



# Park [life]

## WELCOME!

Whether you're a visitor or a regular member of our congregation, we welcome you in the name of Jesus and invite you to join us as we worship God today.

Our services are typically informal in style, with a mixture of singing, prayers, Bible-centred teaching and sharing. As part of our worship an offering will be taken during the service, which supports the work of the church.

Feel free to participate in as much or as little as you feel comfortable with.

After the service fresh coffee, tea and biscuits will be served downstairs in the hall. You are welcome to join us for those too.

## January services @ Park

<b>Saturday 7th</b>	<b>Rev. Jorge Damasceno</b> Portuguese Service
<b>Sunday 8th</b>	<b>Rev. Peter Timothy</b> Philippians 2:1-11
<b>Saturday 14th</b>	<b>Rev. Richard Lewis &amp; Rev. Peter Timothy</b> Jorge Induction (Bi-Lingual)
<b>Sunday 15th</b>	<b>Rev. Peter Timothy &amp; John Graver</b> CAP Debt Centre Launch
<b>Saturday 21st</b>	<b>Rev. Jorge Damasceno</b> Portuguese Service
<b>Sunday 22nd</b>	<b>Rev. Peter Timothy</b> Psalms of Orientation Baptism follows by the Pier
<b>Saturday 28th</b>	<b>Rev. Jorge Damasceno</b> Portuguese Service
<b>Sunday 29th</b>	<b>Rev. Peter Timothy</b> Psalms of Disorientation



**Rev. Peter Timothy**  
**Minister**  
**Day off: Monday**  
[peter@parkbaptist.church](mailto:peter@parkbaptist.church)



**Rev. Jorge Damasceno**  
**Minister**  
**Days off: Monday & Tuesday**  
[jorge@parkbaptist.church](mailto:jorge@parkbaptist.church)

# Prayer matters



Our prayer room is a peaceful space where anyone can go to either pray alone or receive prayer. It can be found through the door to the right as you face the stage.

We pray at 10.15 before every Sunday service and our prayer ministry team are available to pray with you after the service. You'll spot them wearing a yellow badge!

Prayer requests can be written on a yellow card, available from one of our Welcome Team, and can be given in during the service (at the same time as the offering), where they will be prayed for at our prayer meetings.



## TOP 10 Things to pray for this month

01

Jorge & Mel Damasceno as they decorate their new home before moving into it later in the month.

06

The United States of America and the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump on the 20th.

02

The opening of our new CAP Debt Centre, and for its manager, Pat Hillier, as she meets her first clients.

07

Elizabeth & Gary Saunders as they leave for their round-the-world trip. Pray for safety and a deeper sense of wonder at God's creation.

03

Our new deacons: Sandra Grey and Denise Jackson, as they join the leadership team.

08

Our Baptism service on the 22nd. For Kevin as he prepares to share his testimony and take this important step.

04

Jorge's Induction Service on Saturday 14th and for our Portuguese church family as they begin this new season.

09

Those who are unwell or recovering from recent poor health, including: Marilyn & Brian Robinson; Myrtle Catchpole; Robin Day; Dean Maddison

05

The launch of The Living Room night shelter project, that it will be a success and bless our town's rough sleepers.

10

The CAP Ambassadors Day on the 30th as we seek to establish networks and partners for the new Debt Centre.

# Shining a light into the darkness

*Looking back at an eventful 12 months, Peter reflects on church life and what God has said to him about faith, dignity and pastoral care and ponders what it all might mean as we enter into a new year.*

Perhaps history will prove me wrong, but 2016 seemed a hugely significant 12 months.

The swing from the political middle ground to extremes, most notably the far-right; the Calais Jungle and continuing influx of refugees; Syria; Trump; Brexit. If nothing else, 2016 was certainly eventful.

As I reflect on how my own walk with God has evolved, it is clear that these events have affected my faith. I have found myself asking God what it means to be a Christian in such times, and I've repeatedly returned to the radical nature of Jesus. The gospels unite with one voice to proclaim Jesus as Lord, but they also paint a picture of a God who does not sit

still and turn a blind eye to injustice, or ignore the pleas of the desperate. It's taken a while to realise, but thankfully God is patient and generous and I'm now beginning to see the bigger picture of what my faith needs to look like in the public arena.

