

Dear friends

In our morning services we are going to explore 'thankfulness' and how God's Spirit grows an attitude of gratitude within us. In the middle of the series, on 18-19 October, we will celebrate a 'Weekend of Thankfulness'. This will enable us to focus on the many blessings, encouragements, joys and gifts that we receive from God as a church and as individuals and express gratitude to God for all of them. **Details will appear on the Thankfulness page our website and social media.**

One of our six values as a church is that we seek to be generously big-hearted – to be like Jesus in our generosity: to people who were used to being ignored he gave his time and attention. Those who were belittled received significance and self-worth from Jesus. Those who needed healing and food received those things from him. And those who needed to know the truth about God found that in him too.

Above all these things, we remember that Jesus' generosity was crowned by giving himself – leaving heaven to come and live among us and giving his life so that all may live and be included in God's forever family.

While there is so much for which we can be thankful, let's focus on the One to whom we're so grateful. The series and weekend is all about God, not about us, so praise and worship will play a key part in what we do and how we do it.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances..."

(1 Thess 5.16-17)

Be blessed, be a blessing

Nick



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MBC IN SEPTEMBER

Picnic in the Park

On **7th September**, after the morning service, we invite you to join us all in Freedom Fields park. The aim is for us to enjoy being together as church. Bring a packed lunch to eat and something to sit on (there are benches, but we can't reserve them). We'll organise games and activities as well.

Sunday mornings at 10am

Before Advent we will be focusing on thankfulness in our 10am services – having an 'attitude of gratitude' – leading up to our **Weekend of Thankfulness** on 18-19 October. More details on the Thankfulness page of our website.

The Six – a relaxed gathering on Sundays at 6pm

We start with refreshments and usually include sung worship, something to make us think and a way of interacting with our theme: 'The Kingdom is yours... and yours... and yours...'

Sacred Pathways

This nine-week course helps you discover your spiritual personality – how you find it easier to encounter God. We start on **Tuesday 16th September** at 7.30pm in the Knibb Room (creche room) downstairs.

Each session lasts about 1½ hours. After an introduction to the theme we hear from people who meet God on this 'pathway', concluding with hands-on experiences for participants..



The course is suitable for everyone – whether you are still exploring faith in Jesus or have been a follower for decades.

You don't need to book in advance and if you want to know more, please speak with Nick.

We hope to see you there, come with a friend or on your own. Pick up a leaflet as a reminder or invitation.

Maintenance Days

Thank you to everyone who has come to one of our. Our next session is on **13th September**. 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 if to see how your skills can be used.

Livestreaming our morning services

We are moving our online service streaming from Zoom to YouTube starting at the beginning of September.

To join the YouTube livestream either search for Mutley Baptist Church on YouTube or use this QR code.

Now that we no longer use Zoom we can reveal what has been going on offscreen during previous services!

After the service, chat will still take place on the old Zoom link

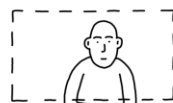


THE ONLINE MEETING

APPEARANCE



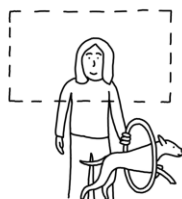
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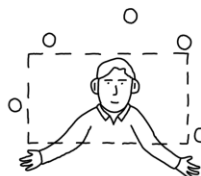
FOLLOWING
TWITTER AND/OR
THE FOOTBALL



HOUSEHOLD
CHORES



TRAINING
ANIMALS



CIRCUS SKILLS
(BASIC)

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



Home Groups

We have groups in people's homes across the city that meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and now Thursday evenings, with a new group hosted by Tim and Helena. If you would like more information about it please have a word with Nick or speak direct to Tim and Helena. We also have a group that meets on Zoom.

Home Groups are great places to get to know people, to grow, share life and faith and pray together. If you would like to join one, please pick up a leaflet in the entrance area with this symbol on it



For your prayers

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 for our value of being **generously big-hearted**:

"Jesus, you invite us to participate in your Kingdom where the last are first and servants are considered great. Help us to reflect your humble generosity in the way that we serve and how we consider others.

"We rely on you above all, and yet also on each other, to be able to do all that you are calling us to do as a church. Keep us always dependent on you and recognising that, as we are stewards of your resources, we need to make wise choices with those resources.

"Recognising our relative privilege and wealth in a world where many live in absolute poverty, help us to be lavish in sharing our time, gifts, money, expertise and resources. As we do so, may we sense afresh that whatever we do 'for the least of these' we do for you."

We continue to 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.

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.

Mutley
matters

if **it matters** to **you**,
then **it matters** to **God**
and **it matters** to **us**

Gloria's Gift by John Parsons

Some of life's pivotal experiences happen in unexpected places. Come with me to a remote area of Tanzania where people live in adobe huts (made of dried mud bricks), cultivating small plots of maize. In this poverty-stricken place I discovered afresh the Christian virtues of thankfulness and generosity.

I was a voluntary worker at an Anglican school helping to build two new classrooms. Women ferried stacks of bricks and buckets of cement to my work area on their heads. One woman dumped a bucket at my feet.

Gloria was of medium height with deep, warm, friendly eyes. Her African turban was bleached by the sun into pale greens, watery yellows and de-saturated mauves. She wore an ankle-length wraparound, oatmeal in colour, patterned with vertical lines of helixes. A baby was strapped to her back, a tiny hand gripping her shoulder. I noticed she wasn't wearing footwear and there were deep cracks in her heels with small stones wedged in them. I fished an old pair of trainers from my holdall and offered them to her. She took them from me, bowed and toddled off.

Three days later Gloria stood before me again, those friendly eyes sparkling. From her loose-fitting blouse she withdrew a tattered plastic bag holding two chicken eggs. I hesitated to take them: 'Would acceptance of the eggs involve me in a fertility rite?' I wondered naively.



My liaison officer said, 'They're a thank-you for the trainers.'

Accepting this meagre yet priceless gift was a deeply humbling experience. The woman had demonstrated to me the true meaning of thankfulness and generosity - something none of us should ever forget.

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.



Leadership Team nominations

This church is people not premises. We all know that. And God has called an amazing group of people to be Mutley Baptist Church – including you. We are required by law to have a defined membership (those who can make decisions about the running of the church) and we also have a Leadership Team, who are our Trustees, drawn from our membership.

We usually appoint members of the Leadership Team at our November Church Meeting, but the nomination process starts now. Please pray that God will raise up new members of the Leadership Team with the gifts and servant-hearted nature that is needed. If someone comes to mind please have a word with Nick, or Mark Bailey, and pick up a nomination form.

You do need to be a formal Church Member to nominate someone, but if you're not and you think there is someone who should be nominated, do talk with Nick or Mark. It will be wonderful if we can add to the current team, especially if the team is able to look more like our wonderfully diverse church.

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: