

Issue 143

THE LADYGROVE CHURCH



MAGAZINE

February 2019

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 Jonathan Farnhill

It would be great to see your name here next time!

The **March magazine** will be available on Sunday 3rd March and the deadline for articles to go in it is **Sunday 27th February.**

Please give your contributions to Hugh Boorman or Mary Parker.

Thought for the Month

Peace Be With You

As we edge ever nearer to 29th March, how are you feeling? I guess it's easy to get caught up in all the daily chaos of Parliament reported upon in the news and to end up in a downward spiral of worry, whether for ourselves, our children or nation as a whole. Perhaps we're trying our best to echo the words of Corporal Jones: "Don't panic!"

It's worth reminding ourselves that as Jesus prepared his disciples for the tragedy of his arrest and crucifixion, there was no thought of panic. Instead he assured them, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

I recently heard peace being defined as "faith at rest". It's having faith in God, who doesn't make mistakes, who has the whole world in His hands, including the worried world that we inhabit. Peace is faith resting in the fact that God will carry our worries for

us. It is about us saying, "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2). God offers us all the promise that He will "keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you" (Isaiah. 26:3).

Jesus also warns us, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34). In other words, stay in the present – the past has gone and the future is yet to arrive.

The word that the New Testament uses for that sort of worry really means the anxiety that is obsessive. It means "to be distracted," to have a divided mind." And that is the problem with worry, isn't it? It seems to take over our lives, dividing our thoughts and distracting us from everything else going on around us, including the good stuff going on in our lives.



Perhaps the best summary of advice comes from Paul: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

Of course, this doesn't mean that we shouldn't be concerned about what is, or is not, happening. But that concern should lead us to prayer and petition and trust in God, rather than being ground down into hopeless inaction. Also it means that prayer may bring about a change in circumstances sometimes but

not always. God is not a slot machine where if we poke in enough prayers, we'll get what we want. But what prayer does always do is change us. Prayer is being with God, enjoying Him, and absorbing His will for us. Prayer isn't just something we do; it's somewhere we go to experience the presence of God.

Prayer may not sort out Brexit, heal an illness or bring reconciliation in a broken relationship but the worry over it can be dealt with and the endurance to face the problem can be granted. Whatever it was, Paul had his own "thorn in my flesh" but God's response to him was, "My grace is sufficient for



you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" and he concluded, "That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

And let's not miss that in his advice to the Philippian Church, Paul writes that we are to pray about our worries with "thanksgiving". Not that we are expected to be thankful for the problems that are worrying us. Rather we should thank God for who He is in the midst of the worries; thank God for His strength perfectly capable of carrying all the burdens of worry in the world, including ours.

Pause right now and bring to mind a difficult situation you face. What can you find to thank God for in this instance? It may take a little time, but work at it. When you've thought of something, just tell God, "Thank you."

When we refuse to worry about anything and commit to pray about everything, when we thank God for

His presence with us, Paul says, "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". Peace is something that enters the heart and makes it able to rise above all outside conditions.

The word "guard" brings into focus the image of a stronghold. God builds a wall around our hearts and protects us. How can that happen? It happens when we respond to fear with faith and to worry with worship. It happens when we look deep into God's Word on a daily basis, holding on to those verses of promise, ready to call upon them in times of trial.

Peter wrote, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15). These next few weeks look as though they may give us plenty of opportunities to give that answer as we put our trust in God.

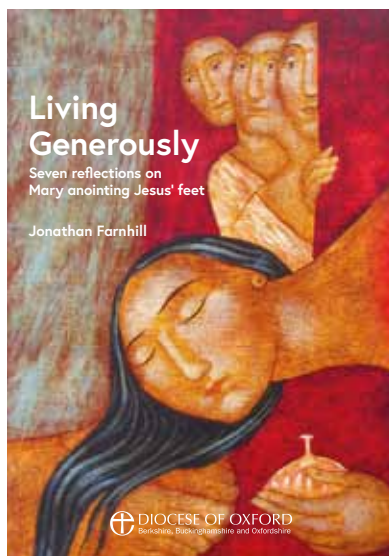
Hugh Boorman
Minister of the Ladygrove Church

Generous with Attention

by Jonathan Farnhill

*Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard,
anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair.*
(John 12:3)

I find it remarkably easy to be present, and yet absent, at the same time. I can, undeniably, be physically present, while my mind is very much elsewhere. It's easy to be in the same space as someone, but not really with them. The smartphone has only made this worse. Now it is even easier to be looking in on one world whilst physically inhabiting a different one. I've seen, more than once I'm ashamed to say, that chastening look given when someone sees you on the phone when they thought you were listening to them.



