

Leominster Baptist Church

Hello all,

Autumn is upon us, and the nights are drawing in. As we enter the season of Harvest, it's a time to reflect on God's goodness and the power of gratitude in our walk with Jesus. A few years ago, a magazine asked prominent figures worldwide, "If you could be granted one wish right now, what would it be?" One response stood out: "I wish that I could be given an even greater ability to appreciate all that I already have." This answer struck a chord, highlighting a simple truth: we often don't fully appreciate what we already have.

This week, I've renewed my efforts to be more grateful. One small consolation of the earlier, darker nights of autumn is that we can't see the rain as much! To help us all grow in gratitude, I'd like to share three levels of gratitude that the Bible encourages us to practice. Take a moment to reflect on which level you're at and where you might start in your own journey of gratitude.

1. Thankful For

"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land He has given you." (Deuteronomy 8:10) In our busy lives, we often take life's blessings for granted, forgetting to stop and appreciate what we already have. I've heard of a couple who, before bed, share three things they are grateful for, calling it "doing our gratefuls." It's a simple but profound habit that reminds us of the many small things that enrich our lives.

People in another survey expressed gratitude for sunsets, the gift of life, and the kindness of friends—small, everyday moments that are easy to overlook. Yet, entitlement is the biggest killer of gratitude. We forget how fortunate we are, focusing instead on what we don't have. For example, the ability to read is a blessing 2 billion people around the world don't have.

As Michael Angier wisely noted, "If you learn to appreciate what you already have, you'll find yourself having more to appreciate." Gratitude has a multiplying effect: when we focus on the good, it tends to grow. The same is true for problems—whatever we focus on, good or bad, expands. Being thankful for the blessings we already have is about slowing down, noticing, and appreciating more deeply.

Vision: Be with Him, Be like Him, Do what He did.

2. Thankful Even Though

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me..." (Psalm 23:4) Expressing gratitude when life is hard can be incredibly challenging, but it's also when it's most powerful. One bad event can ruin a whole day or even a week. However, learning to be thankful "even though" we face difficulties helps us to push back against negativity and keep a balanced perspective.

Psalm 92:1 reminds us, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord." Gratitude keeps us grounded, reminding us of the countless blessings we have, even during challenging times. When we feel overwhelmed, gratitude can shift our focus and help us see things differently. Even in hardship, there are always reasons to be thankful. Maybe today you're struggling to see those blessings, or perhaps life's challenges feel too heavy. But even in those moments, finding something to be thankful for can make all the difference.

3. Thankful Because Of

"But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice." (Philippians 1:18) In this verse, Paul writes from prison, where he is physically bound and unable to continue his ministry. Some people even use his imprisonment as an opportunity to criticise him. Yet, Paul rejoices because Christ is being preached, despite his own struggles. This is a rare level of gratitude—being able to rejoice in others' blessings even when you feel you have little to celebrate in your own life. It's a deep trust in God's work and a willingness to see beyond ourselves.

The invitation in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 to "be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances" is not just a feel-good sentiment for easy times. It's a battle cry—a reminder to stand firm through life's storms, with gratitude as our anchor. Gratitude transforms how we see the world, especially in difficult moments.

Thomas Merton once said, "To be grateful is to recognise the love of God in everything He has given us. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love; every moment of existence is a grace." Practising gratitude ensures that we never take anything for granted and helps us to remain aware of the many wonders in our lives. In every season, especially in the challenges, we can find reasons to be grateful, and in doing so, we draw closer to God's heart.



Newday Summer 2024

Newday is one of the largest Christian festivals for 12-18 year olds, that takes place in the UK every year. Originally started by the Newfrontiers family of churches in 2004, but now operating as a charity in its own right, it serves churches from all across the UK and beyond. As thousands of young people join together in Norwich, each summer, the vision is that each one will leave further along in their relationship with Jesus.

This year there were 37 of us (20 young people + leaders + family members) that joined the thousands. We have our own little section within the showground to set up our camp. We set off early on the Monday for the 5 hour journey, with everything we will need for the duration of the week - Marquees, cookers, gas, tables, chairs, tents, washing up bowls, food and coffee! And then we set it all up when we get there. This in itself is an experience as some have never put up a tent before. An average day starts with breakfast at 8, Morning meetings (like a church service with worship and teaching as well as a lot of silly games), Alpha/Seminars, Lunch, Free time, Dinner, Evening meeting, Late night cafes and music, and eventually bed around 11 (usually midnight by the time all is quiet!) Everyone plays a part, and throughout the week, we all join in doing everything, with plenty of laughs along the way. Then on the Saturday we pack everything up and head home to shower and sleep!

Some highlights from this year include - Epic glasses, Macaroni cheese - with bacon, Uno, Singing in the shower, Super hero fancy dress and making masks, Water fights, amazing weather, Donuts, Staring contests, the Slops trolley, teaching the CLC gang 'Potato', lightsabers, tag rugby, THE SONGS!

Our time away this year was truly wonderful. The weather was amazing, we all got on, relationships were deepened between us, and each and everyone that went encountered Jesus. God spoke in so many ways. Some of our young people made the decision to become a Christian and ask Jesus into their lives for the first time, God spoke to some about being Evangelists, others understood and felt the Holy Spirit, some are now considering that God may actually be real, God healed and God encouraged. Our God is amazing; He knows and loves each individual and met with them right where they were at, in very specific ways.

Thank you so much for all your support - financially, practically, and prayerfully. It is a big undertaking and a big deal in the lives of all that went. Our young people have had their lives changed.

Please do continue to pray for all that went. The 37 are still known and loved by God – may they feel that and be secure and free in that knowledge as life in Leominster carries on.



Dates for your Diary



OCTOBER

6th 10:30 Harvest Service
6th 12:30 Harvest lunch
12th 08:30 Men's Breakfast

NOVEMBER

23rd Church Away Day
Dunfield House



The Alpha Course



On Sunday September 8th we celebrated the baptisms of Sam, Seb, Steve, Mona and Charlotte.



These five people have journeyed through the ten week Alpha Course together and have come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

We heard several testimonies of how Jesus has transformed their lives and how they "now couldn't live without him.

Please continue to pray for this group of people as we meet with them every fortnight for bible study, prayer and encouragement.



Say 'Hello' to our newest members

Jeremy and Diane Howell-Thomas



Jeremy and Diane have been worshipping with us at LBC for almost twelve months. Originally from London they now live in Lucton. Jeremy and Diane are actively involved in different departments of the fellowship and we wish them God's richest blessing as they continue to serve.

The Music Group

Each week our LBC music group lead the church
In worship. If you enjoy singing or play a musical
instrument and you would like to join the team
then please speak to Dean.

You would then be asked to join the team on
Thursdays to play along with a view to joining the rota.



Prayer Chain

If you have any prayer requests and would like the family at
LBC to pray for you then please contact Dean or Marie and
they will add you to our Prayer Chain.



If you do not receive the Prayer Chain email and would like to be included then please
contact Dean and he will add you on.

dean@leobc.co.uk

marie@leobc.co.uk

No later than 21 August

The story behind the song: Amazing Grace

This is one of the most well-known hymns in the world. "Amazing Grace" was created by John Newton in 1779. The author of the hymn described himself as the "wretch" in the song. He was a slave trader, rebel, blasphemer, and all-around immoral man. He was as far from grace as anyone could ever be and lived a life full of hardship. God was able to get his attention after Newton's slave ship was nearly wrecked in a thunderstorm. As the vessel was taking on water and the crew was crying, Newton fell to his knees and started pleading for God's forgiveness. God's grace saved Newton. Newton became a pastor in Olney, England, where he wrote the song. Today, the song still inspires the world and is sung in churches everywhere.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun

Foodbank



We have been made aware that our local foodbank is having to buy a lot of food due to an increase in need and a drop in donations. Below is a list of current needs for those who are able to support this work.

Leominster Foodbank needs:

(In tins) meat, fish, carrots, potatoes, peas, sweetcorn, baked beans, tomatoes, soup, rice pudding and fruit.

Small bags of sugar, jam, squash, teabags (40s in foil)

Long life milk (blue or black packs) ketchup, pasta sauce, stock cubes, coffee, cereal.

Shampoo, deodorant, sanitary packs,, toilet rolls.

Washing up liquid, cleaning supplies, bin bags.

Your Deacons at Leominster Baptist Church



Chris Rice
Church Secretary/ Deacon



Andrew Dale
Deacon



Marie Gittoes
Pastoral Worker/ Deacon



Josh Marvel
Deacon



Trevor Dickerson
Deacon



Sheila Wilson
Deacon



Jim Scott
Deacon



David Margetts
Deacon

Contact us:



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