

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 McCaughran

Treasurer: Laura Ivey

Leadership Team: Adam Stacey. John McCaughran. 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 CLEANING/ 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 special 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 McCaughran. 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 Saturdays.

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 today, 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 medical 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 prepares to take up his position here.

There is a fair amount of planning and preparation for his arriving and induction, 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 commitment too. Spend some time this week specifically praying for our young people asking for God's blessing 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 east 260 from a Christian majority ethnic group have been killed in Oramia, Ethiopia. You won't read it in the press of course—but nonetheless it is happening!

PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS!