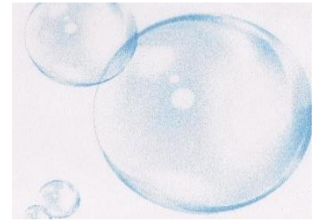


Have you



noticed..... how the meaning of a word sometimes changes over the years. According to the dictionary a bubble is a sphere of liquid enclosing air or gas. There you are then; at present we are all supposed to be in a bubble, so just think how much money we would save on petrol or bus fares if we were all bubbles floating around in the air. Mind you, most days we would probably get soaked, but, I cannot imagine bubbles having umbrellas!



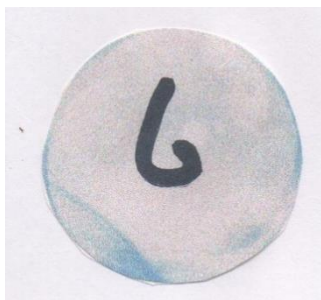
'Social bubbles' = The new definition for a group of people. Right from the very beginning it was God's plan that we should be in social bubbles. After He had made Adam He said, "It is not good that man should be alone." Not long after that Eve appeared on the scene, followed by children. Every one of us started our lives in a family social bubble. We have been in school bubbles, work bubbles, club bubbles, church bubbles, keep fit bubbles and many other sorts of bubbles when groups of us have gathered together. Probably the thing that irks many folk at present is not so much the rules about social bubbles as being told what we can and cannot do!



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It has become a little difficult for us every now and then to work out exactly what we are allowed to do. There are quite a number of people in our church family who are not in any social bubble. There are those whose families have moved away and the distance is too far for regular visits. Many who attend our church have come from other countries and have none of their family in England. There are those who do not have any living relatives. Grown-up children have their own family or social bubbles, often leaving elderly parents more isolated in the present circumstances. Some, with a number of children, are back to square one where grandparents and grandchildren are unable to be together because of exceeding the group of six. Some are still isolating for medical reasons. Please think about and pray for anyone you know who is any of these circumstances.



Bible readings about social bubbles:-

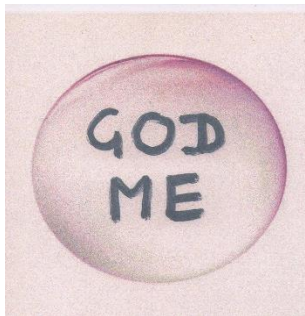
1 Corinthians 12: 14 – 20. The people of the church being one body.

Matthew 26: 20 – 29. Jesus and His bubble of 12 disciples.

Mark 9: 2 – 8. Jesus and His bubble of 3.

God's social bubbles

One sort of bubble that is never mentioned by the government/politicians or in any of the rules, is the social bubble that we are in with God. It is God's will that every one of us has contact and a relationship with Himself. Whilst we are not able to be in church it can often be more difficult to retain our relationship with God. I want to suggest three sorts of 'God's social bubbles' and ask you which bubble you feel is the one into which you fit.



God's social bubble 1

You manage to pray and read your Bible on a regular basis.

Brilliant, keep it up! This is the ideal for us all and as Christians this should be our aim.



God's social bubble 2

You pray, but, do not get round to reading your Bible very often. Try reading a few verses from Mark's gospel each day so that a regular habit is established. This is not always easy to do, but, will be really helpful if you are able to manage it. You are part way there but, God wants to be more important than 'ME'.



God's social bubble 3

You think that praying and Bible reading are not really your scene. God is there waiting for you to make a start. "Don't know what to say." Just chat to Him and He will be there listening.