

Dear friends

I am always surprised by discovering new things from the Bible as I prepare sermons week by week. The surprise is my own fault - I think I know what a passage means based on my previous reading and understanding. But God's Spirit reveals fresh insights and new understanding every time.

I shouldn't be surprised because the Bible is not simply a library of 66 books that were gathered for us as a reference book or a user manual for a relationship with God. It's a living document. God's Spirit was in events that are recorded, and in the words spoken; the Spirit was in the hearts and minds of those who were inspired to write them down; those who have translated the Bible into our language relied on God's Spirit to help them; and as we read the Bible that same Spirit of God takes all of that and applies it to us today. There's so much to learn from, about and with the Bible and the Spirit breathes life into it all.

On **November 19th and 26th, and December 9th** there's an opportunity for us to learn more about this astonishing book: answering questions such as 'What are the big themes?' 'How can we best understand it?' 'How did we get the Bible?' and more beside. It's at 7.30pm in the Lounge (or Main Hall if lots come along). Please sign the list in the Sanctuary if you plan to attend.

It would be great to see you there.

Be blessed, be a blessing

Nick



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

THE BENEFITS



USE OF THE SECRET
MEMBERS-ONLY LOUNGE



PREVIEWS OF SERMONS THE
NIGHT BEFORE RELEASE



A SPECIAL BUMPER EDITION
OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE



A 'GET OUT OF A
ROTA FREE' CARD



PRIORITY LANE AT
AFTER-SERVICE COFFEE



A BADGE, AND
SOME STICKERS

CartoonChurch.com

What's Church Membership all about?

Everyone is welcome at Mutley Baptist Church, and anyone can belong here. You don't have to be a member to belong - everyone is equally loved and important. So, you may ask, why are some people Church Members?

Church Membership is mutual commitment: members promise to support one and bless one another as a part of MBC. You can read more about that in the *Growing Together* covenant document (copies in the foyer and on our website).

As a charity we must define who makes key decisions about the life of this church: the Church Members. We meet 4 times a year to listen to God in and through one another and to discern what God wants us to do.

If you're interested in becoming a member, please have a word with Nick, or Mark (our Church Secretary who usually gives out announcements for the week).

On 30th November we will host another of our Mutley Magic evenings, this time called *The Magic of Christmas*. It promises to be a wonder-full evening. Please put it in your diary. Invitations will be available for you to give to friends and family so they can come along and be entertained.



Worship by giving

At MBC we talk of 'worship by giving'. This is a recognition that worship for followers of Jesus is much more than singing songs and praying together on a Sunday. **We can make our whole life an act of worship if we want to.** We can intentionally offer any things that we do and say as an act of praise and gratitude to God.

Worship in this way isn't only about doing something intentionally well as an offering to God. There may also be blessings for others through that act. Household chores as an act of worship if you choose them to be, and the household is blessed. The way you drive a car be an act of worship that blesses other road-users. An encouraging conversation with someone else can be an act of worship. A hobby or pastime can be an act of worship when shared with others. What might that look like for you? One of our values is that we are 'generously big-hearted' which reflects this.

And the money given to support the work and activity of this church (and elsewhere) is an act of worship – we give in gratitude and response to God. You can pick up a card in the entrance area or on one of the pews that explains this a bit more. You can worship financially by giving cash into the new box in the foyer, by using the card reader, via our website or by setting up a standing order.

Thank you for your generous big-hearted worship through giving which means we as a church are able to be a blessing to many on Jesus' behalf.



For your prayers

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

Our November mission prayer focus is on Joe and Icha Gardiner, who are working in Madagascar in community development projects. You can read about them on the mission board that is to the left of the main doors as you leave the entrance area. To the left of that board (next to the toilets) is a board that tells us more about our six values and includes copies of our daily prayers based on those values.

We continue to thank God that several of us who have been receiving treatment and surgery have received positive news about the outcome. But there are still others who are undergoing treatment. Pray that they can cope with any side effects and recover soon from surgery. Others are living in remission but with the possibility that illness may return. Pray too for those who are struggling with other long-term illnesses and those who are supporting them.

Let's also pray for those who experience mental ill health, either as a short-term illness or longer-term condition. These illnesses can go unnoticed because there may not be physical symptoms but can be debilitating for the person who is ill.

We are so pleased to welcome new friends to this church. If that's you, then may you know and experience God's love, joy and peace and we pray that you will find a spiritual home here.

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



Sunday Services

In our morning services we're continuing our series looking at **Living in Love and Justice** - the 10 Commandments. We particularly be look at what Jesus had to say about them and what they mean in our 21st Century world.

3rd November	Tell the truth
10 th	Be satisfied (all age, including act of Remembrance)
17 th	How Jesus fulfils the law
24 th	Build your life on Jesus

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.



The Six O'clock service is following a different, but complementary theme:

God's love for ordinary people

3 rd November	This who we are
10 th	The meaning of forgiveness
17 th	Counting the cost of being different
24 th	Are we willing to change?

The Six is more informal than the morning service, starting with refreshments (available throughout the service) and alongside sung worship and prayers there may be a talk, discussion or activities to explore the theme in different ways.

Christmas is coming

Our Sunday Christmas services are below – whom will you bring?

- Dec 15th – 10am **All Age Nativity**; 6pm **Alternative Carols**
- Dec 16th – 7pm **Carol Singing** in Freedom Fields estate
- Dec 22nd – 6pm **Carols by Candlelight**



Spaces... the final frontier?

We are so blessed here to have such large premises, with so many different rooms – it can be quite bewildering the first couple of times you try to navigate yourself around. Thanks to Paddy, Steve and the maintenance days this year we have turned what had been junk storage spaces into usable rooms, giving us more room for our own activities and the user groups that rent space from us.

As you can imagine it's a huge task ensuring that rooms are available and ready for those who are expecting to use them, and it's a task we can all help with. Please don't assume you can use an unoccupied room - it may be ready for another group.

If you want to use a room here for a meeting or activity, please check its availability with the church office and book it as far in advance as possible. That should mean that the space is prepared and unoccupied when you come to use it. If your meeting or activity is cancelled, please can you let us know so we don't prepare it and heat it unnecessarily, and others could then book it.

To book a room email stevesiney@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk

Mutley Baptist Church online

Our Sunday morning services are usually (subject to the vagaries of internet connections) available on Zoom. You can either click on the link (if you have a PDF version of Mutley Matters) or use the login details below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82895962650...>

Meeting ID: **828 9596 2650** Passcode: **155595**



As well as streaming our services on zoom, 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 follow links on the *What's On* page to book for our youth, children and families activities. We have Facebook and Instagram pages about other activity in the life of the church. Please find, like and follow us for up-to-date news.

General information

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 informal style of service)

Home Groups (term time)

Hartley and Zoom	Tuesdays	Joy Sutton
Plympton	Tuesdays	Malcolm Wells
Woolwell	Tuesdays	Paddy and Karen Allen
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 and 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 from 12-3pm 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 the next edition of Mutley Matters 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