



September
2025



REDDITCH BAPTIST CHURCH

Where Jesus is the Centre and people matter

September 2025

How many spam calls do you get on your phone nowadays? What do you do – just hang up, or try to argue with them?

Usually I don't allow them to waste my time – it's not really worth it! But every now and then I answer and play along for a little while... Like that time when I pretended to be interested and started asking a few probing questions about the discount the scammer was offering me, and in the end *he* told *me* to go away, and hung up...!

What does this have to do with our ministry here in Redditch? Well, think about it: the scammers are dishonest about themselves and what they're offering: they claim to have a good offer for us, when in reality they just want to get our money – and unfortunately, that's basically how a lot of people view us Christians as well. So we need to make sure we don't behave in a way that confirms that perception...

To begin with, we have to be honest and genuine about ourselves and our faith. Hypocrites have never been popular; there's a reason why "you have to walk the talk". If you're inviting people to follow Jesus, are they seeing evidence in your life that you're doing the same? Does your lifestyle reflect Jesus' love, compassion and holiness?

This is very much what the letter to the Ephesians is all about: after laying a very firm foundation about who Jesus is and what following him means, Paul goes on to talk a lot about how we should live – literally how we should walk (not to mention his emphasis on how we should talk).

And here's one important aspect of that: we mustn't promise more than we can deliver. Jesus is a wonderful Lord and Saviour, and he will help people get their act together – but it might take a while, and might not look the way people expect. Not long ago evangelists regularly told people that "God has a wonderful plan for your life" – which might be promising more than we can keep, when in actual fact God's plan for you may simply be to make you a better spouse, parent or employee!

And finally, we must avoid every suggestion that we're simply after people's money – that's why I am pleased that we don't take up an offering in our Sunday services. Obviously money is necessary to do what we want to do as a church, and we have made a few special appeals recently – but still, we should never act as if we depended more on people's generosity than on Jesus...

And of course, we must also model generosity and love in how we use our resources, whether as individuals or as a church community; that's a very important aspect of walking the talk, of living as disciples of Jesus.

Like the scammers, we want to reach as many people as possible with our message, even those who appear totally uninterested; unlike the scammers, we have a message that is genuinely good news for everybody – and Jesus himself told us to share it as far and wide as possible.

We just have to make sure that we don't go about doing it in such a way that people hang up on us!

David



Dates, notices, information

Sun 31 August	11am	Worship Service	
September			
Wed 3rd	8.00pm	Zoom Prayer Meeting ID: 619 679 7453, passcode Jesus	
Thurs 4 th	11am-2pm	Harm Reduction wit Shower Box	
Sat 6 th	2.30pm	2.30pm All-Age Games afternoon in the Church Hall. All welcome!	
Sun 7 th	11.00am	Worship Service incorporating FIRE DRILL	
Sun 14 th	11.00am	Harvest celebration – visiting speaker from CAP	
Mon 15 th		Start of The Prayer Course (see note below)	
Wed 24 th		8pm Members' meeting	
Sun 28 th		Baptism Service	



THE PRAYER COURSE

Starting on the 15th September and running for nine weeks (eight sessions, with a break for half-term), there will be an evening session (Mondays 8pm) and an afternoon one (Thursdays 2.30pm) every week.

This replaces the house groups for the duration of the course, but everybody is welcome, whether or not you're currently part of an existing house group.

Holiday Club and Summer Toddler group – a big thank you to everyone who helped run these events!

Parking permits: don't forget to collect one from the back of the church, if you think you will want to park for free at the church during the week.



New Beginnings – by Canon Paul Hardingham

September is the time of year when we get back to our routines after the summer break. As whole-life disciples (lit: *learners*) we are all called to learn from Jesus and live like Him. God wants us to make a difference in our workplaces and schools, and with family and friends.

As Paul writes:

‘And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.’ (Colossians 3:17).

‘WHATEVER you do’: God is at work in every aspect of our lives. He can use whatever we do to make a difference to those around. Do we believe this? Our lives shouldn’t be like an orange, segmented into the sacred and secular, but more like an apple, in which all of our lives are available to Him.

‘Whatever YOU do’: God wants to use us to share God’s love as we serve others around us, wherever we spend time. We can trust Him for the resources we need hour by hour, day by day, year by year. What do we need from Him?

‘Whatever you DO’: We work for God alone, in responding to God’s love for us. How does this perspective make a difference when what we do is hard, unrewarding, or even unappreciated by others?

A man standing on a train platform was asked one day: *‘Who are you?’* He replied, *‘I am a Christian thinly disguised as an accountant.’* If we were asked the same question ourselves, how would we respond? As disciples of Jesus Christ, our identity is rooted in God and His call upon our lives. For each of us, September means learning from Jesus about how we might live for Him in the different places we find ourselves.



How to have a ‘more healthy’ heart

Gratitude may help you recover more quickly from a heart attack. So says a study by the University of California, who examined gratitude as part of an outlook that involves appreciating the positive aspects of life, and often goes hand in hand with spirituality.

It was found that people who have a life attitude of being grateful are also likely to have a better mood, better sleep, less fatigue, and lower levels of inflammatory biomarkers related to cardiac health. Researchers said they were surprised to find that gratitude accounted for such beneficial effects. As one scientist put it, “It seems that a more grateful heart is indeed a more healthy heart.”

How can you express gratitude in an easy-to-remember and daily way? Why not bring back the habit of pausing to say a simple grace of thanks before each meal? And why not take a few minutes to say your prayers before bed each night?

The financial squeeze that September brings

September can be a bad time for financial pressures. This is when the children have just returned to school, universities are opening, and suddenly Christmas spending looms.

Retrospectively, the bills for summer child-care and that holiday (where you spent too much) are coming in, as well as the recent outlay you had to make on school uniforms or settling your offspring into life at Uni. Then, for commuters, there is the increased use of transport, plus rising fuel costs as the cooler weather sets in. So all in all, prepare to have to spend some money this month.

Dr Peter Brierley considers some recent statistics. His sources for this article include: The Quiet Revival (Bible Society); Church Times reports from March and April; Daily Telegraph "Features" supplement, 16th April; and Statistics for Mission 2023, Church of England.

Is Gen Z coming to church?

Could it be true that a *Quiet Revival* (as the report is called) is taking place? Another reasonably large survey commissioned by the Bible Society's research team suggests it could be.

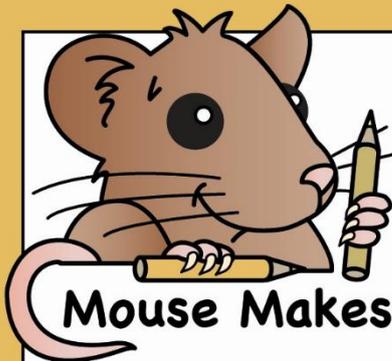
In March 2025 Bible Society repeated a survey they had carried out in 2018, asking 13,000 people if they went to church (It was 19,000 in the 2018 study).

Perhaps to their surprise, but, as suspected by others, and to the incredulity of still many others, they reported that attendance at church once a month in England and Wales had increased from 8% in 2018 to 12% in 2025, and the increase was mostly seen among those aged 18 to 34, defined generally as those born between 1997 and 2012; that is, those now aged 12 to 27 in 2024.

A more detailed breakdown showed that in every age-group, men are attending more than women, except for those aged 65 plus, where the percentages are equal. For men aged 18 to 24, this meant an increase from 4% in 2018 to 21% in 2024 and for women from 3% to 12%, respectively.

Whatever the reason some Gen Z people are coming to church, the report's findings agreed with other studies - that churchgoers are often happier than those not going to church.

As for denominations, the Roman Catholic growth has been substantial and widespread. The *Daily Telegraph* 'Features' supplement in April had the headline: 'The extraordinary resurgence of Catholicism in Britain', and explained, "Gen Z want to belong – modern life can be lonely They have digital friends but never meet them. They are crying out for community." The Catholics have 1.8 million people attending Mass on a Sunday.



