



The Messenger

March & April 2025

News

Recipe

Quizzes

Events



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From the Editorial Team

Spring is coming! March and April see the bulbs coming amazingly to life once more which lifts our spirits so much as we are reminded of the miracle of new life in God's creation. Snowdrops, daffodils, crocus and tulips will soon be seen. A new chapter also is unfolding at GBC as Jack, Candice, Elias and Jed settle into their new home, schools and life with us in Godalming. We wish them all much happiness and many blessings for Jack's ministry at GBC.

The editorial team reserve the right to reject any articles that may not be suitable. Only first names will be used, respecting privacy at all times. All photos submitted must have prior consent from those shown in the picture.

Our Pastors, Peter and Jack will approve all editions prior to distribution.



The Editorial Team are:

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Items for the May/June 2025 edition should be sent to one of the above by Sunday 13th April, for distribution on Sunday, 27th April 2025

From The Pastor's Desk



Where have all the heroes gone?

Sadly, I think we are lacking genuine heroes because we have traded heroes for celebrities.

Society rewards its celebrities handsomely. They are welcomed in the best hotels and are forgiven the worst behaviour. The limousines and red carpets await them, and the fattest bank accounts provide for them. Their fans press to intercept them, and the media to interview them. People imitate them, fame and fortune are lavished upon them, but maturity and responsibility are not expected of them. They live charmed but not always charming lives. For many of their admirers, their status is something to be aspired to, and their exalted position something to be longed for.

Celebrities are just people who are famous for being well-known. It is not that they have achieved anything of profound significance or have invested their lives in some noble venture that will change the lot of humanity for the better. They just happened to be around doing something when the lights came on and the cameras started to roll.

We have lost sight of God as an active participant in human lives. We lack the ability to see God calling men and women to live for him and his cause, which transcends anything humans can envisage. Having such a calling gave people's lives grandeur and nobility of purpose, with a result that many became true heroes.

Chris Bowater, a well-known song writer and worship leader wrote a song 'Make me Lord, a dreamer for your kingdom' which included the words "dreams that will change a world that's lost its way... Plant in my heart heavenly desires... I would aspire to greater goals in God..."

People with dreams like that make true heroes. They are not celebrities – but they are all around us. You might know some of them! You could even be one of them!

Peter

Easter Events

Thursday

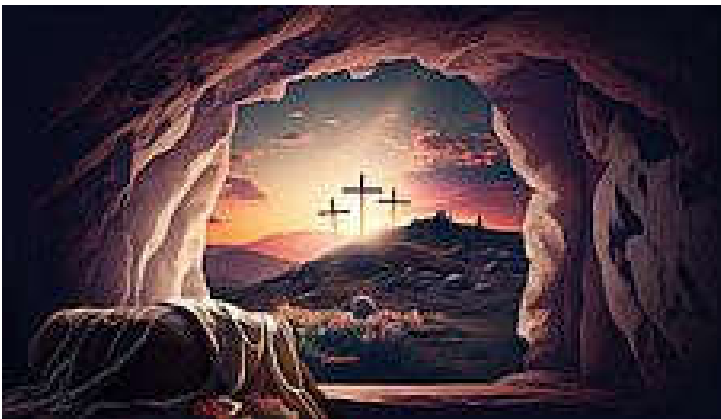
Maundy Service with meal - 6.30pm

Good Friday

11.30am - Churches Together
Gathering outside Wetherspoons

Followed by Hot cross buns and
refreshments at GBC

12.00 Noon - Screening of Trafalgar
Square Wintershall Passion Play at
GBC



Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service - 6.45am

10.00am - Service at GBC

Church Family News

Birthdays



March

14th - Jeanette J
20th - Jo C
23rd - Ann M

April

2nd - Wendy R
4th - Andrew L
4th - Lorna O
6th - Peter J
16th - Ruth W
21st - Marion T
22nd - Jackie F
30th - Nick H



If you have a birthday in May or June and are happy for us to put it in the Messenger, please let Sally know.



Congratulations to dear Anne and Bas who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 Years!) on Thursday 13th March.



Congratulations also to dear Nick and Edith who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Thursday 1st May.



Congratulations belatedly to Tony and Babs who celebrated 50 years of membership at GBC in February



And to Shirley who celebrates 60 years of membership in March



And to Eileen who celebrates a record 76 years of membership in April!!



Wedding bells will be ringing for Jo H and Neil who will be getting married on Monday 26th May at 12.00 Noon at Godalming Baptist Church! All welcome to the Wedding Service.



