

'One of the most beautiful passages of Scripture is **Luke 1.39.-56**. Mary's visit to Elizabeth made her aware of what she was waiting for. The child leapt for joy in her. Mary affirmed Elizabeth's waiting and...burst into joy herself. These two women created space for each other to wait. They affirmed for each other that something was happening that was worth waiting for.

I think that is the model for the Christian community...a community of support, celebration, and affirmation. Prayer is ... coming together around the promise. It is lifting up what is already there. Eucharist is ... saying 'thank you' for the seed that has been planted. It is saying 'we are waiting for the Lord, who has already come.' The whole meaning of the Christian community lies in offering a space in which we wait for that which we have already seen. Christian community is the place where we keep the flame alive among us, and take it seriously, so that it can grow and become stronger in us. In this way we can live with courage, trusting that there is a spiritual power in us that allows us to live in this world without being seduced by despair, lostness, and darkness.

Our waiting is always shaped by alertness to the word. It is waiting in the knowledge that someone wants to address us. The question is, are we at home? Are we at our address, ready to respond to the doorbell? Jesus says you must stand ready, stay awake, stay tuned to the word of God, so that you will survive all that is going to happen and be able to stand confidently in the presence of God together in community'.  
*Henri Nouwen (1932-1996)*

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

# 7/52 @ RBC

**13 December 2020**  
**Third Sunday of advent**



*Third Sunday of Advent*

**Prayers for Ryde** continue every Monday for 15 minutes at 7pm. Join in using the link at **[Pray for Ryde – Continuing in Prayer](#)**  
This is followed by our own prayer meeting using the usual link

Check out our website at **[www.rydebaptist.xyz](http://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. Prayer broadcast with BU General Secretary Lynn Green at **7 pm** on Wednesdays. See [https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer\\_broadcasts.aspx](https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/338268/Prayer_broadcasts.aspx)



**THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 5-8 PM 'MERRY AND BRIGHT'** - a Christmas trail around Ryde organised by the New Carnival Company with Ryde Town Council and Ryde BA. Giant lanterns, pop up dancers, singers and storytellers, including at the George St Centre frontage. Late night shopping. For more info, see the map and Q code on the front window of the GSC and in town.

It is estimated that a third of the world's population suffers from religious persecution in some form, with Christians the most widely persecuted religion. Government restrictions on religious freedom have reached their highest levels globally. In Pakistan, one of the most dangerous places to be a Christian, 1,000 women and girls from religious minorities are forcibly married and "converted" every year, and nearly 80 people are currently imprisoned for blasphemy, facing long sentences or even death. Mob-violence is not dealt with by the authorities, but this has received sparse attention from global human rights institutions. **ADF International** is a faith-based legal advocacy organisation that protects fundamental freedoms and promotes the inherent dignity of all people.

Read more at <https://adfinternational.org/>

Many of us are experiencing isolation first-hand. Yet millions of people live so far from roads, education and healthcare that the only way to reach them is by air. For 75 years, **Mission Aviation Fellowship** (MAF) has been working in 26 developing countries to bring help, Christian hope and healing to remote communities. The organisation has also been called to help fight coronavirus in vulnerable areas.

Read more at <https://www.maf-uk.org/>

**Still looking for Christmas presents?** Try this:

Twin your or a friend's waste bin at <https://www.bintwinning.org/twin-your-bin/>

Check your Carbon consumption and offset it by making a donation to BMS at <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/get-involved/campaign/creation-stewardship/>

Read about Christmas in the Philippines at <https://advent.tearfund.org/day/ten/>

How to be the best Christian grandparent you can be - read more at <https://www.youthandchildrens.work/Read/Blog/Parenting-can-be-grand>

French footballer Olivier Giroud and others working with Open Doors: <https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/chelsea-footballer-raises-funds-for-persecuted-christians>



A Covid-19 vaccine may save us from physical disease, but it won't change what the pandemic revealed about our world's spiritual state. Read this important article at <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/Why-the-Covid-19-vaccine-won-t-save-us>

*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:  
- £13292.56. This is due to the loss of letting fees for the GSC and the continuing need to pay utility bills and repay loans.**