

# Gorse Hill

## BAPTIST CHURCH

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Charity Registration No: 1127294

Preparing for change?

### *Dear friends*

Are you really happy with the way things are? Have you reached your goals or are there still heights to climb?

Our recent studies in Ecclesiastes have struck a chord with many, if recent conversations are anything to go by. We've been looking at some of the big themes in life alongside the understandable regrets of a big hitter and fast liver who is looking back over his life. He realises with a heavy heart that things have not turned out as he expected they would.

The drive for material prosperity and exalted status may have filled his time and consumed much of his energy but a balanced life isn't about reaching goals or responding to market forces. When we move God from centre stage, then is it any surprise that intimacy and contentment are compromised and loneliness and pessimism quickly take over?

Ecclesiastes is searingly honest in his assessment of his life and the culture he has come up in. He sees that he is a product of his world yet yearns for something - anything - that will shake him out of his malady.

It isn't all doom and gloom though. There is a strand of hope which is woven through the despair and darkness. God is the provider, the giver of all things and He invites us to find our joy, goals and meaning in the good things he provides.

There are everyday things like food, friendship and appropriate employment. But there's a bigger picture: God has provided the means by which we can have the greatest gift of all - eternal life. It's freely available for all who ask and receive it.

Over the next few months we'll be undertaking a program of study (*Transformed Life*). This resource aims to address many of the issues Ecclesiastes was grappling with - questions of identity, belonging and purpose which are vital for our whole existence and security

Details of our teaching themes and opportunities for sharing in small group studies will be tabled at the members' meeting. These will also be available on our website.

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Every part of church life will be affected. We will be focussing on what God is saying to GHBC through our Sunday teaching (both adults and KZ) and at all of our midweek gatherings.

My hope is that we would go wider and deeper than simply hearing what God has to say. My prayer is that we will be ready to accept what God has to say to us and that we are prepared to respond however tough that might seem.

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

Every blessing in Christ

*Steve*



### **What can I do to prepare for "Transformed life"?**

We'll be focussing on Ephesians chapters 1 to 3 from 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

We'll have a daily reading book for everyone at GHBC which will support our Sunday teaching. There'll be separate (age related) books for children and young people.

Our Sunday messages during August will lead us into the autumn. We'll be thinking about how we can develop our discipleship and grow our faith through prayer, fasting and listening to God.

## OUR MOTTO TEXT FOR 2018 Philippians 3 verse 12

I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize.



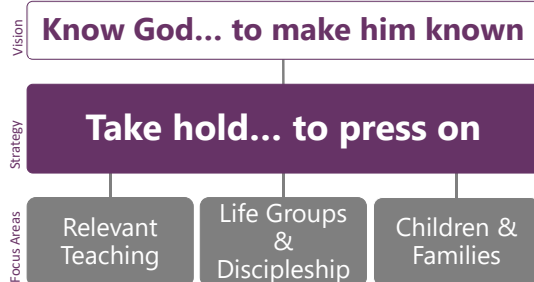
### Looking ahead

Our mission at GHBC is not about having good intentions to do “something”. Neither is it simply a matter of discovering or rediscovering God’s intention for the people of Gorse Hill and then doing something about it.

It’s about a journey of redeeming our whole understanding of Mission, being changed as a result and living it out daily in every part of life. Our call is not simply to “do” Mission but to “be” Missional.

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### Our Awayday Reflections



Slide 1

## Pause for thought: Ecclesiastes 5 How do I get close to God?

### Developing intimacy

- meaningful relationships
- shared values
- growing, flourishing, becoming

### Turning it back on ourselves

- materialism: the drive for “stuff”
- arrogance I know better
- oppression: power for its own sake

### The beating heart of worship

- true worship has boundaries
- effective worship is tough going
- real worship is personal

### How can I worship?

- be in awe of God (vv. 7)
- be careful what you say (vv. 1 - 6)
- be careful how you say it (vv. 4 - 5)

Worship is always a sacrifice: it is not about us but about God.

## IMAGINE ...

... this church as being a place where ...

... children, young people and adults are helped to come to faith in Christ

... everyone is welcomed, loved, taught and guided

... everyone is confident in sharing their faith, and clear about God’s call on their lives

... everyone serves one another and their community

... gifts are grown & leaders developed; all this through the ministry of God’s Word and the power of the Holy Spirit



Gorse Hill Baptist Church  
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Phone - 01793 - 534193  
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Sunday Services  
10.45 am Morning Celebration  
6.30 pm Evening Worship

[www.ghbc.org.uk](http://www.ghbc.org.uk)