In January one Sunday morning when the sermon was on faith God spoke to me and gave me a chorus I have not sung for over 30 years and this is the chorus:

Have faith in God the sun will shine
Though dark the clouds may be today
His heart has planned your path and mine
Have faith in God have faith always
Have faith in God, have faith in God
Have faith always

Shirley



Sat 8th March 10am – 12.00 Noon
supporting CAP-Christians
Against Poverty and Sat 29th
March for The Pilgrims Friend
Charity



With help from CAP, I sat down and looked at how to manage my everyday life. Now I no longer get up thinking about debt every day and wondering whether I can afford to feed my children.

Francella



With CAP, you've got food in your cupboard, all your bills are paid, nobody's phoning you asking for money. It's such a weight off your shoulders. You're not a slave to debt – and that's priceless.

Reg and Janice



When CAP is involved, they don't just leave you. Even when you're debt free, they're still there for you. They actually get to know you. It has turned my life around.

Sharon

CAP
DEBT
HELP

Lifting the weight of debt

Free debt advice and personal support in your community.

Call free on: **0800 328 0006**
or visit: **capdebthelp.org**



CAP are unsurpassed when it comes to the debt help they give people across the country.

Martin Lewis,
Money Saving Expert



CAP
DEBT
HELP



Lifting the weight of debt

Free debt advice and personal support in your community.

capdebthelp.org

always hope.

Book your free appointment

0800 328 0006
capdebthelp.org

CAPuk CAPuk_org CAPuk.org

Charity Registration No: 209211 | England & Wales: 30328176 | Scotland: CAP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Product Code 304281x1



If you are feeling weighed down by debt, then we can help. You may think your situation is impossible, but there is hope. Our friendly team will give you a listening ear in confidential appointments and provide a practical solution to your debts.

Since we started helping people out of debt in 1996, we've helped thousands in situations like yours through our professional service offered by over 250 CAP Debt Centres. So ring us today and begin your journey to becoming debt free.

Does it cost anything?

Our service is completely free. We are able to provide a totally free service because CAP is a charity and receives donations from churches and individuals who want to help people.

Will my creditors cooperate with you?

Yes. We have worked with over 1,000 companies within the finance industry and we are well respected. This means that councils, utilities and mortgage companies work with us because they have seen the results of our involvement. They know we offer fair repayments based on what you can afford.

Is CAP just for Christians?

No. CAP will help anyone regardless of their religious beliefs. We are committed to our service being available to all individuals regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Will take appropriate measures to monitor this.

How our debt help service works

1 Local appointments

After you call CAP, a Debt Coach from a local CAP Debt Centre will carry out your first appointment.

2 An effective budget

Our trained Debt Advisors will work out a realistic budget that prioritises your essential bills. We will negotiate affordable payments with each creditor and attempt to stop unfair interest and charges where possible. Your local Debt Coach will then explain the budget and the payments you will need to make.

3 CAP Plan

In most cases, a CAP Plan is set up for you. You will need to make one monthly payment into your CAP Plan to cover your debts and also bills if appropriate. CAP will then distribute this to your creditors on your behalf. You can also build up savings through your CAP Plan.

4 Severe debt

If you are in severe debt, we can walk you through insolvency options, such as petitioning for bankruptcy and helping you to fill out the forms.

5 Debt free

You can use your CAP Plan to pay your bills and debt repayments until you are debt free. We look forward to celebrating with you when you cross the finish line!

Call free on: **0800 328 0006**
or visit: **capdebthelp.org**

We know it takes a lot of courage to make the first call. But the sooner you ring, the sooner you'll have peace of mind.



Free services in Guildford from an award winning charity



CAP Debt Help

CAP Life Skills

CAP Job Clubs

CAP Money

Weighed down by debt? On a low income? Looking for work?

If you're in the Guildford area and are weighed down by debt, on a low income or looking for work, Christians Against Poverty can help!

CAP Debt Help

capdebthelp.org 0800 328 0006

An in-depth and personal service to help people sort out their debts.

CAP Life Skills

caplifefskills.org 07311 827828
annmather@caplifefskills.org

Friendly groups where you'll discover the budgeting and life skills you need to make your money go further.

CAP Money

CAP Job Clubs

capjobclubs.org 07432 515410
07432 836413
nickwalden@capjobclubs.org

Friendly, practical support to help people in the community step confidently into employment.

Charity Registered No: 1097217 (England & Wales), SC038776 (Scotland). CAP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.



Christian
**care homes
and housing for
older people**

*"I felt at
home the
moment
I arrived"*

*Resident at
Koinonia*



0300 303 1403



info@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk



pilgrimsfriend.org.uk

Pilgrims' Friend Society is a registered charity and a company registered
in England and Wales. Charity No: 1045920 Company No: 3027071

**PILGRIMS'
FRIEND
SOCIETY**

Connect Activities

On an icy morning in January the longer walk and the shorter walk met at Gibbet Hill.



Following the walk more joined us for lunch in a warmer location.



On a stormy day in January we had an excellent tour of Guildford Cathedral.



The rose window shows the Descending Dove surrounded by the gifts of the Spirit.



We visited Chawton House on a cold, damp February day to look at the snowdrops in the garden. We really enjoyed our day together despite the weather!



This tempting food is knitted!
Is it vegetarian?



We were actually served proper coffee, tea and homemade biscuits.

Future Dates

Monday March 10 *Something Special* - at 11.30am.

Monday March 24 *Walk* - led by Maureen

Monday April 7 *Art Exhibition and Sculpture Trail* - at Priorsfield School

Monday April 21 *Bluebell Walk* - led by Heather

Life Issues

SUPPORTING THOSE "LIVING WITH CANCER AND BEYOND" - FROM A RELATIVE'S PERSPECTIVE



Led by Daphne Bleach
Saturday 15th March 2025
10 am – 12.30 pm
(Coffee available from 9.30 am)
at Godalming Baptist Church,
Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA

- * Do you know what to say, and not to say, when someone says: "I have cancer"?
- * How does a diagnosis of cancer affect someone?
- * How we can encourage someone to "live well with cancer"?
- * What help and support is available to patients and their relatives?
 - * Living beyond treatment - the "elephant in the room"
 - * Who is there for those when no further treatment is available?

Daphne is a Care Companion, offering help and support to families and those who are dying as they approach end of life.

Following her talk in 2024, Daphne will lead another informative and sensitive talk about how to come alongside and support those living with cancer, to help all of us make the best of the precious time we have together.

Daphne Bleach is a Christian, whose nursing career spans over 40 years.

**Please reserve a place, with payment of £7, by contacting Sally Pollard
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646
by *Friday 28th February***

THE CHALLENGE OF AGEING – THE SAGA YEARS



Led by Revd. Peter Jackson

Saturday 26th April 2025

10 am – 12.30 pm

(Coffee available from 9.30 am)

**at Godalming Baptist Church,
Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1BA**

- What kinds of issues do people face as they get older?
- What are the characteristics of ageing?
- Is there a difference between ageing and maturity?
- How can we live well, as we live longer?
- What sort of questions do older people have?
- Is ageism a factor in our society?


Join us for a morning exploring some of the sensitive questions and issues related to ageing in today's society

The session will be free of charge, but voluntary donations are invited for Age UK, the leading charity for older people, providing help, activities, specialist and impartial advice and befriending services

To help us manage numbers, please reserve a place, by contacting Sally Pollard
email: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 01483 428646
by ***Friday 11th April***

'Bullying It's Happening Everywhere'



A recent Life Issue session led by Peter




It's happening everywhere

Bullying is:
"Offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient." [ACAS]

"Bullying is the repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online."
[Anti-Bullying Alliance]



"The use of force, coercion, hurtful teasing or threat, to abuse, aggressively dominate or intimidate.



The behaviour is often repeated and habitual.

One essential prerequisite is the perception [by the bully or by others] of an imbalance of physical or social power. This imbalance distinguishes bullying from conflict. [Wikipedia]

Harassment is defined by law

“Unwanted conduct which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual’s dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, humiliating or offensive environment for that individual.

It can include behaviour that is not directed at an individual but is offensive to them, even if they do not possess one of the characteristics.

Equality Act 2010



Legal complaints can be brought



Is: **Intentional** **Unwanted**

Repetitive and persistent **Undeserved**

Personal bullying



Work-related bullying

Overt bullying

Covert passive aggressive bullying



Profile of a bully

Past experience

Insecurity

Inadequacy



Been bullied

Trauma

Unmet needs



Protect themselves

Success and popularity

Some narcissistic symptoms

WHAT IS A NARCISSIST



Feel threatened and envious of someone's abilities, status, popularity or approval

Are excessively competitive

Advance own interest at expense of others

Deny opportunities to potential rivals

Profile of someone who is bullied

Vulnerability



Shame



Anxiety



Fear

Feelings



Anger



Isolation



Loss of confidence



Frustration



Low self-esteem

Recognising bullying and its effects signs and behaviours

Handling bullying: Separate yourself from the bully

Stop playing the victim

Take a stand

Find some help

Events



Conservatoire Concerts

At

Godalming Baptist Church GU7 1BA

Saturday 8th March 2025, 7.00pm

Wales Guitar Duo Music from Wales and Beyond



**Admission Free - Retiring Collection towards
musicians' fees**
Reservations: Suzanne Cacciottolo 07940013314
Or email suzanne.cacciottolo@gmail.com
www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk





Conservatoire Concerts

At

Godalming Baptist Church GU7 1BA

Saturday 22nd March 2025, 7.00-8.00pm

Resilience personified: An event with pianist Nina Schumann



Nina Schumann, is an accomplished South African pianist advancing a brilliant career while dealing with a trio of serious health conditions.