Mary is not only generous with her time, but with her attention. She is clearly focused on the task of anointing Jesus' feet, and then wiping his feet with her hair. That requires real care and attentiveness. She is very much physically and mentally present, and the attention is a generosity all of its own. The gift of the anointing is made meaningful by the attention with which it is

given. Yes, the ointment is incredibly expensive, and that could prompt her to be so focused. But the sense of the story is that the generosity of her attention is there because it is another expression of the love she has for Jesus.

When we are looking to develop a generous life, Mary's attentiveness shows us that the attention we give people is an important part of that life. It is not enough to give time; we need to give attention too, and that attention ought to be driven by a deep and profound love. God calls us to love him wholeheartedly, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. As Jesus says, there are no commandments greater than these.

To love others is to give them our attention and focus, and it is in our attentiveness that we really see how we can love and care for others. It allows us to understand their needs, to see where they need encouragement and to celebrate the gifts that God has given them. Being generous simply with our time cannot do this. We need to be generous with our attention too.



Jonathan Farnhill is the Generous Giving Adviser for the Diocese of Oxford, and has an MA in Applied Theology from the University of Exeter. He has written seven reflections on this episode in the Bible.

Heroes Wanted.

Didcot Town Council Annual Litterpick

Saturday 30th
March 2019

In 3 locations in
Didcot:

- * Civic Hall
- * Ladygrove
- * Mendip Heights

10.00 - 12.00

If you would like to get
involved or find out more,
please email:

events@didcot.gov.uk

or phone

01235 812637

All equipment is provided!



February 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.

Friday, 1st February

- Please pray for our waste and recycling services and the faithful stewardship of our environment.
- People living in Shinmoor Close.

Saturday, 2nd February

- Please pray for those who need to hear words of encouragement and affirmation and let's seek opportunities to be an answer to our prayers.
- People living in The Frith.

Sunday, 3rd February

- Please pray for our children's groups and those who lead.
- People living in Upperway Furlong.

Monday, 4th February

- Please pray for those who are employed in social work and psychiatric agencies, providing care in the community.
- People living in Bush Furlong.

Tuesday, 5th February

- Please pray for those facing big decisions in their lives – for God's guidance and reassurance.
- People living in Middle Furlong.

Wednesday, 6th February

- Let's give thanks to God for those who shared the Christian faith with us through their words or actions and let's ask for opportunities to do the same for those in our networks.
- People living in Short Furlong.

Thursday, 7th February

- Please pray for those meeting at our Kitchen Table – our 20's-30's group.
- People living in Abingdon Road.

Friday, 8th February

- Please pray for our BMS Mission Partners in Amsterdam – David and Dorothy McMillan. Their latest news can be found at www.reclaimedground.wordpress.com.
- People living in Tamar Way.

Saturday, 9th February

- Let's give thanks for the people and things that bring joy into our lives.
- People living in Lune Close.

Sunday, 10th February

- Let's pray for the Church and its prophetic role in society.
- People living in Stour Close.

Monday, 11th February

- Please pray for all those helping the running of Prayer Spaces for Stephen Freeman School and for the children and staff as they engage with the various activities.
- People living in Medina Close.

Tuesday, 12th February

- Please pray for RGB, our young people's group and for the leaders, Nat, Lizzie, Emma and Dan.
- People living in Arun Mews.

Wednesday, 13th February

- Please pray for our mission partners, the Bungokho Rural Development Centre in Mbale, Uganda.
- People living in Hamble Road.

