

### Reasons to believe in the power of the Bible

'I was diagnosed with a really serious prostate cancer and given six months to live. At the same time, my wife Judy was diagnosed with melanoma. I was totally convinced that I would die within the six months, and Judy's prognosis was 50/50.

'I wrote my will, but I wanted to make a statement before my months ended. I decided to put a part of the garden to one side for perennials that would outlast me. I planted roses, honeysuckle, some shrubs, lots of bulbs. We put a plaque up that said 1 Thessalonians 5.18. It was the most underlined verse in Judy's Bible. It says, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" Being in the garden helps me to feel closer to Judy. There's a real comfort in knowing that it will outlast me, especially because of the plaque. Those words will outlast everybody. There's a comfort in that. It was very, very difficult to choose just one verse, but this was Judy's favourite. I ordered the sign and asked them to do it quickly because my time was coming to an end. It was an epitaph in a way, but it was also saying that no matter how bad we think life might be

on this earth, the final goal and the hope remains in God.

It helped tremendously.

'My cancer spread to my lymph nodes, but then it stopped progressing. I am still here seven years on. Sadly, it is five years ago that Judy died. Losing Judy was very difficult. I'm still processing it now, of course.

'She was wonderful, patient, kind, and quite beautiful. She was concerned about everybody. We were married for 40 years and she was only 60 when she died.

'I went to Judy's funeral and then left the church. The "praise" element of me died for a bit. I was never angry, not at all, never for a moment. The praise element has come back. If anything bad happens, and it does, I know I can get beyond the circumstances.

'I play the church organ. I'm going through Judy's Bible and writing songs based on the verses that she underlined. It's a good job I'm retired, because I'm really busy. I get up in the morning and think, "What am I going to write today?" Being in the garden helps me to feel closer to Judy. There's a real comfort in knowing that it will outlast me, especially because of the plaque. Those words will outlast everybody. There's a comfort in that.

# Whitchurch Baptist Church

## Sunday June 26th 2022

BETTER TOGETHER



**'All Age' worship led by**

***Jack & Jill Walker***

***Welcome!***

**Today we continue with our series on  
*The Book of Romans through the lens of Romans 12***

**No 3 'Gifted- we are better together'**

**Minister: Rev Jack Walker.**

**Secretary: June McCaughren**

**Treasurer: Laura Ivey**

**Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughren. John Hadley.**

### **What's on this week:-**

**Monday 27th 10.30am** Ladies Meet  
**Wed 29th 8pm** Church Members Mtg  
**Saturday July 2nd** Work Day at WBC.  
**[See notice below]**  
**Sunday 3rd** No 4 in series on Romans  
'Pastoral Principles'.  
We celebrate Communion.

### **Future Dates:**

Mid week study evening on  
Wednesdays have now run their course  
and ended!.

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### **DECORATING/CARPET CLEAN- ING/ GENERAL HOUSEHOLD CLEANING AT THE MANSE.**

**You** are needed!

**August 8th-12th**

Work at the Manse in preparation of arrival of  
new Minister. Decorating/Carpet Cleaning/  
General Cleaning/ any day this week!  
You will need to see June to let her know what  
you can offer and when you are able to help.  
Please don't leave it- June needs to plan!

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### **ALSO WANTED!**

Volunteers of help at the  
**'WBC WORK DAY'. July 2nd**  
Morning or Afternoon Shift.  
9am 12.30/12.30—4pm.  
**Tasks:** Spring Clean. Curtains in vestry  
Tree pruning. Garden weeding.  
Painting. Floor repairs in portacabin.  
Clear guttering.



**The Vine Trust Bookshop,**  
(33, Bridge St Andover), has many spe-  
cial offers on many Christian Adult  
books valid up to the end of June.  
For details, please see copies of the  
latest **Take Note** booklet at church  
or ask John McCaughren. A good  
selection of Greetings Cards, Bibles,  
Bible Study guides, CDs and gifts are  
also available.

*Opening hours are 10am – 4pm Tuesday to  
Friday and 9.30am – 2.30pm most Satur-  
days.*

*Phone: 01264 355706.*

*Email: [vinetrustandover@gmail.com](mailto:vinetrustandover@gmail.com)*

The adjacent Cafe Bridge is open for  
drinks and snacks Monday to Friday  
9.30am to 2pm.

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For those who may remember Liam  
Openshaw who worshipped with us  
several years ago and moved to the  
States is back 'home' for 4 weeks  
with his family. He will be visiting us  
so make him and his family feel  
welcome!!

### **Something to do Sunday afternoon?**



Claire McCullum visits the Baptist Assembly-  
Bournemouth for Songs of Praise 26 June  
13.15 to find out more about the 400yr old  
denomination.  
She meets Lynn Green, the general secretary  
of Baptists Together, who explains how the  
Baptist denomination first came about and  
what they do today.  
She also meets Fiona Firestone, who  
suffered a debilitating stroke, but whose  
recovery was helped by her Baptist family.  
Gemma Hunt helps to create some sacred  
art, and we meet a Ukrainian family who  
have fled their homeland, swapping the city  
streets of Apostolove for the valleys of  
Wales after being offered a new home by a  
British Christian family.  
Plus, we have music including Love Divine,  
The Lion and the Lamb, and Way Maker.

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### **Resources.**

Jack has made available some 'extra'  
documents for those interested. A  
Word copy of the 'Giftings' used to-  
day, also one on 'Forgiveness' and  
there is a new Coffee and Cleaning  
List with the Work Day list!  
Speak to Jack!

### **Continue to support those in need in the fellowship**

Those you know struggling with medi-  
cal conditions as well as those we are  
unaware of! Remember Abby with the  
on going problem of her accident.  
Pray for successful treatment.  
Continue to uphold Robert as he pre-  
pares to take up his position here.  
There is a fair amount of planning and  
preparation for his arriving and induc-  
tion, pray too for the Leadership as  
they prepare, and also for Jack and Jill  
preparing for retirement. Give thanks  
for recent commitments as folk have  
joined us in Membership and for Barry,  
Sandra and Jo also making that com-  
mitment too. Spend some time this  
week specifically praying for our  
young people asking for God's bless-  
ing and protection on them and that  
they will be 'open' to the call of Jesus  
on their lives!

Expand your praying to include our  
town, your neighbours, the Council  
and those involved with social needs  
and issues.

There are numerous Christians facing  
persecution on a daily basis with many  
facing death! Christians beheaded in  
Mozambique, worshippers killed in Kaduna  
State Nigeria, Fulani terrorists kill 37 in  
Benue State, Nigeria, and at least 260  
from a Christian majority ethnic group  
have been killed in Oromia, Ethiopia.  
You won't read it in the press of course—  
but nonetheless it is happening!

**PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS!**