Tonight she'll present a short documentary about her recent performance of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 and discuss her recovery from breast cancer and ongoing struggles with focal dystonia and Parkinson's disease.

The evening will end with Nina performing works by Bach and Rachmaninoff

Admission Free - Retiring Collection towards musicians' fees

Reservations: Suzanne Cacciottolo 07940013314

Or email suzanne.cacciottolo@gmail.com

www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk





Conservatoire Concerts

At

**Godalming Baptist Church GU7 1BA
Saturday 5th April 2025, 7.00pm**

Violin and Piano Duo

Eleanor Corr* and *Aleksandra Myslek



Performing:

Mozart: Sonata No.17 K296

Schumann: Fantasiestücke

Szymanowski, Harnasie op. 55 Dance

Franck: Violin Sonata

Chopin: Nocturne Op. 27 No. 1

**Admission Free - Retiring Collection towards
musicians' fees**

Reservations: Suzanne Cacciottolo 07940013314

Or email suzanne.cacciottolo@gmail.com

www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk





Godalming
Theatre
Group

The Baker's Wife

Book by JOSEPH STEIN
Music and Lyrics by
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Based on the film "La Femme de Boulangier"
by Marcel Pagnol and Jean Giono

8th – 12th April 2025
Godalming Baptist Church

Director
Maria Langford

Musical Director
Sarah Jones
Choreographer
Phoebe Barrow



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

NODA
For every stage

**GODALMING BAPTIST CHURCH
FRIENDSHIP LUNCH AND COMMUNITY COACH OUTING TO
MILESTONES MUSEUM BASINGSTOKE
ON THURSDAY 24th APRIL 2025**



An opportunity to step back in time with a visit to Milestone Museum Basingstoke.

This all-weather attraction is a museum of living history. Explore the museum's streets, shops and buildings to reminisce how we used to live, buy a

ration of sweets from the 1940s sweet shop, view the unique collection of vintage vehicles, and have a go in the penny arcade. There are cobbled streets, Victorian school room and station, working pub and costumed characters, and much more.

The attraction is fully accessible with plenty of seats, lift to the main floor, shop and café, ideal for morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

We will assemble at the church at 9.45am for departure at 10.00am. We will then have a scenic drive through the Surrey and Hampshire countryside, arriving at Milestones Museum at approx. 11.30am.

We will depart at 4.00pm with a different scenic drive, arriving back at the church at approx. 5.30pm.



Cost £15.00 per person for Museum entry. The coach for this outing will be free, paid for by a generous donation from the Denningberg Centre. Any food you may buy in the café will be extra.

Contact Church Reception for a booking form – 01483 414544
Or Peter and Christine Knottley – 01483 428073 Mobile 07956 502688
Or Sally Pollard – 01483 428646 Mobile 07976 276753

Thoughts shared from Penny Rivers, the Deputy Mayor of Waverley at a recent Friendship Lunch



As the Mayor is unwell, before coming here I attended the Long Service Awards in Waverley Borough Council to recognise and thank those who have given 20 - 30 and in some cases 40 years of service to our community. Life is busy and full, but it is always right to pause and reflect on what makes up our personal life and that which builds up our common life - the good, the bad and the ugly...

The last time I was in this room was on Christmas Day for the Churches Together Lunch - maybe some of you were also here then... it was the 25th such occasion as it was started in the year 2000 to mark the Millennium.

Do we remember the lead up to the year 2000 - the media was full of scare stories about the Millennium bug and people reacted by buying and hoarding bottles of water and tinned food - it seems so long ago, and now this the 21st century is one quarter through.

2025 - for me - it marks 50 years of living in this country - my parents with their (then) four children moved from Jamaica to live in Godalming. We children had been born in the West Indies and had never lived in Britain but of course now Godalming is home.

This year is also for me the 30th anniversary of being elected as a councillor. In 1995 when our youngest child, Edward, started at Moss Lane School, I stood and was elected to Godalming Town Council.

I had come to the notice of the Lib Dems after writing a letter to the Surrey Advertiser - it was the time when Waitrose was still on the site that is now Wetherspoons - my suggestion was to flatten the building and make a children's playground...

This is also a big birthday year for me - I will be 70 on December 30th.

Those are my personal dates to reflect on and remember - we all have similar.

There are also national anniversaries that we all share - 200 years ago in 1825 the first British railroad was built in Stockton and Darlington.

The first railway station in Godalming what at now is called Old Station Way - opened in 1855 - 170 years ago. Godalming and Farncombe stations opened in 1859 - there were 8 trains every day - now there are 2 an hour.

