

'We often think of Jesus' fast beginning when He stepped into the Judean wilderness. But the fast began three decades earlier when the Glory of heaven was wrapped in plain paper and given as a gift to mankind. Jesus fasted omnipresence and clothed Himself with flesh. He fasted being worshipped by angels and accepted the disregard of man. He fasted the Voice that birthed planets and submitted to the silence of thirty hidden years.

How must it have felt - knowing he had the power to heal - to walk past children suffering with leprosy? What would it have been like - knowing that his conception was miraculous - to be unable to defend his mother when others whispered about her past? And how agonising would it be - when his Word could one day raise the dead to life again - to stand by while those he loved (perhaps even Joseph his father) died?

We are thankful, challenged, and inspired by Jesus' forty-day fast from food in the Judean wilderness. Perhaps we should likewise be grateful, awed, and humbled by His thirty-year fast from praise, power, and potential in Nazareth. It takes a great deal of strength to choose weakness. In our daily lives, we may prefer self-reliance, but perhaps utter dependence is the truer friend of our souls. Faith, ... is less about the sacrifice of stuff and more about the surrender of our souls. Lent... is less about denials of some item, and more about thinning our lives in order to thicken our communion with God. Decrease is holy only when its destination is love.'

© **40 days of Decrease**, by Alicia Britt Cole

Want another challenge for Lent? Read <https://www.premierchristianradio.com/Shows/Saturday/Unbelievable/Unbelievable-blog/Why-I-m-giving-up-complaining-for-Lent>

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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

7/52 @ RBC

21 February 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.

Please note – on Monday 22 February there will be a church members' meeting at 7.45 pm immediately following the prayer meeting.

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



The next BU prayer broadcast is on Wednesday 24 February at 7 pm. Recordings of all prayer broadcasts can be found at **[The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Prayer broadcasts](#)** .

This week **Operation Mobilisation** has been celebrating the 50th anniversary of the start of the OM Ship ministry. Read more at **<https://www.uk.om.org/blog/50-years-of-gods-faithfulness>**

Watch OM Ships 50th Anniversary Livestream from 18 February at **<https://youtu.be/3UoAjiKds78>**

Watch a very short video about the current ministry, and donate if you can, at **<https://www.uk.om.org/om-ships-50th-anniversary-video>**

Join with the **Baptist World Alliance's** family of over 47 million global Baptists and sign the petition calling for action from world governments on equitable access to vaccines at: **<https://covidfreeworld.org.uk/petition/>**

Across the world, individuals and faith communities experience injustice because of their beliefs. **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** report some notable answers to prayer. Last September a pastor in Vietnam was released early after four years in prison for alleged offences which he denies. In Eritrea, Iran and Cuba, unjustly detained prisoners were released and reunited with their families. In January Marks and Spencer signed a pledge providing assurances that its products will not be made with forced labour from the Uyghur ethnic group in China. To support or donate to CSW's work, go to **<https://netdonor.net/page/75725/donate/1>**



Let today be the day you give up who you've been for you who can become.

Blessed Ash Wednesday

Watch a lovely meditation on Ash Wednesday through art at **<https://www.christian.art/videos.php>**

The Chosen is the first-ever multi-season show about Jesus and the biggest crowd-funded project of all-time. Created outside the Hollywood system, **The Chosen** allows us to see Jesus through the eyes of those who knew him most intimately. It is on TBN UK, Freeview Channel 65 and Sky 582, weekly from Friday 19 February at 7pm, repeating on Sundays at 8pm. Episodes available on demand at **watch.tbnuuk.tv** for a limited time only.

For good Christian films and series go to the following websites: **<https://watch.redeemtv.com/new-to-redeem-tv>** and **<https://www.revelationmedia.com/>**

'We are able to have as much of God as we want. Christ puts the key to His treasure chest in our hands and invites us to take all we desire. If someone is allowed into a bank vault, told to help himself to the money, and leaves without one cent, whose fault is it if he remains poor? And whose fault is it that Christians usually have such meagre portions of the free riches of God?'

Alexander Maclaren

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.**