



Monthly Newsletter  
**markyate**  
baptist church  
April 2024

Those with whom I have caught up will know that day 10 of my recent sabbatical trip to Portugal took an unexpected twist when my caravan was confiscated by the police 2 miles from my final destination. My crime was not carrying the correct documents for the caravan. Much of what should have been a restful week was shaped by failed attempts to get the caravan back.

A few days later, I was staying in the middle of a small camping park near Valencia, I slept in the boot of my car and was surrounded on every side by £80,000 motorhomes peering down at my simple camping chair next to the car. I felt like my misfortune was on display for all to see, as my £500 caravan which I'd spent so much time renovating during the lockdown had been taken. Needless to say I was feeling pretty sorry for myself.

I couldn't help but reflect on the bible story told by the prophet Nathan to King David, after King David had stolen another man's wife. (2 Samuel 12:1 – 4).

*“There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. Now a traveller came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveller who had come to him. Instead, he*

*took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.”*

We are told in the next few verses that King David's anger burned against the rich man in the story who had taken the poor man's sheep. The story was told in order to rebuke King David, before he could realise his own transgression he had to feel the weight of injustice in the story.

As I mused further upon my situation, frustrated as I had become at my own sense of injustice, I remembered that within a few days I would have the privilege of returning to a relatively stable and comfortable life. My thoughts turned to many of our church's new neighbours, having fled from terrible circumstances, having lost everything to the violence of corrupt governments and systems, many risked their lives to escape to England and are now temporarily accommodated in the Hotel and face an uncertain future.

As we rejoice and celebrate Easter this year, let us remind ourselves once again of the Mercy of God in his great love: (John 3:16)

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

Let us also remember to be merciful to those around us, to whom the world has dealt a devastating hand, yet whom Jesus our saviour also loves with an everlasting love. What might the gift of eternal life look like for these friends?

Happy Resurrection!

*Jeremy Bottrill*  
Deacon MBC

Our Vision Statment:

Growing Together by loving God loving others & serving our community

## What's On—April 2024

### Friday 5th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

### Saturday 6th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting

### Sunday 7th

10.30am Communion Service  
With Nick Drury

### Monday 8th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

### Saturday 13th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Ask for login details

### Sunday 14th

10.30am Morning Service  
With Graham Clarke

### Monday 15th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

### Friday 19th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

### Saturday 20th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Ask for login details

### Sunday 21st

10.30am Morning Service  
With Nick Drury

### Monday 22nd

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

### Friday 26th

J&J's baby & toddler group  
10am—11.30am

### Saturday 27th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Ask for login details

### Sunday 28th

10.30am Morning Service  
With Nick Drury  
Followed by Church members AGM

### Monday 29th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

**Minister:** Nick Drury

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**Usual days off - Mon & Sat**

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**Working days—Tues & Thur.**

**Deacons:** Jeremy Bottrill, Ruth Kieran, Jim & Rosemary Salmon, Chris & Heidi Trew