This year will also mark the 80th anniversaries of VE Day, VJ Day and the Liberation of Auschwitz. Monday, 27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day and the theme this year is "For a better future" - to encourage us to learn from the past and to work for a better future - together no matter who or what we are.

The Holocaust is seared into our conscience- it still casts a long, dark shadow and we should continue to bear witness, to never walk by on the other side or stay silent when others suffer

The Second World War too casts a shadow and though there are no longer any local people who served in uniform still alive, yet we still remember and reflect on the cost of war and the value of peace. We should all try to learn lessons of history in order not to repeat the mistakes - yet, when will we ever learn?

Lest we forget - Godalming will indeed mark these anniversaries on May 8th and August 15th and give those who served due respect. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

60 years ago, in 1965, Paul and his mother were on a train from Swindon to London when they heard the news that Winston Churchill had died. Everyone in the carriage stood and kept a minute of silence - In her words, "The old gentleman has gone". I remember that too though I had no idea who he was. My parents watched the funeral service on TV in Jamaica.

I'm sure you remember too.

We don't remember but we will mark the birth of novelist Jane Austen in 1775 - 250 years ago - and her books are still read and loved by millions, her books give a unique insight into Georgian society in all its gentility and inequality.

We do remember that it is three years since Russia went to war in Ukraine and nowadays, we have many Ukrainians living in this town many having learned to speak English in this very room.

The world of politics will recall the forming of The Labour Party in 1930 - 125 years ago and the world of music will celebrate the 90th anniversary of the birth of Elvis Presley known by his fans as the king and the 80th anniversary of the birth of Bob Marley known as the prophet. Past President Joe Biden issued a somewhat surprising posthumous pardon for Marcus Garvey who was a Jamaican civil rights leader of his time and whose words are used in Bob Marley's famous anthem

Redemption Song - "Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery. None but ourselves can free our minds".

Back to me - I have been a local councillor for 30 years - I learned my politics long ago when, as a child in Montego Bay, I would sit and listen to local politicians - one of which was the late, great Sir Alexander Bustamante. He espoused the cause of the "barefoot man" and stood for fairness and inclusion and education for all.

His political journey was long with much challenge. He had been a union leader for cane workers and worked for fair wages and later for independence from Britain.

In 1938, one hundred years after Emancipation, there was hunger in the West Indies especially amongst the sugar cane workers. There was a petition to the Governor and to the British government - it said, "We are the sons of slaves who have been paying rent to the landlords for fully many decades. We want better wages, and we are looking to you to help us. We want a Minimum Wage law. We want freedom in this 100th year of our emancipation".

This plea was not answered and unrest spread and there were strikes. The authorities - police and a battalion of the British Army - clamped down hard. 46 men were killed, and many were arrested for riotous assembly. Bustamante was arrested and held without bail. He had been addressing public meetings and writing letters to British MPs. On his release, and after the formation of a trade union, calm was restored.

In Godalming in 1975 at a funeral I was asked about growing up in Jamaica by a man who had also been there as a naval officer. He had been sent by our government on a gunboat to show the flag and put down local resistance. He asked me whether, "that man Bustamante had ever amounted to anything". I answered truthfully that he became our first independent Prime Minister and in time was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and his memorial service was held with due pomp and dignity in Westminster Abbey - it was one of the honours of my life to be a guest.

So, to close - we all have memories to mark and cherish and some to regret and all to give us cause to reflect and opportunity to learn. Don't give up - go on.

My mother would say, "There are good days, and there are bad days, and this is one of them." So too there are good years and bad years and this is one of them, most of all at the old age of nearly 70, I say, time flies - don't let it fly by unnoticed. Enjoy it - love your neighbour as yourself, unconditionally - render to no one evil for evil, let us walk in the light. Let us, as Rev Marion Edgar Budde, the Bishop of Washington who preached to the newly elected President Trump, saying, "let us love mercy, act justly and walk humbly with our God".

QUIZ



1 - Who said 'Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee?'

.....

2 - What am I? The more you take away, the more I become?

.....

3 - Riddle-I have no legs. I will never walk, but always run - What am I?

.....

4 - From what film did Patrick Swayze say 'Nobody puts Baby in the corner'?

.....

5 - Who was known as the Welsh Wizard?

6 - What do you call a time span of one thousand years?

.....

7 - What is the square root of 225?

8 - What am I - I get wet while drying?

9 - Abraham Lincon had no middle name-True or False?

.....

10 - Who was the legendary King killed at the Battle of Camelford?

.....

11 - What is the name of the aristocratic family in Downton Abbey?

.....

12 - What was the first Carry On Film called?

