

Jesus - the greatest collector of rubbish

How can you describe litter-picking, to put into words what it really means? One way is to use the five 'C's' of litter-picking. The first C is CLEAN. Jesus Loves Bexhill started when Geoff and Mike started picking up litter on Bexhill seafront. Gradually other people joined them in ones and twos, now there are thirty people in the team. Cleaning up the seafront was the initial impetus.

The next C is CONTACT. Picking up litter meant stopping to talk with people. Sometimes the contact is a smile or a passing word, it can mean a longer conversation. We encounter people who are lonely, bereaved or just want to talk. As more people joined the team this aspect of our work gained in importance, we have a heart for the people we meet.

The third C is CONNECT. While we want to be a friendly face to everyone we meet, when there is a deeper connection it is so precious. People talk about issues which are important to them; it is our privilege to share in their lives. Sometimes we offer prayer and speak about how Jesus has helped us, and He can help them. We never force the issue but there have been some wonderful encounters over the last two years.

If we asked the question, "what is more important, picking up litter or connecting with people?" I'm sure everyone would say people are more important. While this is true, the litter we pick up has some important lessons to teach us. This is where we come to the last two 'C's.' In 1 Corinthians chapter 4 verses 11-13, Paul speaks about how he and his fellow disciples were treated very badly. He says they have, become the scum of the earth, the refuse, (or rubbish) of the world."

Paul's life was often in danger, the same is true of Jesus. Jesus was treated like rubbish when he was falsely arrested, given an unfair trial, tortured and finally put to death on a cross. The fourth C in litter-picking for us is the CROSS. The cross is the place where Jesus took all our rubbish. He took our sin upon Himself, all we have done and will do. At Calvary on the cross Jesus paid the price for us; he is the greatest litter-picker who ever lived! After we have litter-picked there will always more rubbish left; when Jesus forgives us the rubbish is gone never to return again.

Paul mentions rubbish again in Philippians 3:7-8, he spoke about the earthly status and benefits he had given up to follow Jesus but said, "I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him." When we pick up rubbish it reminds us of the riches we have in Christ, and the rubbish we have left behind which has no more value. The last C is CHRIST, the most valuable of all.

No one likes litter, it is a nuisance and an eyesore. Saying that, even litter can teach us some valuable lessons, and it is a privilege to play a small part in making our beautiful town a nicer place to live.



Clive Redknapp

Jesus Loves Bexhill



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Email: support@1066.org.uk



Come and join our lovely
litter picking team.
Register now with
geoff@1066.org.uk



Newsletter
Easter 2022

Dinner with Vinesong

A big thank you to all the Jesus loves Bexhill team, who worked so hard to make the whole weekend such a success. So many people turned up to help prepare the hall at St Peter's Community Centre, that it took very little effort. Such was the enthusiasm for the event that people turned up to help who weren't able to stay for the dinner!!



A very rewarding evening attended by over 90 diners, who enjoyed a good meal and a great time of fellowship. There was fun and laughter during the evening which culminated in experiencing a truly exceptional time of worship with the ministry of Vinesong, a number raising their hands to either make

a first time commitment, or a recommitment to Jesus. Everyone who was there were truly blessed, and a number turned up at Sidley Freedom Church to experience Vinesong again the following morning. Those wanting yet more were able to attend St John's Baptist Church in the evening.

An exceptional weekend, described by one person who attended all three meetings as "a small taste of revival".

Another said that "Bexhill has never experienced anything like this before, can we have more please?"

Word has got out about what the Jesus loves Bexhill team are doing; it's not just litter-picking. The Bexhill Observer are doing an article as are Heart Publications. We gave away over 20 invitations; we encouraged people to support Marketplace by donating nearly 100 Fray Bentos pies, providing 60 of them ourselves. We were committed to spending some £1500, and yet still wanted somehow to bless Vinesong with a gift. God sorted out everything including our finances - a great weekend, and a great encouragement.



Testimony Leaflet

Our third leaflet is nearly ready to go to the printers, so that will mean leaflets with 15 Bexhill people sharing what Jesus has done for them. A powerful resource for us to use from which we will see much fruit!

Finances

Despite still having to purchase more litter-picking equipment, and making a donation to Vinesong Ministries of £250.00, our finances are still strong. Our generous supporters have made sure that we can keep our eyes on Jesus and what He wants us to do, and not be concerned with the financial side.

If you would like to support us financially, our bank details are:
Jesus loves Bexhill - HSBC sort code - 40-10-14 - Acc 81565222

Litter Picking - Jane's Story

Today I went with my friend Rachel to the coffee shop at the old Bexhill West train station. We had coffee there and chatted about interior design. Later Rachel got into a lengthy discussion about the Ukrainian situation with Mark, the owner of the coffee shop. Before we left, I replenished our Jesus loves Bexhill testimony leaflets (people had taken some of those I'd left there last time), and I also left about 20 Vinesong leaflets there, with Mark's permission.

Later on, when I got to the town centre, I went into a beautiful furniture shop on Western Road, call "Plum Crazy". I chatted with the shop owner Steve, and gave him a Vinesong leaflet. I don't think he will come as he said his music taste is heavy metal, but I told him to give the leaflet to someone who might be interested. He said he might leave it on his table and see if any customer would take it.

