

Wednesday 21st May 2025

Dear Friends

I had an interesting conversation with a bloke in a pub recently.

Over a quiet beer, I was asked what I do for a living? Yes, I know not so mind blowing at first that question but, after I replied with my usual self-effacing reply of 'Well, I only really work one day a week when they give me a microphone and I bang on about Jesus', the follow-up query made me think. He said 'no, come on, what do you really do? I mean really do?'

On the surface, the chat wasn't so extraordinary I guess but when I was asked the same question by a different person a few days later, I started to wonder if God was trying to draw my attention to something. So, I gave it some thought.

My job, my ministry, involves administration, behavioural science, counselling, diligence, effort, faith, guidance, hope, intelligence, joy, keenness, love, meaning, nuance, obedience, patience, query, righteousness, study, theology, understanding, vigour, well-being, yearning, zealousness. Yeah....couldn't think of one for X...sorry....

It's still some job description - some things are more easy to do than others, more easy to understand than others. But what makes a ministry role unique is that I share these descriptions with a third of the population of the earth. Every Christian is called to be all of those things and many, many more. It can all be summed up with one word - **"Serve"**.

All of us are called to **serve** our world, our neighbours and our church. **All** of us, without exception. It's service without question, service that is costly, service that places Jesus at the heart of our lives. It's serving in that it acknowledges that churches die when everyone assumes someone else is responsible for things in the church. And it's service without the expectation of recognition or praise.

What does that look like at Earlsfield Baptist Church? Well, simply put if you see something that needs doing, something that needs cleaning, something that needs fixing, something that needs sorting then don't simply assume someone else is going to take care of it, do it yourself if you are able. The church has always been built and maintained by people who serve. Be a servant for the Servant King.

Every Blessing

Keith

Rev Keith Parr BSc MA (theo)

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## PASTORAL CARE AND VISITS

If you would like to have a chat with our Minister, Rev Keith Parr, or would like him to visit you, please speak to him after the Sunday service, call him on 07999 027803 or email him at [Minister@earlsfieldbaptist.org.uk](mailto:Minister@earlsfieldbaptist.org.uk).



At our recent Church Members' Meeting, we were reminded that we had been asked to prepare a list of jobs that need to be done in Church. You will hopefully have read Keith's opening letter about serving so here is a list of jobs for you to prayerfully consider:

- Stewarding/greeting people as they arrive at church
- Operating the IT equipment and microphones
- Reading during service
- Praying during service
- Taking offering plates around (young people)
- Making/serving teas and coffees
- Offering counting/banking
- Flower arranging\*
- Communion preparation/cleaning (cups, bread, etc)\*

\*We are very grateful to Benita who has given her time and talents for many years to produce beautiful flower arrangements every week. She recently gave a flower arranging demonstration to the Rendezvous club and would happily show others how to arrange flowers for our Sunday morning services.

\*\* Again, Benita has been preparing the sacraments for our Communion services with help from others but we would like to have a team to prepare and clear away once a month.

There will be a list in the foyer - please don't be shy - if you are willing and able to be included on a rota, please put your name under the appropriate section. Thank you.



**"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  
And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."**

Of course, there are other ways to help our Church family. You could work in the Church garden, pick up litter around the grounds, open the Church during the week so that people can come in for prayer or for a chat, write articles for the newsletter like Dawn does:

# RENDEZVOUS

**NEXT MEETING  
THURSDAY 5TH JUNE  
1.00 PM – 2.30 PM**

Another good afternoon was had by all on 1st May. We celebrated our 2nd birthday alongside VE Day. We decorated the hall in style with the Union Jacks and had a cake to celebrate both events at the same time. It was a bit bigger than we needed really so the leftover cake was shared with our Church family on the following Sunday. This ended up being 'The feeding of the 5,000' so to speak as there were about 30 people instead of the normal number. Which was great but just meant a taster rather than a good slice.



