

**MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH
MESSENGER
AUGUST 2019**

August

The heavens declare
the glory of God,
and the skies above
proclaim the work
of His hands.

Psalm 19:1 (NIV)



LOST AT SEA ... RESCUED ... AND THANKED!

Forty years after they were rescued in the South China Sea, a group of Vietnamese boat people met up earlier this year with the Captain of the ship who saved them.

When conflict erupted in Vietnam in 1979, hundreds of people fled in boats with no idea where they were going. Linh Thi Thuy was seven at the time, and along with her parents and brother (7 months), was rescued after their boat was lost at sea for days. They were taken aboard the SS Sibonga, and eventually found refuge in Britain.



Along with other rescued boat people they had the opportunity to meet up with Captain Healey Martin, now aged 80 and living in a care home in N. Ireland. They had waited four decades for the chance to say thank you to the man who rescued them from such a terrible plight, saved their lives, and made it possible for them to have a new life. What a joyful reunion they had!

The story speaks to us of our salvation, and the importance of giving thanks to God. God rescued us when we were lost and helpless. He gave us a new life as well. The Psalmist was conscious of having himself been rescued, and determined to give thanks to the Lord.' (Psalm 116:12-13): 'How can I repay the Lord for all of His goodness to me?

When you think of all the Lord has done for you, be sure to express your gratitude by joining together with others to worship God. Share your experiences and let songs of praise fill your mouth. We all have reasons to be glad.

A MILLION BRICKS OF ANSWERED PRAYER!



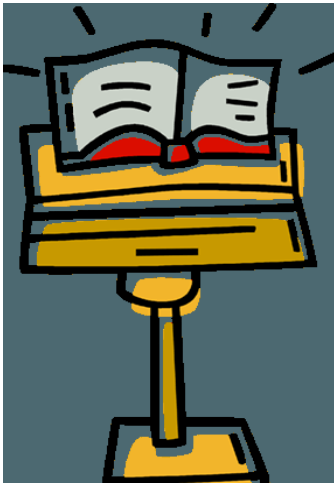
A new UK Christian landmark is closer to becoming reality after obtaining a 10-acre piece of land near Birmingham. CEO of "The Wall of Answered Prayer", Richard Gamble, says this is a huge step towards the vision

God gave him 15 years ago, to build a piece of public art with one million bricks, each representing an answered prayer.

A Christian businessman has donated the land and Gamble says the location is strategic. "A high-speed train line is being built next to it and it's an air path. So, about half a million journeys per week are going to go past this monumental architectural structure about Jesus."

The design will feature a representation of a mobius strip 50m high. Gamble explains, "The strip is a huge arch, which goes high into the sky, so it will be seen from the motorway and from the train. It will be seen from planes as they land at Birmingham airport. They have also planned a visitor centre within the monument. Visitors will be able to read the stories of answered prayers that each brick represents and relate it to their own situation. Then they can discover the God who listens and who answers."

Visit: www.thewall.org.uk



DIARY OF CHURCH SERVICE PREACHERS AUGUST 2019

Sunday 4th August at 10.30am: *Maureen Spinks*

Sunday 11th August at 10.30am: *Ralph Brandhorst*

Sunday 18th August at 10.30am: *Songs of Praise*

Sunday 25th August at 10.30am: *David Ball*

AUGUST 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Sorts Craft Group

Tuesday 27th August at 10.30am
for one and a half hours.

Saturday Youth Club

Every Saturday from 7-10pm for
9-14 year olds except Saturday
31st August



THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN AUGUST

Messy Church

The Prayer meeting

Good Companions

The Community Lunch

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN IN
SEPTEMBER.**

FOR YOUR DIARY: The next Church Council meeting will be on
Thursday 26th September at 7.30pm in the church



THINKING ABOUT THE BEATITUDES

Rev Paul Hardingham continues his series.

4 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness'

'You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You.' (Augustine).

We all have deep longings in our lives that we seek to satisfy, however Jesus points out that we can only be truly satisfied by God Himself: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5 verse 6). The words hunger and thirst are strong words referring to a truly desperate for righteousness. But what does this mean?

