



BARKING BAPTIST CHURCH

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WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

On Sunday 1 September 2019 we held a baptismal service in which six members of our congregation were baptised by immersion after giving spoken testimonies to their faith in Jesus Christ. The six candidates for baptism were Bukola Ronke Akincumni, Monica De Sousa, Tamara Yolande Firth, Sylvania Saldanha, Don Raymond Punzal and OLubunmi Sutton and our photograph on the next page shows the six members of the group along with two of our deacons, Marlene Earle and Maureen Phillips. The baptismal service was followed by an enjoyable “*Bring and Share*” lunch served in our rear premises.

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OUR NEW DEACONS

On Sunday 2 June 2019 we were pleased to welcome three new deacons who had been elected in a ballot of church members. The three successful candidates were **Christopher Beadle**, **Daniel Dalley** and **Fred Obiosa**.

Christopher Beadle was born in Barking and served in the British Army for six years before working in a variety of jobs until his retirement. He first became a Christian at an early age and he is passionate about making Jesus Christ known to those who do not have a similar relationship to God. He is involved in our Bible Study and Prayer groups and also represents our church at meetings of **Barking Churches Unite**. Christopher is married to Jenny, having married her during his army career.

Daniel Dalley has been attending our church since 2016 and was baptised in the church during the following year. In addition to serving as a member of our welcome team he oversees our **Youth Alpha** group. Daniel currently works as a customer service assistant in a local supermarket but is also

studying theology at the **Westminster Theological Centre** believing that understanding the Bible is the key to life.

Fred Obiosa comes from a West African background but first moved to London at the age of fourteen. He was brought up in a Catholic home but began questioning his faith during his teenage years. His studies in philosophy and history brought him back to a Christian commitment and he was baptised in a Grimsby church in 2016. He returned to London to take up a new job in 2018 and is now settled in Barking. Fred has worked in the energy industry since his graduation from university and since December 2018 he has been married to Verina, who is a member of our worship group.

You can find more information about our deacons, and other aspects of our church life, on the web site <https://www.barkingbaptist.oerg.uk>

PRAISE AND WORSHIP NIGHT

There will be another opportunity to enjoy a meal together after the morning service on **Sunday 15 September 2019** when our pastor Manoj Raithatha is kindly providing an Indian meal for members of the congregation following on from the morning service. This will be preceded, on **Saturday 14 September 2019** with a *"Praise and Worship Night"*, from 7.00. - 9.00. p.m. which promises a *"night of soulful worship, poetry and prayer"*. All are welcome and admission is free.

TOGETHER MAKING JESUS KNOWN

As the official church rep for the **Evangelical Alliance** I was pleased to hear that **Gavin Calver** is to be the new Chief Executive Officer when **Steve Clifford** steps down from the role later this year. Gavin and Steve have both visited our church as guest preachers in the recent past. Gavin has served as the EA's head of mission since 2015 and follows in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, Clive Calver and Gilbert Kirby, who also served as chief officers of the Alliance. We send our congratulations to Gavin as he

takes up his new responsibilities and best wishes to Steve as he begins a new chapter after ten distinguished years as the General Director. You can find more information about the Alliance at www.eauk.org

LIBRARY SPOT

Mark Greene's **Thank God It's Monday** is a classic text on Christian faith in the workplace which, in its twenty-five year history, has appeared in five editions, changed publishers and grown from one hundred and ninety two to two hundred and fourteen pages. For twenty of those twenty five years the author has served as the Director of the **London Institute for Contemporary Christianity** and has taken a special interest in providing resources for Christians in their working lives. Along with passages from the Bible Mark offers accounts of Christians who have flourished in working life and recalls experiences from his own early career in the advertising industry. **Thank God It's Monday** is available, along with many other titles, in our church library housed in our rear premises.

In our previous newsletter I mentioned Elizabeth Mednick's book **Jesus in Town** which tells the story of various social action projects undertaken by the churches in Barking and Dagenham. Readers may be interested to know that I recently interviewed the author and her husband for the **Evangelical Alliance** and wrote a review of the book. You can read these two articles on the Alliance's web site at <https://www.eauk.org/news-and-views/barking-churches-unite-taking-faith-onto-the-streets> and <https://www.eauk.org/news-and-views/book-review-jesus-in-town>

7 – 12 October 2019 has been designated as **Libraries Week** when libraries throughout the country will be highlighting the services they provide in a digital age. If you are not a regular library user why not visit your local public library and check out the resources they have to offer?

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CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION

Although this year's **Christian Resources Exhibition** offers everything from *"lecterns to lighting, communion wine to computers"* as a retired librarian I will be taking a special interest in displays from leading Christian publishers and bookshop chains. The exhibition takes place from **Tuesday 15 – Thursday 17 October 2019** at **Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ** and you can book tickets and find more information about the exhibitors and the extensive arts and seminar programmes on the web site www.creonline.co.uk

WORD FOR THE WORLD

Bible 2020 is a forthcoming project from the **Scottish Bible Society** and the **United Bible Societies** intended to create a worldwide community speaking the words of the Bible together across cities, towns, villages, streets and continents. The idea is that a smartphone app will deliver daily readings for a year that can be received in multiple languages providing access across the world. Originally conceived as a project for Scotland, the intention is now to make **Bible 2020** available globally and it is expected that, when the scheme goes live at the beginning of next year, there will be some two thousand Bible translations available in different languages. You can find more information on the official web site at www.bible2020.org

MOSES ON THE WEST END STAGE

The biblical character Moses will shortly be making his debut on the London stage in a new musical based on the successful 1998 animated film **Prince of Egypt**. At the time of writing the musical is scheduled to be performed at the **Dominion Theatre, 268-269 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 7AQ** for thirty-two weeks between **5 February and 12 September 2020** and tickets are now on sale. The producers promise that they will be bringing *"a musical theatre production like no other to the West End stage"*. You can discover prices, order tickets, and obtain performance times and other details from the official show web site at <https://www.theprinceofegyptmusical.com>