



Hardwick Happenings

Sunday, 13 September 2026

10:30am

Scripture: Hebrews 13

[Series: Hebrews. Number 13]

Preacher: Matt Oliver

6:00pm

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (Encourage One Another)

Preacher: Matt Oliver

Activities this week

Monday, 14 September

Prayer @ Church	noon
Revive @ Rachel's	1:00pm
Discovery for Boys	6:00pm
Youth Group, boys	7:30pm

Tuesday, 15 September

Prayer @ Church	9:00am
Girls Adventurers	6:00pm
Youth Group, girls	7:30pm

Wednesday, 16 September

Toddlers	10:00am
Prayer on Zoom	1:00pm
Prayer Meeting	7:30pm

Thursday, 17 September

Prayer @ Church	9:00am
Safeguarding Training	6:30pm

Friday, 18 September

Prayer @ Church	7:00am
Knit, Craft, and Share	10:00am

Sunday, 20 September 2026

Church Anniversary

am Ephesians 4:32

Preacher: Al Gooderham

Lunch after morning service

pm Colossians 3:13

Preacher: Al Gooderham

Notices

Church Anniversary Lunch - Main meal of jacket potatoes and fillings will be provided by church. If you would like to provide a dessert please let Alison know what you intend to bring.

Hardwick Baptist Church, Piper Knowle Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS19 8JQ

HardwickBaptistChurch.org

Fighter Verses

2 Corinthians 9:8 ESVUK

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Prayer items

Our Church

Give Thanks:-

- for God's faithfulness, gospel proclamation and many saved over seven decades of witness and worship.
- for 11 years of ministry and leadership from Pastor Matt.

Pray For:-

- for the anniversary services, lunch and transformative preaching from Al Gooderham.
- for faithful and fruitful years of church life ahead.

Mission

Mission - Yorkshire Camps (and The Gaines near Worcester)

Give Thanks:

- More than 250 children attended the 5 summer camps. All heard the Good New and many took books with them. Pray that they will remember it, believe it and live by it.
- The Gaines camp centre has now transferred to Yorkshire Camps and refurbishment work has started with plans for day camps to start in the Spring.
- The 11 new training team members started last week (Grace, Lucy, Martha, Hannah, Tilly, Berit, Josh, Daniel and Joel).

Pray for:

- Intense initial 2.5 weeks of training for the team and the weekly ministry training in Leyland.
- The first day camp on the 26th, followed by a residential camp a week later.
- Safety and happiness on the camps but, above all, that young people will come to know Jesus as Lord and grow and bear fruit for him.

Other Churches

Grace Church Newton Hall (near Durham) – Pastor – Mark Rainbow

Give Thanks:-

- Give thanks for the Lord's sustaining hand over the summer months. Some folk have moved on from Grace Church, others have arrived. Please pray for all of them as they settle into their new church.

Pray For:-

- We have a new youth worker starting, as well as a part-time admin assistant and finance assistant. Please pray for them as they take up their new roles.
- We're studying Acts on a Sunday morning - please pray that the Lord would provide every encouragement to us from His Word.

Thought for the week

Christian Discipleship – Joyful Obedience or Reluctant Obligation. Part 4

So far, we've considered the motivations behind legalistic and gospel-shaped discipleship. We've also contrasted these two models of discipleship. We concluded last week that gospel-shaped discipleship is relational rather than behavioural. It leans on heartfelt conversations fuelled by the grace we've received in Christ.

The Fruits of Joyful Obedience

Returning to the example of our dear brother or sister struggling with a particular sin. A gospel-shaped disciple may still offer the same practical, wise, and helpful advice as the legalistic disciple. However, that advice comes later because unlike the legalistic disciple the primary concern for the gospel-shaped disciple is to understand the heart.

Questions like, “How do you think God feels about you right now?” help uncover false beliefs and assumptions about God’s character and whether the individual believes God’s love is dependent upon performance rather than grace. Deeper conversations may expose idols of the heart, such as misplaced hope in relationships, comfort, or control, allowing both spiritual and practical care resulting in advice that addresses the true source of the struggle.

Although gospel-shaped and legalistic disciples may appear similar outwardly, their inner posture towards God and resulting fruit are significantly different. Legalism is restrictive because it depends on continual self-justification. Gospel-shaped discipleship however is freeing because it enables believers to trust in God’s control and have confidence in the Lord’s forgiveness and love. You live with true openness because you rest in Christ as the work required to justify yourself before God has all been done for you by Christ.

Therefore, by being freed to live in the humility of the cross and power of the resurrection, gospel-shaped disciples display genuine and lasting fruit. Their submission, service, suffering, self-denial, and sacrifice are no longer motivated by recognition or status but by a desire to glorify God. Joyful obedience is therefore possible because the Christian life rests not on human strength but on God’s transforming grace which is revealed in weakness. In summary, the Christian life is a life of power in weakness.

Darrell Wilkinson