

My Bible-My Story

'Psalm 23 is my rock, rudder and the frothy hundreds and thousands on the cake. My favourite line is verse 4, "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me: your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

'This helps me to know that God is with me, by my side. It makes me feel secure. I have family members who are bipolar and one who has Asperger's, so some days I feel like I'm having a battle and I stomp round my house saying this verse.

'It's like a balm, like ointment. Sometimes its effect is subtle.



Sometimes it's powerful. Sometimes I think of it and stamp my feet. Sometimes I declare it. I don't always need to understand it, but it is there. It's very calming, and gives me breath.

I love being outdoors. I am a silver-smith and God is in the tiny parts of the things that I see and then create in silver. These verses are what I feel when I am outside.

There is such joy in them, not a hands-in-the-air joy, but in a soft way.

I have got a lot going on in my life, but it never crosses my mind that I am the backstop in my own life.

God is.

When you accept this psalm, it's a tremendous thing.'

Prayer reminders for this week.

Pray for the very practical issues regarding the Church heating. There are several important decisions to be made by both Leaders and Members. Ask for wisdom and guidance in these decisions and for genuine contacts to be forthcoming when the work starts.

Remember those in hospital and those suffering from any kind of trauma both physical and mental. Offer some encouraging words and actions to these folk. Continue to pray for Robert and family as they settle in to life in Whitchurch and the Church.

Student Minister: Robert Savoiu

Secretary: June McCaughren

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

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

Whitchurch Baptist Church

Sunday October 23rd 2022



Morning service with our new Student Minister

Robert Savoiu

WELCOME!

Do join us for a coffee/tea and a chat after the service.

What's on this week:-

Wed 26th Mid week Study Group.

10.30am at David/Hazel Culley.

Sunday 30th. Guest speaker: Bob Smith {Basingstoke}.

Bob is a retired Pentecostal Pastor and now a member at Basingstoke Baptist Church. He is married to Sally, rides a Harley Davidson motor bike and keeps chickens at their Oakley home!

We are grateful for his willingness to come and share God's word with us today.

We heard last Sunday of the problems we are facing with the heating and the need to replace the system and of course the inherent costs! Keep abreast of the information which will be shared as and when there are any concrete decisions made and any relevant information to share.

There is a special Members Meeting pencilled in for Sunday Oct 30th and this will be confirmed in good time.

Take a look at our Fairtrade Christmas tree activity kit



Inside our Host of Angels box is a new edition of the Christmas story, a sticker set of the key Nativity characters and 6 milk chocolate Fairtrade angels. As you read the Christmas story you put a sticker on the back of each angel and then hang the angel on the Christmas tree. The story sheet also has quizzes and colouring in challenges.

All details of how to obtain these can be found on Meaningful Chocolate Coy or search for Real Advent Calendar.

How about becoming determined to 'Keep Christ in Christmas' this year as never before so that all our Christmas pre-lims and celebrations are clearly focused on Jesus!

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Luke 10:1-3

Jesus sent the seventy-two to go out two-by-two into the harvest field. I have spoken about this previously but want to remind you, as you go about your daily life this week, that wherever you go, you are in God's harvest field.

A few weeks ago I was at a church just to the South of London speaking with a group who are being taken through a short course that is helping them to join Jesus in His Mission'.

As a part of the evening people were placed into small groups and were asked to consider a number of questions. The first question was 'where do you go?' I listened in on one group and heard a man say, 'I don't really go anywhere! I come to church and I go home, that's about it!'

The person leading the small group said to him, 'Don't you go anywhere else?' The man thought about this for a moment and continued 'Well I suppose I do go to the park most days to walk the dog, and I do go to the shops fairly regularly'. He paused and then continued 'And when I walk the dog I see a lot of the same people walking their dogs, and now that I am thinking about it, it has never occurred to me that God might be in the park, that the park is part of His mission field.'

Interestingly, his comments very quickly got the other people in the group talking about the places where they go – work, the gym, visiting friends and family..... What was fascinating was that each of them admitted that they had never thought about the places they go as part of God's harvest field. They believed that God was in the church and with them when they are at home but had little expectation of God being in the places where they go.

So how about you? What difference might it make to your witness if you recognized that God is already at work in the places you go?

*'View from the Rooftop'
by Dennis Pethers.*

A series of short challenges used several years ago which we felt warrant a re-run!

News of persecuted church

Naser Navard Goltapeh, an Iranian Christian convert from Islam has been released mid-way through his 10 year prison sentence.

Islamist Militants killed 11 people in an attack on Christian majority north-east Democratic Republic Congo on Oct 4th.

Gunmen stormed into a church on Oct 16th in Kogi State Nigeria killing two worshippers.

Extremists in Madhya Pradesh intercepted a bus carrying tribal children, claiming the event was being organised to convert attendees by force.