



Pastor's Ponderings

CONTAGIOUS!

As I write this message, the Coronavirus is spreading. Clearly this particular strain of the virus is highly contagious. Hundreds of thousands of people in the Wuhan region of China have tested positive and, despite the very best efforts of health authorities, the spread of the disease is gradually widening across the globe.

The latest news is that 1,000 guests and staff are in quarantine at an hotel on Tenerife. Hundreds of holiday makers are confined to their rooms. I'm sure they are frustrated and fed-up. Further into Europe, several towns in the Lombardy and Veneta regions of Italy are similarly "locked down". Time will tell whether these efforts to contain the virus are successful.

The World Health Organisation is alerting nations around the world that we're on the brink of a pandemic. A pandemic is an epidemic of a disease that has spread across multiple continents. All the time, medical researchers are working hard to identify a vaccine. Our prayers are with them.

The early spread of the Christian church was rather like an epidemic, and then a pandemic. In Acts, despite the best intentions of the early Christians to keep their faith quiet (would you believe) the church grew at an astonishing rate. The Pentecost Day baptism service saw 3,000 confessing their faith. It must have been an extraordinary occasion. The most I've ever baptised on one occasion is 9!

In those early days of church growth, the faith of these new followers-of-Jesus was so attractive it was contagious. They couldn't keep the good news about Jesus to themselves. Everyone they met noticed a difference, and the new faith spread like wildfire.

In these days when the church seems to be in decline across the west, it's worth remembering that across the world the church continues to grow exponentially. In other words, the rate of growth year-on-year is increasing. It's not that dissimilar to a pandemic. It's just a good one. And for that, we need to be thankful! God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year. Hallelujah!

With love and prayers,
Nigel

At The

Canford Heath Community Centre

Our services are held at 10 am every Sunday



If you have any prayer needs, or any praises, please see a member of the Prayer Team after the service.

Large print song sheets available by email from either Nigel Ford or Iris Shaw

To receive this news letter by email, please send your email address to chbcnotices@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/CanfordHeathBaptistChurch/>

www.canfordheathbaptistchurch.org.uk

Church Publicity

Following on from Nigel's pondering this month, I'd like to talk to you all about publicising our church and spreading the good news about Jesus and our Christian faith.

In addition to my role as the CHBC news desk officer, I have accepted the additional role of publicity officer.

To be honest, I have been doing some of this role unofficially for a while, particularly on the web via Facebook, Instagram and You Tube.

With us all being bombarded by advertising in many forms, it is not easy to make CHBC stand out, especially as our advertising budget is very meagre! We have had some success though, with Nigel's videos and the marketing for our Christmas concert, which was over subscribed.

With us being in the community centre, we lack the advantage of having a dedicated church building to advertise our presence on Canford Heath and it is not possible to have anything on the front wall that would help with this (we have asked!).

As Nigel wrote in his pondering, it's amazing that the early church grew so quickly and is still growing world wide. Jesus had no church building, internet, TV, radio or newspapers to promote his sermons and yet thousands turned out to see him wherever he went. Word of mouth was responsible for most of this and it certainly still has a great role to play today.

The leadership team will be meeting with me in the coming weeks to discuss where we place our efforts with regard to publicity but I would like to give all our congregation the opportunity to have their say and come up with suggestions.

Don't forget that a large proportion of us do not live on the heath, so we can take advantage of this and spread our net further afield.

Here are a few ideas you might like to take on board and try right now;

- Print off a monthly news sheet and place it in your local doctors or dentists surgery waiting room
- Forward our weekly news emails to your friends
- Like and share our Church Facebook page and Instagram site
- Put up a 'Just Pop In' flyer on your communal notice board at work or in your flats
- Invite a friend to our Walled Garden visit

If you have any suggestions, then please contact myself or Nigel personally or by email.

