

Circuit letter 26.7.23

*Rev Dr Paul Glass*

I got an email this morning. It tells me that an item that I ordered is with the delivery company and I should expect it in the next couple of days. I got another email - this one from Amazon. It told me that the book that I had ordered for my brother's birthday present (from his 'Wish List' which is also on the Amazon website) had been delivered exactly when they said it would and less than 24 hours after it had been ordered. Driving through Guildford recently one morning I was interested to see how many delivery motorcyclists were out delivering (what I could only assume) were people's breakfasts to their doors.

We're used to it aren't we? Instant results. Deliveries to our doors within hours, food deliveries within 30 minutes. We want, we expect, instant results, immediate service. We want everything to be delivered at speed. We live in a world where the pace of change has never been faster.

God would seem to work to a rather different timetable than that. The parables that will be preached on from many of our pulpits this Sunday are far more about a 'wait and see' policy. About things growing, slowly, almost unnoticed underneath the surface. The Kingdom of God grows and flourishes in unexpected ways and places.

It's easy to get frustrated because we bring to everything our 21st century mania for speed and results. God is at work in a very different way and we need to learn the importance of what one writer called 'the stature of waiting' to see where God is at work. Because that is the most important work to be joining in with.

Paul

### **Resources/Good News**

The Methodist Learning Network has offered a resource entitled "*Beyond the Numbers: 8 Simple Questions to Assess the Health of Your Church*". Karl Vaters offers 8 simple questions to help church leaders and their teams think about how their church is doing. The article is available to read here [Helping Small Churches Thrive](#). You'll also see a link at the bottom of the page to access the full article.