

GBC NEWS UPDATE 2020



News and views from Guiseley Baptist Church - October

Questionnaire and reopening church building

Thank you to those who took the time to respond to the recent questionnaire looking at the issue of reopening our church building. We had responses from 60 people. Sadly since sending out the questionnaire restrictions in Leeds have tightened even more, which means making a decision about the best way forward is difficult to say the least. In answer to the question regarding a potential service with Covid restrictions the vast majority of people said they would be reluctant to attend such a service due to health concerns and the necessary limitations. The opportunity to gather in smaller groups for prayer and reflection however would be welcomed by a majority. It was good to hear that virtually (no pun intended!) everyone is engaging with the online service and that it is appreciated.

So the leadership team has met to reflect on this, and in light of our current restrictions would like to put forward this plan for cautiously reopening the church building in a limited way:

- We shall continue with our online service, in the same model, at 10.30am every Sunday, accessed in the usual ways.
- A new physical prayer gathering will be hosted in the church building every Sunday from 4pm. This will begin on 11th October. You will be required to register your intention to attend and numbers will have to be limited. More details on the reverse.
- Local restrictions state we can not meet in church to socialise. Gathering for worship and prayer, however, is permitted. Therefore, for the time being, social gatherings will have to wait.
- A number of you felt priority should be given to young people at this time, so Joe is looking at ways that the building, in a very limited capacity, can be reopened for young people.
- Unfortunately the building will need to remain closed to non-church groups.

There is a genuine desire in the leadership team to reopen our building to enable us to reconnect and share dearly missed physical fellowship, but we cannot take lightly the serious restrictions placed on us all so a cautious reopening is the wise way to go. The leadership are meeting regularly to review the situation and as time goes on we would like to be able to reopen the building so that we can connect safely. Please continue to pray!

Update on 2nd manse

The purchase is now complete and GBC is the new owner of 19 Moorland Crescent. Since taking ownership a group from GBC have undertaken to organise any repair work and redecoration to enable the property to be put on the rental market. They have done an excellent job and the house looks great. A local agent is looking after the search for a tenant at the moment. We have had a couple of potential tenants already which we'd hoped would mean an early rental but sadly these have fallen through. It is hoped that a tenant will be found very soon and we'll update the church as soon as we have any news.



Autumn church members meeting

Our last church members meeting was in February. In light of events since then our usual April and July meetings unfortunately had to be cancelled. Sadly it doesn't look like current restrictions will be lifted any time soon so it is important that the church finds ways to gather in order to assess and reflect on our situation and generally connect with each other. The leadership team therefore call a church members meeting for 7.30pm **Wednesday 4th November**. We shall use the platform of Zoom to host the meeting. We appreciate this may make it difficult for every member to attend but we hope that we can still be quorate and every effort will be made to communicate the agenda and give people an opportunity to contribute. More details will follow.

Online services coming up

Sunday 4th October

We particularly welcome the family and friends of the Smiths as Mike and Ruth, and Isabel, bring Alex to be dedicated as a part of our service. Do join in at 10.30am and pray for Alex.

Sunday 11th October

This year our **harvest thanksgiving** will be online. During our service there will be an opportunity to hear about the continuing work of Caring For Life and how you can support them in feeding the many beneficiaries who depend on their support.

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

Foodbank collection point at GBC

Donations of food and essential items are still gratefully received on behalf of the Bradford North Foodbank.

To remind you: Every Friday, from 10am to 1pm the foyer at church is open for people to drop off donations.

All recent Sunday services can be viewed at - www.guiseleybaptistchurch.co.uk

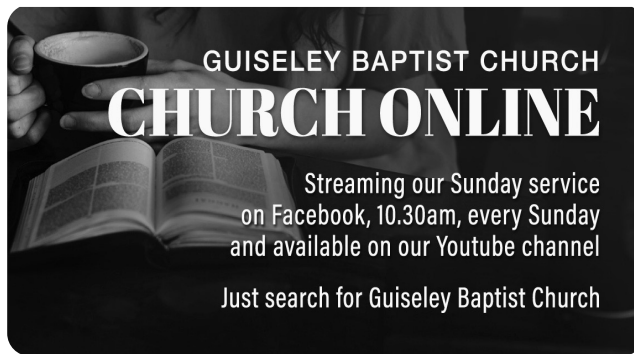
SUNDAY PRAYER GATHERING

From Sunday 11th October at 4pm there will be a new weekly gathering in the church building on Oxford Road to pray, reflect and listen to God through the scriptures. All the necessary social distancing restrictions will be in place to make the meeting as safe as possible. Masks will need to be worn and we ask you not to attend if you feel unwell. If you would like to attend the meeting please register with Micky by contacting him - details below. For the first meeting there will be a maximum of 20 permitted to attend plus those stewarding and facilitating the meeting.

Although we have gathered to pray countless times in our chapel this is a new venture so please be patient as we make a new start in uncertain times. It'll be so good to gather physically with friends and seek God in prayer together.

Every Sunday catch up on Zoom

Directly after the Sunday service you are welcome to join friends for a virtual get together over Zoom. The invitation is always posted in the GBC private Facebook group or you could contact Micky for the link. If you haven't tried it before do come along - sadly coffee is not provided!



GBC Kids and Youth

GBC Kids Service is now available every Sunday from 10.15am on our Youtube channel alongside the weekly films and challenges. Search **GBC Kids and Youth** to check it out!



BOOK REVIEW

God and the Pandemic
- Tom Wright (SPCK)

Review by Malcolm Townend

This short 76 page book sets out to answer the question what does the Bible say about this virus and what our response to it should be.

It looks at what it says in the Old Testament, what the Gospels say and the rest of the New Testament say, then it goes on to talk about what our response should be. It is soundly based in its theology.

Without giving too much away the last chapter talks about how we are to lament, how we can talk to God, how we are to live in the present, and how do we recover. I will leave you with this quote from the last chapter "The church's mission began (according to John 20) with three things which have become very familiar to us in recent days. It began with tears, locked doors and with doubt."

I hope that has given you a flavour of the book. As Justin Welby puts it "Superbly written, utterly bible based ... Do not Hesitate!" It is easy to read and will answer some of your questions and will challenge you.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

GBC House groups

In different ways our small groups seek to connect folk with prayer, reflection and support.

MONDAY

Women's prayer group
Caroline Wallace
- tel. 07976 799229

Greenshaw Terrace women's group
Joanna Sugden - tel. 01943 871298

Silverdale group
Micky Munroe - tel. 01943 512394

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

Young Adults group (17yrs +)
Micky Munroe - tel. 01943 512394

Hawkstone Ave Men's group
Steve Allen - tel. 01943 510653

Menston group
Jenny & Philip Lerman
- tel. 01943 870306

THURSDAY

Hillway group
Allan Stewart - tel. 01943 969322

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

Questions about church finance & giving?

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

For prayer support from the GBC family send your requests to:

prayernet@guiseleybaptistchurch.co.uk

Keep up-to-date with church news at - www.guiseleybaptistchurch.co.uk