

Issue 141

THE LADYGROVE CHURCH



MAGAZINE

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

The **January magazine** will be available on
Sunday 6th January and the deadline for articles to go in it is
Sunday 30th December.

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

Thought for the Month

In Deep Water

When I was growing up, Christmas was always the time when the summer holiday brochures came out and suddenly on Boxing Day, commercial TV was a mass of adverts for inclusive holidays to such exotic places as the Costa Brava. Perhaps that is why my thoughts recently turned to the summer holidays of my childhood.

I think I've mentioned before that I didn't learn to swim until I was in my final year of junior school and even then it could be described more accurately as trying to avoid drowning rather than truly swimming. Until then my visits to the beach were mostly restricted to paddling in the shallows or, if I was feeling particularly brave, wading in the sea. It was a pleasant enough experience but, as I was to discover much later, nothing compared to breast-stroking effortlessly through the water.

At the end of the Book of Ezekiel, the prophet is given a vision of a newly rebuilt and restored Temple and then he is shown the river which flows from

it. Initially as Ezekiel is led through the river, it is ankle-deep (47:3). He is taken further along it and he discovers that it becomes knee-deep and still further on it is up to his waist (47:4). And further still, "it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in – a river that no one could cross" (47:5). Clearly he hadn't learnt to swim either!

But perhaps the idea of that river is not to cross it but to actually swim in it.

Psalm 42 starts with words that are probably made familiar to us from the hymn written by Martin Nystrom: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?"

(v1). The Psalmist makes it pretty clear that he is desperate to be with God, to spend time with Him, to get to know Him better. He expresses a hunger that can only be answered by a renewed encounter with his Lord and Saviour.



A little later, he makes an observation, "Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls" (42:7). "Deep calls to deep" is an interesting phrase. Its meaning is a little obscure. Perhaps it suggests that in the depths of the Psalmist's depression (he makes it clear in vv. 2-6 that he feels rather abandoned by God) he is calling to the depths of God's love. Equally it can indicate that God is calling to the deepest parts of the Psalmist's spirit during his time of turmoil to draw him closer in communion with Him. Perhaps it means both. What is clear is that depth is needed.

Again as Jesus calls to his first disciples at the water's edge, he advises Simon Peter, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." The initial response by Simon, the professional fisherman, is to point out that they've been doing what they do best all night without any success but he gives it a go anyway and "they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break" (Luke 5:4-6). Jesus then tells his listeners that "from now on you will fish for people" (v. 10).

Jesus invites his disciples to explore the depths because he knows that that is where they will discover new things and find their fill. Ezekiel is led to the

deep and the Psalmist discovers that God is calling him in the depths of who he is. And I guess the same approach is applied to us.

If we want we can just go for a paddle in the shallows of the God's love for us and, as Paul notes, that is how we all need to start - "I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it" (1 Corinthians 3:2). But we shouldn't be satisfied with the shallows "Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature" (Hebrews 5:13-14). And Paul prays, that we "may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge" (Ephesians 3:18-19).

The Christmas story on the surface is simple. Hence it works well for crib services and nativity plays all over the world. But it has depths that take more than a lifetime to fathom. So let's go for a swim in some familiar pools. Come on in, the water's lovely!

Hugh Boorman
Minister of the Ladygrove Church



Christmas Services at the Ladygrove Church



Saturday, 15th December

3.00pm

Christmas Messy Church

Two hours of craft activities and fun for the whole family, a short service followed by a cold buffet.

Sunday, 16th December

10.00am

Christingle Service

A service for all the family which also includes the making of Christingles!

Sunday, 23rd December

7.00pm

Carol Service

A service of carols and Bible readings to tell the story of the first Christmas followed by mince pies.



Monday, 24th December

4.00pm

Crib Service

A nativity play service for the whole family. Come dressed as a shepherd, king, angel, stable animal (or in any other costume you fancy). Everyone can join in but come early - it is very popular.

