

MAY 2021 Newsletter

As we come into May, trees of all kinds are in blossom. This is particularly exciting with trees where blossom leads to fruit! When talking about our need to die before we can experience resurrection life, Paul wrote this in 1 Corinthians 15:36, "You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies."

The deacons are meeting early in May to look at a plan for re-opening use of the building for worship. However, after over a year of worshipping in different ways, we should not expect things to just return to how they were before. It may be that some things need to die in order that their sowing will bear fruit. We may wish to keep some new things however we move forward – for example, sending discs to those without internet and finding ways to livestream the service for those unable to attend in person.

The same will be true for Mend-It. The committee know it must change – Covid changes and lack of finances mean it is unlikely a project worker could be appointed in the foreseeable future, but one of the purposes of the church is to show God's love in the neighbourhood, so church and community will need to think about how that might happen.

As we think about things 'coming back', take time to reflect on what, over the last year, you have allowed to 'die' so that it might spring to new life. God prunes our lives so that we, like the blossoming trees, might bear fruit!

Rev.Sarah

A Poem For Our Time

What a friend we have in vaccines,
All our ills and woes to curb,
Filled with lively antibodies,
Nothing can our peace disturb,;
We shall never be disheartened,
While the vaccines are around,
conquering that ugly virus,
Trampling it upon the ground.

Thanks to all our vaccinators,
With their skill honed needle-sharp,
Sing their praises on the organ,
Trumpet, violin and harp;
People such as these inspire us
With their dedicated skills,
Fighting 'gainst that dreadful virus,
Source of many woes and ills.

Up and down the British nation,
People gather in their queues,
Waiting for their 'nuculation,
Wither first or second dose,
Baring arms sans hesitation,
In the Centre, Hall or Lab,
Conquering their trepidation,
Trusting in the coming jab.

Daily see we growing numbers
Of that herd immunity,
Giving us more strong protection
To the whole community;
Spurred by Oxford Astrazena,
First of all the medicines used,
Helped by Pfizer and Moderna,
We can face whatever comes.

So we press on, not downhearted,
So much hard work has been done,
Life-improving since it started,
With restrictions mostly gone;
We'll then dedicate our labours
For the weal of all, not some,
Benefitting friends and neighbours
In the years that are to come.

By Rev. Fred Stalnthorpe



Ascension Day

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Communion Time

We will be taking time to observe communion on Sunday May 2. Be prepared with some bread and drink. The recordings provide an opportunity to join in.

Boiler Fundraising

We are off to a good start. The total stands at £4,085 and is effectively our Gift Day total since a number of people were out if the starting blocks early with donations. There is still plenty of opportunity to contribute. Many thanks.

Good response to call out for readers

Following an appeal for more volunteers to come forward to do record readings for our online broadcasts many offered. If you would like to have a go and have concerns, please contact Pete and Sarah who will be able to offer reassurance and explain how best to record on using a smart phone.

"It was good to see several people volunteer to read from the Bible. I will always send some ideas to help prompt you! Thanks very much."
Sarah.

Sunday Evening Bible Study

Bible Study is a key activity in the life of any church family and attenders are currently coming to the end of looking at the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians with some interesting discussions about the themes including the limits on children's obedience to parents as well as slavery ancient and modern, and the meaning of Paul's message about wives and husbands and the final session will look at the armour of God. From May 9 the study will be the book of Hebrews. The group always welcomes newcomers. Join via the Zoom link which is available on the GLBC Facebook page.

Mend-It

Our community outreach project Mend-It has not been able to function during the pandemic. However, be assured that the project committee has been meeting throughout the last 12 months to discuss reopening as we await changes in Government guidance. Our April meeting was very fruitful in terms of planning. Continue to pray as preparations are made to reopen all GLBC activities safely. Mend-It deacon, Debbie

Baptist Assembly Online 13-16 May 2021

Baptist Assembly 2021 is offering a unique opportunity to bring a large number of people together to join in worship, prayer, Bible study and consideration of current issues.

The sessions will be free via website https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/247895/The_Baptist_Assembly.aspx

Prayer time

It is pleasing to share in prayers in new ways with the help of the WhatsApp group. The Baptist Union has been broadcasting a very good prayer meeting to help us to pray for and with other churches and ministers. As Covid restrictions ease it's aired monthly on Wednesdays on the BU website and on YouTube. I know many of us have been thinking about what reopening will look like at GLBC. Be reassured that many other churches are dealing with the same issues as us. Please take the time to watch the 30-min video and be prepared to be blessed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arACyTjB-1w>

A prayerful response to coronavirus

Thank God almighty for blessing us with gift of new day and keeping us safe and well Amen. For those who have left this world to be with you - heal the broken hearts of those who have been left behind. Put end to this coronavirus virus. Amen

By Guddhi Lal