

THE ROOTED LIFE

Colossians 2:7

'..... continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him.....' from the Bible

Date – October/November 2026

A WBC MAGAZINE

Welcome to news from the Baptist family of Wymondham, Roots Community Café and the local community.



IN THIS EDITION... WHAT WILL THE AUTUMN BRING???

This magazine is brought to you by Wymondham Baptist Church. If you would like to know more about us, please call, e-mail us or visit our website.

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Welcome to this edition of our bi-monthly magazine.

We hope that you found the earlier editions interesting, this issue has more items of interest contributed by a variety of different people - we hope there will be something of interest to everyone. If you would like to write something for our next magazine, please drop it in to Wymondham Baptist Church Office by Sunday, 29th November 2026

In this edition we hope you enjoy the following...

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A message from Paul Smith, our Pastor at WBC.....

Preparation: Making Ready for What God Has Ahead

As we journey together as a church family at **Wymondham Baptist Church**, preparation is something we encounter in many different ways. We prepare for services, our cafe ministry, meetings, special events and activities. But perhaps the most important preparation we can make is the preparation of our hearts before God.

The Bible says in **Proverbs 16:3**, “Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.” Our plans and preparations are important, but they become meaningful when we place them in God’s hands and seek His guidance.

Preparing Our Hearts

Church life can be busy. Not only are there services to organise, ministries to support, people to care for and many practical things that need to be done, but we have also been very busy getting the canopy space ready to re-open for Roots. We are now seeking what our next steps as a church are, in other words what are we to do with the new space we have been blessed with?

Yet, in the midst of all this activity, we need to make sure that we are preparing our hearts as well as our schedules.

Prayer, reading God’s Word, worship and quiet time with the Lord help us to draw closer to Him. Before we ask, “What needs to be done?” we should first ask, “**Lord, what are You saying to us?**”

A prepared heart is willing to listen, willing to change and willing to follow where God leads.



Prepared to Serve

Every member of our church family has something valuable to offer. Some serve publicly, while others quietly encourage, pray, visit, welcome, give or care for someone in need.

Often, the things we do quietly may seem small, but God sees every act of faithful service.

Jesus said, “**Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.**”
(Matthew 20:26)

Preparation therefore includes being ready to serve when an opportunity comes. We may not always know when someone will need a listening ear, a word of encouragement, practical help or prayer. But if our hearts are prepared, we can respond with love.

So what are you prepared for?

Blessings

Paul (Pastor at WBC)



WHERE IS GOD

A man whispered "God speak to me"
And a meadowlark sang.
But the man did not hear
So the man yelled "God speak to me"
And the thunder rolled across the sky.
But the man did not listen.
The man looked around and said "God let me see you"
And a star shined brightly
But the man did not notice
And the man shouted "God show me a miracle"
And a life was born
But the man did not know
So, the man cried out in despair "Touch me, God and let me know you are here"
Whereupon, God reached down and touched the man
But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on
Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged
The way you expect.
Are you looking for God I all the wrong ways?

TREES

If you feel like you're losing everything
Remember that trees lose their leaves every year and they
Still stand tall and wait for better days to come.





**Wymondham
Baptist Church**

An authentic church with a place for everyone

**'GREEN PASTURES' POP-UP SHOP
COMING TO WYMONDHAM!
10am – 12.30pm Wednesday 11th November**



*Wymondham Baptist
Church*

Wednesday 11th November
10am - 12.30pm

Bibles, Books, Gifts and Cards



shop@greenpasturesdereham.org.uk
Tel: 01362 697953

A Christian bookshop ministry serving Norfolk & Suffolk

It's a great time to buy cards and gifts in time for Christmas!
Contact the shop if you'd like them to bring anything specific.

Refreshments available at WBC's Roots Community Cafe

A word from Sarah at Rosedale Bereavement

The 'September reset'

As I write, it is the middle of September, and the crazy world of social media is awash with the theme of 'The September reset'. The idea being that the more spontaneous, 'outdoorsy' days of summer are behind us, the new school term has started, and it is time for a more structured routine. Those without children can also appreciate the freshness of the new Autumnal season. As we head towards Christmas and a new year, it is an opportunity to get ahead by reviewing finances, de-cluttering or reorganising our living space ready for the next season. Of course, many people will have been working hard throughout the summer and might now be jetting off on their sunny holidays now that the schools are back and holiday prices have dropped slightly.

The idea of the September reset is nothing new. The natural world has been doing it since the beginning of time! With the onset of Autumn, plants, trees and animals begin to prepare for hibernation, and humans start 'gathering in' in anticipation of the cold, dark months ahead.

Farmers are harvesting and communities will be celebrating with harvest festivals and suppers. Those living in the country will be taking the opportunity to collect natural food by foraging the hedgerows for damsons, blackberries, crab apples and sloes etc. Even without much rain this summer, I've still had a decent crop of apples and pears from the trees in my garden.

At this time of year, many will be busy turning these fruits into chutneys, jellies, jams, pies and crumbles. I have to admit that a personal favourite of mine is homemade sloe gin, best enjoyed on a cold winter night in front of a roaring fire.

This idea of the 'September reset' got me thinking about other times in our lives when we may need to reset. Retirement, empty nest, a new job or a house move may bring new opportunities and a welcome chance to reorganise and re-prioritise what is important to us.

Perhaps the biggest and most difficult 'reset' of all, is bereavement. It can be incredibly difficult to adjust to the death of someone close to us, often because it is unexpected, unwanted and can throw our lives into unwelcome chaos.

Even if a death was expected due to illness, there are still many challenging tasks to complete such as completing paperwork needed following a death, the closing down of accounts, sorting out of wills and financial arrangements, as well as deciding what to do with clothes and possessions.

Our regular routine will also change, perhaps we were caring for our loved one or taking them to and from hospital for appointments. The things we did together are no longer a part of daily life. In addition to this we will also be trying to cope with the emotions associated with loss, such as loneliness, sadness, anger and many others.

It can take a long time to get used to the changes caused by bereavement. Some people are more adaptable to change, whilst others take much longer. Some may even resist or fight change as a way of refusing to accept what has happened.

However, there is hope that over time we can learn to accept our current situation and adjust to the changes in our lives. This does not mean that we have stopped loving and missing our loved one or that we like our new circumstances, just that we have begun to adapt to life as it is now.

Talking to others who are also grieving can be very supportive. Rosedale's bereavement support groups are free and open to everyone. Please call 01379 640 810 to reserve your free place on one of our groups taking place throughout Norfolk and Suffolk.



Hedgehog Story

We've been feeding and filming the hedgehogs in our garden for several years and have been glad to support their declining population and to learn more about them.

They are usually solitary creatures but, in the springtime, last year and this year we observed and heard their courtship behaviour. It is surprisingly noisy for such small creatures - the male circles the female while she makes loud huffing and puffing sounds. This can go on for long periods of time night after night before the male gives up and the female returns to the food we provide as she needs to be well fed before she is ready to raise a family. We haven't seen mating taking place nor have we seen tiny hoglets, but we have seen juveniles in the late summer and early autumn.

This long, hot, dry summer the hedgehogs needed all the help they could get as natural sources of food and water were in very short supply. One particularly hot day while we were having lunch under the trees a hedgehog came to feed. I had already seen him during the previous day, but he had scuttled away out of sight. As they are nocturnal creatures this behaviour is abnormal and a cause for concern, so I put on my gardening gloves, picked him up, put him in a box and covered him with a towel to stop him from climbing, out then contacted PACT. He was underweight and had ticks but we hoped he would recover so we could bring him home again. Several weeks went by and we didn't hear from PACT then they called to say 'our' hedgehog hadn't survived but would we like to rehome two other young ones.

We brought them home in two big, closed boxes, put them in the shade then released them in the evening, covered in bits of the straw that were used as bedding. After a few minutes they went off in different directions in the garden. Because they are wild creatures who roam far and wide during the night we can't tell how much these two individual hedgehogs come to eat the food we put out but we definitely have had some juveniles as they were small enough to get right inside the food bowl. Sometimes two were competing for food and space and for many weeks all the food was gone in the morning.



Then we had few or no visits for a while, and there were nights when the food remained untouched. There was even no sign of the big, very messy old male that had regularly spent regularly spent long periods of time feeding and we wondered what might have happened to him. We've still not seen him, but other hedgehogs are back and finishing all the food I put out so it's time to increase the amount and help them gain the weight they need to get them safely through the winter.

We have been entertained and enchanted by these little spiny animals as they feed, drink, push each other out of the way, scratch themselves (sometimes falling over in the process!), climb low walls, interact in their courtship behaviour and roam up to 2Km a night from garden to garden. We hope to go on seeing them for many more years!

Jan Hodges



Dates for your diary

- October 2nd Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
- October 4th Worship at 10.30a.m. including Communion
- October 5th Singing for Fun – 1.30p.m. in the Church
- October 6th POWER HOUR – 10.00a.m. in the Prayer Room
- October 6th Thrive@Roots – 3.15p.m.
- October 7th Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
- October 9th Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
- October 9th Friday Night Youth – 6.30p.m. – Youth Ministry Review
- October 11th Worship at 10.30a.m.
- October 13th POWER HOUR – 10.00a.m. in the Prayer Room
- October 13th Thrive@Roots – 3.15p.m.
- October 13th Leadership Team Meeting – 7.00p.m.
- October 14th Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
- October 16th Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
- October 17th Tools With A Mission collection – 10.00a.m. – 1.00p.m.
- October 18th Harvest Worship – 10.30a.m. – collection for Foodbank
- October 20th POWER HOUR – 10.00a.m. in the Prayer Room
- October 20th Thrive@Roots – 3.15p.m.
- October 21st Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
- October 23rd Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
- October 23rd Friday Night Youth – 6.30p.m.
- October 25th Worship at 10.30a.m.
- October 26th Wymondham Church Together meeting at WBC – 12 noon
- October 27th POWER HOUR – 10.00a.m. in the Prayer Room
- October 28th Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.
- October 30th Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m.

Dates for your diary cont'd.

November 1 st	Shoebox Sunday worship at 10.30a.m. including Communion (Paul preaching at Wittard Road)
November 2 nd	Singing for Fun – 1.30p.m. in the church
November 3 rd	POWER HOUR – 10.00a.m. in the Prayer Room
November 4 th	Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m
November 5 th	Home from Home – 1.30p.m. – 4.00p.m. in the Canopy
November 6 th	Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m
November 6 th	Friday Night Youth – 6.30p.m.
November 8 th	Worship at 10.30a.m.
November 10 th	POWER HOUR – 10.00a.m. in the Prayer Room
November 11 th	Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m
November 11 th	Green Pastures Pop Up Shop – 10.00a.m. in Church
November 12 th	Home from Home – 1.30p.m. – 4.00p.m. in the Canopy
November 13 th	Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m
November 13 th	Friday Night Youth – 6.30p.m.
November 15 th	Remembrance Sunday Worship at 10.30a.m.
November 17 th	POWER HOUR – 10.00a.m. in the Prayer Room
November 18 th	Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m
November 19 th	Home from Home – 1.30p.m. – 4.00p.m. in the Canopy
November 20 th	Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m
November 20 th	Friday Night Youth – 6.30p.m.
November 21 st	8.30a.m. – 11.30a.m. – Joint Prayer meeting with Wymondham churches
November 22 nd	Worship at 10.30a.m.
November 24 th	POWER HOUR – 10.00a.m. in the Prayer Room
November 25 th	Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m
November 26 th	Home from Home – 1.30p.m. – 4.00p.m.
November 27 th	Roots Community Café – 10.00a.m. – 2.00p.m
November 28 th	Leadership Team Prayer Breakfast
November 29 th	Café Church – Polar Express – 10.30a.m.
November 29 th	Church Meeting – 12.30p.m.

Happy Snapping

We received some beautiful photos from our August 'Happy Snapping' event which truly show the breadth, beauty, quirkiness and abundant provision of God's glorious creation and design. Thank you to those who sent in their photos.





*'From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
Creation's revealing Your majesty.
From the colours of fall to the fragrance of spring
Every creature unique in the song that it sings.....'*





*We thank you, then O Father
For all things bright and good
The seed-time and the harvest
Our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
For all your love imparts
And what thou most desirest
Our humble, thankful hearts.*

*.....
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
For all His love.'*

The Eco Church team



WBC Friday Night Youth Ministry

Summer Launch, First Half-Term Review and Looking Ahead

Following the summer Youth Pop-Up events, Wyndham Baptist Church has begun a new chapter in its youth ministry through the launch of a regular Friday Night Youth programme. The summer months provided an opportunity to spend time with both new and familiar faces, building friendships, having fun together and creating a welcoming environment where young people could simply enjoy being part of a community.