13 - Before 1970, What was the earliest age at which a person could vote in the United Kingdom?

14 - In World War 2 'Operation Barbarossa' was the German code name for the invasion of where?

15 - What are the wild dogs called that roam the Australian outback called?

.....

16 - A marmoset is which type of animal?

17 - How many legs has a crab?.....

18 - Which animal gives birth to the largest baby?

19 - Which game begins with 'a squidge off'?

20 - Alfred Mosher Butts is famous for inventing which popular board game?

.....

For answers see page 43

Prayers

Rooted in prayer



Having recently been in hospital with acute heart failure, there is nothing quite like being very unwell for causing a mixture of emotion; fear, hopelessness, depression and gratitude and I think with each day came a different emotion. This initiative of an eternal wall of prayer makes hope visible for 852,000 people each week. This wall is 14 miles from Birmingham and will be 50 metres high, made with 1 million bricks and 1 million answered prayers. Wow what an encouragement. When we are ill it can be very difficult to pray. In Timothy 21-2, he urges us to pray for all people and it is encouraging to know that when I was sick, others were praying on my behalf. We then have responsibility when well, to pray for our brothers and sisters, our leaders, our communities and for ourselves.

God **hears** our prayer (1 John 5:14).

God wants us to **seek him** through prayer (Lamentations 3:25).

God wants us to pray for **healing** (James 5:14-15).

Through **Jesus**, God answers prayer (John 16:24).

God knows our prayers even **before we pray** them (Isaiah 65:24).

Imagine the impact of a Christian Landmark that generates global attention, displays the infinite facets of God and declares the power of praying to Jesus.

Imagine it soaring 50 metres into the air. Imagine it being the biggest digital database of answered prayers in the world. A stunning piece of architectural art to provoke a conversation about prayer. A never-ending wall of a million bricks, each one digitally linked to a story revealing how Jesus has answered a specific prayer for an individual. This is Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer.

1 out of a million

I was a single parent with a small income, when my son got a bursary to a fantastic private school. Fees and uniform were paid for by the bursary, but I had to pay his bus fare which was about £500 a term. I opened a room in my house as Airbnb and trusted God. The money always came in on time. One year the bill was due by 5th January and I had no money for the bill about two weeks before it was due. I was praying and telling God, I trust him, over and over. The Airbnb was very quiet in December maybe the odd booking for £30 or £40 but nowhere near enough to pay the bus fare bill. Then suddenly a booking came in from an Australian woman who wanted to stay for two weeks and her payment of £510 was paid into my bank account, the day before the bill was due... There are many ways God provides; that's just one way.

2 out of a million

I was doing mission training and about to go on my first mission trip abroad. I had paid for some of the trip but had a balance to pay. I had the money but felt God instruct me to give that money away. It was all I had. After arguing with God, I then prayed letting him know that if I gave this money away and I was meant to go on mission then I needed a miracle. I was obedient and did what was asked. Later that same day, I received two blessing gifts from friends that was double what I had given. God taught me a lesson of obedience and generosity with a very clear message that we cannot outgive God

I will not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, I will let my requests be made known to God - Philippians 4:6

"God will either give us what we ask or give us what we would have asked if we knew everything he knows" – Tim Keller,

Thank you for your prayers, cards and warm messages, they meant so much
Love
Catherine xx

Every two months we will choose a topic for prayer. Please let Messenger know if you would like prayer that edition that covers a particular topic.



Looking at Life through my New Bi-focals

By
Jerry Brecheisen

Focusing on God's Purpose for the Second Half of Life

Jerry gently and humorously treats the topics that are sneaking up on all of us and offers the encouraging reminder that God has much more in store.

You'll laugh out loud at this collection of light-hearted devotionals , from aging gracefully to grandparenting.

A Beginner's Guide To Dying

By
Simon Boas

In his mid-40s, Simon Boas was diagnosed with incurable cancer - it had been caught too late and spread round his body. But he was determined to die as he had learned to live - optimistically, thinking the best of people, and prioritising what really matters.

In A Beginner's Guide to Dying, Simon considers and collates the things that have given him a great sense of peace and contentment, and why dying at 46 really isn't so bad. And for that reason it's also only partly about 'dying'. It is mostly a hymn to the joy and preciousness of life, and why giving death a place can help us all make even more of it.

[See over for the transcript of the radio interview with Simon](#)

Godalming Baptist Church library has a vast selection of books covering various life issues e.g. Bereavement, Dementia, Addictions, Autism, Depression, Self-Harm etc. There are also books on encouragement and guidance in life's journey.

