

A warm welcome to

newsletter july 2025



**Mountsorrel**

Baptist Church

The  
**HEAVENS**  
declare the  
glory of God;  
the **Skies**  
proclaim the work  
of his **HANDS**

Psalm 19:1

Leicester Road, Mountsorrel, LE12 7AJ

Tel.: Church secretary: 07949695072

[www.mountsorrelbaptistchurch.org](http://www.mountsorrelbaptistchurch.org)

email: [office@mountsorrelbaptistchurch.org](mailto:office@mountsorrelbaptistchurch.org)

# july services

See website for YouTube link for live audio recording  
all are welcome. Join us for tea and coffee after the service

Please note if you rely on the Loop System  
the best access is found in the most central seats.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July Communion Service 10:30am  
Wrestling for a blessing – Jacob's Encounter with God  
(Gen 32:22-32)



Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July 10:30am Garden service  
at 4 Loughborough Rd, no service at church

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 10:30am Morning Worship  
A Flame that calls – Moses and the burning bush  
(Exodus 3:1-6)

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 10:30am Morning Worship  
Blinded by Grace – Saul's transformation on the road  
(Acts 9:1-19)

JOIN US FOR



## Kingdom Musings: Grace Notes from Our Pastor- July 2025

### Wrestling with God: The Blessing in the Struggle

Growing up in *Ogbodi-ukwu*, in the ancient town of Umuahia, Nigeria, I was a village boy through and through. Maybe that's why my heart fell for Mountsorrel. Places rich in history and faith deeply move me. In my village, telephones were rare, and mobile phones weren't even imagined. I remember only one fixed landline, sitting in the house of a man who carried himself with great importance because of it. One day, his prized phone stopped working, but unknown to him, technicians had already been dispatched to repair it. Wanting to maintain his air of status, he pretended to be on a call when they knocked. He motioned for them to wait, holding his imaginary conversation with all the seriousness he could muster. They stood patiently and, when he finally acknowledged them, they said, "Sir, we're here to fix your phone. We've known all along it wasn't working, but we wanted to respect your space." In that moment, he wished the ground would swallow him whole. It is human nature to hide, to mask vulnerability, to cling to control. I once did a YouTube video called *"God cannot bless who you pretend to be."* That truth runs through Jacob's story. He spent years pretending, deceiving, strategising. But when God wrestled with him at Peniel (Genesis 32:22-32), He stripped all that away. "What is your name?" For the first time, Jacob owned who he was, and in that moment, God changed it. "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel." (Genesis 32:28) Jacob wasn't alone. Moses had his own divine interruption in the wilderness when a bush burned but was not consumed (Exodus 3:1-22). *"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."* (Exodus 3:5) Like Jacob, Moses had to face himself. He had once been a prince in Egypt, but now God was sending him back not as royalty, but as a deliverer. Divine encounters don't just comfort, they commission. Saul, convinced of his righteousness, was blinded by grace on the road. (Acts 9:1-19). Each was undone by an encounter with God that reshaped their identity and calling. This month, as we gather for our Garden Service (Home Mission Sunday, 13th July), Remember that God meets us not just in the dramatic but in the everyday, interrupting our paths and transforming those who wrestle, listen, and surrender. Jacob wanted a blessing. Moses wanted an escape. Saul wanted control. And yet each was undone by a divine encounter that shaped the course of their lives. Lord, teach us to wrestle well.

Your brother in Grace, **Henry**



Prayer remains a vital part of our fellowship: we believe and trust in the power of prayer so if you come to a service and there is something troubling you please speak to one of the prayer ministry team (see page 7) after the service so someone can pray with you. Remember also we have a prayer chain ministry; if you want the team to pray for something during the week please contact Jan & Trevor for it to be put on the prayer chain. If you wish to join the prayer chain or find out more about it please speak to Rachel. Jan and Trevor also continue their pastoral prayer ministry for our fellowship and will be contacting

you each month, if you have a specific need or would like them to pray with you or for you in confidence do feel free to call them (again see page 7) Our monthly prayer meeting is on the first Tuesday in the month, **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July**, as usual at 7.30pm for approximately one hour in the back room.

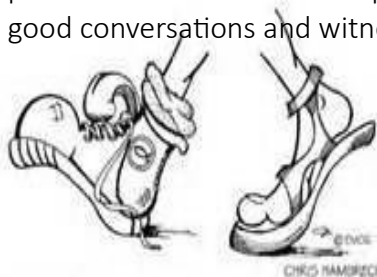
**We aim to regularly cover our whole village in prayer;  
This month, please remember the households of:**

**Carnaevan Close, Montsorreau Way, West Cross Lane, Graye Lane, Plough Close**

**Prayer walk**

As well as praying for the households of Mountsorrel in our regular prayer times we will be prayer walking around the village on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July time meeting at the church at 10:30am. If you are unable to join us

please set this time aside to pray for the areas covered, for protection and for good conversations and witness opportunities.



**“And seek the peace of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its peace you will have peace.”**

**(Jer. 29:7)**

**LORD, PLEASE WALK WITH ME!!**

## MID-WEEK MEETINGS



**Mondays** 9:00am ~ 12:00pm

Soar Valley Community Food Project- Tim and the team on site to take in donations and organise deliveries to other churches

**1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month** 7:30pm Prayer meeting in the vestry

**Tuesdays** 10:00am ~ 12:00pm Food project Mountsorrel

Open to Mountsorrel clients needing food parcel support, advice and a listening ear. Please continue to pray for the team as they meet with the clients of this village.

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** 12:30pm ~ 14:00pm



Join Faye and friends for the Singing Lunch, billed as singing therapy in action, it's a time to get together to sing your favourite songs of the past, to lift your spirits and make new friends. Bring your own lunch (drinks are provided).



**Wednesday** morning Home Group at 10:15am ~ 11:45am

at 4 Loughborough Rd. This is an informal time together to chat over coffee and biscuits, pray and look at God's word. All are welcome even if you can only come occasionally.



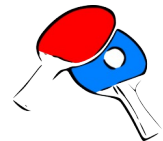
**Thursday** 2:00pm ~ 4:00pm i-can café

**Thursday** evening Fellowship at 7:30pm ~ 8:45pm 24 Montsorreau Way

Please speak to Martyn & Jill or Rachel for more information about the Home groups.

**Saturdays** 10:00am-12:00pm Café+

The church will be open again Saturday mornings. Do drop in for coffee and a chat or if you need someone to pray with.



During this time Sue and friends invite you to join them upstairs for table tennis or mini snooker/pool, all levels of ability welcomed.



## HOME MISSION

Our Home Mission weekend this year will be held on 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> July. As ever we will have the Strawberry tea from 3:00pm-5:00pm in the garden of 4 Loughborough Rd with home-made cakes, biscuits bread and jams on offer. Some of Sue's art work will be on display and available to buy; a percentage of the proceeds for any painting purchased will be donated to BHM. This event has in the past been blessed with good weather and is always a good opportunity to invite family and friends.

On the Sunday morning at 10:30am we will meet again in the garden rather than the church for our Worship service and you are invited to bring your own pic-nic to continue in fellowship together over lunch.

All offerings given on the Sunday and donations from the Saturday will be given as our fellowship offering to the Baptist Home Mission Fund.

## **MOUNTSORREL** **REVIVAL** An Old-Style Festival of Fun

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August. All hands on deck will be needed to welcome visitors into our building. If you are able to make small home-made cakes please let Rachel know roughly what you'll be making. A rota will be available at the back of the church for those who can assist throughout the day. Our morning service that day will be at the slightly earlier time of 10:00am to enable those who are able to join the parade from 12:00pm.



And provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Isaiah 61:3

and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a



## Who's who in Mountsorel Baptist church

(for contact number please see contact page on website or members refer to directory)

### Pastor

Rev Henry Ohakah

### Deacons:

**Liz Sam.** Church secretary and first point of contact.

**Mike Anderson** Looks after all things to do with the church building and maintenance.

**Dave Hall** Worship leader and joint team leader of Kidz Klub with Lysbeth Cant

**Rachel Winsor** Monthly bulletin, and website.

**David Ellison** Treasurer

**Faye Brookes.** Singing Lunch organiser and Food project volunteer

**Wendy Sibbald** Joint team leader of Kidz Klub and

Food Project Contact: 07395 956777

**Soar Valley Food Hub Tim Jackson** Team Leader for organising donations for participating churches and debt management advisor for project

### Mission support Representatives

Karen Reedman ~ BMS Alan & Megan Barker in Nepal

Chris & Gill Fray ~ Latin Link Graham & Debbie Frith in Bolivia

Sandy Ellison ~ Arab World Ministry

Mike & Theresa Anderson ~ Jews for Jesus

Rachel Winsor ~ Baptist Home Mission

### Prayer Ministry Team

Rebecca & Dave Hall, Gill Fray, Lysbeth Cant, Liz Sam,

Jan and Trevor Long, Grace & Frank Livesey

**First Contact for Prayer Chain & Pastoral prayer ministry**

Jan & Trevor Long 07305 655746 / (back-up 07305 499476)

### Safeguarding Officer

Sandy Ellison



*Serve*  
One another in  
*love*   
*Galatians 5:13*

## Rotas

We are blessed to have a fellowship who are always ready to get involved in the ongoing workings of the church, thank you all for your continued commitment in whatever way you are able to serve and please speak to me if you wish to be involved in some way.



### BIBLE READERS

6<sup>th</sup> Alicia

13<sup>th</sup> GARDEN SERVICE – 4 LOUGHBOROUGH RD

20<sup>th</sup> Iris

27<sup>th</sup> Charlene



### PRAYER

Liz

Wendy

Rachel



### WELCOME

Lysbeth

Sue

Iris



### COFFEE

Karen & Keith

Wendy & Gayle

Rachel & Lorna

We like to celebrate and give thanks to God with each other  
If you have any news to share or items to be included in the newsletter  
please let me know



### July Birthdays

17<sup>th</sup> Alex Sam

21<sup>st</sup> Dave Hall

23<sup>rd</sup> Lorna Forrester

# BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

for copies of newsletter or recordings of services see website

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