

# Barnt Green

## Baptist Church



March 21st 2021



### **This Week**

- \* Nicky Magahy will be preaching and Steve will be leading the worship
- \* The service will be released on the Website, Facebook and Youtube at 10:15 am on Sunday
- \* Coffee and Catch up will run from 11:30

Find us on <https://www.bgb.org.uk/> and



# This Sunday

The online services will continue, accessible on YouTube, Facebook and through the church website from 10:15

Nicky Magahy will be preaching this week with Steve leading the worship

11:30 Church Chat and catch up on Zoom

## Can you help?

Pete, Mark and I have managed to establish a routine with the production of the online services so we're ready to bring others onboard to take some of the load. We're looking for people to help upload to Facebook, YouTube, and the website, and maybe stitch bits of the service together (usually just two parts). So, all you need is access to a reasonable computer and an internet connection.

No specialist knowledge required. If this is you, get in touch with Steve - [outreach@bgb.org.uk](mailto:outreach@bgb.org.uk)

Thanks

Steve

# Easter

Dear friends,

We want to be able, in some way, to encourage fellowship between folks this easter. Obviously that has to be done in a safe way, and more importantly a legal way. Maybe, if you are part of a small group, the small group would like to take this on as an Easter activity. So, here is our offering to enable us to be together this Easter. We are suggesting you have a 'walk' or a 'virtual' walk with someone. That can be meeting up and taking a physical walk with someone. Or it could be a doorstep visit. Or it could be a virtual walk by phone, Zoom, Facebook, or whatever medium you choose to use! Not sure TikTok lends itself to it? However this is a walk with a purpose.

You will receive an envelope over the next 10 days which will contain a script from a bible passage, and instructions, plus one of the communion cups with the integrated wafer. The idea will be that at some point on the 'walk', after you have talked about the last year, your families, your ups and downs, and talked about what opening back up church means for you, you pause. Read the passage. Take communion. And then pray. Pray for each other, the church, the surroundings you find yourself in. Now praying is not just a one-way communication. Pray expecting to hear from God, as those on the Easter Emmaus walk heard from Jesus. What we would then like is for you to tell us about the experience. You can do that by sending us a video from your phone or tablet or computer, an email, a text, a Whatsapp, anything that works for you. If we get enough, we will use these as part of Easter Sunday.

It may be that you are reading this and thinking, I'd love to, but I'm not in a small group, and I don't want to assume on a friendship. If that's you, and you want to take part but don't know who to ask, just phone or email Pete or Stuart and we will sort out something for you.

We may not be able to physically meet as a congregation this Easter Sunday, but we can still meet.

The Easter services will be announced shortly, but will include a reflective message for you to take communion alongside on Good Friday, and an Easter Sunday celebration online.

Our God lives!

Pete

# Services and opening up church

Dear friends,

The leadership team has spent some time talking through what we can and cannot do as we work towards the Government aspiration of fully opening up society after the 21<sup>st</sup> June. I want to thank those outside the team who have contributed to that conversation either directly or indirectly. So I want to share with you our planning as we move beyond Easter.

First I would like to stress that, whilst there are going to be changes to the way we are able to do worship and meet, these are because of people resource issues, we have heard your concern, and fundamental changes to the way we do church will be explained and agreed by us as a whole church when we are able to meet again. We will meet for worship as soon as is practically possible. We will worship with whatever loaves and fish that God gives us as resources, knowing that our Father God will always provide what is needed. Most importantly, we will have a celebration service on the first Sunday that churches are allowed to play instruments and sing again. I really hope you can feel the excitement and anticipation of that day. It will be no more 'by the rivers of Babylon' and instead a morning of 'Awake my soul and sing'.

In terms of services, there are a couple of important things I'd like to encourage you with. First, as a team, and as a church, it is right to recognise there has been a significant part of our fellowship who have been completely unable to engage with much of the online output we have developed over the last 12 months. They have also been unable to meet with us when we were able to have socially distanced services. These folk are our over 60s and those that have had to shield. I personally want to thank all of you for your encouragement, your prayers, and your faithfulness to God's church in Barnt Green. After talking to a few of you I recognise that there is an anxiety about coming back into the church building for the first time. So, I want to invite you to participate in a communion service in the building especially for you all, as a first, and very safe step, towards us all re-gathering. This won't be until the end of April or beginning of May. The reason for that is I want to enable you all to have had a second vaccination. Your safety and wellbeing is my first priority. I would encourage you to let me or Ian know when you get that second jab so we can get the timing right.

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Then in terms of services. After Easter we hope to start live streaming again from the building. As part of that we would like to ask for anyone who is willing to come and be part of that, either by giving a reading, leading us in prayer, leading us in kids church prayers, singing a song (when allowed), playing an instrument (when allowed), leading us in worship, or on the technical and setup side to let us know if you are willing. It would be a huge blessing to us and the wider church to be able to encourage each other that way. You can let us know of your willingness by emailing, calling or texting either Pete or Steve. As we work towards resuming services we are recognising that life has changed for many, so we are starting with a blank piece of paper and not assuming who will or will not partake in services.

I guess the message is, if you want to be involved as we start to rebuild church fellowship and service, both streaming and live, in whatever capacity, from leading at the front, playing, singing, to youth and kids church, to serving the coffee, when we are able, to welcoming folk with a smile, please let us know. If we don't know, then we can't add you to the blank piece of paper. We would love to include as many as we can as we start to stream and eventually go live. Church is people, not buildings.

This will also enable us to safely start bringing back the multiple voices we used to have leading us on a Sunday. It will also enable us to plan forward for live services.

So after Easter, streaming. We hope then in May to start introducing socially distanced services again. This looks the likely date that the advice will be it is safe to do this again. If it comes earlier, that will be a wonderful blessing! Then we will work towards a live worship service in June (probably after the 21<sup>st</sup>) where we can celebrate our God bringing us through this exile and back together. Again, if the legal advice changes and we are allowed to sing earlier, brilliant! We will be letting you know.

Our initial few services will be themed slightly differently to before. As said the first one will be a worship celebration. The second a communion service of rededication. The third a more teaching based service on the biblical principles of the road ahead. I actually feel really excited about the thought of each of those, and hope you will catch that excitement too. By the end of July, I hope we will then have a pattern established for our services that means we can relaunch in September, looking forward to new things and new ways God will work among us and through us.

Pete

# Church Chat and catch up

drop in for 5 mins or the full 30,

Meeting ID: 872 0556 9890

Passcode: 307244

You can join the Zoom Meeting by using this link and providing the passcode above when prompted

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87205569890?pwd=ckdUN21DR2thNlI2SUFLUDB3R2pqUT09>



Happy Birthday to Nita Walters on March 22nd