Mouse Makes

"May the people **praise** you **God**...
The **land yields** its harvest, God,
our God **blesses** us."
- from Psalm 67:5-6

"**Honour** the
Lord with your
wealth and the
first part of
your **harvest**."
- Proverbs 3:9

"Let us fear and respect the Lord our God.
He gives **autumn** and **spring** rains
at the right time. He makes sure that we
have the harvest at just the right **time**."
- from Jeremiah 5:24

"God... gives you **rain** from
heaven and good harvests
at the right times. He gives
you plenty of **food** and
fills your hearts with **joy**."
- from Acts 14:16-17

"So the one who **plants** is not
important, and the one who **waters**
is not important. Only **GOD** is
important because He is the one
who makes things **grow**."
- 1 Corinthians 3:7

D E B R E A D C R O P S
A P L A N T S G T I M E
S L O I J B P R A I S E
C O R N O L R A H G O D
A U D H Y E I I A S L S
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R O T U T S I L S O W O
M O U R U R W A T E R S
D M A B A R N P I C K
S U N F I E L D R E A P

Find the words in **bold** type in the bible quotes in the wordsearch then look for the words below too!

PLOUGH • FIELD • SOIL • SCATTER • SOW • SEEDS • SUN
REAP • PICK • CROPS • GRAIN • CORN • BARN • BREAD • THANKSGIVING

A Home Mission grant enabled the ministry of church member Tom Bowring to grow and have long-term benefits in Telford and beyond

Through his time with us at Dawley Baptist Church, Tom Bowring's sense of call to ministry grew. The church recognised and affirmed that call, but also understood that we needed someone to partner with us financially to be able to enable Tom to be released into the process whilst managing the responsibilities of his young family too. The grant from Home Mission was the answer to prayer needed to make it all happen.

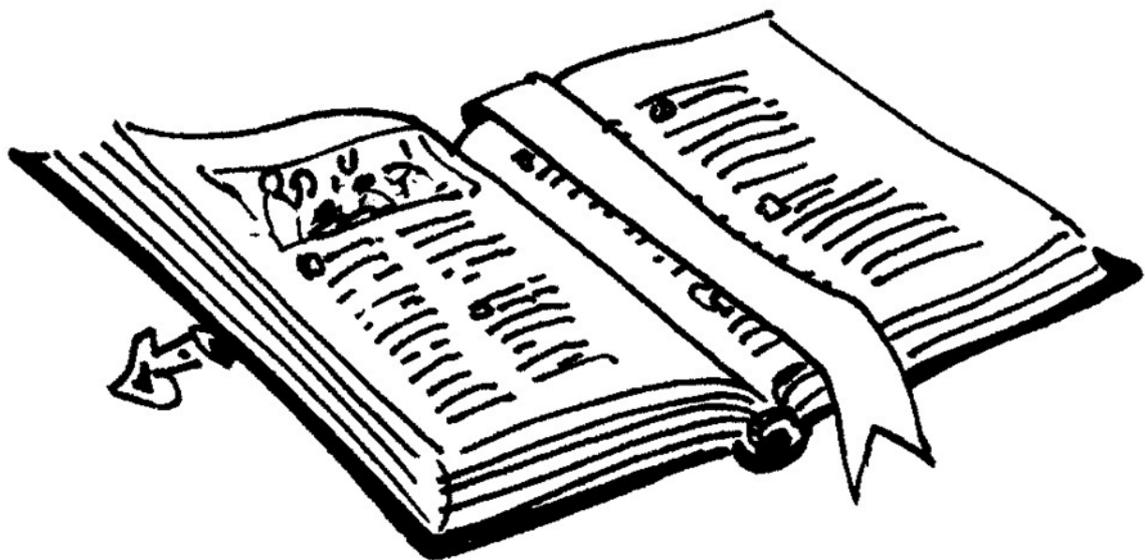
Tom made a valuable contribution to our church life, especially amongst the youth and young families. But also he was enabled to provide encouragement and support to a number of other local Baptist churches and got involved with the chaplaincy at a local High School.

