



# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 15th December 2019

**N**ortholt **P**ark **B**aptist **C**hurch

To Know Christ and Make Christ Known

Welcome to your weekly newsletter from Northolt Park Baptist Church. This week Jennifer Lovejoy is leading the worship service and Pastor Michael will be bringing the ministry of the word.

# what kind of community ARE WE REACHING?

## This week's scripture reading Matthew 25: 31-40 NIV

### **The Sheep and the Goats**

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Something for  
NO ONE!



### REGULAR ACTIVITIES HELD AT NPBC

Sunday Morning Service	10.30am
Sunday Evening Prayer Meeting	7.30pm
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	10am
Wednesday Fellowship (1st Wed month)	1.45pm
Wednesday Bread for Life (Alternative Weds)	8pm
Thursday Girls Brigade	6pm
Friday Worship Team Music Practice	7.30pm

*Refreshments are served after the Sunday service, so please stay for tea or coffee and a chat.*

### CONTACTS FOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Tuesday morning Bible Study:	<b>Sue Blake</b>
Wednesday Fellowship:	<b>Hazel Gordon</b>
Wednesday Bread for Life:	<b>Paul Simpson</b>
Thursday Girls Brigade:	<b>Rebekah Rego</b>
Friday Worship Practice:	<b>Janet, Josephine, Jenny</b>
Mission Coordinator:	<b>Jennifer Lovejoy</b>

### PASTORAL CARE CONTACTS

Revd. Michael Lovejoy  
Josephine Morris  
Janet Yau  
Yinka Falowo (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

### THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP TEAM

**Worship Lead** - Jennifer Lovejoy

<b>Music</b>	- iSing
<b>Vocals</b>	- Janet
<b>Vocals</b>	- Josephine
<b>Vocals</b>	- Jenny

## SERVICES IN DECEMBER

### Sunday 1st December

Theme: 'Deliverance and Thanksgiving'

Speaker: Olu Falowo

Scriptures: Psalm 40:1-17

### Sunday 8th December

FAMILY SERVICE

Theme: 'What kind of Church do you want to experience?'

Speaker: Pastor Michael

Scriptures: John 17:20-26

### Sunday 15th December

COMMUNION SERVICE

Theme: 'What kind of community are you reaching?'

Speaker: Pastor Michael

Scriptures: Matthew 25:31-40

### Sunday 22nd December

MISSION PRAYER SERVICE

Theme: 'What kind of world do you want to see?'

Speaker: Pastor Michael

Scriptures: Matthew 5:1-16

### Sunday 22nd December (Evening Service 6pm -7.30pm.)

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Theme: Christmas - Saves Sinners

Speaker: Pastor Michael

Scripture: 1 John 1:5-8, 1 Timothy 1:15-16

### Wednesday 25th December 2019 at 10am

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Theme: Mary's First Born'

Speaker: Pastor Michael

Scripture: Luke 2:1-14

### Sunday 29th December

[Sunday 20th December](#)

Theme: 'Perseverance  
Through it All'

Speaker: Rev. Martin Hopwood

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5, Romans 8:35-39,

[Tuesday 31st December 2019 \(Evening Service 11pm-12.30pm\)](#)

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Theme: 'Peace and Hope'

Speaker: Pastor Michael

Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

### PREACHING/WORSHIP ROTA

The October - December 2019 preaching and worship rotas is published on the church notice board for further information on Sunday services and activities.



## Alpha at Northolt Park Baptist Church

Saturday 11th January 2020 at 10am - 11.30am

### What is Alpha?

We describe Alpha by answering three key questions:

#### 1 What is it?

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different

question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

## 2 Where is it?

Alpha is run all around the globe, and everyone's welcome.

## 3 How does it work?

No two Alphas look the same, but generally they have three key things in common: food, a talk and good conversation.

[Want to know more speak to our pastor](#)

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### SPIRIT EMPOWERED MINISTRY

Want to see and experience spiritual development, deeper discipleship learning and leaders with vision. Then continue praying for all our leadership teams and speakers.

Next Sunday, 15th December, Pastor Michael will be bringing the ministry of the Word to us. The text is taken from Matthew 5:1-16. Pray for Michael as he prepares the word and we receive with eagerness.

# PRAYER MATTERS

Letia's sister, Sylvia, passed last week. Let's continue praying for Letia and her extended family during this difficult time.

Margaret C. was taken into Northwick Park Hospital during the week. She has another chest infection and feeling breathless. Margaret is in a high dependency ward awaiting another ward transfer. Pray for Margaret healing and full recovery. Pray also for Stan and extended family in support.

Continue praying for Val who had her cataract operation last week. Val experienced profuse sweating and not being lucid during Fellowship Lunch this week. An ambulance was called and she received treatment in A&E for her diabetes. Pray her sugar levels are maintained and are kept stable.

Do continue to pray for those in our number who are unwell, or have not seen for a while. Let's be mindful of the unspoken requests and needs of others. Let's bring them all before the Lord in prayer.

Pray for our various ministry works here at NPBC. Our prayer groups, brigade, foodbank, bible study groups, missions we support... May God continue to bless all our efforts in His service.

**LET US PRAY FOR YOU!**

Please email your prayer requests to [npbc.pray@gmail.com](mailto:npbc.pray@gmail.com)

If you have an urgent and important prayer concern, please contact Pastor Michael Lovejoy.

Telephone 020 8632 9225 (Manse)

Get more information on forthcoming activities at NPBC on the church website [www.npbc.uk.com](http://www.npbc.uk.com)

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# THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Something for Everyone!



