

WBC – EASTER DAY 2020

WELCOME TO THIS EASTER MORNING SERVICE

We gather against the backcloth of so much suffering in our world & in our nation just now & at the outset we stop to remember all those on the front-line of caring for the hospitalised & we pray in our hearts for those who have lost loved ones during this past week.

Let us now declare these great truths that underpin our faith & give us confidence for the future:

CHRIST HAS DIED! CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!

Opening Prayer https://youtu.be/iU1o8n89_gU

BIBLE READING BY ANNABELLE WILSON Matthew 28 vs1-10

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJEO78WHxss>

Hymn: Christ the Lord is risen today <https://youtu.be/nzy7jFNUc3w>

QUIZ from Sue Baxendale [see 2 Word files attached]

Song: Lord I lift Your Name on high <https://youtu.be/3tWSu9NAFIk>

(Young Folk of Southland Church, Anaheim, California)

A 50th ANNIVERSARY OF BAPTISM (see relevant attachment – also included below)

*Please see at the end of that feature the special **Easter Prayer** provided by Sian*

New Song: Christ our hope in life & death <https://youtu.be/Oibli1rz7mw>

(Keith Getty & Matt Papa)

RECOGNISING JESUS POEM By Amy Scott Robinson <https://youtu.be/j12TJruN7fl>

Song: See what a morning <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xM-fpXayUg>

BIBLE READING BY DAVID SUCHET Luke 24 vs13-35 Click [here](#) to listen

COMMUNION <https://vimeo.com/399360423>

(Led by Rev Carl Smethurst Regional Minister South West Baptist Association)

Hymn: Thine be the glory <https://youtu.be/GaoV5w2Qfag>

ADDRESS by PW <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HupiM6edLaY>

Song: In Christ alone <https://youtu.be/PIZGRydoUpQ>

A Closing Prayer

Thank you, loving & exalted Lord, that, on our behalf, You conquered sin & death & Satan

Triumphing over them by Your Cross & Your glorious Resurrection

Please enable us to surmount every obstacle that prevents us fully recognising who You are

Help us to receive You, to believe in Your Name, & thus to rejoice in our becoming of children of God

Give us, we ask, the grace to follow this up by submitting totally to Your lordship & Your agenda

And thus to live as disciples of the Servant King, seeking to please You in all we do

In You alone our hope & fulfilment is found, in You we experience the life that is truly life eternal

So to You may all the glory flow now & forever,

Amen

An Easter Benediction (based on Hebrews 13 vs20&21)

And now, may the God of peace,

Who through the blood of the eternal covenant

brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,

that great Shepherd of the sheep,

equip us with all we need for doing His will.

May He produce in us,

through the power of Jesus Christ,

all that is pleasing to Him.

To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

EASTER 2020 – A BAPTISMAL JUBILEE! (A Feature Co-ordinated by Sian)

For many communities in the early church, Easter Sunday was the day when people were baptised. After a three year period of reflection, preparation and learning how to live 'Christianly', it was a much longed for day when men and women declared their faith in Jesus as Lord and made their commitment to life-long discipleship. Fifty years ago, on March 29th, 1970, a few of our number were baptised together – Stephanie Gilder, Jim Parker, Julie Hopkins, Cheree Moyes and David Humphrey. They have reflected on their memories of the event and how the baptised life has unfolded for them.



My Baptism – Stephanie Gilder

I was baptised 29th March 1970, by Rev Martin Smith. I remember it was a Parade Service and I was 14½ years old. I remember that my headmistress from Lady Capel School in Faversham was there. I can remember a funny feeling as I rose out of the water. It was a happy feeling, and I still remember it when I talk about my baptism. After being baptised I became a Lieutenant and then Captain in the Girls Brigade, and a Sunday School teacher. I struggled with God when I lost my Dad, because I blamed God. I rebelled for a while, but I came back because I was missing something.

God has been with me through all my life. He gave me a special strength and patience when I looked after my Mum for the last 20 years of her life. She was physically disabled and had increasing mental health issues. I gave up work to look after her. It was a hard time. I lost confidence and I lost friends because of looking after Mum. I was thankful for the support of the church when I lost her, and at her funeral when people came.

After that, God called me to be a street pastor. I wanted to do something different when I lost Mum. I spoke to Beryl about joining the prayer team, but that night I heard God saying, 'I don't want you on the prayer team, I want you out on the street.' But I had no confidence so said I couldn't do it. After the third prayer meeting, I heard the same thing. So I said to God, 'Yes, I will do it, but you've got to be with me and give confidence.' So I started training in Maidstone, and I haven't looked back. God gives me confidence to talk to people and to be there for them.

When I look back, I would never have thought I could be a street pastor. But God has given me the confidence.

Anniversary of my Easter Baptism – Julie Hopkins

My baptism, such a wonderful birthing into new life in Christ, was, looking back, the initiation into a series of transforming experiences throughout my teens and twenties. It was if the Holy Spirit set off a chain of events which turned my world upside down. My Mum, Joyce, was moved to follow her daughter through the waters of baptism the following year. Then, on mentioning my baptism to my form teacher, Joy Blackaby, it turned out that she had been a BMS missionary in Sri Lanka who now lodged with the Vinson fruit farmers of Graveney. Their daughter, Ruth had entered the Baptist Ministry and as we all had tea together at Sandbanks, I felt the call to follow her vocation. On 7th September 1977 I was ordained and inducted at John Bunyan Baptist Church at Kingston on Thames and friends from Middle Wall came to share the celebration. It was the beginning of many fruitful years of pastoral and teaching service. Today, 50 Easters later, all I can say is, “Amazing Grace”!