11.30pm

Midnight Communion Service

A traditional service to welcome in Christmas Day.

Tuesday, 25th December

10.00

Christmas Day Communion Service

A short informal communion service for all the family.

For further details, contact Hugh on:

01235 819036 or hugh@theladygrovechurch.org.uk

www.theladygrovechurch.org.uk



Blessed by God to be a blessing to others

Joy to the World

by John Van de Laar

from www.sacredise.com

It may seem naive,
in a world of grief,
to choose to live in joy;

It may seem foolish,
in a world where solemnity is power,
to sing and dance to a different tune;

It may seem cruel,
in a world of suffering and injustice,
to speak of light and celebration;

But you have come, Jesus,
to bring joy into our grief,
light into our darkness,
singing into our mourning;
and it is an act of healing and proclamation
to believe and embrace the joy you offer.

Joy to the world!
The Lord is come!
Hallelujah!

Amen



December 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.

Saturday, 1st December

- As the Advent Calendars start to be opened, let's pray for more openings for the true meaning of the season.
- People living in Ray Court.

Sunday, 2nd December

- Let's pray for the various churches that make up Churches Together in Didcot and District.
- People living in Jordan Close.

Monday, 3rd December

- Please pray for those working in retail.
- People living in Plym Drive.

Tuesday, 4th December

- Please pray for All Saints' School's Christingle Service this evening.
- People living in Foudry Close.

Wednesday, 5th December

- Please pray for all those involved in the planning and building of the North East Didcot Development and Ladygrove East.
- People living in Swale Drive.

Thursday, 6th December

- Please pray for those with eating disorders and the families, friends and professionals who support them.
- People living in Usk Way.

Friday, 7th December

- Please pray for the Bungokho Rural Development Centre, our mission partner in Mbale, Uganda.
- People living in Windrush Mews.

Saturday, 8th December

- Please pray for ASSA Christmas Fair being held this afternoon.
- People living in Itchen Court.

Sunday, 9th December

- Please pray for opportunities to fill in valleys, flatten mountains and hills, straighten crooked roads and smooth the rough ways of our community.
- People living in Colne Drive.

Monday, 10th December

- Please pray for those working for the Royal Mail and other delivery services.
- People living in Don Close.

Tuesday, 11th December

- Please pray for the What's in the Bible? Lunch Club that meets at All Saints' School every Tuesday and give thanks for the encouraging numbers that come along.
- People living in Weavercroft.

Wednesday, 12th December

- This evening our Church Committee meet with the PCC of All Saints' Church, the Bishop of Dorchester and others to finalise the process for recruiting a new minister for the Benefice. Please pray for a coming together of the different minds involved.
- People living in Teescroft.

Thursday, 13th December

- Please pray for Pastor Gay, our mission partner in the Philippines.
- People living in Wansbeck Wood.

Friday, 14th December

- Please pray for those who have nowhere to call home and for all those individuals and organisations who seek to support them.
- People living in Beaulieu Mews.

Saturday, 15th December

- Please pray for Messy Church meeting today.
- People living in Rother Garth.

Sunday, 16th December

- Let's pray for a more just world and a greater willingness to share its resources fairly.
- People living in Blackwater Way.

Monday, 17th December

- Please pray for those working in the hospitality industry.
- People living in Crookdale Beck.

Tuesday, 18th December

- Please pray for Didcot TRAIN Youth Project, our local mission partner. See www.didcottrain.org.uk for the latest news.
- People living in Grange Beck.

Wednesday, 19th December

- Please pray for the Parent/Carer and Toddler Group Christmas party taking place this morning.
- People living in Mersey Way.

Thursday, 20th December

- Please pray for All Saints' School's carol services being held this afternoon.
- People living in Venners Water.

Friday, 21st December

- Please pray for all those travelling over the Christmas season – for safe, trouble-free journeys.
- People living in Ancholme Close.

Saturday, 22nd December

- Please pray for those for whom this will be the first Christmas without a loved one.
- People living in Dulas Close.

Sunday, 23rd December

- While this should be a time of peace and goodwill, it also seems to be a time of increased stress levels so let's pray for relationships in all their shapes and sizes.
- People living in Longford Way.

Monday, 24th December

- Please pray for all those coming to the Crib Service this afternoon.
- People living in Cow Lane.

Tuesday, 25th December

- Let's spend of moment to wonder and give thanks for that amazing promise that God is with us.
- People living in Lea Grove.

Wednesday, 26th December

- Please pray for those who feel lonely.
- People living in Swarbourne Close.

Thursday, 27th December

- Please pray for Sharon Jones, our mission partner in Lima, Peru. Her latest updates can be found at www.lifeinlima.com.
- People living in Tyne Avenue.

Friday, 28th December

- Please pray for all those in our armed forces who have had to spend the Christmas holidays miles away from family, friends and home.
- People who work in Lostock Place.

Saturday, 29th December

- Please pray for those who find it difficult to make ends meet and let's give thanks for those who support them – the likes of the Community Larder, Foodbank and CAP.
- People living in Nunney Brook.

Sunday, 30th December

- Let's pray for our church family and remember those who have moved on to fresh fields.
- People living in Ashburn Place.

Monday, 31st December

- Let's take time to reflect on the events of this past year and be thankful.
- People living in Doe Lea.

2019

January

Tuesday, 1st January

- There are undoubtedly going to be some big changes this year. Let's pray for our nation as it goes through a time of upheaval.
- People living in Brunstock Beck,

Wednesday, 2nd January

- Please pray for David and Dorothy McMillan, our BMS World Mission partners. Their latest news can be found on their blog at www.reclaimedground.wordpress.com.
- People living in Finham Brook.

Thursday, 3rd January

- Please pray for teachers, teaching assistants and support staff as they gear up for another school term.
- People living in Ingrebourne Way.

Friday, 4th January

- Please pray for music group as they gather together for prayer, praise and practice.
- People living in Stort Close.

Saturday, 5th January

- Please pray for our local retailers.
- People living in Monks Lode.

Sunday, 6th January

- As churches across the world celebrate Epiphany, let's pray for a fresh, renewed vision of God's presence in the life of our church fellowship.
- People living in Lambwath Stream.

Monday, 7th January

- Please pray for those battling with addictions, whether they be aware of it or not.
- People living in Prestwick Burn.

Tuesday, 8th January

- Please pray for God's blessing on those attending the Emmaus Course this evening.
- People living in Bowmont Water.

Wednesday, 9th January

- Please pray for members of the Church Committee meeting this evening.
- People living in Tarret Burn.

Thursday, 10th January

- Please pray for our various church groups who meet on a Thursday evening for fellowship.
- People living in Blakehope Burn.

Friday, 11th January

- Please pray for the Bungokho Rural Development Centre, our mission partner in Mbale, Uganda.
- People living in Medlock Grove.

Saturday, 12th January

- Please pray for your neighbours.
- People living in Chinnock Brook.

Sunday, 13th January

- Please pray for all those who ensure that our Sunday worship happens.
- People living in Abbey Brook.



Prepare Ye The Way

The biblical story of Jesus' birth is full of disruptive encounters. From Mary's visit from the Angel Gabriel to a group of scholars travelling thousands of miles to meet a teenage mum and her child – these encounters couldn't be more unlikely.

Yet these are stories of transformation, as people step into the presence of God and have their worlds changed.

This Advent, you are invited to explore what it means to step into transformational encounter with the divine. Each week, reflect on the transformational encounters experienced by those at Jesus' birth, and think about this in the context of some of the issues we currently face as a society.

