

Dear friends

In the spirit of our season of thankfulness I wrote an **ode to gratitude...**

This ode seeks to avoid platitudes so please allow some linguistic latitude:
Looking for reasons to be thankful changes our perception of life by an order of magnitude - thankfulness lifts our frame of mind to a new altitude.

If you have hair to wash, be grateful that you are hirsute and that there are enough locks to be shampooed;

if a dog eats your headgear be glad that it was only your hat he chewed.

Give thanks if you can open your fridge door and see some snacky food, or even chow that could be barbecued - recognise your relative plentitude.

When you turn on a tap and water flows, be grateful that you didn't walk miles and you hadn't had to have queued.

When friends sit with you while you're overwhelmed, realise how much you are valued and hold onto their fortitude.

If life feels relentless give thanks for moments of solitude and quietude where you step apart from the multitude - relax and allow the silence to lift your mood and your energy to be renewed.

Appreciation is a relentlessly refillable resource when we intentionally deploy an attitude of gratitude.

And that's a verisimilitude

I hope that you will be able to join in the Weekend of Thankfulness (details on the next page) – come along for part of the day on the Saturday and join us on the Sunday for our special service of thanksgiving and a shared lunch.

In the meantime, perhaps you can consider how you may 'give thanks in all circumstances'.

Be blessed, be a blessing - Nick

WEEKEND OF THANKFULNESS

As part of our exploring a theme of 'Thankfulness' as a church we are planning a weekend where we focus our gratitude – a Weekend of Thankfulness. There will be a lot going on for us to celebrate and in which we can participate...



Saturday 18th October

From 10am-3pm there will be different activities and events taking place in the church. In the Main Hall we will have **displays** from many of the different groups and organisations that meet here. Come and find out what they are doing and give thanks for it all.

During the day there will be **performances** in the Main Hall of people using their performing gifts – singing, playing musical instruments, reading poetry and more. *If you would like to take part let Nick know as soon as you can.*

We will have a **gallery** of creative arts – possibly paintings, photographs, sculptures and more – showing how people express their God-given gifts. *Again, let Nick know if you would like to share something.*

There will be a **Gratitude Labyrinth** in the Spurgeon Hall for all ages to come and explore a theme of gratitude.

Sunday 19th October

The morning service will include our Harvest Thanksgiving* (see below), stories of thankfulness, performances and Believer's Baptism.

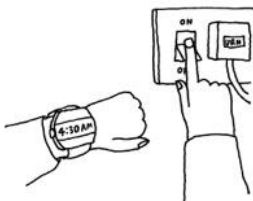
After the service the displays, gallery and Labyrinth will be open. We'll also share together in a 'bring and share' lunch.

*To join in the Harvest Thanksgiving please bring items that we can give to Bigger Table and Soup Run (tinned food, toiletries (not aerosols), warm clothes). Keep them with you as you come into the service and we will gather them during the service.

THANKLESS TASKS



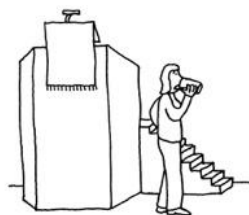
ANSWERING THE DOOR AT ALL HOURS AND FOR VARIOUS REASONS



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



DISPOSING OF THINGS DISCOVERED IN THE CHURCHYARD

Cartoonchurch.com

There are so many things that happen behind the scenes here that go unnoticed and unthanked. So to all those people – thank you. Of course there are some tasks that nobody wants to do (cleaning kitchen grease traps anyone?) but someone still does them – thank you (with a clothes peg ob by dose).

Part of being a thankful church is giving thanks to God. And we have so much for which we are thankful to God But it's also about recognising what others do and saying 'thank you' to them too.

Have a think about people whom you can thank. And if you think about it, don't only say 'thank you' but tell that person why you are grateful. You will bless them immensely because it shows them how they have been a blessing to you.

And while you're thanking that person, give thanks to God for them too!

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 (such as for the Weekend of Thankfulness).
Scan this QR code to join



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Keep the people you love safe and protected, and make a lifesaving difference in an emergency by learning life-saving skills with St John Ambulance.

If you would like to attend a session for about 1 hour please contact the office 01752 203346 or email office@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk giving your preferred Day – of the week and Time – morning/afternoon/evening

Maintenance Day

Thank you to everyone who has come to one of our maintenance days – it is such a blessing that people give their time and skills to improve the church buildings. Our next session is on **25th October**. If you can paint with a paintbrush, sand with sandpaper, hammer with a hammer or dust with a duster you would be very welcome to join us.

It will help with catering (often pasties and soup) if you can let us know if you are planning to be there by signing the list in the entrance area. Speak with Paddy to see how your skills can be used.

Significant changes

By now you will probably have heard that Fiona is taking Voluntary Redundancy, finishing with us on 30 November. These are her words about how God has led her to this and what she is being called to next:

"Sometimes in life God prompts us in different ways about how we serve him. For a while now I've been praying and looking to see if it's time to change. I've worked at MBC for quite a long time now. My main work has been developing the work with adults at risk (addictions, homelessness and those with much need). This is what led to the Greenhouse Project, has now become the Greenspace hub and Christian book shop - all of which help support others.

