



Monthly Newsletter  
**markyate**  
baptist church  
July 2024

Don't you love holidays when you finally get the chance to read that book (or books!) you've been meaning to read for so long, but have never had the time or justification to do so before then?

I certainly did on my recent holiday!

I had the privilege of reading and reviewing a manuscript of the beginnings of a book from another minister, along with listening to another Christian book. Both books had a number of overlaps about church and faith. However, a common theme they shared in particular, was 'Story' – and the story/stories of Jesus.

The manuscript suggested that much of the Christian message has been oversimplified through the main encouragement being for people to 'pray the prayer', with a disproportionate focus on eternal life (getting to heaven when we die), and too small a focus on trying to follow Jesus and his way of living. It explained that the New Testament is all about trying to be a disciple (someone who is trying to live in the way that Jesus calls us to live in the Gospels), and the bigger story we need to be sharing with others is one that draws people into the love of Jesus, and to encourage people to live in light of that, and act out that love.

The other author articulated the story of her own Christian journey, sharing honestly how she had often found parts of that journey unhelpful or confusing. However, the part of the story she had found most helpful to cling to was Jesus, who he was and who he still is today through the Holy Spirit.

Both authors' emphasis on the theme of stories was to keep drawing from Jesus. Reading/listening to these two books made me think, do we as Christians draw enough from Jesus and his way? Do we end up too often focusing on the Apostle Paul (great as he was) and other parts of the New Testament, to the detriment of the Gospels and Jesus Christ, who practised and taught the perfect example of how we are called to live our lives?

That's why I sense God has wanted us as a church to work our way through the Gospel of Mark for much of the past year. For us to consider Jesus' parables (stories!), hear about how he healed people who were on the margins of society, be challenged by his call for us to pick up 'our cross' daily and follow him, and much, much more.

My hope and prayer is that through us making sure our main focus is on Jesus, and how he meets us today through the Holy Spirit, then the Christian story that we live out and share with others will also be more 'Jesus-filled' too!

Grace and Peace,

*Nick Drury*  
Minister MBC

Our Vision Statment:

Growing Together by loving God loving others & serving our community

## What's On—July 2024

### Monday 1st

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

### Friday 5th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

### Saturday 6th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Ask for login details

### Sunday 7th

10.30am Communion Service  
With Nick Drury

### Monday 8th

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm  
Church Members Meeting  
7.30pm

### Friday 12th

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

### Saturday 13th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Ask for login details

### Sunday 14th

10.30am Morning Service &  
Church BBQ  
With Nick Drury

### 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

### Saturday 27th

9.30am Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Ask for login details

### Sunday 28th

10.30am Morning Service  
With Nick Drury

### Monday 29th

MBC Café—open to all

**Minister:** Nick Drury  
e: [minister@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:minister@markyatebaptist.org)  
t: 07952 785452

**Usual days off are Mondays  
and Saturdays**

**Administrator:** Tracy Cripps  
e: [admin@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:admin@markyatebaptist.org)  
t: 07419 846982

**Working days—Tues and Thur.**