

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday	9.00am	Prayer Meeting
	10.00am	Little Treasures (pre-school)
Wednesday	9:00am - 12.00pm	Friendly Bean Community Café
Thursday	9:00am - 12.00pm	Friendly Bean Community Café
	3.00pm	Housegroup (Church) – <i>winter months</i>
	7.00pm	Housegroup (Church) – <i>summer months</i>
Friday	10.00am-11.30pm	Bible Study Group – <i>Alternate Fridays</i>
	7.30pm-9.30pm	PowerHouse (yrs 7-11) – <i>1st & 3rd Fridays in the month</i>

What is possible?

Then a third question to ask is what you can imagine that can be done about your frustration, and about your longing. What is possible? There are likely many things. But is there a particular thing you can do with the resources and skills you have? Is there an idea? An inkling? A hunch you have? Clean For Good is an ethical cleaning company in London set up out of a local church. Some research showed them that, in their parish, lots of migrant workers were on zero hours contracts and being treated poorly. They began to imagine that good news might look like a new kind of cleaning company. That was the possibility they saw. That company now employs around 40 cleaners who were able to be furloughed in lockdown because they had a contract with decent and fair terms and conditions.

We tend to think that pioneering relates to the third question only – the imagining part. But actually frustration and longing are a critical part too.

**Jonny Baker is director of mission education at Church Mission Society where he founded the pioneer training programme*
<https://pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org/>

Borstal Baptist Church

To know Christ and to make Him known



SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcome to our church. We pray that you will meet with God here. There is a loop system in use, just turn your hearing aid to the 'T' position. Children are welcome and you are warmly invited to stay for coffee or tea after the morning service. If we can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to ask. Do please sign the visitors' book before you leave.

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9

CONTACT US!

Minister:	John Western ☎ 07969 391393
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Elder/Secretary:	Suzanne Rogers ☎ 07809 433723
Deacons:	Karen Barnes Lynda Gilbert Fay Graham Jan Rogers

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From the Elders and Deacons:

September often makes us think of new beginnings – perhaps all those years working away in school terms sticks with us more than we know. And this year September marks a new beginning for us as a fellowship, as we are joined by John, our new part-time interim minister. John will usually be preaching on two Sundays a month and on 19 September we will be joined by Paul Kerley, SEBA Regional Minister, who will induct John into this new ministry. This will be part of the Sunday morning service at which John will be preaching. We do hope that as many as possible will be able to come along to welcome John and Lorraine into the fellowship both formally and – no doubt – informally over coffee afterwards.

As we look forward to what God has planned for us as a church, please pray for guidance as to what your role will be in that – it is important that we do not rely too heavily on a small group of people to do everything. We can each play our part. On that note, please continue to pray for someone to take over the role of treasurer from Bryan at the end of the year – perhaps it is you!

May God bless us as we walk with him into new adventures.

Bryan, Suz, Lynda, Jan, Fay, & Karen

A START IN PIONEER PRACTICE – THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK

After ten years of encouraging and training pioneers at CMS Jonny Baker wanted to draw together some of the practical wisdom into a very accessible format to share with others wanting to start something new.*

We have previously published several books on the theology and missiology of pioneering mission, but research showed me that the things pioneers said they needed most help with were things like money, admin, team, time, negotiating culture change in systems ie much more nitty gritty practical things, and things that you don't get taught at theological college. Pioneer Practice is the result. At the heart of it are around a dozen inspiring stories which delve into those questions and show timelines of how their projects developed. I have always found our students learn most from visiting and hearing about projects on the ground from pioneers that are doing it. This is then accompanied by a series of conversations and articles on the practical issues.

At its simplest pioneering is a combination of seeing and building. The seeing is a gift of imagining possibilities and dreaming up ideas, find new paths to do things. The building is the work to make something happen out of that seeing. It's sometimes a challenge knowing where to start, where to dive in. These three questions are good for a start. Gather a group of friends together over a coffee, a beer or a meal and see where the conversation takes you. After each question I give an example from one of the stories in Pioneer Practice.

What is bugging you?

Dissatisfaction, restlessness, or even downright anger are good places to look, to notice, to pay attention. Our passion is often about overcoming something we have noticed that bugs us. For me I get so frustrated with the disconnect between the way church is done and the people I know outside it. It feels like they are on other planets to each other. It is that gap that drives me to want to imagine it can be done differently in a way that makes sense and connects with those outside. What are you frustrated with? What are you dissatisfied with? What can you see that is broken? What is the gap between reality and what you hope for? What or who is being overlooked? What are you angry about? What is bugging you? Is there something you come back to again and again like a splinter that you can't seem to get rid of. Not a surface thing or a selfish thing but a deep thing. You keep seeing it. That's a big clue that you should give that some more attention. Look at it, notice it, see it, pray about it, reflect on it, chew over it. Some friends prayed together about those at the edges in Cirencester. Although it was a well to do market town, they were struck by the number of people on the streets visibly struggling and the local parish church simply did not know how to respond. Over a number of years this eventually led to the Upper Room, a drop-in centre in the town which became a home for these guys and out of which a community of disciples has grown.

What are you longing for?

Another way of coming at this is to notice your deep desires, your longings. They too will give you a clue as to where to pay some more attention. I am not talking about selfish desires or appetite that can easily be distractions or distortions but a deep yearning, an ache. Name it, see it, allow it to materialise. One person's longing was for a world free from FGM. Her pioneering has been to set up a charity – 28toomany – which works alongside others to that end. She has done an incredible job. But that longing has been an incredible driver for her.