



Monthly Newsletter  
**markyate**  
baptist church  
**November 2024**

November marks a new season for MBC, beginning a time without a minister. It's also a big change for me and Hannah as we prepare to move on. This coming month, as part of my sabbatical, I'm embarking on a retreat with the Northumbria Community called 'Meeting God at the Crossroads'. It is described as an opportunity to reflect on life transitions, and to listen to God at the crossroads of significant decisions.

This retreat feels very important for me, to reflect on where God has guided me so far, and to discern a path that is aligned with Christ. I have found the verse below helpful as I prepare for this upcoming retreat and sabbatical, before embarking on new beginnings following this time of discernment:

**Jeremiah 6:16**

Thus says the Lord:

Stand at the crossroads and look,  
and ask for the ancient paths,  
where the good way lies; and walk  
in it,  
and find rest for your souls.

I wonder what this verse means for you in considering the next season for MBC? There are a number of ways the people of MBC could respond to this point at the crossroads. Some might be keen to press on with searching for new minister...or try new ways of being church. Some may wish to take stock and consider...or get more involved...or hope that things

remain as they have been... or in fact, any combination of these.

All of these responses are natural, and certainly have their place. However, before folks begin thinking about how to respond and act in this time in between ministers, I would really encourage us all to slow down and spend time listening to God. To ask God to reveal where he might be leading you next; in your individual life, and for the MBC community.

Among all the actions you take in this new season at MBC, my hope and prayer is that you can also find space to take a breath, listen to the Holy Spirit, and discern together the new beginnings God may be leading His church and Markyate into.

The crossroads that MBC is at demonstrates a time where some big decisions will need to be made, and this can feel daunting! However, God is a big God, whose way of love always seeks the best for all people. Therefore, the balance of prayerful contemplation before, during and after any action taken is foundationally important in seeking where God might be leading God's church. There is so much that God will continue to have in store for this special community!

I want to round off with a big thank you to so many of you who have journeyed with Hannah and me over the past couple of years. MBC has so much beauty within it, and our prayers will be with you all as you discover together how God is leading you in nurturing and sharing that beauty with the community around you.

God bless. Grace and Peace,  
Nick

**Our Vision Statment:**

**Growing Together by loving God loving others & serving our community**

# What's On—November 2024

## Friday 1st

MBC Café—open to all

10am—12pm

## Sunday 3rd

10.30am Communion Service

With Mary Moody

## Monday 4th

MBC Café—open to all

10am—12pm

## Friday 8th

J&J's baby & toddler group

10am—11.30am

## Sunday 10th

Remembrance Sunday

With St John's @ Memorial

(details to follow)

## Monday 11th

MBC Café—open to all

10am—12pm

## Friday 15th

MBC Café—open to all

10am—12pm

## Sunday 17th

10.30am Morning Service

With Graham Clarke

## Sunday 17th

12.30pm Members meeting

with light lunch

## Monday 18th

MBC Café—open to all

10am—12pm

## Friday 22nd

J&J's baby & toddler group

10am—11.30am

## Sunday 24th

10.30am Morning Service

With Rob Wills & Ruth Kieran

**Minister:** Vacant

**Administrator:** Tracy Cripps

e: [admin@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:admin@markyatebaptist.org)

t: 07419 846982

**Working days—Tues and Thur.**

**Deacons:**

Jeremy Bottrill,

Ruth Kieran

Chris Trew

Heidi Trew

Rob Wills

Mark Buckley