

Dear friends

Many years ago, Sally and I visited a church (not MBC) for a morning service. We had to leave soon after the service ended, so we took some empty seats in the back row to enable a swift exit. We were then joined by two ladies who sat on either side of us. It soon became apparent that we were sat in *their* seats: they spoke across us not to us, and during the sermon even passed sweets across us without offering us any. We felt invisible. We felt unwelcome.

That same day we visited another church for their evening service. They were so friendly and welcoming, and the Minister even came to say hello before the service started. It was lovely. Guess which church we joined...

We are so blessed and encouraged to have been joined over recent months by many new friends. If that's you, then we are so pleased to meet you and grateful to God that you felt prompted to come along. We hope and pray that you feel welcome and if we can improve our welcome, please let us know.

There's a huge difference between being welcoming and being inclusive. MBC folk, please do all you can to include everyone, not just your friends. After all we're committed to being inclusive of everyone, aren't we? If you see someone sat on their own, please go and say 'hello'. Find out about them as well as introducing yourself. You can even share your sweets with them!



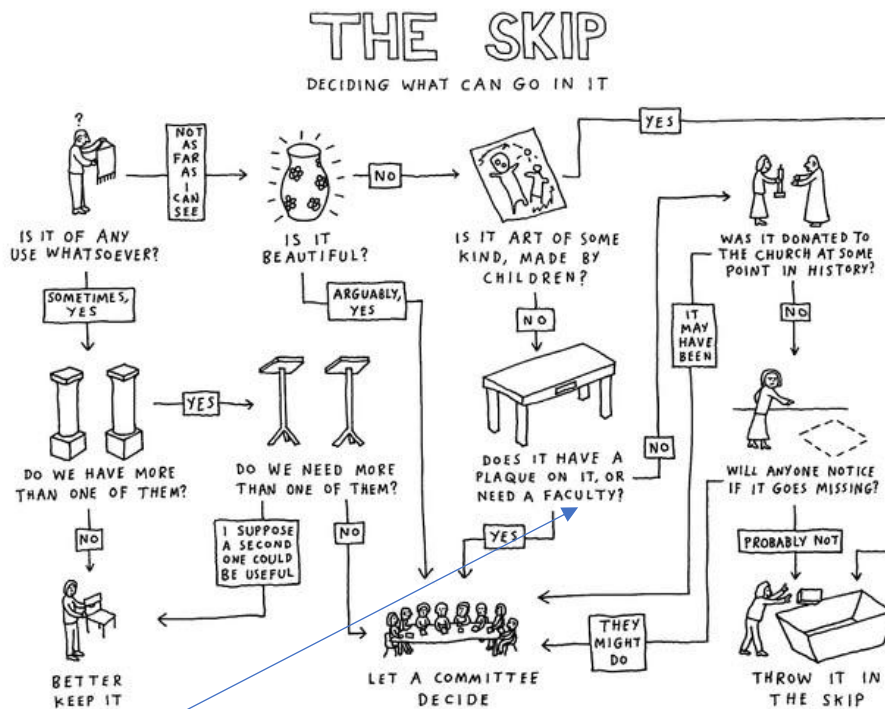
We've just created some new 'welcome' packs that explain different aspects of our church life together. If you're not sure what to say you could always share one of those and talk about what's in there!

Be blessed, be a blessing

Nick

Thank you to everyone who has come to one of our **Maintenance Days**. If you can paint with a paintbrush, sand with sandpaper, hammer with a hammer or even just dust with a duster you would be very welcome to join us in the future. It will help with catering (often pasties and soup) if you can let us know if you are planning to be there. Speak with Paddy if you aren't sure how your skills can be used.

There's a lot of preparation for our maintenance days – particularly deciding what to keep / throw away – occasionally we order a skip:



CartoonChurch.

A faculty is a legal permission needed to change certain things in Church of England church buildings. We are not constrained by that, but as a Listed Building we do require permission to make lasting changes to the building. We also have a responsibility, in gratitude to God for the gift of these premises, to ensure that even as they that are a blessing to us, they will also be a blessing to future generations.

