

## A prayer from Tearfund

God of hope and love,  
As we reflect on this last year, we lift to you all that has been lost. We grieve for loved ones taken away too soon. We lament the inequalities that have left vulnerable people alone and have pushed people further into poverty. And we long for the day when we can meet again.

Yet through the difficulty, we give you praise for all the good work that has been done and for the way the church has stepped up to respond in this time of need – both seen and unseen. We thank you for your faithfulness, and for the light that can be found even in the darkest of times.

We pray that you will continue to bless your church, that it will be emboldened to step up and out further and further.

And we ask that your kingdom come, and your will be done. In Jesus' name, amen.

Sabbath rest is intrinsic to our identity as God's people.

*'You are in the image of the creator God who did not need to work to get ahead. Nor do you! God invites the ones at Sinai to a new life of neighbourly freedom in which the Sabbath is the cornerstone of faithful freedom. Such faithful practice of work stoppage is an act of resistance. It declares in bodily ways that we will not participate in the anxiety system that pervades our social environment. We will not be defined by busyness and by acquisitiveness and by pursuit of more ... because our life does not consist in commodity.'*

**Walter Brueggemann**

### Contacts:

**Church office:** closed at present

**Website:** [www.rydebaptist.xyz](http://www.rydebaptist.xyz)



@rydebaptist

**Minister:** Rev Kerry Birch  
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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](mailto:ian.pratt5@btopenworld.com)

# 7/52 @ RBC

**7 March 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.

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 11.15 am** Sunday Worship for Lent **1.15 pm** Songs of Praise



Recordings of all BU prayer broadcasts can be found at **[The Baptist Union of Great Britain : Prayer broadcasts](#)** .

Tomorrow (8 March) is **International Women's Day**. Millions of Christian women face double persecution, for being Christian and for being women. **Open Doors'** campaign 'See.Change' is focused on persecuted women. Read more and write to our MP to sign a letter to the Minister for Women and Equalities and the Foreign Secretary, calling on the UK Government to recognise persecuted women in policy and programming. See <https://advocacy.opendoorsuk.org/page/75750/action/1>

**Christian Solidarity Worldwide** is organising a day of Prayer for Burma (Myanmar) on Monday 15 March at 7 pm. Details at <https://www.csw.org.uk/burmadayofprayer>

Some ways in which the worldwide church was able to bless others at <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2021/02/for-such-a-time-as-this-how-the-church-faced-up-to-a-pandemic>

Two worship leaders on their vision for the future of worship: <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2021/February-2021/Matt-Redman-We-need-more-worship-songs-about-the-holiness-of-God>

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2021/March-2021/Tim-Hughes-How-Covid-19-is-changing-the-way-we-worship>

As we look towards the ending of lockdown and the resumption of something like 'normal life', how has the church coped and helped? How will it be different in the future? What should the church's priorities be? Here is a selection of articles to give you food for thought and prayer.

**Stewardship** and **YourNeighbour** started '**Give Hope Live**' together with charities and government to see how churches are helping during and after the pandemic, and to support and fund churches where the needs are greatest. Read more and sign up for updates at: [https://yourneighbour.org/givehopelive?utm\\_term=2021-02-18](https://yourneighbour.org/givehopelive?utm_term=2021-02-18)

Gwyn Williams of Feed the Hungry writes: 'There is much to be commended in the Church's response to Covid, but there is also a lot to learn. It would be easy to keep firefighting, trying to meet the never-ending tide of people's immediate needs. But now is a time to step back and reflect on how the Church can serve their communities for the long run.' Read more at <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/The-Church-s-outreach-has-been-amazing-during-the-pandemic-but-now-we-need-to-go-further>

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2021/March-2021/12-months-that-changed-the-church>

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/Church-on-Zoom-hasn-t-killed-our-obsession-with-bums-on-seats>

*Thank you for all 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 large deficit, due to the loss of letting fees for the GSC and the continuing need to pay utility bills and repay loans.**