This week we met with both concrete specialists JBSR and roofing specialist Daniels. Both presented professionally and were able to reassure us of quality service in terms

of schedule of works, preparation and installation (Answer to prayer). Both contractors have agreed work will commence in Spring 2020. Date to be finalised in due course. The duration of structural concrete works around 3 weeks and roofing works around 2 weeks. Let's continue praying for our church finances to meet the structural costs and general maintenance costs of our church. Now is the time to prayerfully consider and start planning our fundraising efforts to meet these building costs.

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**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Our next meeting will be on January 7th 2020 at 10 am.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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Wednesday Fellowship will next meet on 8th Jan 2020 1.45 pm  
Hazel Gordon will be leading.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

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**'BREAD FOR LIFE'**  
Alternative Wednesdays @8pm

The next 'Bread for Life' meeting  
will be on Wednesday 8th January 2020 at 8pm.  
Please speak to Paul for further details.  
**ALL ARE MOST WELCOME!**



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# THIS MONTH'S MISSION FOCUS



## **Praise**

- Helpful, profitable visits to Senegal, Gambia and Chad
- New leadership in Chad
- Opportunities to serve in a variety of ministries over the summer
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## **Prayer**

- ❖ Tevita and Mia as new leaders in Chad
- ❖ Our time in Guinea-Bissau
- ❖ Bible Translation into Biafada
- ❖ Growth for the small group of Biafada believers
- ❖ For peaceful Guinea-Bissau elections and a government of integrity to be elected
- ❖ Workers for the Mandinkas in Gambia and for the Learning Centre in Chad

- ❖ More Africans joining us in cross-cultural mission
  - ❖ Malcolm and Kerstin, the super new UK leaders, both with health issues. Paul and Caroline, their great deputies taking on extra, unexpected responsibility
- Travel: Nov 26 to Dec 11 -Guinea-Bissau Feb 4 to 19 Dec -The Gambia  
Let's continue our prayer support for David and Margie Whitehorn who are working with WEC International.
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### Jesus' Mission Statement

*"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

(Luke 4:18-19)

There are three proclamations being made:

1. Proclaim good news for the poor
2. Proclaim freedom – to the prisoner, the oppressed and give sight to the blind.
3. Proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

What does Jesus' mission proclamation mean for us?

Christian Theology is a relationship centred journey. The Old Testament was a theological journey of creation and - un-creation - re-creation as told in Genesis 1-11. The exile can be viewed as a theological 'model' or 'picture' of humanity's fall and exclusion from the garden of Eden at the beginning of human history. The Great Flood as 'un-creation' by the destruction of God's creation and the Ark as 're-creation' and new hope for humanity and creation.

In the New Testament it's a redemptive journey from exclusion - to inclusion - to conclusion in the eschaton (End Times). Let me begin with the term exclusion. What do I mean by exclusion? It's a Theological exclusion an ultimate exclusion of humanity due to the 'Fall'. The pre-fall community fell due to the deception of the evil one. The Theodicy, the vindication of divine providence in view of the existence of evil, is a strong argument. But the pre-planned redemption work, before creation, is about inclusion that's established, in Christ, and finds its place taking care of 'sin' for all eternity. All of creation will be restored sealing our relationship with creator.

#### [Is it a historical/social Gospel?](#)

The quote in Luke 4:18-19 is from Isaiah 61 and, in its original context, is about God's promise to rescue Israel from her exile in Babylon in 587 BC. By saying that He has come to fulfill it (Luke 4:21), Jesus is saying that He has come to rescue God's people from their exile. A historical plight of the people of Israel. Good News for Israel! The oppression then was from the Roman Empire. The oppression still continues today from evil and corrupt governments - who have poor Human Rights records. It begs the question, is it a Gospel of Social Justice? Is Jesus the Messiah and a social liberator? In Luke 4, it is argued, shows that Jesus' mission was to serve the poor. Shouldn't that be our community mission too?

#### [Divine Justice or Divine Mercy?](#)

When Jesus finishes reading, He puts down the scroll and makes this amazing statement: "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21). In His reading, the Lord Jesus stopped at the words the Lord's favour (Isaiah 2a) and did not proceed to the day of vengeance. (Isiah 2b) Is Jesus expressing His own understanding of His earthly mission at that point, not to condemn but to save the world as stated (Jn. 3:17). Is Jesus downplaying divine justice, and simply elevating divine mercy? The short answer, I believe, is this: Jesus stopped where He did in His reading of Isaiah to emphasise His servant role in His first coming. He did not come as a conquering King the first time around. Presently we live by GRACE and favor (John 3:17). Present favor – pending eschatological justice. Christ will fulfil all the prophecies, but not all at the same time. At His first coming, He inaugurated the year of the Lord's favour. At His second coming, He'll bring in: 'the day of the vengeance of our God' (v.2b), when the door of grace will shut forever. There's a time gap between the beginning of Isaiah 61: 2a and ending verse 2b and we're living right now in that interval of Grace.

Grace, to you all, in Christ

Pastor Michael



Please see notice board at the back of the church for information

### Minister's Surgery at NPBC

Minister's surgery is held on Tuesdays between 1pm - 3pm. If you would like to speak to Revd. Michael Lovejoy or visit, you can contact him by email [rev.maclovejoy@gmail.com](mailto:rev.maclovejoy@gmail.com) or by telephone on 020 8632 9225 (Manse)

NB. Visits are by appointment only.

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