**One Church One Day Reflections – May 2024**

**'In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.' James 2:17**

What a wonderful Holy Spirit filled weekend! Amazing that even though so many of us were involved in the Noise last weekend, at least 35 of us, plus 14 of the Noise team, united in prayer over the 24 hours of One Church One Day.

OCOD began with a special time of Prayer & Praise Together. As 17 of us gathered on Zoom, Gary led us in prayer for Ben and Katy and their mission work in Tanzania, we prayed for the Noise and for the wider world, before handing over to the five people praying through the next hour.

At 2am it was James’ turn. So grateful for his beautifully honest and powerfully encouraging reflection:

**My hour didn't really flow:  it was one of those times where I had to remind myself of Abbot/Cardinal Basil Hume's reassurance that "trying to pray is prayer".  The thing I like most about OCOD is that you feel part of a team and I was thankful that this encouraged me to persevere with trying to pray for the whole hour.**

**Having said that, it was really good to pray through the prayer requests from Ben and Katy in Tanzania and our own The Noise team.  It felt positive and a pleasure to be able to contribute prayer to these two areas of God's work far and near.**

I’m so grateful that OCOD, the Noise and the Bristol Soup Run all coincided over the same weekend. The power of those prayers was not only tangible but visible: the wonderful teams that volunteered here is Downend and across Bristol, the great weather, the grateful walkers, runners, cyclists along the cycle track who expressed their appreciation for the litter picking, the 140+ people who attended the free cream tea and the amazingly gifted young people who performed, the privilege of serving the homeless on the streets of Bristol, the provision of trees to plant in a local park and wood, and the 300 plus people who came along to the free family fun afternoon. Many significant conversations took place, which we can pray will have eternal impact! We also had the privilege of praying over and then celebrating the success of the Noise at Westbury-on-Trym Baptist Church where Graham and Claire joined their son’s Noise team for a family fun afternoon on the Saturday.

Celebrations continue. The Citywide Noise Celebration Evening takes place on Sunday 12th May 6.30pm at Woodlands Church. Krish Kandiah is the guest speaker as we celebrate what God has done over the last 24 years of the Noise. If you can make it, advisable to get their early!

I’ll leave you with some photos of the Noise at Downend to reflect upon.

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord turn his face towards us and give us peace.

Love and prayers

Diane x

A group of people in blue shirts

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A group of people in a room

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A child standing in a room with a crowd of people

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A group of people digging in a field

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A group of people around each other

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