"I've really felt God saying that it's time to give something up so I can focus on developing the Greenhouse community in new ways and Greenspace shop/hub/bookshop. God has highlighted words for me like 'change', 'new pastures', and 'trust'. In Isaiah 61 we read of the priority of proclaiming good news to the poor. Throughout my life as a Christian this has been spoken to me - looking into the eyes of others and seeing Jesus .

"There is so much else to say - we will have more drop-ins upstairs in the Greenspace hub; support groups and counselling - but you can ask me about that.

"I am not leaving Mutley Baptist Church. It's important that you all know how much I love Mutley Baptist Church and all I and John have been involved in. This is my spiritual home. I have been privileged to be involved in helping develop many types of ministry here, but it's time to step aside from this to give more attention to Greenhouse community and Greenspace Hub and watch them flourish with Jesus at the centre. It's time take that step of faith. Taking voluntary redundancy helps me to make these significant steps a reality.

"Life changes and we have to keep moving forward and trusting God to provide, and that can happen in many different ways. I will still be partnering with the church through Greenspace. I am sad to be leaving the staff team but happy that this is right thing to do. Church to me is like family and you are a special family to me."

Mutley on Mission in Plymouth

The mission of MBC is not primarily carried out on our premises. It takes place wherever you are throughout the week. It would be great to hear some of your stories of what God's calling you to do. There will be space available in MM for you to share how you serve God and others beyond the walls of this church. Here are a couple of examples:

Our ministry on Mutley Plain includes what Fiona and the team are doing through Greenspace. **We are all invited to Greenspace Hub on 6th October at 7.30pm** to see how God is developing this ministry in exciting ways, hear about the new projects and plans, have a look at how it has developed, and pray around the premises.

Robert Owens writes: "I have always dreamt of worshipping at my local Church having commuted by car to both Mutley and Chaddlewood in the past. Now, most weeks I am worshipping at our local Church in Ermington, (2 minutes' walk across the field avoiding the cattle which graze there).

"Ermington Church has a small following of 20 to 30 mainly elderly worshippers. The Rector looks after 6 parish Churches and conducts Holy Communion service twice a month at Ermington. I have volunteered to be one of the Local Worship Leaders, which enables us lead worship on the other 2 Sundays.

"I have felt a strong sense of calling to maintaining weekly Sunday worship at Ermington. So, when our Church Warden announced they're moving away to Sussex, I responded by offering to be Church Warden. Beth's talk about Malachi at the end of August and the challenge to the Church confirmed my calling and offering my leadership gifts to the Lord in this way.

"I value my membership of Mutley Baptist Church and would like it to continue, keeping in touch on a 5th Sunday in the month when there is no service at Ermington."

Because we are church together, you are part of God's mission through this church wherever you are when you are not on our premises.

Mutley Baptist Church online

As well as joining with our services on YouTube, 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 watch recent services on our YouTube channel, and you can listen to our back catalogue of sermons from Sunday mornings in the 'Sunday Services' page if you scroll down the *What's On* page.

You can see what's coming up and find links to book for our youth, children and families activities on the *What's On* page.



Church Members Meeting

The next Church Members meeting takes place after the morning service on 2nd November. It will be in the Spurgeon Hall and online (members will receive an email with the Zoom link before the meeting).

This is an opportunity for us to listen to God together (in and through one another), to discern together and, having listened and discerned, to agree to follow what we believe is God's will.

There will be some important items to consider including:

- Appointing members of the Leadership Team
- Hearing about the ministries of the church and what God is doing in and through them (especially in the light of Fiona's calling to a new phase of ministry at Greenspace)
- Agreeing our budget for 2026

There will be activities for children to engage in to enable parents to attend. We hope that members will be able to attend in person or online.

General information

The church office is usually open from 10am to 5pm Tuesday - Thursday Mutley Plain, Mutley, Plymouth, Devon, PL4 6LB

Office contact: office@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk (01752) 203346

Rev Nick Lear (Minister) - nicklear@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk 07869 809064

Beth Hemes (Youth Children & Families Pastor) beth@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

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

Sunday Services

10am in the Sanctuary (with groups for children and young people) and 6pm in the Spurgeon Hall (a more informal service)

Home Groups (term time evenings)

Hartley and Zoom

Tuesdays

Joy & Adrian Sutton

Woolwell

Tuesdays

Paddy & Karen Allen

Mutley

Wednesdays

Fiona & John Spicer

Mount Gould

Thursdays

Tim & Helena Provost

Contact the church office for more details, or pick up a card in the entrance area.

Youth children and families groups (term time)

contact Jane Frost or Kelly Thomas - ycfadmin@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk or 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 12-2pm in the Lounge (closed in School Holidays)

Bigger Table Thursdays 12-1pm in the Hall: free meal and bags of food (£2)

Please send any items for inclusion in the next edition of Mutley Mutters 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: