

GBC SHARING LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

News and views from Guiseley Baptist Church **MAY UPDATE**

Update from the GBC leadership team

The ministers, youth worker and deacons are meeting every two weeks over video conference during the Coronavirus lockdown to ensure that, as far as possible, the church continues to work toward our vision and uphold our values. You'll be aware that we've unfortunately had to postpone our April church meeting and AGM where some decisions would have been taken by the whole church together.

As a temporary measure, the leadership team, as legal trustees, is having to make some decisions that would normally require the approval of a church members' meeting. An example of this is the area of church membership. Before lockdown, Maurice and Jean Bayles had asked to become church members and a plan was in place for them to be visited by two church members as outlined in our constitution. Though, following lockdown, a visit in person wasn't possible, a conversation did happen by Zoom and a recommendation was subsequently brought to the leadership team. In view of uncertainty surrounding the timescale of when we as a church might be able to meet again in person, the leadership team took the decision unanimously to accept Maurice and Jean into church membership on behalf of the wider church.



BRADFORD NORTH FOODBANK
**HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Foodbank donations drop off at GBC

Every Friday, between 10am and 1pm the foyer at church will be open for people to drop off grocery donations for the Bradford North Foodbank. This will be promoted around the community, and outside church on the A-board with an invitation for people to drop by with donations as they take their daily exercise.

Since lockdown began, the use of foodbanks has increased by a huge amount. This is a good opportunity for us to support our neighbours who are struggling to put food on the table. Please share this news with your friends and neighbours and drop by if it is possible for you to do so.



Supporting the work of Caring For Life

As a part of our service on Sunday 10th May, we highlighted Caring For Life's 'Every Day in May' appeal.

This is a crucial time for charities like Caring For Life so we would encourage you to both pray for their work and to give a donation if you are able.

If you go to - <https://www.caringforlife.co.uk/fundraise> - you'll find lots of ideas on how to raise much needed funds and information on how to give via their 'justgiving' account.

Welcome to Maurice and Jean

In April Graham Houlst and Jeanette Smith met with Maurice and Jean (over Zoom obviously!) to hear their story and talk about church membership.

Here's their story ...

Maurice and Jean are a retired couple who have been living in Yeadon for 18 months. They moved from the Slough area to be nearer their family. They have been married 52 years!



Maurice joined the Sunday School of Slough Gospel Hall in 1945, became a Christian in 1957 and was baptised in October 1960. He played a full and active part in this congregation for many years, with roles as varied as children's and youth leader, youth choir leader, church secretary and church treasurer. Notably, he helped run an evangelistic film club, which showed films all over the Thames Valley for about 30 years!

Jean met Maurice through her involvement in various of his church roles. For example, she sang in his choir and later organised speakers for the youth club. She became a Christian in 1960 and was baptised in 1965. She taught in the Sunday School for 20+ years.

Around 1989 they joined Waterloo Road Church (WRC) in Uxbridge. They continued to take active roles within this church and in local evangelistic efforts in Hillingdon Hospital Chapel. Maurice played the organ there, though he feels that his skills are a bit rusty these days!

When they left WRC in Sept 2018 in order to move north, they had a fellowship lunch where it took an hour and a half to say goodbye to everyone. Maurice and Jean have recently lost a couple of friends from this church to coronavirus.

Once they had settled into their new Yorkshire home, they started to search for a church to attend and found their way to GBC. For now, they are well and enjoying tending their beautiful garden, while longing to be reunited with their new church family.

Rooted in Christ and connected to each other

As the implications of coronavirus continue to impact our lives it is critical to take seriously our connection with God and each other. We trust this newsletter is a helpful tool for us to share news and keep us all connected.

GBC's ONLINE SUNDAY SERVICE

We continue to experience the joy of connection in worship each Sunday as a church family online at 10.30am. We encourage you to join us on either via Facebook group or a Youtube link that can be emailed to you if requested. If you need help with this please contact Micky or Gill.

Staying connecting in small groups

During the lockdown our house groups are continuing to connect folk with prayer, reflection and mutual support. The groups may not be physically meeting but a number are now using video conferencing to virtually share life. All are also connecting via phone and message services.

If you are not connected with a group, now would be a great time to join up. Across is a list of our current groups. Why not give one of the leaders a call and enjoy the fellowship of a small group.

Questions about church finance & giving?

We recognise this is a unique time for us all, particularly in regards to finance. Some may actually be in a position to offer more support where others find themselves in unexpected hardship.

If you would like to discuss, in confidence, any financial matter relating to GBC, please contact our treasurer Allan Stewart on: Tel. 07884 970488 or email at - allan.stewart@guiseleybaptistchurch.co.uk

Should you require support from our ministers, or just a chat to catch up, Micky, Gill & Joe can still be contacted in the usual way.

- **Micky** - 07828 189762
micky.munroe@guiseleybaptistchurch.co.uk
- **Gill** - 07856 003219
gill.thurgood@guiseleybaptistchurch.co.uk
- **Joe** - 07761 927981
joe.millar@guiseleybaptistchurch.co.uk

GBC House groups

MONDAY

Women's prayer group

Caroline Wallace
- tel. 07976 799229

Greenshaw Terrace women's group

Joanna Sugden- tel. 01943 871298

TUESDAY

Ridgeway group

Mike & Ruth Smith
- tel. 07590 266476

Queensway group

Rosemary Stephenson
- tel. 07514 697357

Pendragon Terrace group

Lee Phillips - tel. 01943 875799

WEDNESDAY

Silverdale group

Micky Munroe - tel. 01943 512394

Hawkstone Ave Mens group

Steve Allen - tel. 01943 510653

Menston group

Andrew and Jan Penny
- tel. 07747 626841

THURSDAY

Hillway group

Allan Stewart - tel. 01943 969322

GBC ministry survey

Hopefully you received the recent survey from GBC, a simple way of asking how we are doing. Thank you for those who taken time to return it. The survey has been helpful to consider how we can best support each other and continue to reach out in Christ. If you haven't received a survey please contact Gill who will be happy to help you.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

From the 1st May, those who dial 0800 804 8044 are met with a special greeting and are then prompted to make a selection from a list of options. These include: Hymns we love - which provides a hymn and reflection, Prayer during the day, or Night prayer. There is also a weekly sermon and prayers specific to the Coronavirus pandemic.

If you have relatives or neighbours who cannot access the internet, this is an excellent service to recommend.



It is always encouraging to hear the stories of how you are surviving, or even thriving in the lockdown. So please do let us know. You are welcome to share something during our online service, or maybe write a short piece for our monthly newsletter.

GBC garden in bloom

We are grateful to the volunteers who have taken time to work on the church garden during lockdown. Even though we can't meet at the church buildings as we'd like, it is great to know the garden is being cared for.

For prayer support from the GBC family send your requests to:
prayernet@guiseleybaptistchurch.co.uk