What nobody anticipated was that the training process would involve leading during a global pandemic. Tom used the IT skills he had developed during his time in the RAF to very quickly enable ministry to continue in the online environment. Other local church leaders approached us so that during the first lockdown we were able to broadcast a single high quality worship service across six congregations.

It might not have been the formation process he was expecting, but with thanks to the Home Mission Grant, Tom is now serving in an increasingly thriving congregation in Oakham.

The grant helped us in our mission in Telford, but will continue to enable the work of the Kingdom through Tom for many years to come.

**Ian Olliver - Minister of Dawley Baptist Church
March 2022**



More than meets the eye

More than meets the eye.
Your eye is the lamp of the body,
Your eye is the light of your soul,
The radiance of Jesus can be seen in you
He will make you eternally whole.

Our world was in darkness before earth began,
No moon no stars no satellites no sun,
But God decided light was fun,
So day and night were formed as one.

With day came the sun, with night came the moon,
And the rest of creation followed quite soon.
Including man made in His own image
A feat that only He could manage.

Thousands of years went speeding by
And then another light appeared in the sky.
Shepherds and wise men followed the star
Some coming from lands afar.

The star came to rest in holy form,
Right over the place where Jesus was born
He grew up loved by everyone
And all knew He was Gods only Son.

It was dark when He died on Golgotha hill,
It was dark in the tomb where he lay so still.
But once again light flooded his grave
And Jesus rose up to love and to save

He brought new light into peoples lives
And planted such inner spiritual vibes
That the blind could see and the dead survived.
And they all became part of Gods holy tribe.

His love it spread both far and wide,
Down all the years through time and tides,
Until his light reached us here today,
Still spreading joy along the way.

He called us to let His light shine before men
That others might see His love and learn of Him then.
Passing his glory down , making us seers
Giving us hope and dispelling all fears.

By Rosie

Crossword for September:

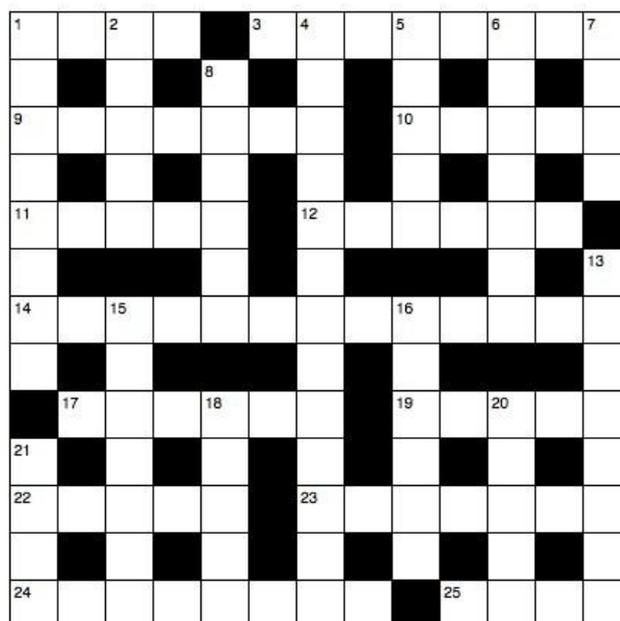
Across

- 1 'A little later someone else saw Peter and said, "You — are one of them"' (Luke 22:58) (4)
 3 Giving (1 Peter 2:5) (8)
 9 They came to Jerusalem seeking an infant king (Matthew 2:7) (3,4)
 10 'An athlete... does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the — ' (2 Timothy 2:5) (5)
 11 Pacifist, temperance advocate, open-air preacher, leading 20th- century Methodist, Donald — (5)
 12 'Come quickly to — — , O Lord my Saviour' (Psalm 38:22) (4,2)
 14 'The God of Abraham, — — — , the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus' (Acts 3:13) (5,3,5)
 17 Sear by intense heat (Revelation 16:8) (6)
 19 'It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust — — ' (Psalm 118:8) (2,3)
 22 Goods (Nehemiah 13:15) (5)
 23 i.e. train (anag.) (7)
 24 Surrounding area (Luke 24:50) (8)

