

It takes courage

Heather Smith *reflects on* Colossians 3:1-11 and Luke 12:13-21

What holds you back? The most likely answer is fear – fear of failure, or fear of what other people think, perhaps. In both cases, the emotion is the same.

The rich man in the reading from Luke wants to store up plenty so he can relax and enjoy life. Perhaps that doesn't sound much like fear, but if pressed he might admit that deep down he thinks that if he doesn't hoard, he could end up in need. What looks like greed and self-centredness is actually deep-seated fear. Jesus points out his foolishness. We can never know how long we have left on earth and we might just find that all the work we do to try to alleviate our fears is wasted.

A better way is to change our focus. Instead of working feverishly to find "security", which only fuels fear, we should work to become spiritually rich. As Paul suggests, we should seek those things that are above. "But that takes courage," you might object, "that I don't have." But notice that Paul doesn't say, "Work on your courage." When people find that fear prevents them from doing something they really want or need to do, psychologists sometimes suggest that they act as if they are courageous. And to our surprise we discover that we are! If we behave as courageous people, one action at a time, our lives will be infinitely richer as we find the path God intends for us. 🌱

Make the most of the summer

We are not our work

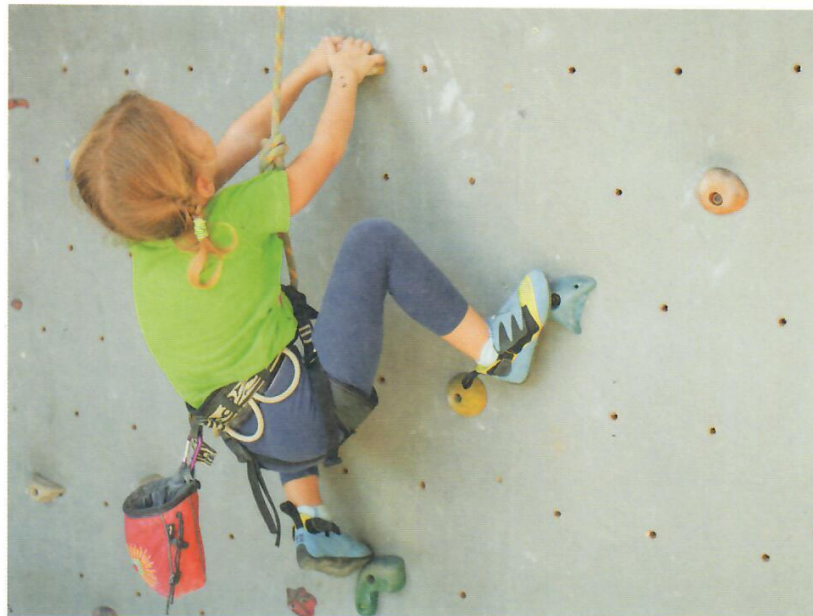
by Heather Smith

A study by Harvard Business School found that ninety-four per cent of a thousand professionals surveyed work at least fifty hours per week. This didn't include the time they spent monitoring their emails on a work smartphone.

Taking a holiday when work has taken over our lives can seem impossible. Even if we go away, the laptop and smartphone go with us, and we obsessively monitor them, making relaxation

a distant hope. Perhaps you don't live in this frenetic world, but even so something else might be preventing you from enjoying a complete rest.

There are many ways of being busy and they can make us feel worthwhile and important. It's vital to remember that to God, we are not our work. Instead we are beloved children of God, however we earn our living or fill our time. For the remainder of the summer, find ways of allowing yourself to rest in this knowledge. 🌱



Eternal God, teach us how to think like you, leaving fear behind and focusing on the exciting opportunities that life offers to further your kingdom. Amen.

Faith hacks

The transfiguration, part 1

by Alan Jefferies

The transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9) is celebrated on Wednesday. In the first of a series of occasional "faith hacks", Alan Jefferies considers a fresh angle.

First, read Matthew's account of the transfiguration. Read it slowly and let the story sink in. Next, take a short while to meditate on it and how it makes you feel about your faith. Be really, deeply honest with yourself. Do you lack transfiguration moments in your life and in your faith? Do you feel uplifted after reading this story, or inadequate?

