Advent weekends at Cloverley Hall.

Both weekends were fully subscribed and went really well. Some folk came on their own, some with a friend, and some in small groups from various churches and fellowships.

There were practical challenges and obstacles along the way, but that is often a sign that we are doing the right thing!

Our theme for the second weekend was, "Love came down" and we focused on 1 Corinthians 13.

In the final session, we were looking at the last six verses...

"Paul goes on to explain why the other gifts will pass away in v 9&10. They were only ever partial. Prophecy & knowledge are only given piece by piece. Once we get the whole picture, we won't need these gifts and gift-bearers. We won't need preachers or translators, prophets or worship-leaders, healers or counsellors. Because we will be in the presence of God Himself and will need no further revelation, comfort, or inspiration to worship Him! But love will endure.

"So, whatever your gifts today, and however amazing in quality or quantity, take a rain check on them and realise they are transient and the best thing you can do this Christmas is to get on your knees before others and show them Christ's love. (That's what I love about our ministry - talented people running our cen-

tres, managing, administering, accounting, marketing, designing, creating; and yet when I talk to folk who stay here, they tell me about that lady or that man who helped me. Not what their title is, nor what their abilities are, but that he/she loved them. They are still using their gifts, but leading with love)."

I hope that continues to be the warp and woof of our ministry: laden with gifts, but leading with love.

And this Christmas, can we each make sure that our gifts come with love? That we appreciate all that is done for us? That we pull our weight? That we don't insist on our own way?

'You don't need to be important, wealthy, well-educated, brilliant, famous or eloquent to help point people to the Lord. All you need to do is be kind to them with the loving kindness of Jesus. And Christmas gives us opportunity to do that.'



The Future is Unknown

We have been gradually re-establishing many of the things that had been set aside over the previous 18 months, albeit with some limitations. We still feel restricted in a ministry which is so much about bringing people together in fellowship.

The events of the past few weeks, and the emergence of another variant has cast an uncertain shadow on what the early months of 2022 might look like for residential work.

Our Government is clearly concerned about the impact on front line services through absenteeism, and on the NHS through increased demand.

Thankfully, the latest variant seems to have its energy focussed on breadth rather than depth—it is very transmissible but, so far,

appears less debilitating. At some point, either with this variant or another, the Government may need to take a decision to carry on with commerce regardless.

It is good in such uncertain times to recall the goodness of God, even over the past two years. *"But be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully; consider what great things He has done for you."*! Sam 12:24

How good it is to be able to say with Corrie Ten Boom:

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God"

May your Christmas season be full of love and surrounded by confidence in the completed work of Christ on the cross.