

*'The builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD... With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: 'He is good; his love towards Israel endures for ever.' And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy'. **EZRA 3:10–12***

It was 539 BC. Persia had taken over from Babylon, and Cyrus, moved by the Lord, allowed captive peoples to go back to their own lands. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah tell of the building projects – the temple and the walls of Jerusalem – that take place after God's people return from exile. No less real, and no less hard graft, is rebuilding the people themselves – in relationship with God and each other. At the heart of the restoration is **worship**. The account is realistic about conflicting emotions, opposition, and delays, but the affirmation of God's character and covenant commitment pave the way for a new start. Hope is rekindled, faith stoked, memories stirred, markers of identity reinstated, promises reaffirmed, God has been praised. For all the differences between their situation and ours, the need for worship is as important today as it was then. Not worship that provides a retreat **from** the world, but worship that shapes us for life **in** the world, paving the way for renewed witness on our frontlines. Like God's people of old, we should not be surprised if joyful happiness is tinged with regretful disappointment. But God is present with us and calls us to see his bigger purpose, to celebrate who he is and what he has done, and to be empowered to be his people in and for the world.

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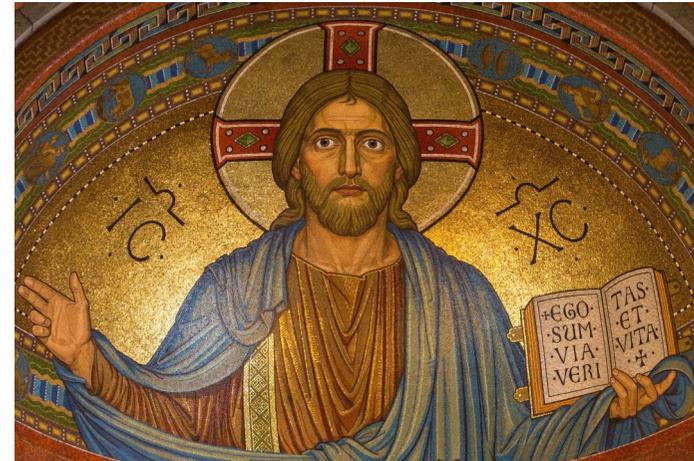
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All Deacons available by ☎ if needed.

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

13 June 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.

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**

BBC2 1.15 pm Songs of Praise



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

Read about the situation in Chad after BMS's Operation:Chad Harvest appeal at <https://www.bmsworldmission.org/news/operation-chad-one-year-on/>

Christian MP Tim Farron encourages us to pray for politicians debating the cuts to the aid programme: <https://www.premierchristianity.com/regular-columnists/lets-pray-that-politicians-vote-with-their-conscience-on-foreign-aid-cuts/4396.article>

Don't miss SAT-7's News & Prayer Live event as they celebrate their 25th anniversary with Founder and President Dr Terence Ascott. The event takes place via Zoom on **Wednesday 23 June at 12 noon**, repeated at **8pm** with extra time for prayer and questions. Sign up here: <https://www.sat7uk.org/pages/news-and-prayer-live/>

Myanmar, a country ravaged by fighting, political unrest and persecution of minorities, is also a country in which the Gospel is largely unknown among many people groups. **Operation Mobilisation** has 14 partners in Myanmar who live in remote communities made up of mainly practising Buddhists. Read how God is working here at <https://www.uk.om.org/blog/in-pursuit-of-gods-extraordinary-kingdom>

Read how Tearfund is working in Ethiopia, and what to pray for, at <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2021/05/crisis-worsens-as-conflict-continues-in-ethiopia>

'God has one destined end for mankind, namely holiness. His one aim is the production of saints. God is not an eternal blessing-machine for men and women; he did not come to save them out of pity: he came to save them because he had created them to be holy. The atonement means that God can put me back into perfect union with himself, without a shadow between, through the death of Jesus Christ. Never tolerate through sympathy with yourself or with others any practice that is not in keeping with a Holy God. Holiness means unsullied walking with the feet, unsullied talking with the tongue, unsullied thinking with the mind – every detail of life under the scrutiny of God. Holiness is not only what God gives me, but what I manifest that God has given me.'

From 'My utmost for his highest', by Oswald Chambers

Are Christians really being persecuted in Britain? Read this interesting article at <https://www.premierchristianity.com/features/investigation-are-christians-in-the-uk-persecuted-/4366.article>



Please join us for a picnic in Appley Park again on Sunday. We look forward to seeing you at 1 pm if you can make it. Parking is usually OK in Marina Avenue and surrounding roads.
Ian and Sally

*Thank you for all your continued financial support of the work of the Church, especially recent gifts. 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.