



Monthly Newsletter

markyate

baptist church

November 2025

Dark Days

No sun — no moon!

No morn — no noon —

*No dawn — no dusk — no proper time
of day.*

*No warmth, no cheerfulness, no
healthful ease,*

No comfortable feel in any member —

*No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no
bees,*

*No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no
birds! — November!*

I remember this poem – ‘November’ by Thomas Hood – often being quoted to us by my mum as the dark days of winter approached. This time of year can seem bleak and dark, the sun is weak and often hid and the twinkling lights of Christmas still seem far off.

For all of us at some point, seasons of our life will also be bleak and dark with ‘no warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease...’. In our Church life, and for many of us personally, the past months and years have been times of loss. Losing those we love and dealing with change brings grief and pain and people may try to offer comfort and suggest that the pain will pass and things will go back to ‘normal’. But isn’t it the point that pain does change us? It certainly changed Jesus.

When Jesus stood outside Lazarus’s tomb, the crowd murmured, ‘Look how much he loved him,’ Then Jesus, fully divine and fully human,

wept. In those tears, we see a permission to mourn, to shed tears for what we have lost and to feel bound to Jesus by a shared grief. There is no manual or checklist for grief, we’re all different and we grieve differently and heal imperfectly. Jesus gets this because he gets me – and you. The suffering and loss that Jesus experienced wasn’t detached or somehow holier than ours. It was real and raw and rooted in love.

Yet even when Jesus suffered, he looked outwards. In Matthew 9:36, we read that, when Jesus saw the crowds, ‘he had compassion on them’. The word ‘compassion’ is rooted in Latin and literally means ‘to suffer with’. So Jesus understands us but, more than that, he weeps with us, he stays with us, he suffers with us. And so we are held, by God and also by the people he sends to walk beside us. That’s what grace looks like, people who will stay with us and pray with us when we have no words and no strength to stand alone.

With friends, family and in Church we can grieve in community; not in isolation but in formation and with shared grace. It is in this community that, as we move through loss, a door is opened to joy. This is not a brittle, superficial joy that denies sorrow but, rather, a fruit of the spirit. A joy rooted in peace and hope that can fill us with light even as we carry sorrow at the same time. This joy whispers that we are not alone; not in our grief nor on this whole pilgrimage of life. Grief is tough but love is everlasting.

Ruth Kieran—MBC Leader

What's On—November 2025

Sunday 2nd

10.30am Communion Service
With Lisa Kerry

Monday 3rd

MBC Café—open to all
10.30am—12pm

Friday 7th

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Saturday 8th

In person Prayer @ MBC
9.30am—10.30am

Sunday 9th

Remembrance Sunday
Joint Service—St John's—Tbc

Monday 10th

MBC Café—open to all
10.30am—12pm

Friday 14th

Jack & Jill's baby & toddler
10am—11.30am

Sunday 16th

10.30am Morning Service
With Danny Smith

Monday 17th

MBC Café—open to all
10.30am—12pm

Thursday 20th

Leadership Team Meeting
7.45pm

Friday 21st

MBC Café—open to all
10am—12pm

Sunday 23rd

10.30am Morning Service
With Joe Butler

Monday 24th

MBC Café—open to all
10.30am—12pm

Friday 28th

Jack & Jill's baby & toddler
10am—11.30am

Minister: VACANT

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Working days—Tues and Thur.

Deacons:

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Our Vision Statment:

Growing Together by loving God, loving others & serving our community