What the disciples witnessed on the top of that mountain is certainly not the stuff of everyday life. So what can you learn from the transfiguration when you're not on top of a mountain, nor in the company of Jesus and great figures from Christian history? What can this story teach us when we're among the pots and pans of daily life? Or on those overcast, grey days when nothing appears bright, let alone dazzling?

Next week I'll introduce you to what I call a "micro-practice", designed to bring back the dazzle into the everyday. 🌱

“For in the transfiguration, we see the glory of Christ's body; and that glory shall be ours too. He hath taken our nature that we might partake of his.”

John Donne (1572-1631), English poet, scholar and cleric

Blandford Methodist Church: Sunday 3rd August

Good morning and welcome to our Morning Worship with Holy Communion which is being led Reverend Peter McNeill. The stewards today are Tina Wise and Rona Downes. Thank you to Angela for playing for us and also for the flowers. After the service, please join us in the hall for refreshments.

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 10 th August	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Mr Colin Besant
Friday 15 th August	12.00 noon	Lunch Club get together
Sunday 17 th August	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Miss Liz Ward
Sunday 24 th August	10.45 am	Morning Worship led by Reverend Peter McNeill
Sunday 31 st August	10.45 am	Ecumenical Service at BMC hosted by Reverend Dr Mark Kimber

Colehill Methodist: Every Monday, 11.00 am to 12.00 noon(ish), Bible Study, coffee, prayers and plenty of chat. All welcome.

Bible in a year: 3rd – 9th August: Psalms 63 – 78 and Romans 6 - 10

Meet Reverend Dr Mark Kimber: Most Fridays Mark will be available in the Okeford Room from 10.00 am to 11.00 am for anyone who wishes to have a chat with him. However, on the third Friday of each month there will be a session entitled '**Meeting with Mark**' to which you are cordially invited.

Lunch Club Summertime Get Togethers: Looking for a chance to stay connected over the summer whilst Lunch Club is on a summer break? Reverend Mark – along with a few friendly helpers – will be hosting relaxed lunchtime gatherings filled with good conversation, fun, and maybe even a quiz or activity! **Bring your own picnic lunch** We'll provide drinks, biscuits, and (if you're lucky) some cake! **Fridays 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm**

- 15th August

Come along for a friendly catch-up and a bit of summer cheer. Everyone welcome!

Reverend Dr Mark Kimber

Save the dates – Church Social Afternoons: We are looking forward to holding three afternoons of fun and friendship:

August 23rd from 2.30 pm – an afternoon of simple, hilarious table-top games, followed by a high tea

September 20th from 2.30 pm – indoor boules plus fun quizzes followed by a French-style buffet

October 25th from 1.00 pm – a curry lunch with games and quizzes

There will be a small cost of £3 per head per afternoon. Places are limited, so please sign up by 3rd August if possible for our first afternoon of fun.

Woodlands Methodist: Worship for You led by Canon Simon Tong, Sunday 10th August, 6.00 pm. Details on the poster in the hall.

Circuit News: There will be a "Circuit Welcome Service" for Reverend Susan Baker-Maher and Reverend Dr Mark Kimber at Trinity Church, Ringwood, on Thursday 4th September. All will be welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served at 6.45 pm followed by the Service at 7.30 pm.

John Cornish

Preaching Plan: Something for you all to think about is the Preaching Plan for December, January and February. If you have any requests for a particular preacher, then please let me know before Sunday 14th September. Thank you.

John Cornish

Blandford Foodbank is urgently in need of (updated 16.7.25) – Baked beans, Cereal, Jam/marmalade, Tea bags 40, Coffee, Tinned fruit, Tinned meat balls, Tinned tomatoes, UHT milk. Any other donations of food or household goods are also welcomed. For those able to support the Foodbank with items, a box has been placed in the Narthex as a collection point.

John Cornish

Prayer: Please can we remember to uphold in prayer those members of our congregation we know are ill or suffering in some way.

Can we particularly remember those of our congregation who are helping family members through illness and anxiety and also remember those who have recently been bereaved.

If you know of anyone who would like prayer and be mentioned by name in The Link, please let me know (having obtained their permission first to mention them by name).

Minister: Reverend Dr Mark Kimber

Enquiries via Lead Steward, John Cornish, on 07799 516 735

Pastoral Support: Joyce Wild: Tel: 01258 454091