Blessings to you all

Neil L

Prayer during the week

Ray can be contacted at any time for prayer. He will then pass it on during normal daytime hours to the rest of the prayer chain. Ray is more than happy for you to text him on his mobile - 07722 824 854. He will then forward the text, once again during social hours, to all members on the emergency prayer chain who are mobile users. Please feel free to use this system if it suits you better. However the phone prayer chain will continue as normal. Don't forget that it is always good to thank God for answered prayer and any updates are always appreciated. Don't be shy, the prayer chain is there for you to use. The persons on the prayer chain are listed below and they will pass requests down the chain until everyone is aware and will pray for the request.

Ray Fairweather	01202 622146 or Text 07722 824 854
Di Hutton	Ann Scott
Ruth Murdoch	Muriel Watts
Bryan Shaw	Lyn Hunt
Nigel and Val Ford	

Items for News Sheet

If you have anything that needs to go in the news sheet please remember to send it to chbcnotices@gmail.com.

Helping Hand If you have need of pastoral care please contact a member of our Pastoral Care Team: Dave Hunt or Muriel Watts.

Nigel & Val are unavailable on Thursdays and Fridays.

Church Contact: Rev'd Nigel Ford 07812 098176

Meeting at Canford Heath Community Centre,
7 Mitchell Road, Canford Heath Poole, BH17 8UE

Data The Church's Charity Trustees (Minister, Elders and Deacons) are the Data Controller for the purposes of the Data Protection Act and personal data relating to church members and regular attenders may be processed for general church purposes.

Safeguarding Angela Bowran is the designated safeguarding person for the church

If you are involved in **next Sunday's service**, please will you ensure that the order of service, songs, bible readings and other material, e.g. recorded songs and video, is provided by email before Friday 6pm to:

sundaysongs@hotmail.co.uk

Leading and Preaching Rota

Sunday 8th March

Lynn Foster Leading Nigel Ford preaching

Sunday 15th March

Bryan Shaw Leading Nigel Ford preaching

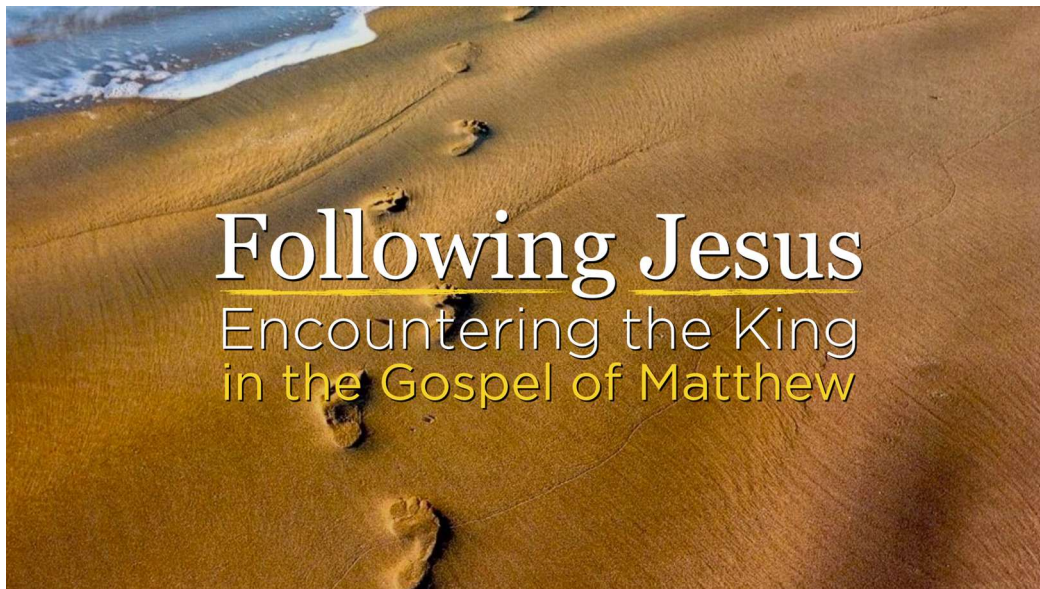
Sunday 22nd March

Nigel Ford Leading Val Ford preaching

Communion

Sunday 29th March

Neil McKay Leading Nigel Ford preaching



Our church motto for 2020

John 12 v21

‘Sir, we want to see Jesus’

