

Need Some Good News?

Here we are in week 7 of Lockdown and for some time it felt that all we were hearing was bad news. Businesses and churches closing, rates of infections and hospitalisation increasing and sadly rising numbers of people dying. We have all been shocked by the numbers involved, not just in the UK but across the world. Life has certainly not been as we knew it and how we longed for some good news!



Then slowly, things have started to change - people recovering, infection rates going down and hopefully some of the restrictions we have all been living by might soon **gradually** start to be lifted, but for now we keep doing what we have been doing!

Some of the good news we've seen has been the stories of people coming out of hospital and meeting loved ones, the amazing efforts of Captain Tom in his garden and the way people have connected through the Thursday clapping - none of which would have happened if life was 'normal'. There is good news in our own corps - through the way people are now connecting, relationships are growing and deepening, with prayer filtering into conversations and our awareness of God's presence is on the rise. What blessings there are to be experienced!



Individuals or groups being moved to act by something beyond themselves.

In these acts of kindness and generosity we see the love of a loving God, resurrection hope and the unifying power of the Holy Spirit moving in and through the people of this world. This a picture of love.

'Love is All Around Me'

I feel it in my fingers, I feel it in my toes
Love is all around me and so the feeling grows
It's written on the wind, it's everywhere I go
So if you really love me, come on and let it show

You know I love you I always will
My mind's made up by the way that I feel
There's no beginning, there'll be no end
Cause on my love you can depend

I see your face before me, as I lay on my bed
I kinda get to thinking of all the things we
said

You gave a promise to me, and I gave mine to
you
I need someone beside me in everything I do

You know I love you I always will
My mind's made up by the way that I feel
There's no beginning, there'll be no end
Cause on my love you can depend

It's written on the wind, it's everywhere I go
So if you really love me, come on and let it show
Come on and let it show (repeat)

This song written by the Troggs and released in 1967 was purportedly inspired by a television transmission of the Joy Strings Salvation Army band's "Love That's All Around". It's been covered many times and I recall it in 1994 spending 15 weeks at number 1 after being in the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

But what is love?

'**God is love**' is one of the shortest sentences in the Bible.

1 John 4:10-18

This is love: not that we loved God, **but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.** 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. **God is love.** Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear

This is not just good news but the best news. The Good News that through Jesus Christ we have a way to come into a loving and healing relationship with love itself a love that loved us first and a 'love that never fails'! 1Cor13:8

This isn't the romantic love that the song speaks about but love that brings light into our darkness, peace into our chaos, gives hope when all feels hopeless and purpose when it all seems pointless. It's love that gives strength to the weak and love that loves the unloved. The only requirement to receive this love is to acknowledge the one who offers it - Jesus Christ. Jesus is '*able to save completely those who come to God through him*' (Hebrews 7:25)

Song: 406

ALL that you need is a miracle,
And all that you need can be yours,
All that you need is available
The moment you turn to the Lord.

Prayer

***In the darkest moments, Jesus light my way
In the midst of my chaos, Jesus give me peace
When I feel hopeless, Jesus give me hope
When I feel weak, Jesus give me strength
When I feel unloved, Jesus love me.
Jesus, help me trust that your love never fails***

Song: 468

LOVE divine, from Jesus flowing,
Living waters rich and free,
Wondrous love without a limit,
Flowing from eternity;
Boundless ocean, boundless ocean,
I would cast myself on Thee.

Love that pardons past
transgression.
Love that cleanses every stain,
Love that fills to overflowing
Yet invites to drink again;
Precious fountain, precious
fountain,
Which to open Christ was slain.

Love surpassing understanding,
Angels would the mystery scan,
Yet so tender that it reaches
To the lowest child of man.
Let me, Jesus, let me, Jesus,
Fuller know redemption's plan.

From my soul break every fetter,
Thee to know is all my cry;
Saviour, I am Thine forever,
Thine I'll live and Thine I'll die,
Only asking, only asking
More and more of love's supply