



Thank God for Mums!



*Sunday 22nd March is
Mothers' Day or Mothering Sunday*



*Giving thanks to God for
Mums & Nans & Grans*



Polesworth

BAPTIST CHURCH

Sharing JESUS in
word and action

*Sundays at 10:30
and more. Your local,
neighbourhood
church, here 4U.*

But Mother's Day can also be a time of sadness.

**– sorrow for mums-to-be whose desire
to be a mum remains unanswered**

**– distress for mums who've lost children
before or during birth, as a child or as an adult.**



Reflecting on Bible stories of mums,
especially Naomi and Ruth,
we hope our mums' day service will
**offer you space and time to give
thanks for the gift of children,
for the blessing of hope, and
for support and peace in loss.**

Want to know more about us:

see our Website <http://polesworthbaptistchurch.co.uk>

and our Facebook page

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/polesworthbaptistchurch/>

Contact our minister Rev Nick,
by email: pastornickpbc@gmail.com
or phone: 07510 913977

PBC is sited just below where The Gullet
meets Fairfields Rd & Potters Lane, at B78 1HH

We're now in Lent – what's that about?

According to the Church of England, Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness followed His baptism, but it was soon attached to Easter - as the main season for baptism & for the reconciliation of those fallen away from Church fellowship. This explains its notes of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, alms-giving, study, and preparation for Easter.

In Protestant Churches Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days to remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by and yet defeating Satan. Lent's last day is Holy Saturday – the day before Easter. But if you count the calendar days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday there are 46, how then can it be 40 days? The difference is that the Sundays are not counted because Sundays are treated as Resurrection or Easter days.

Six short prayers for the Lenten period

Inspired by some prayers from the Methodist Church

Lord Jesus, as I enter Lent help me to draw near to You in praise, stripping away all that distracts me from worship. **Amen**

Holy Spirit, as Jesus withstood the devil in the wilderness, may I live a life worthy of Him, doing what pleases Him in every way, and joyfully giving thanks always to the Father for His rescuing me from the dominion of darkness and bringing me into the kingdom of the Son He loves. **Amen**

Father, unlike Jesus, I haven't always kept Your three-fold call to love You, to love my church brothers and sisters and to love my neighbour. Cut to the heart I turn again to You. Forgive me, I pray, in Jesus name. **Amen**

Lord Jesus may Lent bring me to look with Your eyes of compassion at the needs of the world and then to do what I can do in healing action. **Amen**

Thank you Holy Spirit for desert experiences when life confronts me with evil and makes me realise my deep need for Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Almighty and ever-loving Father I pray that as I move towards Good Friday I will truly cherish Christ's death for me, and Your promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in Him. **Amen**

*As we come to Good Friday
let's spend time with Psalm 23.*

Its poetry is written into our history. Its image of God's caring presence is the living hope of our daily present. Its promise of life forever with God, is offered to us by Jesus, on the cross.

But it is not more life in the sense of this life simply extended. It is life knowing God and His love, His joy, His peace. A life of eternal meaning with nothing wasted. A life of utter fulfilment in God's new creation, untouched by any kind of darkness, violence, decay and misery. The life we yearn for in holidays, in family love, in quiet gardens but can never grasp and keep for life as it now is kicks back with heart-ache and agony, sickness and grief - evil is always just around the next minute.

David, who wrote the psalm, became a king, but here he speaks from his experience as a shepherd. Whether as king or shepherd he was always David, a man after God's own heart; always a man who trusted God.



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me to lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul;
He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Take time to dwell on the phrases, on the words. Take time to dwell on the Almighty God as your shepherd, caring for you as a precious lamb.



*Good Friday April 10th
Join our afternoon meditation
from 2:00 to 3:00*



*Holy Saturday was a day of grief.
The disciples just want it go away.
The women for they want to go to
the tomb and anoint Jesus' body.
The men for they were afraid and
confused.*

*And then the old world fell before Jesus
and nothing is ever the same
again.*

Jesus is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Easter, April 12th – it's for you



THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the
meaning of life!



*Is coming to PBC
in the summer*

Alpha

is a tool built for local churches based on hospitality, sharing and open conversation. It runs in over 100 countries and over 100 languages around the world, by Christians of all traditions, giving a common expression of proclamation, service and witness.

Talk

The Alpha talks are designed to engage people from all walks of life and inspire conversation. They explore the big issues of life and faith and unpack the basics of Christian belief, addressing questions like “Who is Jesus?”, “Why and how do I pray?” and “How does God guide us?”

Discussion

The discussion time is an opportunity for people to respond to the talk, hear from others, and contribute their own perspective in an honest, friendly, and open environment.



“What I love about Alpha is that it’s ... just community, round a table, with the gospel of Jesus and an openness to the Holy Spirit.”
[John Mark Comer, Pastor of Vision and Teaching, Bridgetown Church]

Bridgetown used Alpha to take the gospel to their city because their city wasn’t coming to the church.

Please start praying now for people you hope will come.