

Tuckingmill Baptist Church, Camborne



March 2020

This time last month, we were thinking international and current, with the approach of Brexit. Not quite sure that I actually felt the earth move when we officially cut the ties with continental Europe, on reflection. Though no doubt there will be consequent changes ahead.

This month, by contrast, we look more locally, two months forward and fifty years backwards. So May of this year will mark the church's 50th birthday.

To be quite frank, I am pleased that we haven't been marking the anniversary every year. When we arrived in Harlow, back in the 1980's, the church we joined was just celebrating its 21st anniversary. Cue the preparation of various decorations and, of course, the obligatory huge

feast, massively exceeding the official description of a "church tea".

Anniversaries were an annual expectation, and I think I can see why. There were still quite a number of people around who had not just *been* there at the official start, but who had been *building* there, in the months prior to the official opening.

And yet there was, I thought, a curious feeling of obligation that anniversaries *had* to be continued, somehow, I guess, to dignify and honour those worthy memories. Someone even argued that if we stopped having them annually, we could *never* have another anniversary celebration - though I can't say I ever understood the logic of that!

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The first anniversary meeting we experienced in Harlow was great for starting to get to know some of the people previously associated with the church. It got Jenny, particularly, into really feeling that we now *belonged* in this new church, joining in with all those preparations. And for those remembering “the old days”, they were lovely reunions. There were some distinct positives that it is only fair to note.

But it did start to seem to me, over the successive years, that the annual anniversary meeting too greatly (if unintentionally) encouraged looking backward wistfully at those wonderful early years, at the expense of looking *forward*.

Not that we shouldn't be grateful to God, *of course*, for a church's continued existence over a substantial number of years. Not that it is wrong to express that formally, at some kind of special meeting - or a normal meeting specially co-opted to that purpose.

But even good reasons can be slowly but surely overtaken by less worthy attitudes, over the years. Something can become just a fixture in the calendar, something thoughtlessly observed, something we simply “b'long to do” - but possibly at the expense of other things

that are more important to do. Or do we start to feel that, if we now *stop* an annual celebration, we somehow fear that God will think we're *ungrateful*, and maybe therefore put some kind of spanner in the works? - just standard religious superstition, trying to appease a moody deity by the performance of the “right” (we guess) rituals.

Or perhaps, year on year, a sneaky kind of pride builds up. *Fifty!* That's quite a milestone! (Sub-text: a lot of church-plants

don't make it this far, so *well done us!*) We occasionally get invitations to the anniversaries of other churches in the area who have notched up well over the century. I notice that the

number of years is *always* cited. And I wonder if the churches would feel slightly robbed if that large number were not allowed to be included. Would people start to feel less inclined to come, if it was just *another* anniversary, instead of (hey, look, folks!) the two hundred and forty-sixth?

Still, despite these risks, we have made some small-scale preparations for something to mark our half-century. Just aiming to hit the general region of fifty years, we have invited David Skull, the son of my predecessor here, to come and lead a service on Sunday 31st May, which we will particularly



pitch in this direction. I would suggest that we plan a church lunch together on that occasion, too (see, I don't object to *all* traditions!).

But for some wishing to mark the anniversary more precisely, it's been suggested that something could be done at the start of May. Jenny and I are (as usual) away that weekend, but we do still have a "home" preacher, Phil Willetts, so, as far I am concerned, organise away!

Someone had suggested a "come back to church Sunday" would be a good thing to plug during this anniversary season, with as many as possible of previous church contacts - particularly those with *no* current church affiliation -

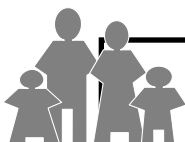
dug out of address books and specially approached again.



In the absence of any volunteers, though, to organise something more major like this, it's still possible to that some of you might like to do this individually. *Any* opportunity for evangelism, surely! Something, perhaps, that those of you going further back than our mere *fifteen* years here could consider.

Whichever, the clock is now ticking down fairly rapidly. Time to think what *you* want to do to mark and celebrate fifty years of the church's existence here, to the glory of God.

Peter Ham



March / April evangelistic events

Sunday 22nd March: Mothers' Day guest service
It could be you!

Sunday 12th April: Easter Sunday guest service
"A matter of life and death!"

You can contact Peter Ham, TRBC's pastor,
by phone on (01209) 212442 or (07818) 078135.
You can also e-mail peter.ham@live.co.uk,

Church website: www.tuckingmillbaptist.org.uk

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Peace for an anxious heart

Tanya Ling

(from the GoThereFor blog, 2017)



Throughout my life, I have always found things to be anxious about. Sometimes they are illogical fears; other times they are more 'legitimate' concerns. As Christians, we are commanded not to worry — however, as anyone who has experienced anxiety will attest, this is much easier said than done.

Philippians 4:6-7 provides valuable instruction for those struggling with anxiety:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



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But what if you faithfully obey this verse and yet your heart is still racing, your mind is still whirring, and you just can't 'turn off' the worry switch?

I have been in this situation many times, and there are four questions that help pull my heart into line. If you're fighting anxieties that threaten to get the better of you, use these to keep yourself grounded in reality and counsel your heart with the truth (though if you are struggling with a clinical anxiety disorder, then seeking the professional help of a psychologist is another wise choice to make).



Is God sovereign?

