

Issue 131

THE LADYGROVE CHURCH



MAGAZINE

January 2018

The Ladygrove Church meets at the
Ladygrove Community Centre, Tamar Way
every Sunday at 10am

Blessed by God to Be a Blessing to Others

www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk

Minister: The Revd Hugh Boorman Tel: 819036

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Thank you to all our contributors this month:

Hugh Boorman, David and Dorothy McMillan
It would be great to see your name here next time!

The **February magazine** will be available on Sunday 4th February and the deadline for articles to go in it is **Sunday 28th January**.

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

Thought for the Month

Happy, Fulfilled, Complete

Building on the theme of *Blessed by God to be a Blessing to Others*, from January and throughout Lent, our Sunday morning services are going to look at the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3-12).

Each starting with "Blessed are...", it's easy to regard the eight phrases as referring to different groups of people. However, just as Paul sought to define true love by describing its many qualities (1 Corinthians 13) so it is believed that Jesus is actually addressing one type of person from eight different perspectives – the one who lives in communion with God, "the one who does not walk in step with the wicked" (Psalm 1:1). And just as Paul looked to Jesus to understand what love is, so Jesus described how and why he was blessed in the words of the Beatitudes.

Each Beatitude is offering an insight into the joy that is on offer to those who follow him. While the

word is usually translated as "blessed", it can be "Happy", "Fulfilled" or "Complete". There is therefore a link with the Hebrew word "Shalom" or "Peace". Jesus is describing how we might be in perfect relationship with God, with one another, with ourselves and with all creation. Also each Beatitude offers a promise. They identify what we already have or what will be given to us and so they are messages of hope.

Matthew tells us that while a crowd gathered to listen to Jesus, "his disciples came to him, and he began to teach them" (Matthew 5:1-2). While the crowd no doubt listened on, Jesus' focus was on the Twelve – those who had answered his call to "Follow me!"

These words were for them and so they are aimed at the Church today (you and me). They describe how we are invited to live the life of the kingdom so that we might be a sign to the world of God's reign "on earth as it is in



heaven" (Matthew 6:10). And not just a sign to the world. Let's not forget that "His intent was that now, through the Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ephesians 3:10-11). No pressure then!

Of course, a brief look through the Beatitudes may raise some questions.

Some of them do not describe particularly positive experiences. How are we meant to feel happy if we're poor, in mourning or persecuted? Hopefully in the weeks to come, as we unpack these rich words of Jesus, we will find out.

I hope that you'll join us on this journey of discovery.

Hugh Boorman
Minister of the Ladygrove Church



www.freebibleimages.com

Coming Up

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

As usual, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be celebrated across the churches in and around Didcot from Thursday, 18th to Thursday, 25th January. Each meeting will last about thirty minutes and you will find the various dates, times and venues in the Diary of Events.

On the Sunday, we will be hosting a short act of worship in the Community Hall.



This year all the prayer and reflection material has been produced by the Church in the Caribbean and uses Exodus 15, a song of triumph over oppression, as the theme for the Week. If you would like to engage in the Week but are unable to make any of the meetings, you can download the resources from www.ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018.

Prayer Spaces

All Saints' School will be having Prayer Spaces again in the week commencing Monday, 22nd January. Normally we hold it in a Year 6 classroom while they are away on residential but that wasn't possible this year so we're running it in the Ladygrove and Hadden Rooms combined.



That means that it will need to be set up on Sunday, 21st January after Church. If you are able to help with the setting up, please speak to Hugh and also speak to him if you would like to volunteer to help at any morning or afternoon session during the week.

It doesn't take any special skills other than the ability to sit at a table with a maximum of four children and help them engage with a simple prayer activity.