Prepare the way for Jesus' arrival once more using this new resource from the Joint Public Issues Team (Baptist Union, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church)

*Download the material free of charge from:
www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/prepare-ye-the-way-2018*





Prayer letter, November 2018

Following our wonderful campervan holiday in October, we returned to a busy period at the Baptist House in Amsterdam. Last week we held our biennial Nordenhaug Lecture (in memory of a President of IBTS in its post-war Swiss days). The speaker was Dr Reggie Williamson from Chicago, who spoke about the theologian and pastor Bonhoeffer's personal journey from being a German nationalist to an active Nazi opponent (he was executed by the Nazis just weeks before the end of WW2). The lecture and discussion centred on Christian responses to resurgent European nationalisms today. We had around fifty guests – a blend of students and staff from the Dutch Baptist Seminary with friends of IBTSC. Others joined us from various parts of the world by live link. We are also making preparations now for our annual Colloquium in January and hope to welcome around six new students the week before Colloquium.





At home, our landlord is carrying out major renovation work on all 48 houses in our area. This involves new roofs, doors, windows, solar panels, insulation etc. – they plan to finish by Christmas. It is quite disruptive, but the improvements will be worth it.

On the family front, Sarah and Simon and their boys (Joel, 7 and Luke, 5) moved to Lisburn, near Belfast, last month and are settling in well. Cathy and Tom (in Bicester) are mourning the loss of Tom's father, Edwin, who died recently after a short illness. We hope to attend the funeral in Somerset on 1st December.

Please pray for:

- » Cathy and Tom as they arrange the funeral of Tom's father and continue to support his Mum, Micaela;
- » Our new students as they begin to combine study with their Christian ministry;
- » Our continuing support work here at IBTSC.

David & Dorothy McMillan

26.11.2018

www.bmsworldmission.org/ddmcmillan

December Diary

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, 2nd	10.00am	Advent Sunday Morning Service with Children's Groups Luke 21:25-36 Advent: Signs
Monday, 3rd	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road. All welcome.
Tuesday, 4th	5.30pm	All Saints' School Year 2's Christingle Service at All Saints' Church. All welcome.
	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 5th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 6th	9.30pm	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 9th	10.00am	Baptist Communion Service with Children's Groups Luke 3:1-6 Advent: Prepare the Way
Tuesday, 11th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 12th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.30pm	Joint LCC/PCC Meeting at All Saints' Church
Thursday, 13th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Saturday, 15th	8.00am	Leading & Preaching Team Breakfast Meeting
	3.00pm	Messy Church. All welcome.
Sunday, 16th	10.00am	Worship All Together with Christingles! Luke 3:7-18 Advent: instructions
Monday, 17th	8.00pm	Messy Church Debrief and Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road. All welcome.
Wednesday, 19th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group Christmas Party
Sunday, 23rd	10.00am	Worship All Together Luke 1:39-45 Advent: The Visit
	7.00pm	Carol Service

Date	Time	Event
Monday, 24th	4.00pm	Crib Service. All welcome.
	11.30pm	Midnight Anglican Communion Service Isaiah 9:2-7 & Luke 2:1-14
Tuesday, 25th Christmas Day	10.00am	Worship All Together Baptist Communion Luke 2:8-20
Sunday, 30th	10.00am	Worship All Together Unplugged Service

January Diary

Sunday, 6th	10.00am	Worship All Together Matthew 2:1-2 Gifts for a King
Monday, 7th	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road. All welcome
Tuesday, 8th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course
Wednesday, 9th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
	7.45pm	Ladygrove Church Committee Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Thursday, 10th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 13th	10.00am	Baptist Communion Service with Children's Groups Luke 3:15-22 The Baptism of Jesus

Messy Church

Saturday 15th December - 3-5pm

Ladygrove Community Centre



Crafts, games, activities and worship for families, followed by picnic tea. Offers of help and donations of finger food will be welcome! Please speak to Hugh for more information.

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 - check with Lindsey for venue Contact Lindsey 819036
	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

