

Last Monday was dubbed 'Freedom Day' in England, as Boris Johnson lifted nearly all coronavirus restrictions, while, ironically, self-isolating himself. While some people queued to gain access to nightclubs at midnight on Monday, others were more cautious, with many businesses maintaining masking and social distancing rules. The nation has pulled together to protect the health of the vulnerable for the last 16 months, but those at greatest risk from the virus are nervous as many of us celebrate the opportunity to cast off restraints, even as the infection rate continues to rise. The burden on children, businesses, and church life has been a heavy one. How should Christians respond to these competing needs and concerns?

Galatians 5 teaches us that we have been 'called to be free'. 'But,' it warns, 'do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."'

I want to be able to enjoy my freedom. I want to declare that God hasn't given us a Spirit of fear, and call believers to live with boldness and confidence in God's power. But hand-in-hand with that power come two other things: love and self-control, or self-discipline.

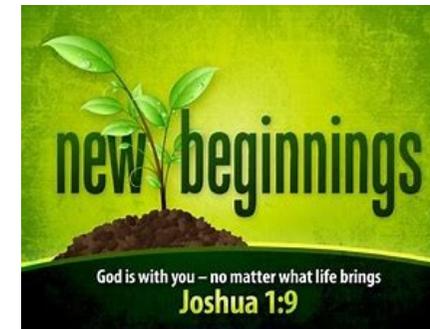
Freedom in the Bible isn't freedom as the world sees it, to indulge our every desire – the Bible describes being driven by our desires as slavery. Rather, we have been given freedom to love without constraint, to serve one another, and to worship God in word and deed. So as we go back into our churches, workplaces, and neighbourhoods, maybe our greatest witness will be seen in the restraints we choose to accept for the sake of serving one another humbly in love.

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7/52 @ RBC

25 July 2021

The last Zoom service will take place this morning and we will share communion together.



The Monday prayer meeting will continue on Zoom. You can access it by clicking on the usual link.

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Church office: closed at present
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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

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.**

Read about how a new version of an old hymn came about at <https://www.premierchristianity.com/reviews/cornerstone-the-meaning-behind-hillsongs-worship-anthem/5268.article>

Read what Nicky Gumbel, founder of Alpha, is looking for as we come out of lockdown at <https://www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/nicky-gumbel-coming-out-of-the-pandemic-theres-nothing-i-want-more-than-to-hear-the-roar-of-jesus/5267.article>

<https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/church-leaders-talk-of-ongoing-caution-as-restrictions-lift-in-english-places-of-worship>

Being anti-racist is not a side-issue for Christians, says **Tim Farron** MP - it lies at the heart of our beliefs. Read more at <https://www.premierchristianity.com/regular-columnists/being-anti-racist-is-not-a-woke-side-issue-it-is-part-of-our-christian-faith/5255.article>

In the light of the current 'space race' between Richard Branson, Jeff Bezos and Elon Musk, here is a sobering article: [Jeff Bezos Just Spent \\$5.5B to Be in Space for 4 Minutes. Here Are 7 Things That Money Could Help Solve.](https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/jeff-bezos-just-spent-5.5-billion-to-be-in-space-for-4-minutes-heres-7-things-that-money-could-help-solve/) ([globalcitizen.org](https://www.globalcitizen.org))

Important Notice for church members

There will be a special Church Members' Meeting at the George Street Centre on **Thursday 12th August at 7.30 pm**, to consider a serious matter. For further details please contact the Church Secretary or Treasurer.

From next week '**Summertime specials**' will take place in the church on Sunday mornings in August.

This will give us all an opportunity to ease back into meeting and worshipping together in a way that feels safe and comfortable for all. Kerry writes more in this week's sermon notes about our plans.

We look forward to seeing so many people back face to face!



***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**.