Mon 9th March	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting	Neil & Ruth Murdoch
Sat 14th March	11am	Ladies visit to Moreton Walled Garden (free entry)	Meet at ASDA at 10:30am for a lift
Mon 16th March	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting	Peggy Anney
Mon 23rd March	7:30pm	Prayer meeting	Neil & Ruth Murdoch
Tues 24th March	7:30pm	‘The Wisdom House’	City Gate Church Bournemouth
Fri 27th March	10am	Just Pop In	Figbury Lodge
Sun 29th March	11:30am	Quarterly Church members meeting	Community centre
Mon 30th March	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting	Peggy Anney
Tues 31st March	7pm	Men’s book club	Ian Keating
Thu 9th April	6:30pm	Maunday Thursday Meal	Dylans Restaurant Courtyard Centre
Wed 15th April	2pm/3pm	Easter Services at the Oakdale and Figbury Lodge care homes	Oakdale/Figbury
Fri 15th May		Men’s Walking Weekend	Neil Murdoch

Calendar Highlights

Please check the calendar for a full list of events



Moreton Walled Gardens Visit Sat 14th March

Entry is free and everyone is welcome.

We haven't arranged any formal dining arrangements but you are welcome to bring a packed lunch or eat at the garden café.

Meet at ASDA car park at 10:30am if you want a lift or 11am at the garden entrance.

The Wisdom House Tues 24th March

Some of us are off to receive wisdom at the Citygate Church.

Click on the link below for more info and please join us. Transport is available.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-wisdom-house-bournemouth-tickets-81940134147>

Church Meeting Sunday 29th March

Yes it's that time of year again!

The meeting will follow on directly after the normal Sunday service.

Any matter you wish added to the agenda must go via Nigel in advance please.

As we are also voting for the next Baptist Union President we would encourage everyone to try and attend this meeting.

Maundy Thursday Meal and Communion 9/4/20

Last year we held our Maundy Thursday meal and communion at Dylan's Restaurant, The Courtyard Centre, Lytchett Minster and plan to do the same again this year.

The meal will be served at 7pm and the doors will open from 6.30pm.

We need to order and pay in advance and the cost has been held at £15 per person for a choice of roast beef or roast pork followed by fruit crumble or Eton mess plus tea or coffee.

If you would like to attend please let me know with your meal choice and payment.
You will be able to purchase additional drinks on the night.

We were very well looked after by the staff last year and the food was really good.
It would be great to see as many of you there as possible.

I need to have orders and payment by Sunday 5th April.

Either see me at Church or email me and I will provide you with BACS details to pay me online.

Blessings

Angie Pitman

- **Elections for the next President of the Baptist Union close on 31st March.**
Please view the short videos on the two candidates via the link below. These will also be shown during our Sunday worship.
We will have our vote at the next church meeting on Sunday 29th March
<https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/250288/Elections.aspx>
- **The Just Pop In team are after extra help**
In particular they need assistance with manicures and hand massages.
Previous experience is not essential, nor do you have to make every Just Pop In morning. Enthusiasm and enjoying good conversation are essential!
- **CHBC Men.....Neil Murdoch needs you!**
To pay your deposits for this year's walking weekend. Or failing that, please let him know if you are able to come along.



If you would like to advertise for free here, please email chbcnotices@gmail.com

- Bernard is hoping that with the coming spring, you will be sorting out your garden sheds and donating all your old tools to TWAM. Click below for a list of what they need or speak to Bernard.

<https://www.twam.uk/donatetools>