

'The more I reflect on Jesus' parables, the more I like the word "scandalous" to describe the mathematics of the gospel. I believe Jesus gave us these stories about grace in order to call us to step completely outside our tit-for-tat world of ungrace and enter into God's realm of infinite grace. As Miroslav Volf puts it, "the economy of undeserved grace has primacy over the economy of moral deserts."

From nursery school onward we are taught how to succeed in the world of ungrace. The early bird gets the worm. No pain, no gain. There is no such thing as a free lunch. Demand your rights. Get what you pay for. I know these rules well because I live by them. I work for what I earn; I like to win; I insist on my rights. I want people to get what they deserve—nothing more, nothing less. Yet if I care to listen, I hear a loud whisper from the gospel that I did not get what I deserved. I deserved punishment and got forgiveness. I deserved wrath and got love. I deserved debtors' prison and got instead a clean credit history. I deserved stern lectures and crawl-on-your-knees repentance; I got a banquet spread for me.'

From ***The Scandal of Forgiveness: Grace Put to the Test*** by Philip Yancey.

Watch what happens when a newly appointed minister visits his church in disguise:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGt8Lnhgrz8>

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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](mailto:ian.pratt5@btopenworld.com)

# 7/52 @ RBC

**18 July 2021**

**There is no Zoom service, nor sermon notes this week.**

**The last Zoom service will take place next Sunday morning and we will share communion together.**

**After that 'summertime specials' will take place in the church on Sunday mornings in August, and we will open fully for worship on the first Sunday in September.**



Check out our website at [www.rydebaptist.xyz](http://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 target of spending 0.7 per cent of national income on aid was established as a UN development spending goal in 1970. Since 2002, largely under pressure from British churches, successive Governments have committed to it. In 2015, with all party support, the UK became the first G7 country to enshrine it in law. From 2010-15, British aid supported 11 million children through school, bought 47 million bed nets – which have contributed to malaria deaths falling by 60 per cent over the last 15 years – and supported over 60 million people to access clean water, better sanitation, or improved hygiene conditions. Despite near-universal opposition from Christian charities and politicians, the Chancellor confirmed the Government would be cutting foreign aid by £4.4bn. After a heated debate, during which Rishi Sunak appeared to quote from the Bible, Stephen Timms MP asks why the government didn't listen: **As a Christian MP I had to vote against Rishi Sunak's proposal to cut foreign aid | Opinion | Premier Christianity**

Read about some of the effects these cuts will have at **'People Need to Hear the Truth': Britain Just Voted to Keep the Aid Cuts. Here's What That Means. (globalcitizen.org)**

Our own MP, Bob Seely, voted against the aid cuts and we have written to thank him. You can write to him at **bob.seely.mp@parliament.uk**

For in-depth stories, photos from the 'frontline' of mission, and the latest news about BMS work around the world, subscribe to *Engage*, the BMS World Mission magazine, here: **https://www.bmsworldmission.org/get-involved/stay-informed/engage/**

## **Important Notice**

Because of very serious issues which have arisen recently, the trustees and deacons have taken the decision to **postpone until further notice** the Church members' meeting, including the AGM and deacons' elections, scheduled for Thursday.

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The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, has praised "the creativity of local churches, in... managing, not just to sustain a life of worship but also ... of care and service to their local communities, without the normal trappings." We must not go back to normal once this is all over: "normal has been killing the planet, normal has meant most were working too many hours, making too many unnecessary journeys. There's lots that we have learned from this – (although) this pandemic is ...the most terrible thing that I've experienced in my lifetime by a long, long way, that doesn't mean God can't bring good out of it."

As we move forward let's look to what God is bringing to Ryde through us.

Read Matt Redman's story of how he came to write the worship song '10,000 reasons' at **https://www.premierchristianity.com/reviews/10000-reasons-the-meaning-behind-the-popular-worship-song/5251.article**

***Praise the Lord and thank you for the generous and positive way that people have responded to the financial situation!***

*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*

Ryde Baptist Church is now set up as a cause on **Easyfundraising**. It's easy to set up an account and select a cause but if you are unsure, please contact **Jim**.