Longing for right relationship with God: It means putting God at the centre of all we are and do and trusting Him with the whole of our lives. It's a response to Jesus' death on the cross, rather than anything we can do for God: 'This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.' (Romans 3 verses 22).

Longing for right living for God: A righteous or holy life is one that is righteous 24 hours a day. It's an integrated Christian life lived out of our ongoing relationship with God, affecting everything we do, say or think.

Longing for right relationship with others: God's righteousness will influence how we relate to others in the community, so that all our relationships are loving and just e.g. at work, with family, friends or neighbours.

When we are really desperate God will fill us and our desire for righteousness will be satisfied. But often we are not desperate enough! We don't want to let go the deep desires that get in the way of God. 'It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are far too easily pleased.' (C S Lewis).



CHURCHES IN BULGARIA BREATHE SIGH OF RELIEF

Christians in Bulgaria are thankful for the turn-around by the government on proposals to restrict the freedoms of believers and the activities and funding of churches. The breakthrough came during parliamentary voting on the second reading of the amendments to the Religious Denominations Act 2002, when all the controversial changes were suddenly dropped.

Church leaders, with support from thousands of Christians had held 8 weeks of peaceful protest and public prayers. Churches were united in the face of threats by the law-makers, and leaders resolved to maintain their freedoms to preach the Gospel and freely assemble together.

Pastor Oprenov says: "God has granted us a blessing, by allowing us to see the will of the political powers changed." Tony Horsfall

**29
AUG**

REMEMBERING GOD'S PRESS OFFICER: JOHN THE BAPTIST.

Spare a thought for John the Baptist: however rough your local sandwich bar may be, it probably doesn't serve you locusts with a honey dip; you won't be imprisoned for saying derogatory things about the local MP's wife, and even the boss from hell is unlikely to have a daughter who wants to hip-hop about with your head on a platter.

John the Baptist, by our standards, had a terrible life. Yet the Bible tells us that of all the people in history, no one has even been born who was as great as him. Why? Because of the unique job God gave him to do, which has to be the best PR job of all time: act as God's press officer.



This was quite literally the PR job from heaven: with God as his client, John the Baptist's job was to broadcast the news that the Messiah had come. Not even Church House Westminster has ever

attempted anything like that.

It always helps if PR people recognise their own clients, and the same was true of John: he was the first person to recognise Jesus as the Messiah. PR people also help their clients prepare for their public role, and John did the same for Jesus: he baptised Him in the Jordan at the start of His ministry.

PR people also stand up in public for their client's point of view, and in John's case it led to his arrest and imprisonment. His death was finally brought about by the scheming of Herodias and Salome, and here the similarity ends: for not even the most dedicated press officers literally lose their heads over a client.

IN AND AROUND MOTTINGHAM AND BROMLEY

MOTTINGHAM LIBRARY IN AUGUST



Coffee Morning

Wednesday 14th August: 10.30-11.30am

Oliver Platts will be coming to talk about the steam tug Portwey, moored in the London Docklands.



Armchair Walk

Friday 2nd August: 6.15-7.30

Mayfair - How the other half live. A riveting armchair walk from Park Lane to Grosvenor Square.

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a note book at the rear of the Church for your use if you or someone you know would like to be remembered in prayer by the Church whether anonymously or by name.

If it's easier to leave a note please do leave it in an envelope in the Church.

WE PRAY FOR

Duncan MacBean, our minister
Maureen Spinks, our deacon
Maureen and her partner, Roy
and the family

James

Janet

The Community Lunch

The Children's Saturday Club

Messy Church

Good Companions and the Craft
Group

MOTTINGHAM METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

CONTACTS:

The Minister: Rev Duncan MacBean. Tel: 07432 093353

Please Note: The minister's normal day off is a Friday

The Deacon: Maureen Spinks. Tel: 01689 821956

Please note: The deacon's normal day off is Tuesday

The Senior Steward: Dallas Green. Tel: 020 8617 0076

ADDRESS: 62 Mottingham Road, Mottingham, SE9 4QR

THE CHURCH WEB SITE:

Church information is available on the WEB site

Log in to: <http://www.mottinghammethodistchurch.org.uk>.

THE CHURCH AND CHURCH HALL FOR HIRE

Mobile Contact: 07757 717399



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