



## OCTOBER 2020 Newsletter

### A Grey start to the month! October 2020 newsletter

On grey days

On grey days  
It's hard to praise  
The gloomy cloud  
Occludes my mood

On grey days  
Feel out of phase  
Just not quite right  
Inside my skin

On grey days  
The rain sprays  
Dampen my spirit  
And hide Your grace

BUT

On grey days  
Your sunshine rays  
Create rainbows  
To lighten life

On grey days  
I shift my gaze  
And eyes turn in  
Seeking your love

On grey days  
You still amaze  
And love breaks through  
Lifting my soul

I don't know whether you find your mood affected by the weather? I don't, usually, but we live in strange times and persistent rain makes a daily walk a not very attractive prospect! It was because of weather making folk feel down that I first did my 'mad Christmas Hair' – just to add colour to what felt like months of grey days.

However, for most of us, it's still too early to think about Christmas! October is often the month of Harvest Festivals, though. This gives us a chance to reflect. Maybe you aren't crazy enough to do mad hair like I do, but perhaps you can think about how you can use your skills, talents or gifts to bring literal or metaphorical 'colour' to your family, friends and neighbours? Harvest isn't just for a service... **R. Sarah Bingham**

### Church update news

A formal announcement of the decision to not yet reopen the building is going up on the website. A printed copy will be sent to those who receive the service by disc.

Rob White is still working with Richard and HEBA to hand over Treasurer roles. If you would like to join the team, please contact Richard or Sarah. A very big thanks is due to Rob, who was Treasurer through some very difficult times for the church and personally.

We still have OCC Shoeboxes in the cupboard. Whilst we cannot gather to fill boxes together, is there someone who will act as a liaison to distribute and collect filled boxes to pass on? Please contact Sarah or Debbie. Thanks.

This month is **Black History Month** in the UK. In the US this celebration is marked in February. It features events and activities looking at the life and times of black heroes and heroines, but not exclusively African or Caribbean.

It is generally an opportunity for minority ethnic communities, to share their stories in a community, school or similar setting.

At GLBC we come from diverse backgrounds and have been a multi-cultural congregation for decades. On our WhatsApp group BHM someone commented that this year was the first time they had really taken note of black history and the new things they learned were a revelation to them. Decluttering, I came across a Baptist Union leaflet from a decade ago which featured black church leaders of the day along some of the first to serve as ministers in the 1800s even in the Black Country!

This year due to the impact of the Black Lives Matters movement, for the first time much of the mainstream media has been promoting BHM. To mark BHM the Baptist Together website has a variety of features and resources to help us to reflect, including details of the Sam Sharpe Lecture on October 12. Sharpe was a rebel slave whose actions were key in parliamentary deliberations leading to the Slavery Abolition Act in 1833. [Baptist.org.uk/articles/589157/blackhistorymonth.aspx](http://Baptist.org.uk/articles/589157/blackhistorymonth.aspx)