Later I was in Picasso's, where I walked past a table and overheard the two young girls there say "we went to church". So, when I passed the table again on my way out, I stopped and chatted to the old lady at the table who was the girls' grandmother. It turned out she was a Catholic from Kent who was visiting family here. She was very nice and kind. She told me that she was heavily involved in some charity work in Kent. I gave her a Vinesong leaflet. She said she would not be here on 13th March, but she asked her granddaughters to take the leaflet and to give to their parents. So, I asked if the girls would like to give some leaflets to their friends at school as they went to the Mary Magdalene Catholic School. The grandmother encouraged the girls to take the leaflets and to give them to their friends at school.

After that, I passed Coffee & Co where I saw Rahel the shop owner serving some customers, so I went in to say hello. He was very warm and friendly. I told him that I had been praying for his business, and he was very thankful for that. As we chatted, he mentioned that some of his staff were not good, and that he had to come to manage the shop himself (his normal job is driving instructor) so I told him that I'm a barista and I could come and give some help. So, in the end we decided that I would go in and work with him for an hour this Saturday afternoon after my work at Coffee Box that morning. I'm not looking for work, but just want to be a blessing to him. Paul says in the bible that He would be all things to all men. I want to live that out too. God has opened a door for us to make friends with the people at Coffee & Co. We musn't ignore it.



Thank you for inviting us to minister at your recent dinner event in Bexhill. It was a real pleasure to be there and to minister in support of such an exciting evangelistic initiative. Thank you for all the time and effort you went to, not only to plan and orchestrate the weekend, but to take care of us too. I know that we're family, but honestly we do not for one second take your service and love for us for granted.



Our subsequent ministries on Sunday morning and evening were fantastic and we thank God for what He is doing in Bexhill and the willing hearts that He has available to use. Thank you for introducing us to Freedom Church Sidley and St John's Baptist Bexhill, we really enjoyed meeting Darren & Emily and Michael & Sue.

The missions offering sown by Jesus Loves Bexhill and the people present was a blessing to us. We pray that God would continue to pour into you the resources that you need to cultivate the presence of God on the streets and in the hearts of the people of Bexhill.

We look forward to working with you more as we build God's Kingdom together as friends, family and co-labourers.

Rachael Gray, Vinesong

“What an honour it was for us (Vinesong) to be invited to minister at the Jesus loves Bexhill event, Sunday morning service at Sidley Freedom Church and Sunday evening at St. John's Baptist Church. We could sense a hunger in people's hearts for revival! Jesus said in Matthew 5 “Blessed are those that hunger after righteousness for they shall be filled”. The Holy Spirit was so evidently filling those who were hungry for more and we as a team felt to sing songs about revival and invited the Holy Spirit to move.



Following many testimonies we were blessed to hear that Bexhill has caught God's attention. It was uplifting to experience the enthusiasm the “Jesus loves Bexhill” group has, and the wonderful dinner they put on for the Saturday night, with many wanting more of God and coming to the services on the Sunday. The support they received from two local churches and their yearning to see the lost come to know Jesus Christ was inspiring. We believe that revival will come on the wings of worship and we believe that a flame was ignited this weekend that will never be quenched!”

Charlene Kok, Vinesong



It was great to have Vinesong with us for our Sunday morning service. The church was full up with our usual people, invited guests and old friends and so there was a great atmosphere among those that gathered. The worship was superb and we were helpfully challenged by the sermon that Vinesong shared. For many it was faith-affirming and for some, it was faith-defining

having met Jesus in ways they had not before met him. What we loved most was spending time with each other and with Vinesong themselves. It is always so encouraging to spend time amongst other Christians and to be reminded that we are connected in one large family through our relationship with Jesus himself. The Christian Church is one global family and on this Sunday we were reminded of just that fact.

Darren Cooke, Sidley Freedom Church

Prayer Support

We are so grateful for the prayer support we receive. Our prayer warriors meet whenever we go ‘litter-picking’, equipment gets dropped off, prayer warriors collected, and we go our separate ways, all meeting up again later when we share our experiences.

Even if you cannot litter-pick, you can still join us for prayer, without which nothing much will happen!

Please do not hesitate to join our prayer team, we need you!

Special Dates for your Diary

15th April 2022

Good Friday “March of Witness”. DLWP lawns at 9.15am, another opportunity to wear our tabards, and lift up the name of Jesus.

Wednesday 25th May

A return visit to the Conquest Hospital, to do a quick litter pick, followed by tea and cake in the Coffee Box at the Hastings Centre.

A number of cars will be going, so lifts will be available to all.

Saturday in May/June date TBA

A Jesus loves Bexhill barbecue with special guest!! Following on after litter-picking, venue will be Effingham Drive.

Sunday 5th June

Fifties Family Fun afternoon, part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration.

There are plans for events all over Bexhill. One of them will be around, and on the beach, near the bandstand, we have been asked to check the area for litter. A mass group of litter-pickers wearing hivis tabards, would be a great photo opportunity!