Emmaus

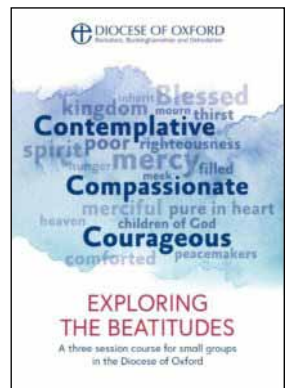
Our current Emmaus Course, all being well, finishes on 15th February and we will be starting another one soon after. If you would like to come on it speak to Hugh.

Also, while we have been using the introductory course, there is a more detailed course which looks into the subjects of Prayer, Worship, the Bible, the Church, and Life, Death and Christian Hope in more depth, each one taking 3–5 sessions. If you would like to

come on a course on one or more of those topics or would like to use the material for your home group, please speak to Hugh.

Home Group Material

Elsewhere you will have read that we are going to be looking at the Beatitudes over the next three months. If you can't wait that long, the Diocese of Oxford has produced a three-session course to look at them under the themes of Contemplative, Compassionate, Courageous. If you would like the material for your home group, speak to Hugh.



Hugh Boorman



Faith Has Set Us On a Journey

Last month I was looking through one of my books of prayer and worship resources (*Dare to Dream* edited by Geoffrey Duncan) when I came across what I thought was a poem, only to find on “googling” that it is a hymn.

I can't find a recording of it, though a quiet hum to myself convinces me that it works to the tune of *Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You*. However, the words really spoke to me as I thought of the journey that the Ladygrove Church is currently on in becoming a parish and planning to reach out to the new community of the North East Didcot while also endeavouring to minister to the current community of the Estate.

Have a read (or a hum) and see what you think:

Faith has set us on a journey
past the landmarks that we know,
taking risks with no insurance
but the Word that tells us 'go!'

Friend or job or home or lover
we may need to leave behind,
outworn truths and ways of thinking,
baggage to the past consigned.

Some are swags of easy conscience
who with others hitch a ride,
some are tourist-package Christians,
dollar-safe, with Book and guide.

There are others on this journey –
those who long and pray and search,
heave the stones to free the structures,
love the Christ and leave the Church.

We are this unlikely people
in the body knit as one,
company of clowns and cripples –
some are wise and some can run.

Prophets are our travel agents,
gospel-makers lay this road:
to the place of peace and promise
faith will take us into God.

Shirley Erena Murray
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January Prayer Diary

Feel free to make suggestions of topics that we can add and, in the future, if you would like prayer for something particular on a specific date, whatever it might be, please let one of the editors know and we can add it to this prayer diary.

Monday, 1st January

- Please pray for those who start this year affected by financial worries.
- People living in Ockley Brook.

Tuesday, 2nd January

- Please pray for those affected by memory loss.
- People living in Kew Win.

Wednesday, 3rd January

- Please pray for those involved in the publication of our local magazines and newspapers that they might be proclaimers of good news.
- People living in Penpont Water.

Thursday, 4th January

- Please pray for those working in financial institutions.
- People living in Ray Court.

Friday, 5th January

- Please pray for Didcot TRAIN Youth Project, our local mission partner.
- People living in Jordan Close.

Saturday, 6th January

- Today is Epiphany. As we think about God revealing himself to the world in Christ, let's pray for a deepening understanding of how we might follow his example.
- People living in Plym Drive.

Sunday, 7th January

- Please pray for our church fellowship and the mission God calls us to.
- People living in Foudry Close.

Monday, 8th January

- Please pray for our councillors as Didcot Town Council meet this evening.
- People living in Swale Drive.

Tuesday, 9th January

- Please pray for Sharon Jones, our Latin Link mission partner, as she says her final goodbyes before leaving the UK tomorrow to return to her work in Lima, Peru. See www.lifeinlima.com for further updates.
- People living in Usk Way.

Wednesday, 10th January

- Please pray for our Parent/Carer and Toddler groups as they start again today.
- People living in Windrush Mews.

Thursday, 11th January

- Emmaus restarts today after the Christmas break. Please pray for Julie, Lisa and Sara-Ann as they continued on their journey of discovery.
- People living in Itchen Court.

Friday, 12th January

- Please pray for those who are looking for work.
- People living in Colne Drive.

Saturday, 13th January

- Please pray for Messy Church meeting this afternoon.
- People living in Don Close.

Sunday, 14th January

- Please pray for our children and those who journey with them through Elements and RGB.
- People living in Weavercroft.

Monday, 15th January

- Please pray for David and Dorothy McMillan, our BMS Mission partners working in Amsterdam. See www.reclaimedground.wordpress.com for their latest news.
- People living in Teescroft.

Tuesday, 16th January

- Please pray for the children who come to the "What's in the Bible?" Club at All Saints' School each Tuesday lunchtime.
- People living in Wansbeck Wood.

Wednesday, 17th January

- Please pray for the work of those who support people who are struggling to make ends meet, such as through the Foodbank, Acts 4:35 and CAP.
- People living in Beaulieu Mews.

Thursday, 18th January

- Today is the start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Let's pray for a closer relationship and co-operation between the various expressions of Christian faith.
- People living in Rother Garth.

Friday, 19th January

- Please pray for those who are experiencing bullying.
- People living in Blackwater Way.

Saturday, 20th January

- Please pray for those who work in our emergency services.
- People living in Crookdale Beck.

Sunday, 21st January

- This afternoon sees the induction service of the new SCBA Regional Ministers, Clare Hooper, Joth Hunt and Dave Llewellyn, and the Commissioning of the New Team. Please pray for each of them as they take up this new ministry.
- People living in Grange Beck.

Monday, 22nd January

- Please pray for All Saints' School as they start Prayer Spaces today and for their governing body meeting this evening.
- People living in Mersey Way.

Tuesday, 23rd January

- Please pray for the Bungokho Rural Development Centre, our mission partner in Mbale, Uganda. Details of developments can be found at www.bungokhoruraldevelopment.com.
- People living in Venners Water.

Wednesday, 24th January

- Please pray for those who work in administration.
- People living in Ancholme Close.

Thursday, 25th January

- Please pray for our home groups that meet during the week for fellowship.
- People living in Dulas Close.

Friday, 26th January

- Please pray for our waste and recycling services.
- People living in Longford Way.

Saturday, 27th January

- Please pray for those affected by mental illness.
- People living in Cow Lane.

Sunday, 28th January

- Please pray for the hospitality of our church – most noticeably expressed by our welcome team and provision of refreshments after the service but also evident in the way each one of us engages with others in church and in daily life.
- People living in Lea Grove.

Monday, 29th January

- Please pray for those who work for the Royal Mail and other delivery services.
- People living in Swarbourne Close.

Tuesday, 30th January

- Please pray for our mission partner in Laguna in the Philippines – Pastor Gay and the Santa Fe Church.
- People living in Tyne Avenue.

Wednesday, 31st January

- Please pray for Didcot TRAIN Youth Project, our mission partner in town. See www.didcottrain.org.uk for more details.
- People working in Lostock Place.

February

Thursday, 1st February

- Please pray for those struggling to find their way in life.
- People living in Nunney Brook.

Friday, 2nd February

- Please pray for the North East Didcot Development.
- People living in Ashburn Place.

Saturday, 3rd February

- Please pray for our Member of Parliament, Ed Vaizey.
- People living in Doe Lea.

Sunday, 4th February

- Please pray for our sung worship – those who play or sing, those who operate the mixing desk and, of course, those who have written such beautiful hymns.
- People living in Brunstock Beck.

A New Year's Prayer

From the Baptist Union Prayer Diary

The New Year starts off for many with resolutions and promises.

We pray for ourselves, to take new steps on our journey with Christ during 2018.

Teach us to receive the future you have planned for us; give us a new vision of you, that we may feel your compassion, your anger and your love. May your Gospel flood our lives, infuse our churches with life, flood our world with hope.

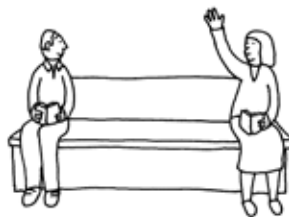
Amen

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

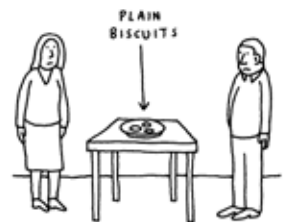
HOW THE CHURCH CAN HELP



EXERCISE



MEETING NEW PEOPLE



HEALTHY EATING



GETTING ORGANISED

AT THE PCC WE'LL DISCUSS THE APCM,
CW VS THE BCP, THE LLM'S CRB,
AND THE OLM'S BAP. OH, AND
THERE ARE LETTERS FROM THE DAC,
THE DDO, THE HOB AND THE ABC



LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES

David and Dorothy McMillan

Prayer letter, December 2017

bmsworldmission.org/ddmcmillan



Dear Friends,

2017 has been a significant year for us. We both celebrated our sixtieth birthdays – though we still wonder how we can possibly be that age! In May we mourned with our whole family the loss of Dorothy's Mum who passed away peacefully, aged 97 years. She was a wonderful lady, who was a prayerful and practical supporter of mission over many years and we miss her very much.



2017 has also been a milestone year for the International Baptist Theological Study Centre (IBTSC) here in Amsterdam. In July we moved into the beautifully renovated Baptist House, which has a large meeting room (seating 80+) in the centre, surrounded

by offices and teaching rooms. We share the premises with the Baptist Union of the Netherlands, the Dutch Baptist Seminary and the European Baptist Federation. Two Baptist churches – Dutch and Brazilian – also use the building. It is a lovely collaborative working environment and we have lots of space for our January Colloquium and other special events.

During the summer we spent an enjoyable week at IMC in Birmingham for 'The Gathering'. This was a great opportunity for us to meet other BMS World Mission personnel – especially those from our own training group of 2015 – with delicious food, lots of fun and chat, good music and teaching, updates on mission policy and a chance to meet and pray with new staff members from all parts of the world. We also fitted in a few days in Bicester to see our daughters, sons-in-law, but especially our grandchildren – Joel (6), Luke (4) and Isla (1). Then it was back to Amsterdam for a busy Autumn...



In September the IBTSC Rector, Stuart Blythe, left us to take up a new post at Acadia Divinity College in Canada. We miss him and his wife Susanne very much. Until a new Director is appointed, David occupies the position of Interim Director. His first task was to represent IBTSC at the EBF Council meetings in Yerevan, Armenia in September. Immediately after that came the 'Big Library Move', when the IBTSC library of 40,000+ books was relocated to a newly-built space upstairs in the Baptist House. This was a mammoth task and Pieter van Wingerden, our librarian, has done a fantastic job, so that the 35+ students who arrive in January for our annual Colloquium will have the benefit of the beautiful new library facilities. We are now planning Colloquium, as there are many practicalities to consider: timetabling student presentations and seminars; arranging consultation meetings; organising food; planning evening events; booking accommodation for visiting staff and guests and much more.



One of those attending Colloquium is Michael Aidoo from Komasi, Ghana. Michael and his wife Rebecca have seven children, four of them still at school. He is a Baptist pastor and is also acting Dean for the School of Theology and Ministry of the Ghana Baptist University College in Komasi.

For Michael, completing his doctorate is important for his teaching role, but having two busy jobs makes finding time to study a challenge.

He particularly appreciates the 'open-minded and forthright' help he receives from staff at IBTSC and enjoys the fellowship at Colloquium each year. Almost all our students are in Christian ministry and many, like Michael, carry out more than one role. This makes it vital that we provide effective support and teaching when they travel here for ten days each January, as well as continuing to maintain supportive contact throughout the year.

Please pray with us:

- Give thanks for the new Baptist House and all its possibilities;
- Pray for us both in our roles at IBTSC and for the search for a new Director;
- Pray that Michael and other students will be able to balance family, ministry and study responsibilities;
- Pray that IBTSC staff will provide strong support for our students to enrich their ministry.

Once again, thank you for your interest, prayers and practical support. You can keep up with our news by following our blog reclaimedground.wordpress.com and you will find more information on the IBTSC at www.ibts.eu

Our postal address (real letters are always welcome!) is:
Noorderdreef 152, 2152AB Nieuw Vennepe, The Netherlands

David & Dorothy McMillan

If you would like to support David and Dorothy by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



BMS
24:7 partners
Turning compassion into action

Homegroups

There are a number of homegroups meeting throughout the week at various times and venues - some with a specific focus; others more generic.

For more details, speak to Hugh.

Tuesdays	7-8:30pm	RGB youth group for secondary school and sixth formers at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 211868
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the first Tuesday of the month for Bible study Contact Jamie 07881 710171
Thursdays	7:30pm	Kitchen Table for 20's and 30's at Sarah and Vaughn Lawfull's home Contact Sarah and Vaughn 211868
	8:00pm	Refresh Ladies' Group at Ruth Busby's home Contact Ruth 511622
	8:00pm	Re-hydrate Men's Group on the third Thursday of the month for a social gathering Contact Jamie 07881 710171
	8:00pm	Home Group at Ian and Kathryn Sykes' home Contact Ian and Kathryn 850085

Messy Church

Saturday 13th January - 3-5pm

Ladygrove Community Centre



Crafts, games, activities and worship for families, followed by tea.

Offers of help and donations of finger food and cake will be welcome! Please speak to Hugh for more information.

January Diary

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, 7th	10:00am	Worship All Together Service including a celebration of our new status as a Parish Mark 1:4-11 The Baptism of Christ – a New Chapter
	12:30pm	Shared Celebratory Lunch
Monday, 8th	8:00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road – all welcome
Wednesday, 10th	9:30pm	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7:45pm	LCC Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Thursday, 11th	9:30pm	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7:30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Saturday, 13th	3:00pm	Messy Church
Sunday, 14th	10:00am	Baptist Communion with Children's Groups 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 Responding to the Call
Monday, 15th	8:00pm	Messy Church Debrief and Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Wednesday, 17th	9:30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 18th	9:30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	10:00am	WPCU Prayer Meeting at 12 Trent Road
	7:30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Friday, 19th	9:30am	WPCU Prayer Meeting, meeting outside Didcot Methodist Church led by King's Church
Saturday, 20th	9:30am	WPCU Prayer Meeting at St Peter's Church
Sunday, 21st	10:00am	Worship All Together Service Matthew 5:3 Blessed Are: The Poor in Spirit
	TBC	Setting up the Ladygrove Room for Prayer Spaces at All Saints' School

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, 21st	4:00pm	Service to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Ladygrove Community Hall
Monday, 22nd - Friday, 26th	9:00am - 3:10pm	Prayer Spaces at All Saints School
Monday, 22nd	4:00pm	WPCU Prayer Meeting at Didcot Methodist Church
	8:00pm	Worship All Together Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Tuesday, 23rd	12noon	WPCU Prayer Meeting at St Matthew's, Harwell
	7:30pm	WPCU Prayer Meeting at Didcot Baptist Church
Wednesday, 24th	7:00am	WPCU Prayer Meeting at Fleet Meadow Community Centre, led by Fleet Meadow Baptist Church
	9:30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7:00pm	WPCU Prayer Meeting at All Saints' Church, Didcot
Thursday, 25th	9:30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	12:30pm	WPCU Prayer Meeting at English Martyrs' Roman Catholic Church
	7:30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Sunday, 28th	10:00am	Morning Service Matthew 5:4 Blessed Are: Those Who Mourn
Wednesday, 31st	9:30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
February Diary		
Thursday, 1st	9:30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 4th	10:00am	Worship All Together Matthew 5:5 Blessed are: The Meek

