



# NEWSLETTER

Sunday 23rd February 2020

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

To Know Christ and Make Christ Known





## Missions Prayer Sunday

Welcome to your weekly newsletter from Northolt Park Baptist Church. This week Sue Blake is leading the worship service and Rev. Michael Lovejoy will be bringing the ministry of the word. Jennifer Lovejoy, our missions coordinator, will lead us in prayers for Evangelical Congregational Church - Haskovo, Bulgaria.

### This week's scripture reading

Daniel 7 (NIV)

#### **Daniel's Dream of Four Beasts**

7 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream, and visions passed through his mind as he was lying in bed. He wrote down the substance of his dream.

2 Daniel said: "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me were the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. 3 Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea.

4 "The first was like a lion, and it had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were torn off and it was lifted from the ground so that it stood on two feet like a human being, and the mind of a human was given to it.

5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear. It was raised up on one of its sides, and it had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth. It was told, 'Get up and eat your fill of flesh!'

6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard. And on its back it had four wings like those of a bird. This beast had four heads, and it was given authority to rule.

7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot

whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

8 “While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a human being and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

9 “As I looked,

“thrones were set in place,  
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.  
His clothing was as white as snow;  
the hair of his head was white like wool.  
His throne was flaming with fire,  
and its wheels were all ablaze.

10 A river of fire was flowing,  
coming out from before him.  
Thousands upon thousands attended him;  
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.  
The court was seated,  
and the books were opened.

11 “Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. 12 (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,[a] coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

### **The Interpretation of the Dream**

15 “I, Daniel, was troubled in spirit, and the visions that passed through my mind disturbed me. 16 I approached one of those standing there and asked him the meaning of all this.

“So he told me and gave me the interpretation of these things: 17 ‘The four great beasts are four kings that will rise from the earth. 18 But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, for ever and ever.’

19 “Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, with its iron teeth and bronze claws—the beast that crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. 20 I also wanted to know about the ten horns on its head and about the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell—the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully. 21 As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.

23 “He gave me this explanation: ‘The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth. It will be different from all the other kingdoms and will devour the whole earth, trampling it down and crushing it. 24 The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. 25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his holy people and try to change the set times and the laws. The holy people will be delivered into his hands for a time, times and half a time.[b]

26 “‘But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. 27 Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.’

28 “This is the end of the matter. I, Daniel, was deeply troubled by my thoughts, and my face turned pale, but I kept the matter to myself.”

Something <sup>for</sup>  
EVERYONE!

## 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** - Sue Blake  
**Music** - Dennis  
**Vocals** - Janet  
**Vocals** - Jenny  
**Vocals** - Josephine  
**Vocals** - Gemma

## PREACHING/WORSHIP ROTA

The January - March 2020 preaching and worship rotas is published on the church notice board. See church notices for information on Sunday services and other activities.

## SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

### Sunday 2nd February

Theme: 'God's Ultimate Sovereignty'

Speaker: Rev. Michael Lovejoy

Scriptures: Daniel 4

### Sunday 9th February

FAMILY SERVICE

Theme: 'The writing is on the Wall'

Speaker: Dr. Annette Glaw

Scriptures: Daniel 5

### Sunday 16th February

COMMUNION SERVICE

Theme: 'Daniel in the Den of Lions'

Speaker: Olu Falowo

Scriptures: Daniel 6

### Sunday 23rd February

MISSION PRAYER SERVICE

Theme: 'The Vision of the Four Beasts'

Speaker: Michael Lovejoy

Scriptures: Daniel 7

## SPIRIT EMPOWERED MINISTRY

Next Sunday, 1st March, Rev. Michael Lovejoy will be bringing the ministry of the Word to us. The text is taken from Daniel 8. Pray for Michael as he prepares the word and we receive with eagerness.

# PRAYER MATTERS

Pray for Tanner and Kristiana. Kristiana has to return to Bulgaria on a personal matter. Pray God will be in her situation and for an encouraging outcome. Pray for their family's safe return to the UK.

Pray for all our baptism candidates. The Alpha course is proving a encouraging support to all concerned. We are now conducting the Alpha course on Sunday directly after service.

Do also continue praying for Jacob. Especially for his family reunion to happen sooner rather than later.

Do continue praying 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. The Alpha course, 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)

Something for  
**EVERYONE!**

EVEREST

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th February at 10am.  
Please speak to Sue Blake for further details  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

**WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

Our next meeting will be on 4th March at 1.45pm.  
Hazel Gordon will be leading  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

**BREAD FOR LIFE**

Our next Bible study meeting will be on 4th March at 8pm.  
Please speak to Paul Simpson for further details  
ALL ARE WELCOME!





## Alpha at Northolt Park Baptist Church

Sunday 23rd February 2020 at 12pm - 1.30pm

Week 6

Jesus in Mark 5

You are invited to Alpha for a light lunch (within reason), even better conversation and talks that make you think. If you come along, we won't call you after, write, or ask you to pick up the cheque — the balls are completely in your court. What have you got to lose?

Want to know more speak to our pastor



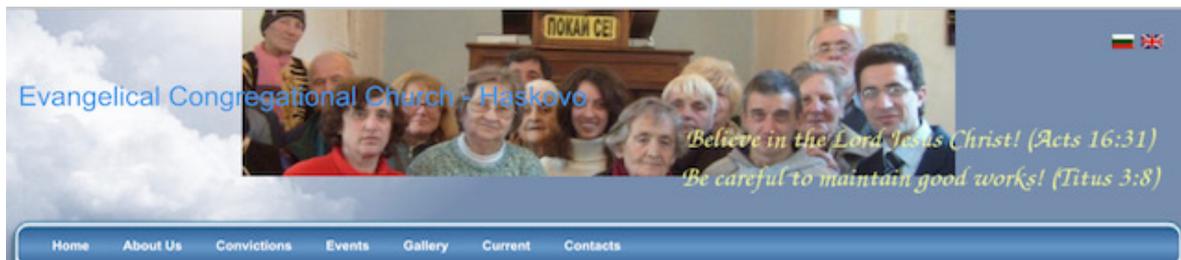
We have launched a 'Building Fund' to help us pay for the £50,000 church buildings repair bill now that we have engaged the two contractors JBSR to do the concrete repairs and Daniels Roofing for roof repairs to start in the coming Spring. We would value people's prayers for this project. There is a donation box to be kept at the back of the church if people want to give towards this. For any tax payer who wish to Gift Aid their donation so that we can reclaim the tax paid on it and increase the value of the donation with no extra cost to themselves, please could they see Janet to make a Gift Aid Declaration if you have not done so already. Also if the fund raised exceeds the cost of the repairs, any surplus will be used for general purposes, so that the fund will not be restricted.



# This Month's

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## MISSION PRAYER



## Evangelical Congregational Church - Haskovo Bulgaria

<http://www.church-haskovo.com/>

Dear brothers and sisters from Northolt Park Baptist Church, we are so happy and thankful to God and to you for our partnership in His kingdom. The past two months were very busy and full of challenges for us in the Evangelical Church in Haskovo.

In January we had our annual meeting during which we were able to thank God for His blessings in 2019 and to pray that during 2020 He will continue giving us graciously His wisdom and guidance that we might be able to recognise and fulfil His sovereign will in 2020.

I'll try to leave aside all the administrative matters and expect that the Holy Spirit will direct me through the Word towards the very needs of His people and to be fruitful in reaching the perishing.

God is doing wonders in the life of the needy people in the church like Vxxxx and His daughter, Dxxx and Vxxx and her family. For example Vxxxx had to pay unexpected rent for three months for the apartment given to him by the Municipality of Haskovo and he was very frustrated. But praise the Lord an anonymous person provided the sum, not knowing about this, and it was what he needed. This encouraged him in such a way that he shared this with the others in the church. It was a wonderful celebration of God's mercies for the whole Body of Christ in that Sunday! Through all this the Lord has opened a wide door for our friendship and devotionals at his apartment.

God met me with a person addicted to alcohol named xxxx, and I used my contacts to provide for him a place in a Cristian commune centre for addicted. All the details related with his entering the centre were prepared and guided by our merciful God in such a wonderful way – although we had to wait for a place, the Lord accomplished it just before the winter storm! Yesterday when I phoned there, xxxx was such an

just before the winter storm: yesterday, when I phoned there, XXXX was such an encouragement for him, his voice was so fresh!

From the beginning of the New year I started a distant Bible study with a family every evening on the attributes of God for strengthening their faith while they are struggling with their unexpected child's decease.

Two weeks ago, while I was walking in the city, the Lord met me with two unbelievers in material needs and gave me opportunity and resources to share the Gospel with them after meeting their needs. Such a delight!

**Praise to God for:**

- the children from dysfunctional families who came at the church meeting to receive the Christmas shoe boxes and that I was able to share the Gospel to them.
- putting in the heart of good people desire to support [Vxxxxx and his daughter, Dxxx, Vxxxx and her family](#).
- being able to give encouragement and support to two new people in the city which is direct answer of the prayer about new horizons for helping socially outcast people.
- Our time with Hxxxx – 50 years old person from Rxxxx who is alcoholic and that God used me to provide a place for him in the Christian commune centre for people struggling with addictions.
- The Bible study every evening on the attributes of God

**We highly appreciate your prayers about:**

- Dxxx to be able to find a job
- my father who is facing serious gland surgery
- Georgi, Tanya and their son – 5 years old Nikola – for God's wisdom, healing and patience while struggling with Nxxxx's Rxxxxxx epilepsy and that they may stay close to Him.
- Vxxxx and his daughter, Dxxxx, Vxxxx and her family - that they will be focused on the Lord.
- Follow up with the two people from the meeting two weeks ago.
- God's grace for preparation of the Easter season 2020.

May God bless you abundantly for supporting us in advancing His Kingdom.

Your grateful brother in Christ,

Deyan

[Please see NPBC noticeboard for further information and prayer focus.](#)

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### [Some Ecclesial Reflection](#)

The separatists' ideology to get back to scripture and maintain pure doctrinal insights that supports living the New Testament ethic of love was central to early Baptist ecclesiology. Having a dissenting history, the ecclesial change drove the spirit of renewal in terms of self-governance rather than the hierarchical church governance, pacifist ideology, and rejection of the practice of infant baptism formed much of the radical renewal and reform of early Baptists. However, In Steven Homes' introduction to Baptist vision of the Church, he asks the question, 'What is distinctive about the Baptist church life?' In response, most contemporary Baptists would probably argue there is nothing distinctive about Baptist ecclesiology. However, Baptist theology is a

Christ-centred theology. The Baptist declaration of principle: 'that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, is the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to faith and practice'. The biblical obligation to 'act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God' (Micah 6:8) is a challenge within our contemporary world and the vision on which the 'Five Core Values for a Gospel People' was founded.

### [A Matter of Values](#)

The Baptist Union of GB places an emphasis on the priesthood of believers. With this comes a responsibility to prayerfully commit and maintain its community vision as summarised in terms of the BUGB's five core values: 'a prophetic community, an inclusive community, a sacrificial community, a missionary community and a worshipping community.' In considering the five core values of the Baptist Union of GB, Church vision is always context specific that takes into account communities with all their individualities. The needs of both church and local community have caused me to re-evaluate my philosophy of ministry. We at NPBC support an urban, multicultural and social needs context. Should we utilise the needs of community and the poor as the interpretive lens through which to read the Bible? When considering theology of the poor or social deprivation, what is the church's biblical understanding? I have had to pray and await God's guidance in our context, especially in light of life of congregation and the demographic characteristics of our local community.

### [The Three Proclamations](#)

The plight of affordable social housing, unemployment, education, health care issues...etc present very real social challenges for ministers and ministry. However, at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, He went to the synagogue to explain the purpose of His work on earth. He quoted a passage from the prophet Isaiah in (Luke 4: 19). What does Jesus' mission statement mean for us? There are three proclamations: the first proclamation was Good News (for the poor); the second proclamation announced freedom to both prisoners and the oppressed, also giving sight to the blind; the third proclamation was to announce the year of the Lord's favour. Can these proclamations be viewed as a social Gospel of hope? Freedom from oppression in its various forms - social, economic, political tyranny to absolute liberation of spiritual bondage of sin in the Eschaton — is attributed implicitly to the liberating work of God.

### [The Heart of the Matter](#)

The heart of the Gospel is a very simple affirmation: 'So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8: 36). The contextualisation of liberationist hermeneutics should be understood in the light of contemporary theological interpretation, models and methodology. If the church's acceptance of both traditional and more contemporary interpretation methods is to be supported. I believe good biblical hermeneutics should identify the needs of an inclusive community, especially in terms of the: 'rejected deprived and powerless'. A church mission statement of: 'Building Bridges, Building Communities and Building Disciples' all of which have fully will

Bridges, Building Communities and Building Disciples , all of which, hopefully will encourage and support our church to live in accordance with the core values of the Baptist Union. My ability to understand and live these core values will be very much dependent primarily on maintaining biblical principles. It is with prayer and active inclusive engagements, we fulfil biblical mandates. As the body of Christ, the church has a special role to play in recognising the value of those who are broken or who society disregards as of little worth.

I am therefore excited at the prospect of potentially being part of Christian ethos with a vision for greater community links. I believe the continued success and the further development of the BUGB's five core values is first and foremost very much founded on the continual dependency of biblical truth aided by the Holy Spirit to establish contemporary ecclesiology. Therefore, I believe any church plans to make provision for New Testament Christian values and ethos should be a shared responsibility, where both church and local community share its common purpose. It is indeed a privilege to continue working with highly motivated deacons, and local churches who remain faithful in contributing towards the building of an inclusive community where faith and secular ideologies can be voiced and be mutually respected.

Love, as always, in Christ,

Pastor Michael



Please see noticeboard 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.

*Minister: Revd. Michael Lovejoy*

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