My Journey since 29th March 1970 – Jim Parker

It was on September 2nd, 1967 that I attended my first service at Middle Wall. Dressed in my best suit with a beautiful bride by my side, we sang familiar hymns that I had sung at school and at Methodist Sunday Schools over the years. Attendance at the latter was encouraged by my mother, herself a former Sunday school teacher.

It was a while before I began attending Middle Wall on a regular basis, but when I did I soon began to feel the love and friendliness that existed there and was soon made to feel part of the ‘family’.

In September 1969, after much deliberation, a Boys’ Brigade Company started up with myself, and David Humphrey, another of those baptised with me, as leaders. As that commitment grew I found myself talking to the boys about the life and love of Jesus and relating stories from the Bible to them. This led me to consider my faith more seriously, and to try and understand what Jesus could do for me in my life, and when our Minister, Martin Smith, suggested holding a series of baptismal classes I willingly agreed to attend, with much encouragement from family and friends.

The Baptismal Service was a truly wonderful occasion, with 5 of us professing our faith on that day, and from a personal point of view I felt my life was changing, and that God had work for me to do. Boys’ Brigade kept me busy for the next 45 years, and I was also very much involved with Sunday School teaching for a number of years, assisting my wife, Jean.

Over the years my faith has grown, fluctuated at times, perhaps, but always been my anchor and support both in times of trouble, and there have been a few, and also in times of great rejoicing. For instance, witnessing my eldest son, Darren, now as a pastor, leading a thriving on-line church in London, has been an amazing experience.

It may seem an odd thing to say, but God is also part of my tool-box at work. I’ve lost count of the times that he has saved me from ‘disasters’, and the number of times I have said: “please God, help me find that valuable screw or component I just dropped on the floor” – He has

never failed me, and I know from recent medical encounters that He never will. He was always by my side, relieving any anxiety. Thank You God.

A different Easter Sunday for us five – Cheree Moyes

So, 50 years ago, just gone 29 March, an Easter Sunday, and the Baptistery was open!

I had attended WBC for a couple of years. (I was previously at the Harbour Church where a youthful Don Cox – still there – picked up many children in his car, and I was taught by Marjory – still there – bless them)

However, with Barbara (whose surname then was Miles and who is Jean Myhill's sister) we became Seniors, then Brigaders, at Girls Brigade – also Steph and Julie. Sunday parades led to Sunday School and later teaching same, and youth club.

Our minister, Martin Smith, held classes early that year of 1970, which led to a commitment to our Lord.

That baptism day, I remember. (I lived in Station Road, near Lucy, and round the corner from the Miles' family, who welcomed me always as one of them)

We went to Church early. There had been panic at home at the thought of wet white robes – (we wore robes then!) luckily mum found me her white bikini to wear!

I do still remember the moment – nothing of the rest of the day – but, that moment, was yes, momentous!

My faith, as the cliché goes, is very important to me. But, crucially, it is the prism to view the world, my second thought, if the first ones have been selfish or judgemental. I say prism because of the Biblical insights heaven-given.

God's grace and love to you all reading this.

Re: David Humphrey who was baptised that day too – a note from Jim Parker

The other chap was David Humphrey, the brother of Janet (Kevin Keen's wife). He is now living in Bearsted, near Maidstone, and after managing to get his contact details I had a nice chat with him. Some while ago he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease which has gradually become more debilitating over the years, resulting in he and his wife moving to the bungalow where they now live. We talked about bygone events, including Boys' Brigade, and I mentioned the 50th anniversary of our baptisms. He said that he had found it a very enjoyable and uplifting occasion, and of how much Jesus has been part of his life ever since, despite all the problems that life has thrown at him. Due to his physical condition he is unable to attend church on a regular basis, but occasionally some friends are able to give him a lift to Green St Baptist Church in Gillingham, where he worshipped when previously living in the area.

I sent him, says Jim, every best wish for the future and will be emailing him the picture (above) taken at our 'reunion'.

This Easter Day gives us all an opportunity to think about our own baptisms –

- ***how we heard God's call to baptism,***
- ***the faith we declared through the waters of baptism,***
- ***our commissioning to God's service by the Holy Spirit,***
- ***and how we've grown since that time.***

How would your reflection read? Is there someone on your heart today with whom you could share it?

A Prayer

Risen Lord!
You are alive!
No longer in the grave,
but alive, risen,
and here with us now.
Your death and resurrection
have changed everything.
You have broken the shackles on our feet,
and unchained hearts too scared to love.
Your love has lifted us.
So much, so much, so much.
In baptism you called us to
join in your death and resurrection
so that your life became our life.
In baptism you commissioned us
to walk in the world as you did
ministers all, servants of all,
bearers of the good news.
Today,
fill us again with your Holy Spirit,
renew our calling to work and witness,
help us to live hopefully and compassionately,
news breakers of the gospel of mercy and grace.
Amen.