

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!.

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!

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

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

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.

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!