Open Sunday mornings after 11:30am or weekdays during term time between 9:00 and 12:00 (subject to bookings)

A Beginner's Guide to Dying

In September 2023, Simon Boas was diagnosed with throat cancer. Aged just 46, he was told the disease was terminal, and that it would ultimately take his life. Over the following year, he knitted together his reflections on life into a book A Beginner's Guide to Dying. The book hit the shelves in October 2024. It was a posthumous publication.

In what he expected to be one of his final interviews, Simon spoke to Emma Barnett on the Today Programme, offering his reflections on life and death as he moved into hospice care.



My pain is under control and I'm terribly happy - it sounds weird to say, but I'm as happy as I've ever been in my life.

I used to think I'd rather be hit by the proverbial bus, but having a couple of months knowing this is coming has really helped me both do the boring 'death-min', but also get my thoughts and prepare myself, and feel so accepting of what's to come.

It's been such a great bonus, actually.

The book is called *A Beginner's Guide to Dying*, but really what I'm trying to convey is how enjoying life

to the full kind of prepares you for this.

In some ways I was lucky that my life and my career have taken me to quite a lot of places where death is more a part of life than it is for us in the West.

I spent my life as an aid worker - quite a lot with the UN - and I've lived in places where death is something that not just exists in the background, but is imminently possible.

I spent three years running a UN office in the Gaza Strip. I spent a lot of time in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and I've been working in Ukraine. Seeing people there for whom death is such a part of life - they lose children, they don't know where the next meal is coming from - has really helped me.

I've also been a Samaritan for the past four years. In some cases you are on the line while people end their lives, so I think death has been more a part of my life than for many people.

It does us all good to think about it.

That's not in a gloomy way... by kind of realising it's inevitable and it's a part of life, it actually throws life into perspective and helps you to enjoy it more and prioritise the important things.

My family are about to go through the most difficult thing in their lives. My lovely wife, Aurelie, and my parents... are well surrounded, and I hope that my cheerfulness in the leaving of life might perhaps help them in the next few years...

All our lives are little books - but they're not someone else's complete book. You're a chapter or a page or a footnote in someone else's life and they are going to keep writing beautiful chapters when you are gone.

And those green shoots can grow around grief and put it in perspective. I hope people will think, "I'm glad I read that - Simon's story". And just because it's over, doesn't mean it's gone.

You don't need to have been a politician or a mover and shaker or an aid worker or anything in life. All of us make a huge difference.

I love this quote from George Eliot's Middlemarch:

"The effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistorical acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs."

All of us make a huge difference in life. I love the idea that most films about time travel revolve around changing one tiny thing in the past, and of course they come back to the present and everything is different

If you project that forward, you can change huge amounts of things into the future.

All our tombs will be unvisited in a few years - all our actions will mostly be unremembered - but the smile you gave the checkout lady or the kind words you gave to a stranger in the street could still be rippling forward.

We all have that opportunity and it's a huge power. And I want everyone to realise how special and precious they are.

I love melted cheese. Unfortunately I haven't been able to eat since Christmas. The chemotherapy killed my taste buds and the radiotherapy killed my salivary glands.

So, sadly, melted cheese and all the things I loved are off the menu.

However, I've been given full permission by my oncologist and my hospice team to enjoy as much Muscadet and as many cheeky rollups as I want - and I shall certainly be indulging in those and spending time with my family.

I'm sort of - not looking forward to my final day - of course that's the wrong way to see it. But I'm kind of curious about it, and I'm happy and I'm ready.

As Julian of Norwich said: "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well."

The above interview was broadcast on July 4th 2024, Simon passed away on 15th July 2024

Recipe

CHEDDAR & WATERCRESS SCONES

Ingredients

300 grams self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
½ tsp salt
75 grams unsalted butter (diced)
1 medium sized egg, lightly beaten
150 mls (approx) milk
1 tsp mustard
75 grams cheddar cheese, grated
Small bag of watercress (well chopped)



Method

Preheat oven to 220° (Fan 200) Gas 7

Sift flour, baking powder and salt into a large bowl. Rub in butter with fingertips OR combine in a food processor.

Create a well in the middle of the mixture and stir in the egg, mild mustard and 50g of the cheese (about ¾ of it) and ¾ of the chopped watercress.

Bring dough together and shape into a ball. On a floured surface, roll out the dough to ½ cm thick (½ inch). Cut into rounds with a 6-7 cm cutter, rerolling using trimmings.

Place on floured baking tray. Scatter or sprinkle a little cheese on top of each one.

Bake for 10-15mins until golden.

Cool on a rack and scatter with the remaining watercress.