In our **Sunday morning services** up to the end of July we are following a series travelling with Paul the Apostle, especially looking at the book of Acts. In August we will look at some of the so-called 'minor prophets'.

July

- 6th Youth and Children takeover – Communion
- 13th Believer's Baptisms - finding faith at the riverbank and prison
- 20th knowing the unknown God
- 27th in tents ministry, intensive mission

The Six – a more relaxed gathering on Sundays at 6pm

We start with refreshments and usually includes sung worship, something to make us think and a way of interacting with the theme. Following Pentecost we will be further considering the difference the Spirit makes to our lives as followers of Jesus.



We're delighted that **Claire Mulongi** and the boys will be in Plymouth for a few weeks in July (while John remains in Uganda to care for his mother). Claire and John lead a ministry in rural Uganda, which we support in prayer and financially. Claire will be sharing about this ministry on **7th July in the Lounge at 7.30pm**. Do come along to hear what God is doing through this family – come to be encouraged and come be an encouragement

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. Scan this QR code to join



Home Groups

We already have groups across the city that meet on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, but there's a geographical gap in the Lipson / Prince Rock / Mount Gould area. If you would be interested in being part of a group in that part of the town, please let Nick know. We'll hold a gathering after the Sunday morning service on 20th July to explore it further – collect your refreshments from the back and join us for a short gathering near the front of the Sanctuary.



Music and Magic – thank you

Thank you to all who helped with or attended the event last month, it was a great evening with La La Choirs singing melodious and uplifting songs, and Nick showed some magical illusions. We raised over £2,000 for St Luke's Hospice!

For your prayers

In July our mission prayer focus is on the Greenhouse Community Project (see next page).

We have daily prayers that are based on our six values (you can pick up a copy in the entrance area or on our website values page). This is the prayer based on our value of being people-focused:

“In a world where the population is measured in billions, help us to love people as Jesus did – one person at a time. Use our words and actions to change lives and transform communities in Mutley, Plymouth, this country and the wider world. May we have sight beyond big issues to see the needs of individuals, listen beyond empty rhetoric to hear the cries of the vulnerable, and speak and embody your words of hope and life to all who need to meet you in us. Keep our eyes on Jesus. And as we follow him, we pray that everyone who is touched by the ministry of this church, whether on the premises or where we are, will be drawn closer to faith in Jesus because of what they see of him in us.”

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 pastoral@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

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.

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.



Prayer focus

Our new mission prayer focus is on **Greenhouse Community Project (GCP)**. Led by Fiona Spicer, this project has grown and evolved over the years, with the aim always to be a blessing to people who most need support and encouragement. Greenhouse is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of those affected by social exclusion. GCP is an independent Community Interest Company that focuses on providing support and resources for individuals and families facing hardships such as homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, and domestic abuse.

GCP is centred around the Greenspace shop on Mutley Plain where you can buy a wide range of beautiful items, and find a Christian Bookshop (which is now on the ground floor). In 2024 they obtained the upstairs of the shop and have transitioned to becoming a hub which offers the shop, local workshops, counselling and other services: “We firmly believe that everyone deserves a chance to rebuild their lives and find community. Through our programs and initiatives, we aim to break down barriers and empower individuals to overcome the challenges they face.”

“We ... strive to make a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Join us on this journey as we create a brighter and more inclusive future for everyone. Together, we can make a real difference and transform lives.” MBC is proud to support GCP. www.greenspacehub.co.uk



Mutley Baptist Church online

Our Sunday morning services used to be available on Zoom. Unfortunately, due to an individual childish showing obscene images, we have stopped making this generally available and will soon be livestreaming services on YouTube instead. 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, 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 on the *What's On* page too.

Have you got questions?

Jesus welcomed people asking questions about life and faith and so do we.

We're holding another open session for ANYONE to come along and ask your questions about faith, the Bible, church...

This will be **21 July at 7.30pm** in the Bunyan Room.

Plan to come along and bring your questions!



Church Meeting

We have a Church Meeting for members after the morning service on 6th July, in the Main Hall and on Zoom. **We will start at 1130** and keep it concise so your lunch isn't overcooked!

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)

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

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:

www.mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk