

PASTOR'S PATCH



Jesus says “No one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”
(Mark chapter 2 verse 22)

Everyone around him knew what Jesus was saying made sense. Maybe some of them had learned the hard way possibly because they had not wanted to pay for a new wineskin. They understood that new wine expands and continues fermenting slightly, meaning an old wineskin which wasn't so flexible would come under great strain and burst.

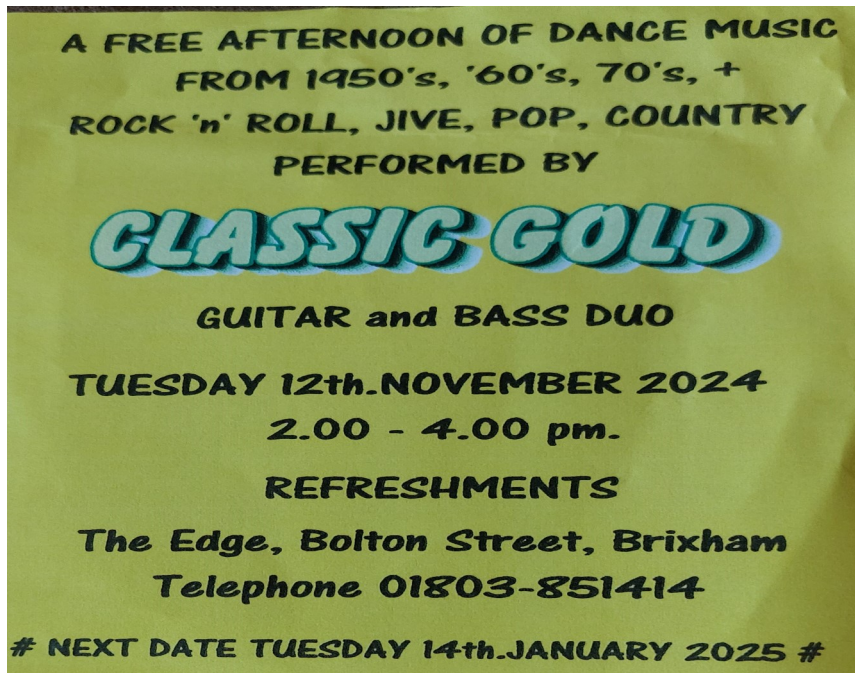
I'd like to suggest we live in a time as a church where new wineskins are needed. Think back 10 years about Brixham Baptist Church (if you can). A different minister and congregation facing different issues in a town that was very different from the one we know today.

But in 2024 we stand post-Covid (a factor that changed society in many ways) where we gather in person on a Sunday but also now livestream our services, where we have a multi-generational congregation and a multi-gifted team of three pastors (for the first time ever maybe?) We have a range of our congregation contributing to our services in different ways, and we seek relevant and new ways of communicating a wonderfully unchanging gospel about Jesus.

If we try to do things that worked 10 years ago (or even 5) I know we will find the same result as if we poured some new wine into old wineskins - messy!

By now you'll be aware of a proposal that I may be changing my work pattern in obedience to the Lord's leading. Maybe Father God is leading each one to change or adapt our way of serving Jesus too? We are facing exciting times, and the newness of what the Holy Spirit doing is as life-giving as always. So let's look around for the new wineskin and renewed church life, or otherwise we'll certainly see the new wine burst out and make a real and wasteful mess!

Darrell



CMF : SALINE SOLUTION

On Saturday 7th December 2024 we have a **'Saline Solution' course** in Torquay, a one day training course for healthcare professionals to be 'Salt of the Earth' in the workplace -

https://members.cmf.org.uk/CMF/Events/Event_Display.aspx?eventkey=SSDEVON2&WebsiteKey=3de15490-5e50-42d5-a86e-1c9a358a58ab

We would love you to come if you're free, and do invite any healthcare friends!

God bless,
Lydia (CMF South West Catalyst Team Leader)

A flyer for the 'Saline Solution' course. It features a stethoscope on a green background. The text includes: "CMF", "SALINE SOLUTION", "Devon", "bringing faith into healthcare", "Saturday 7th December", "Upton Vale Baptist Church, St Marychurch Rd, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3HY", "Open to all Christian healthcare professionals and students", "impacting your workplace for Christ", "IHS GLOBAL", and "CMF".