

'My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry.'

JAMES 1:19–20.

'Bad listeners do not make good disciples', said John Stott – whose centenary we celebrated this week. Stott's 'listening ear' remains at the heart of what we, as disciples, are called to do today. We listen to God because He speaks, primarily through Scripture. Through the Spirit's animation, the ancient scrolls remain living and active today, addressing our contemporary world. Listening to this living word is to receive life itself; to ignore it leads to death. Such high stakes explain why our Bibles are packed with urgent reminders and stark warnings to listen to what God is saying. If we turn away from His word, our hearts, speech, and actions follow. But if we listen, we discover nothing less than Christ's riches imbuing our everyday lives. His words inform our minds, reform our hearts, and transform our actions. For Hebrew writers, hearing God was inseparable from obeying what He said.

What does it look like for us to be obedient hearers of the word? First, we listen to God **for** our workplaces, our families, and our streets, seeking wisdom for how to live gospel-soaked lives in ordinary places. As we read the text, the way we go about our day – from replying to an email to greeting a shop assistant – should look different as a result.

Then, we listen to God **on** our frontlines. Where might His voice lead us if we expected to hear Him not just in our morning quiet time, but on the bus, in the pub garden, at the supermarket? Because, as Stott reminds us, often being the hands and feet of Jesus first requires us to use our ears.'

Matt Jolley, Culture & Discipleship – Research & Development, LICC

7/52 @ RBC

2 May 2021



Prayers for Ryde with our fellow believers in other Ryde churches at 7 pm tomorrow and every Monday.

Join in using the link at **Pray for Ryde – Continuing in Prayer**
This is followed by our own prayer meeting using the usual link.

Contacts:

Church office: closed at present

Website: www.rydebaptist.xyz



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Reg Charity no [1133780](https://www.charity-commission.gov.uk/charity/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



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 1.15 pm Songs of Praise



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

The coronavirus pandemic shows little sign of slowing down in India and Brazil in particular. Here is a video from Tearfund about how the church is responding in Brazil (Beware—some distressing content):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TE9YPhCnBUU>

A ferocious second wave of coronavirus is devastating India, with funeral pyres being built on the streets as crematoria are full to capacity, as are hospitals. Dr Anthony Fauci, US Chief Medical Adviser, has said that America will send oxygen, PPE and medication and that other rich countries should do the same. The world's biggest vaccine maker, the Serum Institute of India, which produces the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine locally, has reduced the price of its vaccine doses for Indian states from 400 rupees (£3.87) per dose to 300 rupees (£2.90) per dose. Listen to an interview with Prof Francis Davis, Director of Public Policy for the Edward Cadbury Centre and one of the leaders of an NHS trust, at

<https://www.premierchristianradio.com/Shows/Weekday/Inspirational-Breakfast-with-Esther-Higham/Interviews/Deaths-from-Covid-19-have-passed-200-000-in-India>

Christian Solidarity Worldwide is organising a prayer event **Heroes of Faith**, marking the 18th birthday of Leah Sharibu, a Nigerian schoolgirl abducted by terrorists who refused to renounce her faith in exchange for her freedom. On **14 May** teams in the UK, Nigeria, Mexico, Southeast Asia, and the US will each host a one-hour online meeting. You can commit to pray for one hour individually or with a small group here: **<https://www.csw.org.uk/globalprayer>**

VERY IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ IF YOU ARE A CHURCH MEMBER!

The Diaconate is considering how we can safely re-open the George Street Centre to all previous users, when relaxation of Covid regulations permits.

We have become aware that our present list of keyholders is not accurate, and needs to be brought up to date.

Would **all members** who have keys to the GSC please contact Bill **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** with details of the keys that they have (TOP AND/OR BOTTOM LOCK, OR COMPLETE SET WITH FOB), so that he can bring the list of keyholders up to date. You can e-mail him at **Bill.Croydon@outlook.com** or phone **01983 405067**. Thank you in advance.

We are also still asking for **nominations for the diaconate**, preferably BEFORE the next church meeting which will probably be in May. Please contact Sally asap if you want to nominate someone.

There has been quite a discussion about whether we will need 'vaccine passports' in the future if we want to travel or go to the theatre etc. Here are some articles about this issue:

[Covid-19: Vaccine passports 'unethical', church ministers warn - BBC News](#)

Rev Dr Matthew Roberts is the minister of Trinity Church York, a congregation of the International Presbyterian Church, writes:

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/why-churches-must-never-require-covid-passports/4264.article>

*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.