In the biscuit tins shown in the top right corner of the picture were biscuits like Huntley & Palmer made during the war for the soldiers to keep them going. These were really hard and needed to be dunked in your tea to become edible. Some of us tried them and liked them. I used a recipe that had been found online.

Back to our afternoon, Benita did a quiz all about World War II, where most of our guests did very well (I knew 3 or 4 answers which shows who didn't pay much attention at school - me). We also had a picture quiz of past UK Monarchs, these were also answered well.

Benita found some very interesting facts about Sir Winston Churchill's school report - "He cannot be trusted to behave himself anywhere". If interested I'm sure we could get Benita to share more. Benita also found some lovely poems, which Molly read out splendidly, these were: 'The Best Days of our Lives' by Gervase Phinn and 'On The Winning Side' by Patience Strong. Then, after Keith's talk about his holiday in Spain and how you never stop learning and the reading of Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 'There is a time for everything...', Molly read another, very apt poem 'The Silent Moment by Patience Strong'. (below).

We ended with what everyone loves, a sing-a-long. We sang We'll Meet Again, Pack Up Your Troubles and White Cliffs Of Dover.

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Some of our guests shared a few memories about their experiences one was Molly's. I'm sure she won't mind me sharing, it was brilliant, out of the mouths of babes as they say. When Molly was evacuated, she had to introduce herself so she said, "I am Molly and I'm 4 and come from London and Hitler DOESN'T know I'm here!"

I'm sure there are still many tales to hear so maybe over the next months we may get to hear some more of them.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 5th June.

With best wishes

Dawn and the team



#### THE SILENT MOMENT by Patience Strong

The sound of war roars in our ears; the throb of giant machinery; the crash of bombs;  
The boom of guns; the noise of fierce activity  
But, there is none who cannot spare a little moment of the day to make an isle of quietness,  
a place in which to pause and pray.  
A moment of tranquillity withdrawn from all the strife and din.  
A moment to renew the faith that springs out of the deeps within.  
The silent moment spent with God - the little minute set apart.  
The wordless prayer that rises from the secret places of the heart.

#### THE FLOWER FUND

The Flower Fund is used to provide flowers in our Sanctuary. Sometimes with help from others, Benita produces beautiful arrangements.  
If you would like to make a donation to the Flower Fund to provide flowers for our regular services or for a special occasion, please speak to Benita.



**CSW** everyone  
free to believe

#### **SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY 1ST JUNE AT 11.00 AM**

Our MISSION FOCUS FOR JUNE 2025 is Christian Solidarity Worldwide and we are pleased that Audrey Skervin, Head of CSW Fundraising, will be coming to EBC to tell us more about the work of CSW - see article later in this newsletter.

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

Please be encouraged to come to Church on Sunday mornings so that you can physically meet others in our Church Family. Morning services continue to be available on Zoom if you are unable to attend in person. Here are the joining instructions (the same details are used for the Small Group on Monday evenings):

- **Join Zoom Meeting from computer or device**
  - <https://zoom.us/j/98894345143?pwd=eUdkNWJFakl2Q044V1JBZEdrMFh1dz09>
  - Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143
  - Passcode: 769098
- **Dial in from landline phone – standard rates apply**
  - 020 8080 6591 or 020 8080 6592
    - Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143 followed by #
    - Participant number: this can be bypassed with #
    - Passcode: 769098 followed by #



### **SUNDAY MORNINGS - 11.15 AM TO NOON**

A lively time of learning for all children and young people from 5 years of age in the foyer.



**MONTHLY EVENING SERVICE ON  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
1st June, 6th July**

*Usual format is a time of meditation and a time to talk with each other and to listen. We would love to see you from 6.30pm for about an hour. Everyone welcome.*

### **PRAYER TEXTING**

Prayer is such an important part of our Christian life. Please also join the Prayer Texting Group. Just text **07579 796157** – no name needed – and your number will be added to the distribution list. You can also phone this number from your landline and leave a message for prayer.



