



Monthly Newsletter

markyate baptist church

September 2024

Have you ever been driving on a dual carriageway, or been a passenger in the car when you've gone to change lanes, only to suddenly discover that there is a car right next to you, you swerve back into your own lane just in time to avoid a collision. Heart pounding, the first question is: "Where did that come from?"

The blind spot! It happened to me about 3 weeks ago on the A303 coming back from Devon (with caravan!). The frightening thing is that false sense of security a driver feels in the moments before they pull into the lane thinking it is clear!

Pondering about blind spots a little further, I wonder what kind of blind spot Peter had when he famously promised Jesus that he would lay down his own life for him? (John 13:37) Soon before denying him 3 times (John 18). Of course it is sensible to believe that Peter never set out knowingly to deny Jesus, or desiring that this should happen, perhaps we can have some empathy for his situation.

I suggest that in Peter's blind spot, the thing which he didn't see was his own "fear" of persecution, or what others might have thought of

him. Under pressure this caused him to bend and do something he wouldn't have intended to.

As a church we are living through some difficult times, it's likely that our hearts are processing the news of Nick's anticipated departure, there may be for many of us some air of mystery around this. It is natural to ask the question "Why?" or "Where did that come from?!" and in so doing we might begin to perceive faults which could lead us to point the finger at a particular person or event, but the reality is that none of us have the full picture, and perhaps we never will. It takes humility to admit that we have blind areas.

Peter learnt a powerful and painful lesson, which wasn't complete until Jesus reached out to him in love and spoke with him on the beach a few days later. "Peter do you love me?" – three times. "Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, Do you love me?"

In humility we sometimes need to call upon God for his mercy and help, because we can't see everything:

"...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

Jeremy Bottrill Deacon MBC

Our Vision Statment:

Growing Together by loving God loving others & serving our community

What's On—September 2024

Sunday 1st

10.30am Communion Service
With Nick Drury

Monday 2nd

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Friday 6th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Sunday 8th

10.30am Morning Service in
Church Hall
With Nick Drury, Chris & Heidi
Coffee & Pastries being served

Monday 9th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Friday 13th

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

Sunday 15th

10.30am Morning Service
With Nick Drury

Monday 16th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Friday 20th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Sunday 22nd

10.30am Morning Service
With Nick Drury

Monday 23rd

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Friday 27th

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

Sunday 29th

10.30am Morning Service &
Harvest Lunch With Nick Drury

Monday 30th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Minister: Nick Drury
e: minister@markyatebaptist.org
t: 07952 785452

**Usual days off are Mondays
and Saturdays**

Administrator: Tracy Cripps
e: admin@markyatebaptist.org
t: 07419 846982

Working days—Tues and Thur.

Deacons:
Jeremy Bottrill, Ruth Kieran
Chris & Heidi Trew, Mark Buckley
& Rob Wills