

Dear friends

Can you spot an 'April Fools' joke in this edition of Mutley Matters?

If you think about it April Fools Day is funny: we devote a day to pranks and humour. Dr Jonathan Miller said that humour is like a "sabbatical let-out in one part of the brain... to enable us to put things up for grabs; to reconsider categories and concepts so that we can redesign our relationships to the physical world, to one another, and even to our own notion of what it is to have relationships." So, if it does us good, why only one day?

When I was training to be a Baptist Minister, our theology lecturer in the first year, Dr Nigel Wright, said that he believed God has a sense of humour, and hoped that one day a student would write a dissertation on this. At that moment I decided I would be that student and in my final year wrote 'A Theology of Humour: a serious look at the lighter side of God'. I looked for humour in the Bible and found it in many places, drawing conclusions about God's sense of humour from what I found on many pages.

I looked at Easter. When I looked at the events of Good Friday there was nothing humorous or light-hearted there. It is the darkest day in history.

And then, by contrast, on Easter Sunday there's joy, celebration and humour (look at Jesus' encounter on the road to Emmaus). One even might say that the resurrection is God having the last laugh!

May God enable you to laugh heartily this Eastertime.

Be blessed, be a blessing

Nick



Journeying with Jesus

In our **Sunday morning services** we are joining with Jesus on his travels...

April

6th Are you coming or going? *Matthew 20:29-24; Luke 18:35-43* (Nick)

13th Journeying into Jerusalem *Luke 19:28-44* (Nick)

20th Coming out of the tomb *John 20* (Beth and Nick)

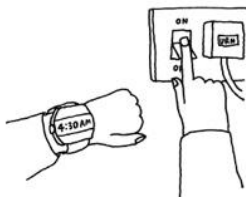
On Easter Sunday morning we will include the baptism as believers of several people from this church – come and celebrate with them!

After Easter we will begin a new series in our morning services.

THANKLESS TASKS



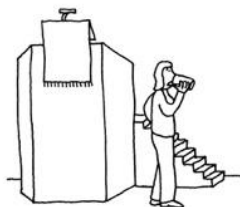
ANSWERING THE DOOR AT ALL HOURS AND FOR VARIOUS REASONS



TURNING ON THE URN



PICKING UP PIECES OF GLITTER ONE BY ONE



TESTING THE WATER IN THE PREACHERS' GLASS



ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO FIND A DIFFERENT WALL TO KICK A FOOTBALL AGAINST



KEY
AREA OF DIAGRAM LEFT DELIBERATELY VAGUE
DISPOSING OF THINGS DISCOVERED IN THE CHURCHYARD

Cartoonchurch.com

To anyone who considers their task to be thankless, thank you. Even if it goes unnoticed by us, God sees and honours what we do as an act of service to others and an act of worship to God.

If you struggle to hear what is happening in the service, many smartphones now have apps already installed that transcribe spoken words to text. If you can't find one, Royal National Institution for the Deaf recommends live transcription apps on your phone – you can find that information from this QR code.



(Just be aware that it may also pick up what people are saying around you if you use one of those apps!!)

We have a hearing loop for those who have that facility on their hearing aid – just switch it to the 'T' setting.



The background for text on the screens in the Sanctuary is designed to make it easier to read for those who have dyslexia.

Keeping in touch

We have set up a WhatsApp Community for the church and would love you to join in. This is a useful way of us being able to get in touch with you with news and updates about church events and activities: for example, if a group has had to be cancelled at short notice. It's free to join and nobody will see your details. It's not a group where people comment, it's just for information-sharing. To join just scan this QR code.

It would help us keep in touch with you if you could give us your contact details, please, if you haven't already done so.

Please either fill in a card in the entrance area and give it to a Steward, or send an email to

office@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk



Mutley Magic Returns!

Saturday April 5th at 6.30pm is our next Mutley Magic show (doors open at 6pm). It's an entertaining evening of amusing and amazing magical illusions performed by our Minister, Nick, who is also a member of the prestigious Magic Circle. We will be finished before 8pm. The show is free, with refreshments available to buy. Come along, bring your family and friends – it is a show that is suitable for all ages.



Our Easter Services

Maundy Thursday Communion

7.30pm on 17th April

Good Friday Reflection

10am on 18th April

Easter Sunday Celebration

10am on 20th April

(an all-age service including Believer's Baptisms)

all these services are in the Sanctuary



For your prayers

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Eph 6:18

Thank you to everyone who joined in our March Mission Prayer Chain and to Mariatu for arranging it. Our April mission prayer focus is on **Plymouth Focus**. There is more information about this essential ministry and the prayer requests later in Mutley Matters. You can pick up a little prayer reminder card in the Sanctuary.

Pray for those who are experiencing long term illness or newly discovered problems – pray for patience, strength and healing. Pray for those who are experiencing problems in relationships – for grace, hope and fairness. We continue to thank God for answering prayers and the many blessings we receive personally and as a church.