Psalm 139:16b says: *In your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me.*

You are not accidentally in your situation. The circumstances that spawned your anxiety have not escaped the attention of our God. In fact, our circumstances (and any unfavourable outcomes) are sovereignly given to us by God. We need to remember that he has determined them all, and that we should submit to his plan.

This may sound difficult to accept, but there actually is comfort in knowing that our paths are pre-laid and that God is never caught out by where they turn.



Is God powerful?

In my experience, anxiety often comes from wanting to manage and manipulate things I have no ability to control. Whether it's a health outcome, financial problem, or even someone's opinion of me — there's often not much I can do about it. Anxiety can therefore be a great reminder that even though I'm not powerful enough to change my situation, God is! We have a God who spoke the world into being, can calm the wind and the waves, and can raise the dead. Whatever situation you are facing, he is limitless.

Anxiety should humble us and bring us to our knees before God, asking for his help. As Christians, this should be our attitude and response to any situation in life, so if anxiety leads us to do this, then it is actually a blessing. We can learn to follow the instructions of 1 Peter 5:6-7:

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.



Is God faithful?

In times of anxiety, it can be easy to doubt God's goodness to us. Reminding ourselves of God's faithfulness can steady our heart in moments where he may seem far off.

Think through the difficult situations you have faced in the past. Remember the ways God helped you then, and the ways that you experienced his hand at work. We can see throughout the Bible how God has always been faithful to his people and his promises. He has promised to never leave or forsake us, and that nothing can ever separate us from his love (Romans 8:38-39). Whatever happens, God will be with us and help us through it.



What can I thank God for?

This question is probably the hardest to answer when in the grip of anxiety. Our minds are pre-occupied with our pressing worries — being thankful is not high on the priority list. But I've included it here, not only because we are told to be thankful in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:18), but because I personally have found it helpful in realigning my heart when I'm fretful and my mind is doing circles.

So what is there to thank God for in times of anxiety? Hopefully the first three questions have given you some ideas! No matter what is going on around us, God's character is consistent, and will always provide us with reason for thanksgiving and praise.

Perhaps there are aspects of your anxious situation that are reason to give thanks, such as a caring friend or the support of family. It might be the fellowship of your church family, or something that God has encouraged you with in the Bible. It could even be giving thanks for a lesson that he is teaching you through the trial.

If nothing else, my fallback prayer is this: "Thank you, God, for this new opportunity to trust you and to see your provision".

Even if I can't see any reason to give thanks in my present circumstances, I can know and trust that he is at work, and that he will show me his faithfulness once again.

THE LORD IS THE
STRONGHOLD OF MY LIFE—
OF WHOM SHALL I BE

afraid?

You may have counselled your heart with these questions, and yet still find that the anxiety persists. If that is the case, that's okay! Experiencing the "peace of God" doesn't always look like a chilled-out Zen person. The promise of Philippians 4:6-7 is that our hearts and minds will be guarded in Christ Jesus. If we are rooted in the hope of the gospel and the truth of God's character, there is a deep, unshakeable peace and confidence, that every Christian has, that can never be taken away. If we are prayerful, and choose to continue trusting God, our circumstances or anxiety will not shift us.

We can say with confidence and full assurance:

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear.

What can man do to me?

Psalm 118:6

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Sunday meetings:

	10.00 a.m.	6.30 p.m. (cafe church)
8 th March	Claude Bennie	(Video)
15 th March	Mike Coles	Exodus 12
22 nd March	Guest service: <i>It could be you!</i>	<i>Living Christianity</i> spin-off 1
29 th March	Esther 6	following on from a.m.
5 th April	Esther 7:1 - 8:8	following on from a.m.

Other meetings:

2 nd March	10.00	Men's reading group / Ladies' Bible study
5 th March	7.30	Prayer meeting
10 th March	5.45	<i>Treasure Seekers</i>
12 th March	10.45	Prayer meeting
14 th March	10.00	Prayer meeting
19 th March	7.30	Prayer meeting
24 th March	5.45	<i>Treasure Seekers</i>
25 th March	2.30	Elders' meeting
26 th March	7.00	Church members' meeting
1 st April	7.30	Joint prayer meeting at Bethel CC, Redruth
4 th April	7.30	<i>Rendezvous</i> at Scorrier (Andy McIntosh)



	Stewards	Recording	Teas	Flowers	Crèche	Cleaning
1 Mar	Jenny	John	Heather / John	Jeanette	Sue	Sue / Heather
8 Mar	Sue	Ethan	Arwen / Jennifer	Marsha	Jenny	John / Jeanette
15 Mar	Heather	Jayden	Mike / Sue	Lilian	Marsha	Greg / Marsha
22 Mar	Phil P	John	June / Phil	Jenny	Sue	Janice / Jennifer
29 Mar	Phil W	Ethan	Marsha / Jenny	Sue	Jenny	Peter / Jenny
5 Apr	Greg	Jayden	Heather / John	June	Marsha	Sue / Heather
12 Apr	John	John	June / Phil	Kay	Sue	John / Jeanette
19 Apr	Jenny	Ethan	Mike / Sue	Jeanette	Jenny	Greg / Marsha

(Cleaning is for the week *following* the stated Sunday
 - and please note that there may be more recent changes on the notice board.)