Thoughts

The Dash Between

*There are two important dates
Around the life that we live
That reflect the time we're given
To laugh, to love, to live.*

*And between the date when we
arrive
And the date we go away
There exists a horizontal line
That captures every single day*

*Because these days we're living
Seem to vanish in a flash
We need to make the most of
That special little dash*

*We are blessed with opportunities
As we tread the grounds of earth
To build the loving legacy
Our own dash will be worth.*

*To focus on what matters
No on what we've owned or bought
And smile every chance we get
And love with all we've got.*

*To appreciate the here and now
As each moment will unfold
Because we're never told beforehand
How much time our dash will hold.*

*So, if you need to make some
changes,*

*Let this be the day you start
To make a difference with your life
Show the love that's in your heart*

*For how you spend this life
will someday be defined
by everything that is remembered
in the dash you leave behind.*

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“When thou passeth through the waters”
Deep the waves may be and cold,
But Jehovah is our refuge,
And His promise is our hold;
For the Lord Himself hath said it,
He, the faithful God and true;
“When thou comest to the waters
Thou shalt not go down, but THROUGH”

Seas of sorrow, seas of trial,
Bitterest anger, fiercest pain,
Rolling surges of temptation
Sweeping over heart and brain –
They shall never overflow us
For we know His word is true;
All His waves and all His billows
He will lead us safely through

Threatening breakers of destruction,
Doubt’s insidious undertow
Shall not sink us , shall not drag us
Out to ocean depths of woe
For He promise shall sustain us,
Praise the Lord whose Word is true!
We shall not go down or under,
For He saith, “Thou passeth THROUGH”

Annie Johnson Flint

Some Quotes To Ponder On

People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within - Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

Only put off until tomorrow, what you are willing to die having left undone - Pablo Picasso

Remember this - if you are in a position to take things for granted, you are already blessed beyond your needs - Andrew Blenkowski

The best way to cheer yourself is to try to cheer someone else up - Mark Twain

A Wise man is content with his lot, whatever it may be, without wishing for what he has not - Seneca

Happiness is not a goal... it's a by-product of a life well lived - Eleanor Roosevelt

A thing of beauty is a joy forever - John Keats

Change is the law of life. Those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future - J.F. Kennedy

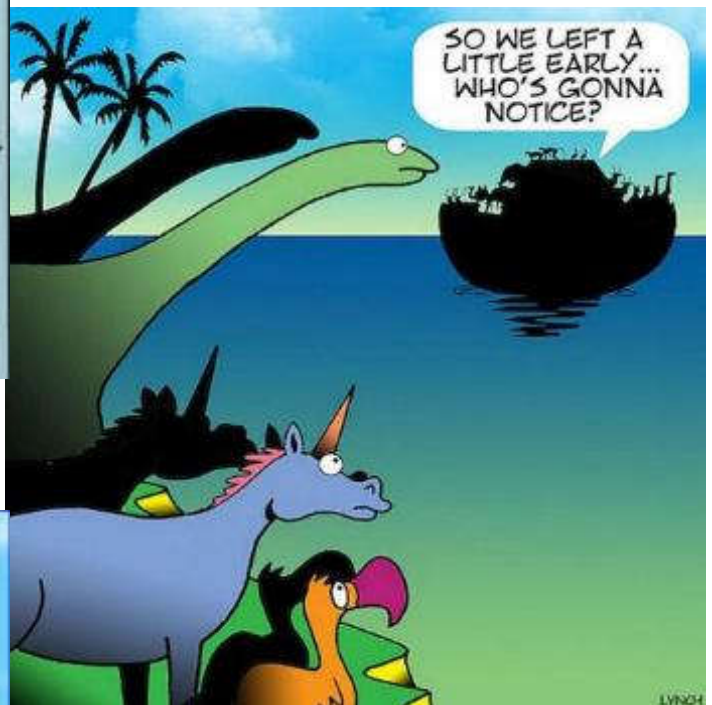
To the outsider, it may seem my life can give me little joy - but I am seldom depressed. I can hardly see anything of the superb view but I know it is there and I am thankful - Oliver Hall when nearly blind

Live your life while you have it. Life is a splendid gift - Florence Nightingale

Humour

Following on from our recent study and sermon

The famous question is asked for the first time.



Quiz Answers

Quiz Answers

1 - Mohammed Ali

2 - A Hole

3 - A River

4 - Dirty Dancing - Patrick Swayze

5 - David Lloyd George

6 - A Millenium

7 - 15

8 - A Towel

9 - True

10 - King Arthur

11 - Crawley

12 - Carry On Sergeant

13 - 21 Years Old

14 - Soviet Union/Russia

15 - Dingoes

16 - A Monkey

17 - 10 Legs

18 - Elephant

19 - Tiddly Winks

20 - Scrabble



You are warmly invited to join us for Sunday Services at 10:00am
Our morning services are recorded and videoed and are available to watch live or on
YouTube later

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCwMJcsPAKXKSImP7sfTfCg>

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