### **WHEN OUR DOORS ARE OPEN, PEOPLE COME IN!**

We continue to open our Church whenever we can at various times during the week for an hour or so. Please drop in for a cuppa and a chat or to spend a quiet time with our Lord. Open to all.

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## **MONDAYS**

7.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Zoom joining details are sent out by email each Monday.

- <https://zoom.us/j/98894345143?pwd=eUdkNWJFakl2Q044V1JBZEdrMFh1dz09>
- Meeting ID: 988 9434 5143
- Passcode: 769098

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN THIS ZOOM CALL**

## **TUESDAYS**

Currently the **Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group** meets at the **Lockdown Bakehouse** at **11.00 am** and choose a coffee shop to go to – please come along to join them for an hour or so. The **Manse House Group** meets on **Tuesdays** at **6.00 pm** at 27 Ellerton Road, SW18 3NG. Discussions on any subject or topic that arises. It's relaxed and informal and open to all. If you struggle to get up the hill, please let us know and we will happily run an EBC taxi service (particularly after the meeting to get you home safely.)



Our next **Men's Koinonia (or Fellowship)** is on **Saturday 14th June**. From 8.30 am, we meet in the **Lockdown Bakehouse** (old Barclays Bank building, corner of Garratt Lane/Summerly Street) for coffee, bacon butties and lots of Jesus. So, if you are a bloke and fancy joining us we would love to see you.



## **PATHFINDER DOGS – Partnering blind people to independence**

<https://www.pathfinderdogs.org/fundraising/recycling>

Please save your plastic bottle tops and used postage stamps for this charity. Place them in separate bags and drop them into the tub in the Church foyer. Lesley sends them to the charity and has recently received a letter of thanks as set out below.

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## SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 2025

### ALL AGE COMMUNION SERVICE AT 11.00 AM

Our morning service on the third Sunday of the month will include Communion and is an opportunity for **all members of our Family – young and old – to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord**. Bread and wine will be served to those in Church. If you are joining by Zoom, please have your bread and wine ready at home.

**CSW everyone  
free to believe**

## MISSION FOCUS: JUNE 2025

### “CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY WORLDWIDE”

### ALL AGE COMMUNION SERVICE

## SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 2025

A number of people in our congregation have asked that Christian Solidarity Worldwide is one of our Mission Focuses this year. As you may recall, we have supported this charity for many years.

We are really pleased that **Audrey Skervin, Head of CSW Fundraising**, is able to come to EBC on **Sunday 1st June** to tell us more about the work of CSW and to bring a message to all of us - the young and the more mature! Please make every effort to come along to hear what Audrey has to tell us.

More about CSW:

CSW's team of specialist advocates work in over 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, to ensure that the right to freedom of religion or belief is upheld and protected.

CSW's vision is a world free from religious persecution, where everyone can practise a religion or belief of their choice.

CSW seeks to promote freedom of religion or belief which is upheld in article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While CSW focus on issues faced by Christians of all denominations and backgrounds, it also believes that it is fundamental from a moral, biblical and human rights perspective to promote freedom of religion or belief, including the right not to believe, of all individuals, regardless of their religious or philosophical conviction. Where Christians face intolerance, there are often patterns of systemic, wider-scale discrimination on grounds of religion or belief affecting other groups and individuals in a society as well. CSW (and all of us) cannot address one part of the problem only; instead, CSW aims to be as comprehensive as possible in the given remit of its work.

**If you would like to make a gift to Christian Solidarity Worldwide, please use the CSW or Communion offering envelopes in the pews. If you give your regular offering to EBC by bank transfer, the reference for your gift should be “June Comm – CSW”. Thank you.**

**“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.  
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And finally, a poem that Moreen Sore left me which has been used before and will, no doubt, be used again

### **Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody**

This is a little story about four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody**, and **Nobody**.

There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it.

**Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it.

**Somebody** got angry about that because it was **Everybody's** job.

**Everybody** thought that **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it.

It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

Don't forget to put your name on the list to offer your help in whatever way you can!!!!

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