

## Radical Generosity

If justice is a characteristic of God, we shouldn't be surprised that it saturates the life and ministry of Jesus. In Jesus, God's perfect justice – the justice that the law commanded, the psalmists prayed for, and the prophets longed to see – takes human form. The incarnate Son also demonstrates radical generosity. Jesus teaches that generous people are full of light and tells rich people to give to the poor. In his coming, we see a God who loved and gave, even when it meant giving his only Son. In the cross, we see a Saviour who willingly gave himself unto death, in the ultimate act of generosity, to restore every broken relationship. Jesus, most righteous and privileged of all, chose to disadvantage himself for the sake of others. We're commanded to seek first his kingdom, to do justice too. Christ's pattern of generosity is imitated by the early church (Acts 2:45), providing a compelling model for our own lives today.

This isn't a faceless demand required to earn salvation, nor a comforting form of altruism. We don't give primarily because of need, but as a fitting response to our crucified King. What we have is not our own but belongs to God. He entrusts it back to us, to steward wisely. He wants us to experience the freedom that comes when *he* – not money – is Lord over our lives. He invites us to share *his* heart for the poor, as we use what we have to love God and neighbour. This will certainly involve at least our finances and it'll require us to genuinely inconvenience ourselves to serve others, looking different for different people. Through your actions this week, both big and small, may God weave generosity into the fabric of your everyday life.

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

# 7/52 @ RBC

**1 August 2021**



**Welcome Back!**

**Good to see you today after so long!**

**Please be considerate by continuing to wear your mask and respecting others' space.**

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

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.**

You can download the August prayer diary for SAT-7 here:

<https://www.sat7uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Printable-version-August.pdf>

At the online Baptist Assembly earlier this year, Dr Kang-San Tan of BMS shared details of the Covid-19 situation in Nepal. Over £200,000 was raised in donations and has already been put towards meeting needs in Nepal, such as PPE, portable vaccine boxes and oxygen concentrators for health workers. Other partners in Nepal and neighbouring countries have also benefited from the amount raised, which was well above expectations. **Thank you if you were one of the many who donated.**

The Nationality and Borders Bill has just had its second reading in Parliament. The new bill criminalises asylum seekers and, potentially, also anyone who looks after them. In light of criticism this week of the RNLI for rescuing migrants in desperate straits, this important article deals with much of the deliberate misinformation about refugees and asylum seekers, and advocates a much more compassionate Christian approach: <https://www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/priti-patels-new-immigration-bill-is-morally-wrong-any-christian-who-believes-in-love-your-neighbour-must-stand-against-it/5271.article>

Some suggested actions by Tearfund following the recent government decision to cut the aid budget:

<https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2021/07/devastating-cuts-to-uk-aid-will-cost-lives>

## 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.



St James' Church East Cowes, Isle of Wight

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[www.whippinghameastcowes.org.uk](http://www.whippinghameastcowes.org.uk)

**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**

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**.