

Dear friends

We're into the Spring Cleaning season, and as a church we entered into that last month with our 'Skip Day'. A wonderful group of people turned up on the day, to build on the work Steve and Paddy had done in sorting out a lot of the detritus (look it up) that had gathered in the building here over years.

I didn't see anyone with a skipping rope, or prancing along... the only 'skipping' in evidence on the day was filling a large skip with all of the rubbish, along with filling the paper / cardboard recycling bin. I want to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone who came along and joined in the hard work. The church has regained the use of a whole room, along with clearing other spaces so that they are more useable too. Well done everyone.

I am not sure why it's 'Spring' cleaning as opposed to any other season. My guess is that it's because Spring is the season of fresh starts, new beginnings, rebirth and growth. It makes sense to have a clear out of our 'stuff' in this season so we can have a less cluttered year.

And, as you will be expecting, we can also have a spring clean of our soul. Perhaps now is a moment to see if there are any bad habits gathering dust, or we have anything that we don't need in our hearts. Ask God's Spirit to help you have a clear out, and who knows you may even be skipping for joy!

Be blessed, be a blessing

Nick



Do you want to know more about Christian faith and life?

If you are not sure about what you think about God, then we can offer you the **Being With** course. This is not a place where you come for us to give you the answers, but is for anyone who wants to explore the Christian faith and life with a small group of like-minded people. We won't tell you *what* to believe but will help you discover *how* to believe.

If you are interested in this (times and dates to suit the group) please let Nick know.



Elders

There is still space for some more people to be Elders here. 'Elders' is the name given for those who act as Trustees / Leaders for the church. They serve the church by having oversight of the church activities and making some of the decisions about how the church is run, subject to the Church Meeting. We meet twice a month – usually on the second Monday evening to look at the mission and ministry of the Church and on the fourth Thursday evening to consider the more practical aspects of the church.

Currently *most* of our Elders are white middle-aged men, but there are surely other Church Members God has gifted and is calling to serve in this way! Could that be you? Is there someone whom you think has the gifts and qualities for this role?

A few people are currently considering nominations, but please have a word with Mark Bailey or Nick if you think God may be calling you, or there's someone else whom you think God is calling, to serve in this way.

Skipping along

Thank you to everyone who came to the Skip Day on 20th April. We managed to fill the skip with rubbish that had accumulated around the premises and unwanted items. It would be great if we can avoid the need to do this again, so if you have something you think might be useful to the church please ask one of the Elders about it rather than simply leaving it here... to be thrown away in another skip day!

(If you do furniture upholstery as a hobby, please speak with Paddy Allen)



Mutley Magic

Performed by

Nick Lear

Member of the Magic Circle

(As seen on BBC Spotlight)

Fun and Magic for all ages

Entry is free
(donations optional)



is back!

**Saturday
18th May**

Mutley
BAPTIST
CHURCH

doors open at 6pm
show starts at 6.30pm
and will finish by 8pm



God can use you to serve others

As well as needing more Elders we still need volunteers for our **Youth, Children and Families** teams. Thank you to those who have volunteered recently. You would be a blessing if you can serve at:

Messy Monday – 2 people: from 8.30 to 11.30am on Mondays.

Lighthouse Cafe - 1 person needed to help cook and serve food and wash up from 3.30 to 5.30pm on Thursdays

Kids' Church - 1 person needed teaching children about Jesus, following provided session plans on a rota basis. From 9.45 to 11.30am on Sundays

Mutley Youth 1 – 2 people to help on Thursdays from 6.30-8pm



If you are a **musician** and would like to play in the band in our Sunday morning services please speak with one of the current team or with Nick. Thank you too to all who currently serve us in this way.

Monday evening booking

We're delighted to welcome 2 choirs who will be using the Main Hall and Spurgeon Hall on Monday evenings as a regular weekly booking throughout the year.

Please respect these bookings and don't go into those rooms or disturb them while they are here.

Other church activities can take place on Mondays in other rooms in the church, but please check with Steve Siney first.

Thank you

Livewires

You're invited to the next Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 15th May at 11am in the Knibb Room.**

There will be a presentation: 'The Time of our Lives' by John Burden. It's a humorous, appreciative, and affectionate commentary on the real-life experiences of those born in the decade after WW2 – the Baby Boomers.

Speak with Linda Crewe or Kay Rouse to find out more – Livewires is not only for Boomers!

For your prayers

Our **May mission prayer focus** is on John Parsons.

John seems to be a one-man mission agency, having gone on over 50 short term mission trips to support

and encourage existing mission activities in Africa and across in the world.

Elsewhere in *Mutley Matters* you can read another article he has written about one of his previous mission trips in Dominican Republic. Pray for him as he plans his next activity, and also for the ongoing blessing for the many people whose lives he has touched.

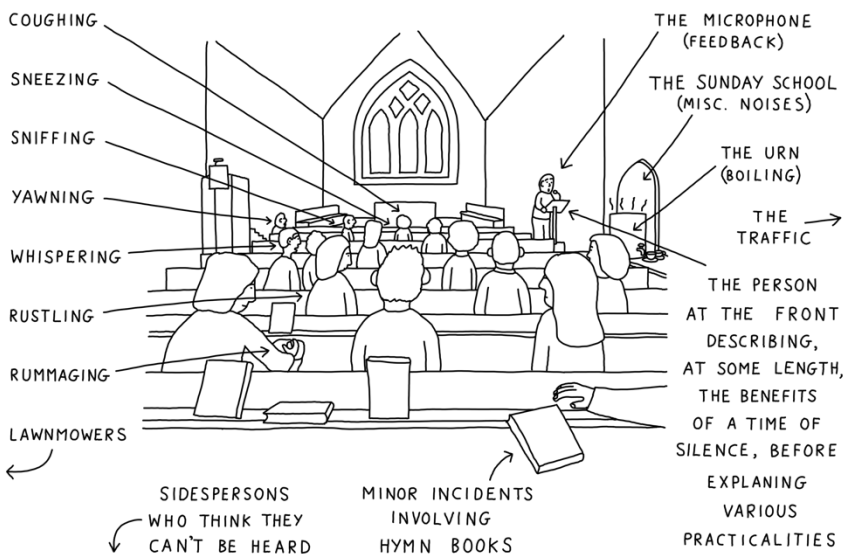
There are members of our church who are undergoing treatment for serious conditions – pray that the side effects will not be too oppressive, and that the treatment will be successful. Others are living in remission but with the possibility that illness may return. Pray too for those who are struggling with long term illnesses and those who are supporting them.

Let's not forget to thank God too for answered prayer and the many blessings we receive personally and as a church.



A TIME OF SILENCE

PLEASE IGNORE ALL DISTRACTIONS



Sunday Services

In our morning services we're looking at **Church as God intends**. Through the book of Acts and some of the letters that were written to churches in the New Testament era we'll consider what God has to say to us as church today. In May our themes are:

5th – a generous community (Acts 4:32-5:11) – we will share communion too

12th – a community that gladly faces opposition (Acts 5:17-42; 8:1-3)

19th – a community that builds on what God is doing (John 4:39-42; Acts 8:4-8)

26th – a community that baptises believers (Acts 8:26-40)

You can listen to most Sunday morning sermons on the Sunday Services section of the website: www.mutleybaptist.co.uk/services - scroll down and there's a player where you can listen or download sermons.

These themes will be picked up and explored more deeply in most **Home Groups** each week. Pick up a leaflet from the entrance area of the church to find out about joining a group.



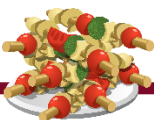
Mutley Baptist Church online

As well as streaming our services on zoom, you can see our

beliefs, vision and values as a church and our activities on our website www.mutleybaptist.co.uk We also have Facebook and Instagram pages where we regularly post details about what's going on in the life of the church. Please find, like and follow us for up to date news.

Sunday Lunch for all

On **Sunday 19th May**, after the morning service, you're invited to join us for lunch in the Main Hall. If you can, please bring something to share with up to 8 others, especially home-cooked. See Sally Lear if you have questions, and please bring a list of the ingredients so that anyone with allergies can check them.



A new beginning by John Parsons

Tourists rarely see poverty in the Dominican Republic, a holiday island in the Caribbean: shacks jammed together; no running water, rats. A Canadian charity and a UK partner are addressing the problem by building new villages, schools and clinics.

Over two weeks in 2014 my team of volunteers from the UK help to construct a three room, single storey house. (In the last nineteen years since then nearly 2,000 similar houses have been erected, creating 14 villages with biblical names: Ascencion, Paradiso, Samaritano. More are planned.)

On our final day a ceremony is held in Samaritano as dust devils swirl along the main track. Shaded by the overhanging branches of a mango tree, the keys are officially handed to Maria, who has three boys.

Wisely, the Canadian charity retains the house deeds for five years then hands them to the woman of the house. When medical bills are pending or a family member dies the owner is tempted to sell the property. Besides, couples rarely marry and weddings are expensive. When children come along the men frequently ditch their responsibilities and seek greener pastures.

The team gives Maria a bag of basic foodstuffs, something to celebrate the start of the family's new life.

'Now she can concentrate on feeding and educating her children,' the burly charity director intones. 'She'll never forget your input into her life.'

And I shall never forget Maria's joyous smile as she steps into the future.



Contact details:

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

office@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk (10am to 5pm Tues - Thur)

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 and 6 o'clock - a more innovative and creative style of service.

Home Groups (term time)

Hartley and Zoom	Tuesdays	Joy Sutton
Plympton	Tuesdays	Malcolm Wells
Woolwell	Tuesdays	Paddy and Karen Allen
Mount Gould	Tuesday	Amy and Jen Trace
Eggbuckland	Wednesdays	Jill Heaton
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 - ycfadmin@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

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 9.30-3pm in the Lounge (Closed in School Holidays)

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

Wednesday Prayer 10am in Nick's office for about ½ hour.

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 May's edition** to Nick by 20th May. There's always up to date information on our Facebook and Instagram pages and the 'What's on?' section of our website: www.mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk