



WELCOME: We are here to celebrate God's Love and share with others the GOOD NEWS of:



Newsletter – Sunday 20th September 2026

A special welcome if you are worshipping with us for the first time.

Today's preacher is Crawford Telfer

The Greatest Story Ever Told

A few Christian believers love the Bible and enjoy studying it, but many struggle with it, which is perfectly understandable. One reason the Bible can sometimes feel confusing or contradictory is quite simple: the Hebrew people did not experience Scripture in the way we do. They didn't have a neatly bound Bible with chapter headings, verse numbers, footnotes and study guides. They heard Scripture read aloud, often repeatedly, until its stories, images and patterns became deeply familiar. Hebrew thinking was shaped by story. People listened for patterns, echoes and connections. Meaning came not simply from an individual sentence, but from how it fitted into the much bigger story of God and his people.

Take water. When Hebrew listeners heard about water, they might remember the waters of creation, the flood, the Red Sea or water flowing from the rock in the wilderness. Water could speak of chaos, judgement, rescue and new beginnings. The same was true of the wilderness. It was not simply an unpleasant, empty place. It spoke of testing, dependence on God and discovering who God is when our usual securities have disappeared. So when Jesus entered the wilderness for forty days, his hearers could recognise echoes of Israel's story. They also understood God's law as more than a cold legal code. It was instruction given within a covenant relationship. Its purpose was to shape a people who would live faithfully with God and one another.

Repetition mattered too. When something appeared again and again, it was not unnecessary padding. It was a signal: pay attention; this matters. Perhaps that gives us a helpful way of approaching Scripture ourselves. The Bible was not primarily written as a modern instruction manual or a collection of isolated verses. It tells the unfolding story of God seeking relationship with human beings who repeatedly get things wrong. So perhaps, alongside asking, 'What does this verse mean?', we should ask: 'Where does this fit into the bigger story? What does it remind me of? And what does it show me about the character of God?'

The Bible is not simply a puzzle to solve. It is a story to enter – and ultimately a story that invites us to trust the God at its heart.

God bless you,

David

Charity

These are the charities Chapel currently supports with a monthly donation:

Bristol Hospitality Network; Christian Aid; Christian prison resourcing; Christian surfers; Clevedon Food bank; Trans Europe Network; In Hope; One 25; Open Doors; Vine Counselling.

We also give one-off donations to various charities, The Chapel aim's to give away ten percent of its income to charity.



David and Fi are on holiday from Saturday 26 September for a week.

Evening Service

6 pm this evening for one hour: a service in the quiet here celebrating: 'Great is the Lord: faithful through all our days'. Everyone welcome.



Shoe Boxes

Please take a shoebox to fill for a child this Christmas. They need to be returned to the chapel or Jackie by **6th November** to ensure they can be sent on to their destinations. Thanks, Jackie



Dates for your Diary

Sun 20th Sept: Evening Gathering, 6pm

Wed 23rd Sept: Book Group, The Swan's, 7:30pm

Sat 7th Nov: Reading Psalms, 8am to 4pm

Sat 21st Nov: Women's conference, Westbury Baptist, 10-3pm

Sat 21st Nov: Funeral Preparation Workshop, Lynch Chapel, 2pm

Sun 22nd Nov: Remembering Loved Ones, Wrigton Chapel, 6pm

Wed 13th Jan: Church Meeting, 7:30pm

Wed 17th Mar: Church AGM, 7:30pm

16-18 April 2027: Church Weekend, Lee Abbey

So then
faith comes by
hearing, and hearing
by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

Next week's Speaker: Paul Clark, Open
Doors

Hall Bookings: Jackie Tester 07729 360144

Secretary: Anna Stockham 07527 753 677

Minister: David Jewell, 07443 907454

Newsletter: Sam Mc sammyg229@gmail.com