

Phil Jump, Regional Minister for the North West Baptist Association, explains why he's taken the difficult decision to recommend that churches stay closed at the moment:

<https://www.premierchristianradio.com/Shows/Weekday/Inspirational-Breakfast-with-Esther-Higham/Interviews/Is-it-better-for-our-churches-to-stay-closed>

'In the last year we have all become unwilling experts in waiting. We wait for the right to see friends, for a vaccine, to return to work or other activities. For many Christians, the waiting and the longing is for the time when we can share a cup together again, join in song, and lay a caring hand on someone's shoulder to pray. Despite our best efforts with online services and socially distanced gatherings, we are hungry for a return to physical, embodied worship together. There is little we can do about this enforced waiting, but we can control *how* we wait.

What does God want to do in you during this slow period? What does it mean for you to worship God now? The shape of worship may look different from how we have worshipped before. Less singing 'Hallelujah!' and more praying 'How long, O Lord?' Less rushing and more being still. If we allow God to teach us, we may also learn to worship with our whole lives. We can't sing together on Sunday, but we can speak truth on Monday. We can't put money on the offering plate at church, but we can choose to invest ethically. Perhaps this season of waiting will be a time in which God develops us into whole-life worshippers: people who, like Jesus, grow 'in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and people.'

Sam & Sara Hargreaves, engageworship.com

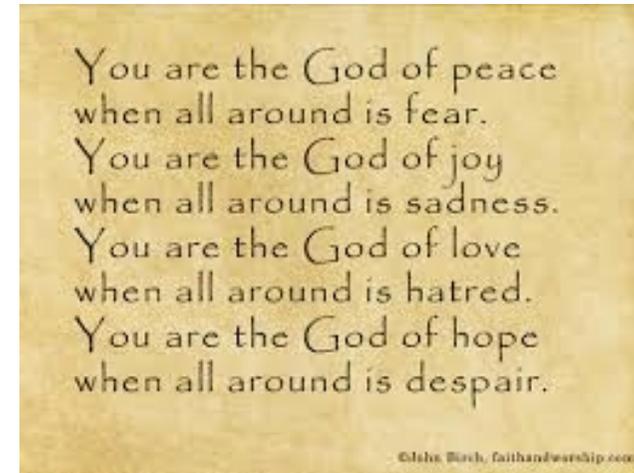
Contacts:
Church office: closed at present
Website: www.rydebaptist.xyz
 @rydebaptist
Minister: Rev Kerry Birch
01983 564137
Church Secretary:
Sally Pratt
01983 641305
rydebaptistsecretary@gmail.com

Reg Charity no 1133780
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

7/52 @ RBC

24 January 2021



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. **This evening** there is a short joint service at **7 pm**, using the Pray for Ryde link.

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



What's On

Worship with Premier Radio

10 am Sunday Worship at home

6 pm Sunday Live with Pam Rhodes, followed by Prayer of Hope with Churches Together at **7 pm**

BBC1 10.30 am The Big Questions **1.15 pm** Songs of Praise



Recordings of all BU prayer broadcasts can be found at **The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Prayer broadcasts** .

Persecution against Christians is increasing according to Open Doors, and many false reasons are given. Read more at <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/9-lies-that-fuel-Christian-persecution>

Nigeria is number 9 on the Open Doors World Watch List for persecution of Christians. Read more at <https://www.womanalive.co.uk/stories/view?articleid=3351>

Read about the work of ADF advocating for Christians and other minorities at <https://adfinternational.org/news/home-for-christmas-hope-at-last-for-exiled-families-in-india/>

Request a copy of Free to Believe, 40 messages for Lent from SAT-7 contacts at <https://www.sat7uk.org/pages/lent-2021/>

Sometimes

I want to ask God

why He allows poverty, famine and injustice in the world when He could do something about it, but I'm afraid He might just ask me the

same question

Sign up for Lent devotionals from Tearfund at <https://www.tearfund.org/Forms/Lent-email-sign-up-form>

How can we love our neighbours during lockdown? Some ideas at <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/news/love-your-neighbour-lessons-from-kosovo/>

'Emperors have always liked to be called emperors of peace... their opponents ... to be called 'liberators'. They have come and gone. Neither their rule nor their liberations endured. God was not with them. They did not disarm this divided world. They could not forgive guilt, because they themselves were not innocent. Their hope did not bring new life. Let them go their way, let us deny them our complete obedience. **'To us a child is born'**. The divine liberty lies upon *his* shoulders. What does his rule look like? He will establish 'peace on earth' and 'uphold peace with justice and righteousness'. How can peace go with justice? We are familiar with ...peace based on injustice, and justice based on conflict. Peace and justice are divided by the struggle for power. The law of the strongest denies justice and right; the weakness of the peacemakers makes peace fragile. It is only in the zeal of love that what power has separated can be put together again. Peace and righteousness will only kiss and be one when the *new person* is born...the New Testament proclaims to us the person as Jesus Christ, the child in the manger, the preacher on the mount, the man on the cross, the risen liberator. He is already present, and his power is already among us. We can follow him, making visible something of the peace, liberty, and righteousness of the kingdom that he will complete. Let us share in his new creation of the world and...live as new men and women. The zeal of the Lord be with us all.'

Jurgen Moltmann (1926 - present)

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/Trump-the-Capitol-and-conspiracies-Why-it-is-time-for-evangelicals-to-repent>

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:

- £15.875.68. This is due to the loss of letting fees for the GSC and the continuing need to pay utility bills and repay loans.