Most weeks we send out cards to those who are in pastoral need or we want to encourage. If there is someone whom you feel would be blessed in this way please speak with Nick or email the pastoral team at pastoral@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

We continue give thanks to God for all who generously support this church financially, with their time and gifts, and with their prayers. We cannot do this without God or you.

In most morning services we have **Mutley Matters** time – where we share encouragements and needs together. If you would like to share something but would rather not speak, please write it down and give it to Nick or whoever is leading the service and we'll include it.



Please bear with us a little bit longer...

Having installed a new sound desk we hope that the experience for everyone is better from an audio point of view in our services. Occasionally we still experience some gremlins as iron out some of the remaining wrinkles. Please bear with us and accept our apologies if you experience squeaks or whistles sometimes.

We hope to have banished all the gremlins very soon. We are also working to improve the experience of those who join us online – more details of this very soon.

Mutley Baptist Church online

Our Sunday morning services are usually available on Zoom.

Meeting ID: **828 9596 2650** Passcode: **155595** If you are at the church and would prefer not to be seen by those watching the live stream please sit in one of the side sections as the camera focuses on the platform.



As well as streaming our services on zoom, you can find out a lot more about us including our beliefs, vision and values as a church and our activities on our website www.mutleybaptist.co.uk

You can listen to sermons from previous mornings in the 'Sunday Services' page if you scroll down the *What's On* page. You can find links to book for our youth, children and families activities *What's On* page too.

Church Meeting

Our next Church Meeting for members is on **Monday 7th April at 7.30pm** in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. If you are a member it would be great if you are able to join with us to listen to God in and through one another.

Paperwork for this meeting will come out in advance and we will give advance notice of possible Constitutional changes we are considering.



On Sunday evenings at 6pm we gather for an informal service to explore how we love God and love people. We meet in the Spurgeon Hall, which is to the rear of the church, with the entrance up a few steps on Houndiscombe Road. Our March sessions, leading up to Easter are on the theme of 'What do Christians do?'

Prayer focus on Plymouth Focus

This month the focus for our praying is **Plymouth Focus**. This is an advice centre with a Christian basis that works out of an office here and is staffed by a dedicated team of trained volunteers. They offer support and advice for people with debt, benefits and housing problems. In the last calendar year, in addition to the unquantifiable personal support offered by the small team of volunteers, they created additional income for clients of almost £270,000! Here's one story:

K came to PFAC for support until late 2024 after good contact with him. His Mum then told PFAC that K was finding the process challenging as his mental health had deteriorated. It was agreed that his health challenges would be shared with creditors to stop unnecessary contact with the client whilst he was poorly.

Very recently the first response was received from a Debt Collection Agency that they had placed the account on hold for 90 days and were happy to wait for further contact. Following this K's health has improved and he is now pursuing a Debt Relief Order to help him make a fresh start and limit the impact on his mental health moving forward.

A paper with more detailed prayer requests is available on the table at the back of the Sanctuary, but please do give thanks for a manageable caseload and the positive impact on clients. Pray for those who will be affected by proposed changes to the benefits system, for more volunteers and ongoing support for PFAC.

General information

The church office is usually open from 10am to 5pm Tuesday - Thursday

Address: Mutley Plain, Mutley, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 6LB (01752) 203346

Email: office@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

Rev Nick Lear (Minister) - nicklear@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk 07869 809064 (not Saturday)

Beth Hemes (Children's Families' and Youth pastor) - beth@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

Fiona Spicer (Community pastor) - fiona@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

Sunday Services in the Sanctuary

10am (with groups for children and young people) and 6pm (a more informal service)

Home Groups (term time)

Hartley and Zoom	Tuesdays	Joy Sutton
Woolwell	Tuesdays	Paddy and Karen Allen
Mutley	Wednesdays	Fiona & John Spicer
Stoke	Wednesdays	Kate & Steve Brown

Contact Joy Sutton, or the church office for more details, or pick up a card.

Youth children and families groups (term time)

contact Jane Frost or Kelly Thomas - yfadmin@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk and book online on our website

Buzzy Bees Messy Mondays - Monday mornings

Buzzy Bees Stay and Play—Wednesday mornings

Baby Bees— Friday afternoons

Lighthouse Café and Supernova Thursday evenings

MY1 and MY2—Thursday evenings

Mutley Youth, Kids' church and Creche—Sunday mornings

Cosy Corner Tuesdays from 12-2pm in the Lounge (Closed in School Holidays)

Bigger Table Thursdays 12noon—1pm in the Hall meal and bags of food (£1.50 each)

Mission Prayer usually 1st Monday each month in the Lounge at 7.30pm.

Pastoral team Wednesdays 11am - nicklear@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

Please send any items for inclusion in the next edition of Mutley Matters to Nick by 24th of the preceding month. There's always up to date information on our Facebook & Instagram pages and the 'What's on?' section of our website: www.mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

(If you missed the April Fool's joke, look again at the title on the front page)