

SPRING LANE BAPTIST

Making God's Love and Salvation known

SUNDAY WORSHIP 4.00PM

July 2018

Date	Speaker	Music	Topic
1st	John Barclay	Recorded	
8th	Ken Hawkings	John Glass	
15th	Ken Hawkings	Recorded	Sunday Lite
22nd			
29th	NO SERVICE		

If you are visiting us on a Sunday afternoon we extend a very special welcome to you. Please stay and join us for a cup of coffee/tea, and biscuits

Weekdays at the Centre

Monday	Bumps and Babies	10.00am 12.00pm	Except holidays
Monday	Messy Church	3.30pm - 5.30pm	2nd Monday
Monday	Little Fishes	9.00am for 9.30am	4th Monday
Monday	Kombatkids (Max)	6.00pm—8.00pm	07914046329
Tuesday	Residents Association	7.00pm	LAST of MONTH
Wednesday	Lunch Club (CCS)	12.30pm	3rd Wednesday
Wednesday	Shirley Band (Brian)	8.00pm– 10.00pm	07778467129
Thursday	Yoga (Jane)	10.00 - 12.00	07734284144
Thursday	WI.	7.00pm	FIRST of MONTH
Friday	Yoga (Jane)	10.00 - 12.00	07734284144
Saturday	Art Group (Bob)	10.00am—1.00pm	01564782349
Café in the Park	2nd Sunday each month	2pm — 4pm	Family Time

Umberslade Church is open on the last Sunday of the Month from 2.00pm - 4.00pm

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FAITH MATTERS

Taking advantage of the recent glorious weather, we visited two rural attractions. At Batsford Arboretum there was a marvellous variety of trees and new things were learned, and forgotten things were brought to mind (e.g. what causes leaves to change colour as summer moves towards autumn). A falconry demonstration at Mary Arden's house saw the falconer displaying a barn owl. Apparently, this bird can hear the heartbeat of a mouse at 40 feet distance!

There is a danger that we can get so caught up in 'how' such wonderful things occur and exalt the science which observes, studies and explains the natural world, that we overlook the pressing question of 'why' such things are so.

In the Bible, we are told time and again that God is the author of creation. He created for his own good pleasure and the things he made were to bring him honour. An artist is honoured for a fine piece of art, a musician for a splendid composition and an architect for a magnificent building; how much more, the Bible reasons, should the creator of the giant redwood or the golden eagle be not only honoured but worshiped too.

Both the Old and New Testaments say that creation serves a further purpose. It speaks to us about the reality of God. This may make us uncomfortable because deep down we sense that, if God is for real, then we must be accountable to him in all areas of our lives. God clearly does not intend that we disconnect the created from the creator, glorying in the wonderful things around us whilst shrinking back from relating to the One who designed and made them all.

Christians believe God has a remedy for this disconnect; that the answer is Jesus, who reveals God even more perfectly than does creation. The author of creation steps into his own story (a bit like if Colin Dexter, while playing himself, was written into a Morse story). This is how it works: What is the character of God like? Look at Jesus – he's just the same. What things please or displease God? Those which please and displease Jesus. Is God willing to help and forgive? Jesus is. May ordinary people like you and me come into relationship with God? We know that Jesus built relationships with ordinary people.

If a barn owl can hear the heartbeat of a mouse yards away, I believe God can hear the heart-cry of anyone who will acknowledge him and who doesn't want to stay disconnected.

Stephen Richards
www.solidrocknews.co.uk
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