

Dear friends

We are now in the season of ploughing fields and scattering the good seed on the land (aka Harvest festivals). We may not have fields to plough. But you may, like me, have relatives who are farmers. One of my Grandads was a farmer in one of the valleys above Dawlish and I can remember how everyone had to join in when crops had to be harvested. I think my back still aches from when, as a small child, we gathered the thousands of potatoes that Grandad had grown.

Some of you may grow crops in allotments, vegetable patches, tubs or greenhouses so you are aware of how dependent we are on the weather, and how we have to tend the crops through the year. We don't just plant them and then sit back and wait for the harvest.

The hymn I referred to in my first sentence continues... 'But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.' Harvest reminds that God has created this world with a reliable ecosystem that provides the correct environment for plants to grow. We play a (sometimes backbreaking) part, but we are wholly dependent on the divinely-planned ecosystem. And we are reaping the rewards of human greed when we see the effects of human-caused climate change adversely affecting what God provided for us and causing farmers problems.

At this time of reflection on ploughing, scattering, growing and harvesting, let's give thanks to God that it is possible, and redouble our efforts to make a positive difference to the environment and people.

Be blessed, be a blessing

Nick



Our Harvest Thanksgiving is on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Please will you bless those served by Bigger Table & Soup Run? Pick up a card for the list of what is needed.

## Elders

At our Church Meeting in November we will elect new Elders (Church Leaders). Two of our current Elders finish their term of office this year (Jeremy and Tim). Please pray about who God may be calling to join the team (it could be you!).

Elders 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? Our nomination process is now open. If you would like to know more about this, please speak with Nick or one of the Elders and they will be happy to tell you how we work together and why it's good being an Elder.

Don't forget to complete a nomination form (Church Members only, sorry).

## VIRTUAL REALITY



PASSING THE  
COLLECTION PLATE



ARRANGING THE FLOWERS



SHARING THE PEACE



PREACHING A SERMON



ARRIVING A BIT LATE



PERFORMING A  
LITURGICAL DANCE

## Mission Prayer

On a Saturday night Plymouth City Centre is a very different place to what we experience during the day. People come into the city to enjoy a night out with their friends in clubs, bars and other venues. And some of them need some extra help or support towards the end of the evening because of how much they have drunk, or because they've lost contact with their friends. This is where **Street Pastors** step in.

On **7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm** we're delighted to have **Roy Beaumont** from Plymouth Street Pastors coming to share about their work. Several of our own people have been Street Pastors in the past, or still are, and as a church we have prayerfully supported Street Pastors over the years since they were formed.

Do come along to hear about this invaluable and special ministry that takes place when many of us are tucked up in bed on a Saturday night. It will inform and inspire you and your prayers.



(Image from Plymouth Street Pastors website)

## THE VANISHING TUMOUR by John Parsons (Nepal 2008)

Late one morning, the snowy peaks of the Himalayas sparkling beyond the rice terraces, Min Raj and I were relaxing in the courtyard of his school on the outskirts of Kathmandu. I had finished decorating a classroom and now we would drink tea. While we were sipping our tea an elderly woman dressed in a dazzling pink sari walked in. She was of medium height, grey hair in a bun, and she had a pleasant smile.

After the greetings Min Raj said, 'This woman has an amazing story. Several years ago Thuli was diagnosed with a stomach tumour. She and her family were devastated. She went to the hospital for surgery. Afterwards the surgeon told her: "Go home. Eat and drink whatever you like, you have three months to live."'

Thuli was sitting on a chair nodding to everything Min Raj said even though she did not understand English. Min Raj continued. 'In desperation Thuli consulted a pantheon of Hindu gods and a witch-doctor without success. Then she met Christian people. "If your God can heal me, I will believe." Thuli said in desperation.'

Min Raj went on, 'After prayer the swelling and stomach pains gradually subsided. The medical authorities were amazed. Thuli became a believer in the Christian God, together with her family.'

## Church Meetings

We need to file our Annual Report and Accounts with the Charities Commission before 31 October. So we will hold a **Special Church Meeting for Church Members after our morning service on 27<sup>th</sup> October** to formally adopt them after they have been certified as properly examined. Last year's only took a couple of minutes but we need enough members to make it official.

Our next 'ordinary' Church Meeting is on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm** in the Sanctuary and on Zoom. The agenda and any papers will be issued in advance, as usual.

## 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 October mission prayer focus is on Plymouth Street Pastors. 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 rejoice that some of us who have been undergoing treatment for cancer 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.

The Universities have started back, with new intakes of students and others returning to resume their studies . Pray that they will all settle in quickly, that any accommodation issues will quickly be resolved, and that their experience of studying and living in Plymouth will be a joy and blessing for them.

Let's not forget to thank God too for answered prayer and the many blessings we receive personally and as a church. We especially rejoice with Bukunmi and Lesley who were baptised as believers in Jesus last month.



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century world.

6 <sup>th</sup> October	Family matters: families matter
13 <sup>th</sup>	Everyone deserves respect
20 <sup>th</sup>	Where's your treasure?
27 <sup>th</sup>	Commit to your partner

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 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

6 <sup>th</sup> October	Rev7 – a new way of outreach
13 <sup>th</sup>	The Messy Table (agape meal)
20 <sup>th</sup>	Jesus according to Jesus
27 <sup>th</sup>	What is 'Open Table'?

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 15<sup>th</sup> – 10am **All Age Nativity**; 6pm **Alternative Carols**  
Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6pm **Carols by Candlelight**

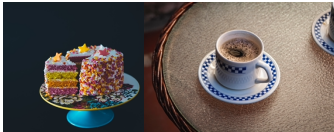


## Our Values

Mutley Baptist Church's values are centred on Jesus. Like Jesus we are called to **love God and love people**, and to be a community of his followers who are **God orientated; lovingly inclusive; ethically motivated; generously big-hearted; people focused and playfully creative**. You can read more about these on the board in our entrance area, or the leaflets below them, and on our website.

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT

On **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October** **Cosy Corner** is running a **MacMillan Coffee Morning** to raise funds to support people living with cancer. **It will run from 11am-2.30pm**. Come along and meet people and support MacMillan's work



## 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](http://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.

## 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](mailto:nicklear@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk) 07869 809064 (not Saturday)

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

Fiona Spicer (Community pastor) - [fiona@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto: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 - [yfadmin@mutleybaptistchurch.co.uk](mailto:yfadmin@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 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 the next edition of Mutley Matters to Nick by 24th of the preceding month.

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)