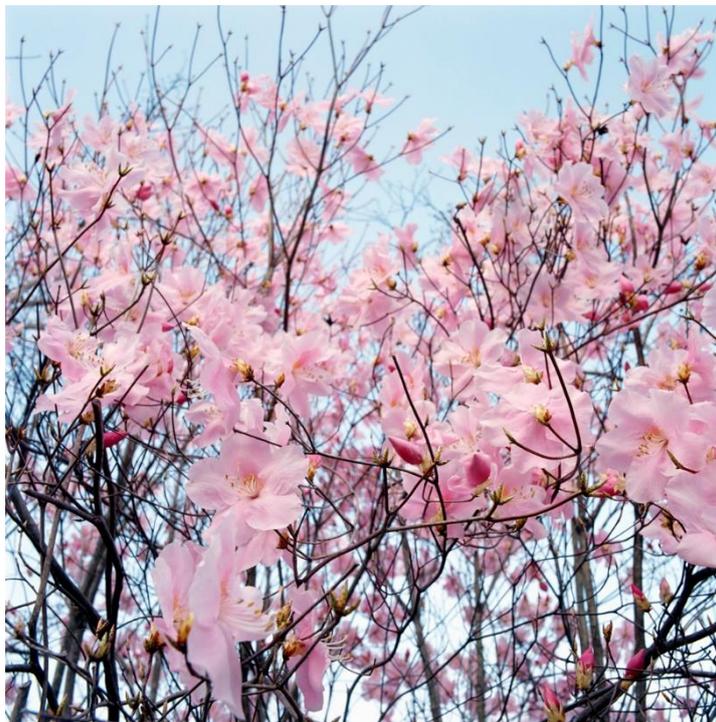


PORTON BAPTIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Showing Love, Showing Christ, Showing His Way

May 2021



“See, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone.

**Flowers appear on the earth,
the season of singing has come,
the cooing of doves is heard in our land.”**

(Song of Songs 2: 11-12)

Dear Friends,

“My times are in Thy hands”

Do you, like me, frequently have a verse of scripture, or the line of a hymn running through your mind? The above verse from Psalm 31, has been particularly persistent during the past few days, and for a very good reason.

Eighty years ago, at 1.30am on 30th April 1941, a parachute mine landed across the road from our house in Plymouth, exploded and blew out all of our windows and half of the roof, making the house uninhabitable. My mother, my sister aged 10, my baby sister and myself were all in the house, and how we survived has always seemed a miracle to me. We spend the rest of the night on a friend's floor, returning in the morning to gather a few things. The house was irreparable, so we spent the next few weeks staying with friends before Mum found a house to rent, and life went on, in Mum's case for another 49 years, the 'baby', 63 years and my sister Marion and I are still here! Praise the Lord. Others were of course not so fortunate.

Many people say that the past twelve months are reminiscent of wartime, but I beg to differ. Yes, we were subject to bombing, rationing and the absence of loved ones, but, in general life went on much as normal. I don't remember missing a day of school, except for illness, and our exams certainly weren't cancelled, even if they were occasionally interrupted by the sound of the siren. Above all, for me, Church and Sunday School continued, (and we were allowed to sing!).

Hopefully, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Thanks to the genius of scientists, inspired I believe by God, we have all been vaccinated, so maybe soon we will be able to lift our voices in praise again.

Thankfully, no one in the fellowship has suffered from the virus, despite many of us being in the 'vulnerable' category'

So, as we look to the future we can all re-echo those words from Psalm 31 “My times are in Thy hands”

Your friend and Elder.

Douglas.

Used Postage Stamps

Thank you to all who have given used stamps, your stamps can transform lives around the world! Whether that's providing lifesaving healthcare in remote parts of Chad, pioneering new expressions in France, giving access to justice for the poor in Mozambique, delivering clean water to remote villages in Afghanistan or long term earthquake recovery in Nepal. All of these, and plenty more besides are examples of the life-transforming work that Christians in the UK are enabling through giving their stamps to the BMS.

Bible A Month

This month's country is one familiar to 'Pointless' fans, the Central African Republic, the poorest and most unstable of African countries. We are asked to pray for Sylvain Ndjendole who leads the Bible Society in CAR, asking for protection for him and his team.

Wheels for the World

For many years the Women's Fellowship and, latterly the Wednesday Fellowship, supported the charity "Wheels for the World" which supplies wheelchairs for disabled people in countries worldwide. The latest newsletter is available on the back table.

For Prayer **Small Baptist**

2-8	West Haddon, Northants	Windley, Nr. Belper, Derbyshire
9-15	Ashdon, Nr. Saffron Walden, Essex	Dyke, Nr. Bourne, Lincs
16-22	Holbeach, Nr. Spalding, Lincs	Oakdale, Nr. Caerphilly, S.Wales
23-29	Stock Green, Worcester	Beckington, Nr. Frome, Somerset

Worldwide

For the people of India as the Covid-19 epidemic rages: for the health workers and the bereaved.

For the 245 million Christians worldwide experiencing persecution; some forced to flee the lands they have occupied for millennia.

In the Middle East the continuing conflicts in many countries at the moment, especially Syria, Yemen and South Sudan.

National

For the Government as the country moves out of 'lockdown', so that a future 'spike' may be avoided.

Local

The Trussel Trust as they seek to meet the needs of those in want: that we and others may be generous.

The Church and Friends

Several members with continuing health problems.

Happy Birthday

4th- Doreen; 8th- Anne; 9th Casey; 27th George; 28th Roger

CHURCH CALENDAR

MAY 2021

Sunday	2 nd	10.30am	Communion Service – David Niven
Sunday	9 th	10.30am	Morning Service – Wendy Searle
Sunday	16 th	10.30am	Communion Service – John Lodge
Sunday	23 rd	10.30am	Morning Service – Douglas Parish
Sunday	30 th	10.30am	Morning Service – John Searle

Church Administrator

Wendy Searle

Tel.01722442621

Web Site www.portonbaptist.org.uk

Church Postcode

SP4 0LH