

# PASTOR'S PATCH

We are blessed!



Last week as a church you all enabled myself and Colin Opie to attend the annual SWBA Ministers Gathering in Newquay – and we are SO grateful. Thank you!! We enjoyed three days in a hotel (with our wives) and alongside over 90 people from churches across the South West. Alongside many opportunities to laugh, learn and grow, the main speaker for the event was Ruth Moriarty speaking about her Professional Doctorate research into Baptist Discernment and Church Meetings. Under the title “Slow Wisdom”, one of the many themes she highlighted is that we, as Baptists, are blessed.

Among the many denominations in the UK are an assortment of leadership and church structures. The Baptist way of discerning and deciding together how the Lord is leading is unique to Baptists, and one of our strengths. We don't resort to leader-led or controlled decisions, nor do we blindly comply to government or national laws, to centralised Bishops, shareholder power or democratic decision making. For over 4 centuries Baptists have gathered as members from a congregation, to discern the Lord's leading through Holy Spirit praise and prayer, conversation and inspiration, through prophetic words and people all centred around God's Word. Each church member is enabled to influence the conversations and deliberations. This is a privilege and responsibility that we should neither take for granted, nor take lightly. Our Baptist forbears fought and died for this way of doing church, and it has stood the test of time. For these reasons “we are blessed”.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

(Romans chapter 12 verse 2)

Those who joined us at our January church members' meeting will testify to the blessing that day. We're blessed to be able to test and approve God's good, perfect and pleasing will, and that the Lord can speak through any church member. We're blessed that even as a diverse congregation (hard-wired into Baptist churches) in age and experience, we can find unity of decision enabling us to reach a diverse world. We're blessed that as we “*go and make disciples*” even more people can come and share in this blessing. As Ruth Moriarty rightly stated “if you can say ‘Jesus is Lord’, then you belong”.

And if you're not a church member, why not join us and join the blessing?

***Darrell***

UNLEASHED COMMUNITYCHOIR PRESENT

# ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

*community concert xx*



**SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY @ 3.30PM & 7.30PM**  
 THE ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE, 27-29 ABBEY RD, TQ2 5NQ

All We Need Is Love' is the message of the Unleashed Community Choir this Valentine's month. The Choir present their spring concert in aid of the work of Unleashed. This will be a joyful event full of uplifting and varied pop, theatre and other favourites from the award winning choir. This vibrant and friendly Community group is a FREE choir for all to join. Our Concerts have previously sold out so do book in advance.



**Advance tickets - £5**

[www.unleashedtheatrecompany.com](http://www.unleashedtheatrecompany.com)



# GO BUILD!

## FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY

FOR AGES 5- 10 YEARS

**SATURDAY 8th MARCH 10am - 2pm**  
 BRIXHAM BAPTIST CHURCH HALL

**CRAFTS, TEAM GAMES, PUPPETS, LUNCH & MORE!**

**FREE ENTRY**

Please book via our website [www.brixhambaptist.org.uk](http://www.brixhambaptist.org.uk)

 **Brixham BAPTIST CHURCH**

For more information contact  
 Maria Orton CYF Pastor on 07809 186963