

Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true. (John 10:41)

'Perhaps you are dissatisfied with yourself. You are not a genius, have no distinctive gifts, and are inconspicuous when it comes to having any special abilities. Mediocrity seems to be the measure of your existence. None of your days are noteworthy, except for their sameness and lack of zest. Yet despite this you may live a great life. John the Baptist never performed a miracle, but Jesus said of him, "Among those born of women there is no one greater" (Luke 7:28). His mission was to be "a witness to the light" (John 1:8), and that may be your mission and mine. John was content to be only a voice, if it caused people to think of Christ.

Be willing to be only a voice that is heard but not seen, or a mirror whose glass the eye cannot see because it is reflecting the brilliant glory of the Son. Be willing to be a breeze that arises just before daylight, saying, "The dawn! The dawn!" and then fades away. Do the everyday and insignificant tasks knowing that God can see'.

George Matheson

"The God whom we worship is not a weak and incompetent God. He is able to beat back gigantic waves of opposition and to bring low prodigious mountains of evil. The ringing testimony of the Christian faith is that God is able."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Father, thank you that in the day of trouble, you are our safe place. Thank you that whatever storms we are facing – whether they are storms around us or storms within us – you never leave us nor forsake us. Help us to run towards you, because you are our stronghold.

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

7/52 @ RBC

14 March 2021

Mothering Sunday



Listen to me, O house of Jacob, . . . you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you.

I have made you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

Isaiah 46:3

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 Mothering Sunday

1.15 pm Songs of Praise



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

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>**

Read about Tearfund's work in Lebanon at **<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/world-of-difference/lebanon>**

The Covid-19 pandemic has destroyed livelihoods across the globe... and for people in countries where BMS World Mission works, climate change is making life even more precarious. Families are being thrust further into poverty. And their very means of survival – food – is at risk. Read more, pray and donate if you can to BMS at **<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/appeal/feeding-families/>**

In villages across Tanzania and Bangladesh where Traidcraft Exchange works, no one asks if climate change is real. They ask, 'When will the rains come?' and 'what will we eat now the floods have washed away our crops?' The climate crisis is hitting those living in poverty the hardest. But the people who are living with the effects of climate change are fighting back. Donate to The Regenerators Appeal before 7 June and the UK government will double your gift to help the most vulnerable stand strong in the face of climate change.

<https://traidcraftexchange.org/regenerators>

Last week began with International Women's Day on Monday 8 March and finishes today with Mothering Sunday. Despite celebration of the contribution women make to society, the week's news has shown how women are still disadvantaged or ill-treated and often live in fear. Abuse by a well-known Christian apologist, allegations of racism against a royal family member, abduction and murder in this country and abroad - women still suffer disproportionately to men, whatever stratum of society they live in. How should society and, more importantly, the church respond?

Here are some articles to help you as you think and pray through these issues:

What does the church need to learn from the Ravi Zacharias scandal?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8347pPqQ5g>

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/7-lessons-Christians-can-learn-from-Meghan-and-Harry-s-interview>

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/These-horrific-statistics-prove-Christian-men-must-stand-against-sexism>

And a **video** from Tearfund about what happens when women lead:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWnrmlhefac>

*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.