The journey began with a BBQ on a very hot Saturday and then a Pizza Night on a very stormy one, which brought together a mixture of Sunday youth members, young people from church families, invited friends and several young people with little or no previous connection to church. These informal events created space for conversations, laughter and relationship-building, helping us establish connections before launching a regular term-time programme.

The Friday Night Youth Group is currently in its **first half-term block**, and rather than beginning with a traditional teaching series, we have focused on a theme of "**Getting to Know the Leaders.**" The aim has been to help young people and leaders get to know one another through shared interests, stories and experiences, whilst naturally introducing faith conversations along the way.

Our first session featured **Fiona**, exploring the Myers Briggs personality types through the personality quiz and games to understand and explore the differences we all have. The discussion then moved towards identity, influential Christian characters throughout history and the reminder that while we can be encouraged by those who have gone before us, we won't find ourselves in the pages of history. God does not create "Version 2.0" of people. Each person is uniquely made, valued and called for a purpose that is entirely their own.

The second session focused on **Chad**, combining his love of sport with a fun evening of DIY crazy golf. The faith discussion explored how faith can be a journey rather than a destination, drawing on the story of Nicodemus and his questions for Jesus. Young people were encouraged to see that doubts, uncertainty and questioning are not something to be afraid of, but can be an important part of discovering faith for themselves.

Upcoming sessions will introduce **Liz**, through her passion for music and creativity, and **Sara**, helping young people continue to discover the different gifts, interests and faith journeys represented within the leadership team. Through these evenings we hope to demonstrate that there is no single mould for following Jesus and that God works through people with a wide variety of backgrounds, personalities and talents.

Alongside the activities themselves, these first few months form part of the church's wider vision to help the church **Grow Younger** by building relationships, creating a genuine sense



of belonging, encouraging honest conversations about faith and providing opportunities for young people to shape the future of the ministry.

To support this, we will be hosting a **Youth Ministry Review Evening on 9th October** for young people, leaders and interested allies from across the church. Whilst we hope to celebrate the positive beginnings we have seen, the main purpose of the evening will be to listen, learn and reflect honestly on where we may need to improve.

Using a live Root Cause Analysis approach, we will explore both what is working well and where barriers may exist, asking questions about engagement, belonging, discipleship and the needs of young people in our community. The evening will be built around the principle:

"A problem well stated is a problem half solved."

Our hope is that by involving young people, leaders and supporters in these conversations, we can continue to learn together and ensure the ministry develops in a way that genuinely serves the next generation.

The ministry is still in its early days, but we are encouraged by the enthusiasm, new connections and conversations that have already emerged. We look forward to continuing this journey together, building a community where young people feel welcomed, valued, able to ask questions and supported as they explore faith and life together.

Fiona 🙏



Season of Creation 2026

Each year, from the 1st September to the 4th October, Christians around the world mark the Season of Creation. It is a time to give thanks for the gift of our world and to recommit, through prayer and action, to look after this precious gift.

This year's theme is Living Water and is drawn from Ezekiel 47 which gives us a vivid image of a river flowing out from the Temple becoming deeper and deeper, until it is a torrent of life, fruitfulness and healing.

Hannah Gray, who has visited us at WBC on 2 occasions to speak, has written the following article for the Baptist Union Environmental Network and has kindly allowed us to publish it in full. Hannah works in the water industry and coordinates the Easter Association of BUEN (Baptist Union Environmental Network) as well as being a volunteer speaker for the charity A Rocha.

Hannah writes:

'Living water

Usually in the UK, we take water for granted, but the recent heatwaves and drought are testing that assumption. Appropriately, this year's [Season of Creation theme is Living Water](#).

Water features 722 times in the Bible, from beginning "the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" (Genesis 1:2), to end "Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life" (Revelation 22:17).

Water was used for judgement and justice; healing and purification. Jesus controlled the storm, walked on water, offers himself as living water. We fully immerse ourselves in water to symbolise our spiritual transformation.

But our world is in troubled waters. A warmer atmosphere has more energy and holds more water, leading to intense rainfall and floods. Climate change also means more frequent and intense droughts. Usually, the poorest suffer most.