- 25 'Righteousness will be his — and faithfulness the sash round his waist' (Isaiah 11:5) (4)

Down

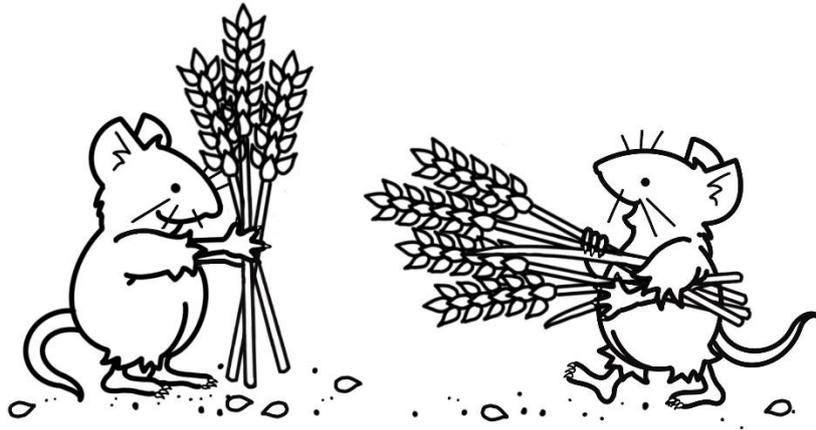
- 1 Elegant and creative (Exodus 31:4) (8)
 2 'Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all — , but we will all be changed' (1 Corinthians 15:51) (5)
 4 'I... delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your — — — is' (Colossians 2:5) (5,2,6)
 5 Enlist (2 Samuel 24:2) (5)
 6 Of the Muslim faith (7)
 7 Sharp intake of breath (Job 11:20) (4)
 8 Woven cloth (Ezekiel 16:13) (6)
 13 Plentiful (Romans 5:17) (8)
 15 CIA char (anag.) (7)
 16 Paul and Silas stopped him committing suicide after an earthquake in Philippi (Acts 16:27–28) (6)
 18 One of the ingredients in the making of incense for the Lord (Exodus 30:34) (5)
 20 Episcopal headwear (5)
 21 Inhabitant of, say, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia or Bulgaria (4)



Crossword Solutions:

ACROSS: 1, Also. 3, Offering. 9, The Magi. 10, Rules. 11, Soper. 12, Help me. 14, Isaac and Jacob. 17, Scorch. 19, In man. 22, Loads. 23, Inertia. 24, Vicinity. 25, Belt.

DOWN: 1, Artistic. 2, Sleep. 4, Faith in Christ. 5, Enrol. 6, Islamic. 7, Gasp. 8, Fabric. 13, Abundant. 15, Archaic. 16, Jailer. 18, Resin. 20, Mitre. 21, Slav.



All in the month of September: It was

10 years ago, on 24th Sept 2015 that the Mina stampede took place. More than 2,000 people were killed in a crush and stampede during the annual Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

*20 years ago, on 12th Sept 2005 that the evacuation of all Israeli security forces and Israeli civilian settlements from the Gaza Strip was completed. Israel had occupied the Gaza Strip for 38 years.

*Also 70 years ago, on 22nd Sept 1955 that Britain's first independent TV channel was launched. ITV ended the BBC's monopoly.

Also 70 years ago, 26th Sept 1955 that Bird's Eye frozen fish fingers went on sale in the UK.

*60 years ago, on 4th Sept 1965 that Albert Schweitzer, German-born French theologian, philosopher, organist, physician and missionary doctor to Africa, died. Winner of the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize.

40 years ago, on 9th to 11th Sept 1985 that the Handsworth Riots took place in Birmingham. Unemployment and racial tensions fuelled a mass riot following the arrest of a man in a café and a police raid on a public house. 45 shops were looted and burned, and at least two people killed. Several more riots occurred across England that autumn.