Thursday, 14th February

- Please pray for those who work in accounting.
- People living in Waveney Close.

Friday, 15th February

- Please pray for those who are unsure of their identity.
- People living in Eden Court.

Saturday, 16th February

- Please pray for Messy Church meeting this afternoon.
- People living in Thurne View.

Sunday, 17th February

- Please pray for all aspects of our gathered worship – from the setting up and welcome we give to the tidying away after shared lunch.
- People living in Derwent Avenue.

Monday, 18th February

- Please continue to pray for all those involved in the recruitment of the next minister for All Saints' Church, especially our representatives, Pat Clay and Sarah Jenkinson.
- People living in Orwell Drive.

Tuesday, 19th February

- Please pray for Pastor Gay Rasgo, our mission partner in the Philippines.
- People living in Humber Close.

Wednesday, 20th February

- Please pray for our use of social media as a means to stay in touch and raise our profile in the wider community.
- People living in Loddon Drive.

Thursday, 21st February

- Please pray for those families who struggle to cope and make ends meet during the school breaks.
- People living in Yare Close.

Friday, 22nd February

- Please pray for those who work in the construction industry.
- People living in Calder Way.

Saturday, 23rd February

- Please pray for those who have big decisions to make.
- People living in Nene Grove.

Sunday, 24th February

- Let's give thanks for God's word and pray that the Spirit will speak through it into our hearts and minds not just when we gather together but also in our quiet times alone.
- People living in Welland Avenue.

Monday, 25th February

- Please pray for the Didcot TRAIN Youth Project, our local mission partner.
- People living in Bure Lane.

Tuesday, 26th February

- Please pray for those who work in research and development.
- People living in Wensum Drive.

Wednesday, 27th February

- Please pray for our Parents/ Carers and Toddlers groups meeting each Wednesday and Thursday.
- People living in Arndale Beck.

Thursday, 28th February

- Please pray for those who find themselves homeless and for all the individuals and agencies who work to support.
- People living in Trent Road.

March

Friday, 1st March

- Please pray for our politicians, particularly our local MP, Ed Vaizey, and for our local councillors.
- People living in Washford Glen.

Saturday, 2nd March

- Please pray that wisdom will prevail in the development of our town and the surrounding district.
- People living in Verlam Grove.

Sunday, 3rd March

- Please pray for the other church fellowships in and around Didcot, particularly giving thanks for All Saints' and Didcot Baptist Church who helped to establish us.
- People living in Darcey Lode.

Gracious God

We pray for our MPs, government and parliamentary processes;

that there would be a respectful dialogue which is based on listening attentively, not shouting louder.

We lift to you those in our communities who are anxious for change and those who are fearful for their futures, heal our divisions with your gift of peace that surpasses all human understanding,

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.



Messy Church

Saturday 16th February - 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.

Baptist Presidency

As in previous years, the Baptist Union of Great Britain is inviting every member church to vote on the next President for the year 2020-2021 who will act as the Vice-President for the previous year.

The President's main role is as a communicator/facilitator of the vision and mission of the Baptist Union, engaging with local churches, regional Associations and Colleges as appropriate.

Another key part of the role is the leading of the Baptist Steering Group (BSG) Accompanying Group, which provides prayer support and shares in spiritual and missional reflection with BSG. The Accompanying Group act as 'critical friends' bringing perspectives from beyond the BSG. The President's role as part of this group is in bringing insights from their presidential travels as well as their own particular experience and expertise. As leader of the group, the President will be expected to coordinate the other members of the Accompanying Group, and their contact with BSG.

There will also be occasions when the President will provide a symbol or focus for unity of Baptists Together, and as such will represent the Union at various civic and ecumenical events. There may be some involvement in the annual Assembly, and the President may be invited by BMS World Mission to visit some of their work overseas.

At the service on **Sunday, 17th March** there will be an opportunity for all of us, to have a say on which candidate we would like to become President. To help us in our thoughts and prayers, there are brief profiles of the two candidates overleaf.

Further to our call for nominations for the position of President of the Baptist Union in 2020-21, and following the stipulations of our constitution, we are pleased to announce that two nominations were received, and are offered for election. Please do prayerfully consider which candidate you believe should serve our Union as President.

Short videos of each candidate can be seen at:

www.baptist.org.uk/elections

Dawn Cole-Savidge

Nominated by: 25 members of the Assembly

It is an absolute delight to be nominated by 25 members of Assembly to stand for election as President of Baptists Together from May 2020. My journey to Baptist ministry has not followed a traditional path, and it is through this unconventional route that I have learnt to both live and minister. I have sometimes been told not to be too controversial, and my response has been a pledge to be “no more radical than Jesus”. I was accredited five years ago, and currently serve as Communities Minister at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church in London. However, my ministry actually began over 10 years ago, and from the beginning I have always found myself working both with and in the margins.



I am a committed Baptist, wholeheartedly affirming the role of the local church and the authority of Christ as revealed through the Scriptures. I have served this commitment to our Baptist identity through previous roles on Baptist Union Council, and through following God’s call by undertaking the accreditation process for Baptist Ministry. I have been a part of YLF, the national Baptist Younger Leaders Forum that spoke into Council, and more recently I have worked with the LBA and other young ministers across London to engage, encourage, and equip young lay leaders in our churches. I’m happily married to my wonderful husband Simon Cole-Savidge (we both took each other’s names), whose invaluable support over the 5 years we have been together has enabled me to tackle head-on the challenges of being a woman in ministry. He is my biggest advocate and I cherish the love that he shows me, and the wisdom he brings to my reflections on my life as a minister in the margins. I trained at Spurgeon’s College for my degree in Theology (following my first degree in Illustration from Falmouth College of Arts). Those of you who know me will testify that this combination of theology and a love and skill for art, leads to creative (and occasionally

painted!) sermons, a novel approach to applying my faith practically in everyday life, and a consistent desire to be my authentic self. Ministering in the margins has enabled me to view the world and our faith through many different lenses, and part of this journey has led me recently to come out as Pansexual. I consider myself to be an open-book and someone who often wears her heart on her sleeve, and whilst I'm unable here to get into the depths of the process that led to my coming out, I'm always open to questions and dialogue that come from a genuine place. My own personal experiences as someone on the margins, as a queer woman who struggles with dyslexia and often completely debilitating back pain, coupled with what I have learnt and continue to learn whilst ministering in the LGBTQ+ community, amongst the homeless, and with the elderly and vulnerable, all motivate me to accept this nomination for the Baptist Presidency. I also recognise the vast privileges that I have, I am accredited, white, educated and married to a wonderful man.

I will bring to the role my outsider's perspective, balanced with a recognition of the ease and privilege I have, my lived experience of marginality, and my experience of the way our Union operates. My creativity will bring fresh ideas and I will champion those who also find themselves on the margins. It is my passion to lend my platform to those who aren't normally offered one, and to challenge those who are often privileged because of: their race, age, gender, sexuality, physical or neuro ability, mental health, or even their theology. Whilst being President is a figurehead position, my focus will be on a vision for the year that uses the opportunity it offers to shine a spotlight and create a space for the voices that aren't heard. I will bring together a group of people who will help share this message, and who will enable me to be held accountable.

I believe that it is through how we perceive and relate to the "other" that we best encounter Christ. Through intersectional inclusion and breaking down the barriers of privilege, we truly embrace all of creation and see a glimpse of the great multitude the author of Revelation describes:

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. Revelation 7:9

Yinka Oyekan

Nominated by: 2 Regional Associations

My Background:

My name is Yinka Oyekan, and I am the senior minister at The Gate one of the Baptist Churches in Reading England. I am honoured to be nominated to stand for the office of President in our amazing Baptist family. I was born in



Edinburgh of dual heritage. My mum is Scottish, and my dad was Nigerian. I was in Edinburgh studying accountancy when I was saved in 1984 through the ministry of Wester Hailes Baptist Church. I then with their support attended the Bible Training Institute in Glasgow (BTI).

My Particular Interest:

I am particularly excited by the third declaration of principle. It makes clear that “It is the duty of every disciple to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.”

