

'Here we go. Again. But it feels different this time. The days are getting darker, the summer is a memory, and Christmas, New Year, and 2021 are shrouded in uncertainty. How long before this is over?

'How long, Lord?' is not a question that seeks answers found in SAGE reports. It's a question born of an exasperated, broken spirit, crying for comfort more than control. And if you find yourself asking it, you're in good company, as it is commonly asked by the Bible's poets. To be honest with God requires us to be honest with ourselves, to express our *felt* feelings and *thought* thoughts – not just the 'right' ones. Prayers don't have to be neat and tidy. They're best when they're rough and ready, somewhere between frustration and faith, lament and longing, confusion and confidence. Each poet who asks 'how long?' also voices a trust that God will definitively act to make all things well in the end: **'But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation'** (Psalm 13:5). This is a perspective full of faith, hope, trust in God. England's new lockdown will take its toll on our relationships, economy, and collective mental health. It drives me to ask, 'how long, Lord?' but also to put into practice the only sermon application I have ever been able to stick to: when all else fails, pray. It will all be well in the end.'

Tim Yearsley, LICC

7/52 @ RBC

15 November 2020

International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church

In the stressful times : seek God

In the painful times : praise God

In the harried times : hallow God

In the terrible times : trust God.

And at all times — *and at all times* – Thank God.

Prayers for Ryde continue every day for 15 minutes at 7pm.
Join in using the link at <http://prayforryde.org/>

Lord we pray that you will give wisdom to all our church leaders during the coronavirus pandemic.
Help them to make the right decisions.
Lord we pray that all those suffering from the pandemic will not be ignored and forgotten.
Help us to find ways to reach out to the vulnerable and the lonely, especially during this time.
Amen.



Contacts:
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All Deacons available by ☎ if needed.

Please note! Items for 7/52 should be given to **Sally** by **midnight THURSDAY** on 641305 or email: ian.pratt5@btopenworld.com

Check out our website at www.rydebaptist.xyz for general updates, sermon notes and suggestions for reading and study.



What's On

Worship at home with Premier Radio **10 am Sunday**.

BBC1 10.45 am Sunday morning live; Songs of Praise **1.15 pm**
Pam Rhodes on Premier Radio for Sunday Live at 6 pm, followed by Prayer of Hope from Churches Together at 7 pm. Pam Rhodes also leads a lunchtime singalong every weekday at 1 pm on Premier Radio.



Prayer broadcast with BU General Secretary Lynn Green at **7 pm** on Wednesdays. See https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer_broadcasts.aspx

Please contact **Alison** on alison.ridout@btinternet.com/by phone for the link to the Thursday Zoom coffee morning.

Read about how Tearfund is helping to transform lives in Brazil through the provision of clean water at https://www.tearfund.org/en/world_of_difference/brazil/

The Real Lockdown

We have all missed gathering with our church to worship during lockdown. But, as hard as that's been, it has helped us appreciate the religious freedom we enjoy that countless people around the world have never known. In India, many can't gather to pray in their homes, for fear of attack. In China, even Christians who join online services risk arrest. This is the Real Lockdown, and it's not just temporary.

Today marks this year's International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church. From 7.30-8.30 pm Open Doors are joining with Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Release International and the Evangelical Alliance for an evening of prayer and worship. This jointly hosted webinar will feature the latest news, testimonies and prayer requests from China, India and Nigeria. To register, please go to

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/idop-online-registration-124665284221?aff=OpenDoors>

or

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/idop-online-registration-124665284221?aff=CSW>

The Annual General Church meeting will be on **Thursday 19 November at 7 pm** on Zoom. The link to join will be sent out later in the week, so please look out for it in an email from Kerry.

Two interesting articles about the US Presidential election and the future:

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/How-Joe-Biden-s-Christian-faith-will-change-America>

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/Biden-might-have-won-but-look-at-how-some-Christians-voted>

A Christian barrister speaks about the recent report into anti-Semitism in the Labour party at <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/Anti-Semitism-in-the-Labour-Party-the-lead-investigator-explains-the-findings>

Two Christian academics write about the vital need to follow good science in fighting the pandemic: <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/Some-Christians-are-sceptical-of-science.-But-Covid-19-is-a-challenge-we-must-face-together>

Why the government is wrong to allow people to travel to clinics overseas to end their lives: <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/The-Government-is-wrong-to-endorse-suicide-tourism>

*Thank you for your continued financial support of the work of the Church. If you are able to give by standing order, **PLEASE** do so!*

**RBC Barclays current account number 20731102
sort code 20—60— 55**

*If you usually give by cash or cheque, contact **Jim** on **810991** to arrange delivery or collection*

**We are currently running at a deficit as follows:
- £9946.23. This is mainly due to the loss of letting fees
for the GSC**