

Dear friends

Boing! Spring has sprung. There are signs of renewal everywhere – leaves and blossom have appeared on trees that had been dormant during winter, newborn lambs are skipping in fields, spring flowers are blooming and the weather is getting drier and warmer (he writes in faith). The season brings hope, lightens moods and reminds us of the rebirth at the heart of the Christian faith.

This edition has been published just before Easter Sunday, the joyful day when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead by eating lots of chocolate eggs. When I was a child the strangeness of that never occurred to me – I was too busy enjoying the chocolate eggs. Then, for a while, I resented how Easter had become focused on the chocolate eggs rather than Jesus.

And then I realised that the reason eggs are given at Easter is because they are a sign of new life and new birth. Before the invention of chocolate eggs people would give real eggs that had been painted. The ovoid shape reminded people of the stone that tried (and failed) to keep Jesus in the tomb. The new life that emerges from the sealed egg reminded people of Jesus emerging from the sealed tomb. We may have lost some of the symbolism by making eggs out of chocolate, but we can still be reminded of the wonderful message of Easter even by the shape of the chocolate eggs: Jesus died, Jesus is risen, Jesus is alive today!

Hallelujah!!!

Be blessed, be a blessing

Nick



## Believe and be baptised

It is wonderful that we are baptising Oscar on 10th March, and Mahdi and Jack on Easter Sunday in the morning and evening services. They all share our faith in the risen Jesus and we celebrate with them in their baptisms.

If God has been prompting you about being baptised don't put it off any longer, have a word with Nick.

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 with a small group of like-minded people.

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

## Elders

We are so pleased to welcome Joy Nadimikeri and Paddy Allen as new Elders in the church. They will bring so much to the team we already have, however there is room for more people to serve as Elders.

God calls and equips everyone for service where they are placed throughout the week, but God also calls and equips different people for specific roles. Currently *most* of our Elders are white middle-aged men, but there are surely other people God has gifted and is calling to serve in this way! Could that be you?

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

## Can you help?

A Christian theatre company is coming to Plymouth to perform 2 plays at Plymouth College. They would like accommodation in homes for 2-3 nights beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> July. If you can help, please let the Church Office know. Thanks

## Working hard

Thank you to everyone who came to the **Working Party** on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

Although it was wet outside, we still managed to tackle maintenance issues inside and in breaks in the weather we were able to repair one of the lamps and put up the cross at the front of the church.



## In the news

On 14<sup>th</sup> March our Minister, Nick, performed a magic show at Plymouth City Council offices in aid of Comic Relief. The show culminated in two of our local Compton Ward Councillors – Angela Penrose and Charlotte Carlyle courageously starring alongside Nick. Nick briefly removed Angela's hand before restoring it, and then Charlotte was sawn in half. Both were unharmed and very brave. These may well have been the funniest council cuts so far! Together they raised over £250 for Comic Relief

BBC Spotlight news were there recording the magic, and the event was part of the 6.30 news the following day! If you didn't see the broadcast, the photos below give you a flavour of what happened..



We plan to hold another of our **Mutley Magic** evenings on **18th May at 6pm** so watch out for publicity about that soon.



## 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.

## Welcome back Beth!

Following her maternity leave Beth (our Youth, Children and Families Pastor) is returning to work on 15<sup>th</sup> April. She will be increasing her hours until she is back to full time.

We are delighted too that Kelly is staying on as part of the YCF admin team to support Beth and the rest of the teams who have been amazing while Beth was on maternity leave.

Please pray for them both, and the wider teams, as they continue this fantastically important ministry.

## Cosy Corner in the Lounge

**Breakfasts** are now available on Tuesday mornings from 9.30-11.30am for a filled roll and hot drink for £1

Cosy Corner **Lunchtime** takes over at 1230 on Tuesdays for the usual cakes and drinks for £1.

This is for EVERYONE. It's a warm and comfy place to meet people, rest and have a chat.



## For your prayers

Our April prayer focus is on Christian Resources Project. For many years they have sold books and other resources through the bookshop, as well as supporting mission activities in local schools and beyond. CRP is in the process of closing and while the bookshop is relocating to a room above Greenspace, pray for Mike and Lin Law as they tie up all the loose ends. May they know God's encouragement, blessing and support.



Pray too for several of our church are awaiting results or beginning treatment. Pray too for those recovering from surgery. Continue to pray for those who live with long-term illness. Pray for those supporting them too and how we can be part of that support.

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

## ONLINE SERVICES

THINGS THAT CAN GO TERRIBLY WRONG



PROBLEMS WITH THE SOUND



ACCIDENTAL SCREEN-SHARING OF PASTORALLY-SENSITIVE INFORMATION



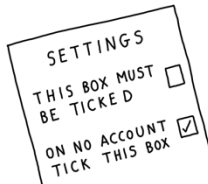
INTERNET BREAKS AT CRUCIAL MOMENT



LINDA! HAVE YOU SEEN MY SPECTACLES?



ANIMALS RUNNING AMOK



THE APP HASN'T BEEN CONFIGURED



LIVE ARREST OWING TO IGNORING COPYRIGHT



INVASION BY ROWDY GROUP OF METHODISTS

## Sunday Services

In our services from April to the summer break we will be looking at **Church as God imagined it**. 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.

7<sup>th</sup> – a community that is Spirit-filled (Acts 2:1-13)

14<sup>th</sup> – a community that loves God and loves people (Acts 2:41-47)

21<sup>st</sup> – a community that proclaims risen Jesus (Acts 4:1-22)

28<sup>th</sup> – a community that prays for power (Acts 4:23-31)

You can listen to most Sunday morning sermons on the Sunday Services section of the website: [www.mutleybaptist.co.uk/services](http://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 our **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 on our website [www.mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk](http://www.mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk)

You will be able to see more information about the different groups and activities that take place on the church premises during the week, and there are links to those for which you need to book.

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.



## What's in the entrance area?

If you come into the church on a Sunday you almost certainly go through the entrance area on your way in and out. But have you stopped to see what's there?

**mission board** – each month there is information about one of the mission activities linked to this church.

**giving table** – we have a card reader and offering plate for gifts to the church as an act of worship. Feel free to take a lolly as a gift from us

**prayer cards** – if you would like us to pray for you please write on a card and put it in the bowl

**welcome table** – information that may be helpful if you're new here



## Contact details:

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

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

Rev Nick Lear (Minister) direct line 01752 371060 - [nicklear@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:nicklear@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk)

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

Fiona Spicer (Community pastor) 01752 371059 - [fiona@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto: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 - [yfadmin@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:yfadmin@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](mailto:nicklear@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk)

Please send any **items for inclusion in May's edition** to Nick by 20th April. 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](http://www.mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk)