

## WELCOME TO NORTHOLT PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

Regrettably the following notice was posted at our Church door: '**CHURCH CLOSURE**' – Coronavirus (COVID-19)  
In the light of the Coronavirus pandemic, and acting on strong advice from the Baptist Union UK, I have decided to suspend all church activities, including Sunday morning services until further notice, with immediate effect.' Naturally, this isn't a course of action that has been taken lightly, but it is imperative in order to protect our elderly, medically vulnerable and local community and act responsibly in the current climate. Contact Pastor Michael for prayer

Minister: Revd. Michael Lovejoy

Mobile: 07703 408260 or 020 8632 9225 (Manse)

Email: [rev.maclovejoy@gmail.com](mailto:rev.maclovejoy@gmail.com)



OUR VISION IS...  
**KNOW CHRIST**  
AND MAKE HIM **KNOWN**

**NPBC is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain**



**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

**Northolt Park Baptist Church**

Welcome to your weekly newsletter from Northolt Park Baptist Church. This coming Sunday we are planning to present an online service. Rev. Michael Lovejoy will be live-streaming his sermon and Josephine Morris will lead us in a time of prayer and worship. You are all welcome to join our worship and fellowship online this coming Sunday.

This week's scripture reading is taken from Acts 2: 1-13 (NIV)

### **'The Gifts of the Holy Spirit'**

Scripture Focus Acts 2:17 (NIV)

*"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."*

Good news! Our church building works will recommence on Tuesday 26th May. Please pray for the safety of our contractors and for the provision of excellent craftsmanship with minimal disruptions to our regular activities/ services. The government has indicated a phased return of public services in July. However, risk assessments, at NPBC, need to be in place along with maintaining a 2-meter social distancing rule and other COVID-19 regulations will need to apply. Much to be updated on and to make ready before returning to public worship. Let's continue to pray to this end.

## Livestreaming and Online Matters

Olu has kindly offered to support us with his Information Communication Technology (ICT) experience during these uncertain times. Please see, below his message relating to live streaming our service for this coming Sunday.

In light of current circumstances and our inability to meet in person, we are using Blizz to live stream our Sunday Services. It was great seeing some of the congregation this past Sunday, to worship together. If you haven't, please download the Blizz video instructions at [https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgbMp-T9wQyci-k7tHM45Hg\\_jo9l2Q?e=8zIPCi](https://1drv.ms/u/s!AgbMp-T9wQyci-k7tHM45Hg_jo9l2Q?e=8zIPCi) and go through the one for your relevant device (i.e. desktop or phone).

The videos are for Windows and iPhone devices, but a lot of the principles shown apply to both Mac and Android devices. We will be having 1 Test session (mainly for first time users) before the Sunday Service session. The session is to ensure that everyone is familiar with Blizz, the on-line meeting software and to ensure that any issues are resolved before the Sunday service. For each session you should be able to see something similar to one of the screens we had last week.

Session Name: Sunday Service  
Date: 31/05/2020 10:30am  
Web URL Address: <https://go.blizz.com/join/m38264420>  
Meeting ID: m382-644-20

To join by landline, please dial 0845 034 151 0 and then key in the relevant meeting id. The meeting ID for the Sunday Service is 38264420. The Sunday online service starts at 10.30am, however, please logon at 10.15am. This will give some time for everyone to get logged in before we start service. If you do not have a web connected computer or mobile smart phone, but have a free Weekend 0845 landline package, you can join the meeting by calling the number already mentioned at the stated time and then key in the relevant meeting id (e.g. m382-644-20). Please note 0845 numbers are free on the weekend in most phone packages. For those who do not have access to free 0845 numbers, please let Michael know and we can arrange for an alternative way for you to join Sunday service.

## Living Stones House of Prayer – Cypress

Want to read more? Please see the online newsletter with Martin and Heike Dolan mission updates. Let's remain prayerful for both Martin and Heike's safety and protection during this global COVID-19 pandemic.

## ALL PUBLIC SERVICES ARE CANCELLED

### This quarter's Themes:

1. Jesus in the Gospels
2. Acts of the Holy Spirit (Acts)

### SERVICES IN MAY 2020

#### Sunday 3rd May

Theme: 'Jesus' - Universal Salvation'

Speaker: Annette

Scriptures: Luke 2:25-33)

#### Sunday 10th May

##### FAMILY SERVICE

Theme: Jesus' Mission Statement'

Speaker: Michael

Scripture: Luke 4:14-30

#### Sunday 17th May

##### COMMUNION SERVICE

Theme: 'Jesus – Eternal Life'

Speaker: Michael

Scriptures: John 20:30-31

#### Sunday 24th May

##### MISSION PRAYER SERVICE

Theme: 'Jesus – The Way, Truth and Light'

Speaker: Olu

Scriptures: John 14:1-18

#### Sunday 31st May

Theme: 'The Gift of the Holy Spirit' (Pentecost Sunday)

Speaker: Michael

Scriptures: Acts 2: 1-13

The April - June 2020 preaching and worship rota are published on the church notice board.

**ALL CHURCH EVENTS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 VIRUS**  
**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**  
**WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP GROUP**  
**BREAD FOR LIFE**  
**ALPHA COURSE**

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

The Church is dependent on your generous giving. We would want you to save your tithe/offering until our return to public worship/fellowship or make deposits directly into our Church Barclays' account, No: 70317500, Bank Code 20-38-83. Thank you for your continued support in your giving unto the Lord

**Isolated – But Interconnected**

We are looking for your stories, poems, reflections, prayers...etc, to encourage others who maybe feeling isolated and lonely missing the fellowship of our church and family community. Please send in your contributions to our Pastor at [rev.maclovejoy@gmail.com](mailto:rev.maclovejoy@gmail.com) Thanks for all your contributions!

**PRAYER MATTERS (Continued)**

Do continue your prayers for Tanner's mother, Deborah. She also lives in the USA. Pray she will make a full recovery. Pray also for Tanner's elderly dad and his brother in their needs and support during this difficult time.

Do continue to pray for Margaret Carey as she recovers and gains strength after her recent hospital visit. Pray, she will continue to gain her strength and recover fully. Give thanks and praise for both Stan and Margaret as they are about to celebrate their 64th Wedding Anniversary in June.

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.

There are so many other needs we can bring before the Lord: unemployment, educational, financial, emotional, mental health, social needs, relationship breakdowns...etc. Let's take them all before God. Let's learn to let go and let God deal with it all through prayer and faith in the Lord.

Whether we are members of the leadership team, church members, friends or visitors to NPBC, let's all continue to contact each other, pray for our churches and one another especially during these difficult time with health concerns and feelings of isolation.

**SPIRIT EMPOWERED MINISTRY DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN!**

The following Sunday, 7th June, Dr Annette Glaw will be bringing the ministry of the Word to us. Pray for Annette as she prepares to minister to us especially during these uncertain times.

**PRAYER MATTERS**

Let's continue to pray for all those who have been bereaved recently: Remember Joyce, Jean, Margaret G, Val, Josephine, The Sharman family and others known to you.

Do also continue to pray for James. He has special needs and recovering from his seizure. Pray for Alfred, Jean and extended family in their needs and support of James' recovery.

Can we please pray for Mahood (Jacob's dad), Mahood's wife (Mandana) and daughter (Mehrnoosh). Mahood is still trying to make contact with his family not knowing their whereabouts. Pray for their entire family, pray the Lord will keep them all safe, during this COVID pandemic and lockdown.

Pray for those in our number who are nationally and internationally away. Pray for Letia, Timi and Joke, Clement and Bola, Maryham and others.

Continue to pray for Roy's brother in his sickness. Pray for his extended family as they support his care.

Continue to pray for Alisa's mum. She had major surgery. Pray she will continue to heal and gain her strength and be restored to full health.

Continue to pray for Olu's brother Femi, who lives in Atlanta Georgia, USA. We are trusting God for Femi's continued healing and full recovery.

**LET US PRAY FOR YOU**

If you have an urgent and important prayer concern, please contact Pastor Michael Lovejoy.  
Telephone 020 8632 9225 (Manse)  
Our website [www.npbc.uk.com](http://www.npbc.uk.com)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

### Fire, wind and a dove

I want to begin with a question. Can God be experienced? This is a good starting point for aesthetes. Pentecost symbols are those of the Holy Spirit and include fire, wind, and a dove. The main focus of Protestant non-conformist churches continues to be on the Bible and biblical scholarship. This may account for the general distrust in the arts within many places of worship. However, my introduction to teaching Religious Education was in the early 1990s within a post-modern architecture, Church of England, educational institution. My anxiety, as a newly qualified teacher, was how could faith and spirituality be made relevant to a technological culture whose focus was on Information Communication Technology (ICT), Business Enterprise, and the Sciences? Demographically, Bacon's College is situated on reclaimed Docklands development site. On my arrival, the small-consecrated heart of the building was the chapel. The central architectural feature of the college displayed artwork, on themes of faith, hope and love. Post 16 students undertook the works of post-modern art, in a glass medium with the college's motto 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo' – 'Glory to God in the highest'. My fears were further allayed when I walked into a whole college assembly - celebrating communion. However, visual arts communicated the Christian heart and identity of this educational institution before any formal introductions of welcome.

### The Bezalel Gift

Old Testament scripture refers to Bezalel as being 'filled' with the Spirit of God. In reading the Bible, do we appreciate the significance of visual imagination? Art, in all its forms, from the distant past, different cultures and, indeed, from our contemporary world, can support biblical interpretation through the teaching of the expressive arts. Being 'filled' with the 'Spirit of God' is New Testament language. Bezalel is remembered mainly for two things – building the tabernacle and being filled with the Spirit of God. Was God laying the foundation for worship on earth as it is in heaven through the people of Israel? God called Bezalel by name and filled him with His Spirit of vision and creativity above his natural artisan abilities. Is Bezalel's 'filling' with the Holy Spirit a model for humanity whether or not we are artist, designers and craftsmen? The New Testament makes the same case in Ephesians 5:18 with the mandate to be filled with the Holy Spirit. What was Bezalel empowered to do? Bezalel was a visual artist. The objects in the Tabernacle and Solomon's temple was filled with beauty and craftsmanship ranging from woodcarvings, stonework, precious metals...etc., aesthetically pleasing. In Exodus 35, there were seventeen different artistic and craft skills described. The gifting also included teaching.

### Christ - A perfect Tabernacle

A considerable amount of the Old Testament is devoted to the tabernacle. A tabernacle was set up on earth for worship. The purpose of the Earthly Tabernacle worships system is found in Hebrews 9 'Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and was also an earthly sanctuary'. But it also alluded to Christ: 'when Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. In Hebrews 9:23-25 a perfect Tabernacle is established: 'It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that were only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.' What about your natural and Holy Spirit empowered gifts? How are they being used? More importantly, do you and others see evidence of fruits in your life and ministry? May God help us all to be empowered according to His purpose this Pentecost Sunday.

### **Northolt Park Baptist Church**

Eastcote Lane, Northolt, Middlesex, UB5 4HN

Email: [northoltparkbaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:northoltparkbaptistchurch@gmail.com)

Telephone 020 8422 8446 (Church Office)

Church webpage: [www.npbc.uk.com](http://www.npbc.uk.com)