And so, it is with interest that I am following the very excellent question posed by our current Vice president’s proposed theme for his presidency “where do we grow from here”. If elected I would love to contribute to the conversation with a follow-up question “how do we grow from here.” Whatever models or forms of mission or activity we embrace in our various congregations, the testimonies coming out of many of our Baptist churches are a great encouragement. Although we have reason to rejoice we can always do so much better. I see a great challenge in our third principle of declaration namely how do we enable and empower every disciple to be able to bear a personal witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to take part in the evangelisation of the world.

My Past Involvement in Mission:

I have had a long history in equipping and training individuals in evangelism and mission I’ve also been involved with Fiona, my wife in

the pioneering of churches from scratch. After Finishing at the BTI, I went down to train with Don Double who headed up an evangelistic association called GNC. I travelled extensively supporting Don as his team leader in organising city-wide evangelistic missions throughout the UK and overseas. I was not only involved in supporting Don's mission but organised many of my own and between sept 91 and 2008 was involved in over 40 missions in nations and cities such as; Hungary, Zimbabwe, Germany, Philadelphia, Tanzania, New York, Bahrain, India, Waterford, Zimbabwe, Israel, as well as involvement in home missions in places such as; Cheam, Shotley, Oakhampton, Bleanporth Mission, Dartmouth, Vale of Belvoir, Corwen, St Columb, Coggelshaw, Cumbria, South Reading, Millom, Cumnor, Wellington, Trimly St Mary, Bromley, Penryn, Ipswich, Wellington, and many other places.

My main passion throughout has been in Church Planting because the building of a strong community of disciples is the ultimate goal of evangelisation. Through church planting, Fiona and I planted several communities from scratch. Indeed it was to rescue a failing Baptist Church that brought us to Reading in the first place.

An Outpouring of the Spirit:

In 2008 the church in Reading experienced an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, this was followed in 2016 by a second evangelistic outpouring of the holy spirit labelled The Turning. This second outpouring has resulted in thousands of believers across many denominations and streams going out onto the streets and sharing their faith with their communities.

Of course, while I am proud of my Baptist heritage, I realise that the job of mission will only truly ever have the biggest impact through working with others in our towns and cities in a collaborative manner. Partnering with other churches and streams (church groupings) will have the greatest impact in reaching the lost.

Books:

I have written several books/training manuals some which have been translated into French German and even Portuguese.

Other Interests:

In 2002 I stood for local elections (as a pastor), I love painting, I love playing the Sax, and I love writing songs.

February Diary

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, 3rd	10.00am	Morning Service with Children's Groups 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, John 15:1-17, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Ephesians 5:25-32, Revelation 19:6-9 The Church: What is the Church?
Monday, 4th	8.00pm	Prayer Hour at 12 Trent Road. All Welcome
Tuesday, 5th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Wednesday, 6th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 7th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Sunday, 10th	10.00am	Anglican Communion Service with Children's Groups Acts 2:36-47, 1 Corinthians 14:26-30 The Church: What Does the Church Do?
Monday, 11th – Friday, 15th		Prayer Spaces with Stephen Freeman School
Tuesday, 12th	7.30pm	Emmaus Course at 12 Trent Road
Wednesday, 13th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 14th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Saturday, 16th	3.00pm	Messy Church
Sunday, 17th	10.00am	Worship All Together John 17:20-23, Ephesians 4:1-6, Hebrews 12:1-2 The Church: We Believe in the...Church
	12.30pm	Shared Lunch
Monday, 18th	8.00pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road
Sunday, 24th	10.00am	Morning Worship with Children's Groups Romans 12:1-8, Ephesians 4:11-16 The Church: The Body of Christ
Monday, 25th	8.00pm	Worship All Together Planning Meeting at 12 Trent Road

Date	Time	Event
Wednesday, 27th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
Thursday, 28th	9.30am	Ladygrove Parents/Carers and Toddlers Group
March Diary		
Sunday, 3rd	10.00am	Morning Service with the Baptism of Felicity Parsons with Children's Groups

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 at the Children's Centre Contact Hugh 819036
	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

