

Hello,

How are you?

How are you doing after more than eight weeks of lockdown? We're all experiencing so many different emotions ... it's different for all of us. And have you noticed how many of God's people in the bible had to go through really tough times as God revealed himself in all his greatness and faithfulness through the bad times as well as the good. There are songs in the bible that we call "laments" which express how those people were feeling which might possibly help us too. Google tells me that 42 of the 150 psalms are psalms of lament, so, if we feel as though we are struggling, we are in good company.

Wasn't it great to see all our church family photos at the end of last week's service? Almost like being together...

And there's church family members large and small from Madeleine and Andrew Gilbert's Life group bringing this week's service to you. Spoiler alert – watch out for the "lockdown haircuts".

As usual, you'll find the service on YouTube and just click on:

<https://youtu.be/CR-idSdHhhw>

Rhoda has prepared services for Adventure, Kids and Youth which you can find on the OBC Children's and Youth YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuxgARly413TNTpGPPzYyA>

There are worksheets to go with each of the services:

Childrens Service - 24 May - Adventure.pdf

Childrens Service - 24 May - Discover and Explore.pdf

Youth Service - 24 May - Connect and Encounter.pdf

And I expect you'll know that Thursday was **Ascension Day** which marks the occasion on which, after the resurrection, Jesus went back to heaven. He told the disciples to pray until the Holy Spirit came to them - who was going to be another helper, like Jesus. They had to wait and pray for ten days until the Father poured out the Holy Spirit on the 120 believers who were praying on the day of Pentecost and the church was born.

For the last few years, we have taken these ten days, as part of the **Thy Kingdom Come** campaign (<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>) to each pray for 5 friends, family, neighbours or colleagues to become Christians. Have you responded to Lorraine's email and signed up to pray either last Friday or this coming Monday for half an hour for all those who don't yet know Jesus as Lord and Saviour?

Next Sunday is **Pentecost** and Rhoda and her team and the children and young people will be bringing us a special service. Here is a trailer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JySUbBrSZk&list=PLP8hmkA1RuTQu7VkF7eJPsikivhzUkbCXhat&fbclid=IwAR01_RNEU66RkH3BbpRppJrZYNqFx692TzVMHggWBRJ76JjMm7GCS5Aa47I

As usual, I welcome your comments and feedback on our Sunday services or any other aspect of church life. Send an email to secretary@oakhambaptist.org.uk.

See you soon!

Have a great week!

Every blessing

Julie