

Devotional Blog - The Body of Christ

17th May 2020

Quite a few years ago a skilled Concorde Flight Engineer and friend of mine bought a brand-new high performance motor cycle – it wasn't quite as high performance as the Concorde but was a significant improvement over his 3-wheeled Robin Reliant. Being curious in nature after a few rides out – Ian decided to take his motorcycle (including the engine) apart to see how it was made.

He surveyed his work spread out over the garage floor and admired his purchase. Each part was a precision item, many were unique parts, but there were some which had multiple examples – for example the nuts and bolts which held larger items together. But the parts were no use on the garage floor, and no use without each other. Ian cleaned each part and put his motor cycle back together again. Now each part was joined to the others, they all had a purpose. If he had lost one, the whole would not have worked as it should. Ian and went out for a ride.



Paul had a similar view about the church in Romans 8:⁴ *Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,* ⁵ *so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.* ⁶ *We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.* ⁷ *If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;* ⁸ *if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.*

At the moment Church could feel a little like the motor cycle, disassembled and in bits on the floor – each of us disconnected from one another other, but that doesn't mean we don't have potential.



This period is an ideal opportunity to let God do a bit of restoration work on us; refreshing our relationship with Him, reinvigorating our gifts before reassembling us into a high performance functioning 'machine', gathered together in our open Church building (the garage) and set to go into our Mission (onto the road).

How can you get ready?

Let me change the analogy a little. Today is Sports Chaplaincy Sunday. Most sports involve a team working together. Even individual sportsmen invariably have a coach or trainer working alongside them. Each member of the team has a role, so let's remember the sports chaplains across the land in our prayers today as they minister with to each individual team member – on and off the 'pitch, field or court' and bring spiritually based encouragement. Think and pray especially of Paul Barker in his role as chaplain to the Hampton and Richmond Borough Football Club.

