



PASTOR'S PATCH

Stir It Up!

Anybody who knows me will know that the only reason I know where the kitchen is at home is because from time to time I have to fix something in it. I also know where the sink is incidentally, and the dish-washer, but that's it. In the last year we've had the kitchen replaced so I'm kind of hopeful that the first reason will be less applicable!

On the other hand, you will rarely find me without food in my hand. That's a very different kettle of fish (see, two more "culinary" terms there, so I'm not totally devoid of basic terminology).

And speaking of lexicons, I'm also rather ecumenical and eclectic, ecclesiastically speaking (there's another mouthful, proving the point – wow! "proving", another "culinary term"!). As such, if you don't already know, this Sunday is, liturgically, "**Stir Up Sunday**". Traditionally it's when family and friends get together to stir up all the ingredients for the Christmas Pudding. Also, traditionally, the stirring was from East to West, to remember the journey of the Magi mentioned within the account of Jesus' birth.

It brought me to consider how much "stirring up" is mentioned in the Bible. It's quite a lot as it happens. It's usually negative in the sense of bad things being "stirred up" for one reason or another. Even in his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul mentions that some are preaching simply to stir up trouble for him while he is in prison for the gospel. But, he says, what does it matter?

"The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.."
(Philippians 1:18)



We all have gifts. Eschewing all false motives, we can use these gifts to stir one another on, "to encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11), "to please our neighbours for their good, to build them up" (Romans 15:2). We can, if we choose, stir up the most delicious "food" ever, a meal which will nourish and feed our Christian family throughout the coming year, something to rejoice in.

Colin Opie



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More Info...

The Big Tackle



On Saturday 15th March 2025, there is the Big Tackle Event to raise funds for Rowcroft Hospice. If any men would like to join with others on this enjoyable event, please speak to Darrell who is hoping to organise a group from BBC to undertake this together.

The Early Bird price ends on 30th November, so let him know this week.

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