Scientists predict global demand for freshwater will outstrip supply by 40% by 2030. Water is an increasingly precious resource, like it was in Bible times.

What steps can you take this Season of Creation to value and save water? Here's some ideas:

- Shorten your shower and fix those leaks
- Install a water butt for your garden
- Take a reusable bottle with you instead of buying bottled water
- Make a donation to a water charity like [WaterAid](#)
- Survey your local river and submit data to The Rivers Trust's [Big River Watch](#)
- Report any leaks you notice to your water company (it's common for more leaks to happen in drought due to changing ground conditions)
- For other ideas check out [Let's Save Water](#)

Hannah Gray is a member at Light of Life Baptist Church in Ormesby, Norfolk. She coordinates the Baptist Union Environment Network in the Eastern Baptist Association, and works for [Water Resources East](#), an organisation safeguarding water in the East of England.'



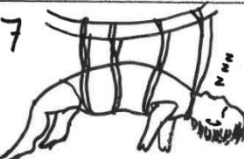
Image: Ormesby Broad, Norfolk – a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a drinking water reservoir (Hannah Gray)

Thank you, Hannah, for challenging us to consider how we can take action to really appreciate and preserve the gift of water, not just in dry periods but throughout the year.

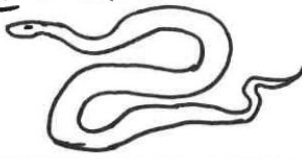
Nicki



A Puzzle to solve

Not Odd. Just Different. Find the creature that fits the cartoon.		Turn the page to discover more. Which animal letter pairs up with which cartoon number?	
1  Who hears with his knees?	2  Who sleeps upside-down?	5  Who hates company?	6  Whose nursery stinks of rotten fish?
3  Who blinks to swallow his food whole?	4  Who peels off his outer skin?	7  Who sleeps high in the air?	8  Who stores food in her throat?
9  Who tastes food with her feet?	10  Who builds several houses for his wife to choose from?		

Which answer fits the questions on previous page –

<u>Not Odd</u> <u>A</u> swift 	<u>Just Different</u> <u>B</u> Wren 
<u>C</u> Pigeon 	<u>D</u> Bat 
<u>E</u> Grasshopper 	<u>F</u> Shrew 
<u>G</u> Frog 	<u>H</u> Snake 
<u>I</u> Kingfisher 	<u>J</u> Butterfly 

The Real Advent Calendar



If you would like to order a Real Chocolate Advent Calendar, (not available in supermarkets) and share the true Christmas story with someone, we are able to get these for you. An order sheet is available in the Canopy – indicate how many calendars you would like to purchase. If we can order a case of 18 we can secure them for £5 each.

Dark to Light

One tree can give life to a forest
One smile can start a friendship
One hand can uplift a soul
One idea can shape the future
One candle can wipe out darkness
One laugh can conquer gloom
One ray of hope can lift your spirits
One touch can show that you care
One life can make a difference
Be that 'one' today.



Shoebox Sunday – 1st November



Shoebox Sunday will soon be here. Give a child overseas a Christmas gift and show God's love. Pre-prepared shoeboxes are available from the Office and more information on what you can put in your shoebox. Last day for bringing shoeboxes in is Sunday November 8th. Steve Gaskin will then take them to a central collection point.



Never Regret

Never regret a day in your life
Good days give you happiness
Bad days give you experience
Worst days give you lessons
And the worst days give you memories.



TWAM COLLECTION DAY – Saturday, 17th October

Having a clear out, bring your unwanted tools etc. to the church between 10.00a.m. and 1.00p.m. to be refurbished by TWAM and used in developing countries.

HELP is needed on the 17th October to take tools in and on 19th October to help load the tools on to the TWAM collection van. Please speak to Kate Kinsey if you can help.



Puzzle answers:-

- 1 – Grasshopper, Circket or Locust have tiny ears on their knees
- 2 – A bat hangs upside down to sleep
- 3 – A frog or toad blinks to swallow, it can't chew, shutting the eyes and pushing them down helps to push the food along.
- 4 – A snake
- 5 – A shrew is a solitary and aggressive creature
- 6 – A kingfisher's nursery
- 7 – A swift can spend months without touching land, trees or buildings
- 8 – A pigeon or a bird of prey or gull
- 9 – A female butterfly
- 10 – The wren.