One key element I've become aware of is the challenge of restoring dignity to people.

When I look at Jesus and how he behaved both in public and in

private, he was constantly providing and restoring dignity to individuals. This was a lesson I discovered through interactions with our own church family.

2016 was a year where we said goodbye to some much-loved members - young and old. From our centenarians; Joe and Stanley, to eight-year-old Lucas. As I reflected upon their lives and particularly on how I offered pastoral care to them, God revealed the importance that providing dignity can have.

Whether it was frank discussions with Joe about life and death or obliging Stanley with a full cup of beer in his preferred tankard, I discovered that the act of restoring dignity - even if just for a moment - can be a

profoundly spiritual act. In those moments we pass on something of God's grace. For we are all undignified before God - unworthy to kneel, let alone stand before the Holy Creator. Yet God acts out of love to send Jesus to the world, and through Christ our failings are forgiven and our dignity restored.

I should not have been surprised then, to learn that the key to restoring dignity is prayer. Sharing The Lord's Prayer with Joe and Stanley levelled us before God, and restored dignity to fragile bodies. The tearful prayers of confession, forgiveness and praise as Lucas was baptised reminded me that he was following a

well-trodden path, a follower of Christ in his own right - dignified before us and before his Lord.

The ability to provide or restore dignity is not done in our own strength, but by God's Spirit working through us. It is a wonderfully powerful witness to God's love and grace. And it shines brightly in a world where people's dignity is being increasingly eroded.

Restoring dignity is one of God's trademarks. As such it should also

be a trademark of the church. The opening of our new CAP Debt Centre is exciting as it provides examples of how God brings dignity to individuals and families in financial despair.

The opening of *The Living Room* night shelter project is providing dignity to the homeless. I rejoice that God has placed me in a church which realises that every person matters, and creates space to involve all. But we can do more. Our challenge is to go deeper with God, to lean more heavily upon him and absorb his Word.

Doing this allows us to look beyond the surface and catch a glimpse of what God sees when he looks at us: Love. Compassion. Dignity.

**“Restoring dignity - even if just for a moment - can be a profoundly spiritual act”**

## NEWS FROM OUR ASSOCIATION

*As a church we are part of the Eastern Baptist Association, spanning Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. Each month we feature some news from other Baptist churches. More detailed news is available from the EBA's 'FOCUS' magazine, found on the church information table.*

**Foulsham:** January marks the end of our 200th anniversary and the conclusion of several events for the church and the village. We now look forward to a year of change as our minister, Neil Walker, is retiring in April. Please pray with us for God's help in tackling the many uncertainties and the decisions which face us as a church. Please also pray for Neil as he plans for the future.



### Intercessory Prayer Course

Our new intercessory prayer course continues this week on Thursday at 7pm in church. Suggested donation towards the cost of the two books is £14.

### An Evening with Stuart Townend

Renowned Christian singer-song writer Stuart Townend will be performing a St. Andrew's Church, Gorleston on Friday 31st March, 7.30pm. Modern hymns such as *In Christ Alone*, *The Power of the Cross* and *How Deep the Father's Love* have become staples in church life and this is an excellent chance to join with others to worship and hear Stuart's story. Tickets cost £12.50 and can be purchased from St. Andrews Church Office (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9-1pm) or online at: [www.standrewsgorleston.org.uk](http://www.standrewsgorleston.org.uk)

### Children on Sunday mornings

If you have a pre-high school age child and they need to leave the service could you ensure that a parent or guardian accompanies them please. Thank you!

### Church Website

All church members have access to additional information if you log in to the website. To log in for the first time click the 'register' button, follow the instructions and you will be sent a login name and password. We welcome any contributions to the website, such as prayer requests and upcoming events. Anyone wishing to submit anything should email Judith Edmonds at: [admin@parkbaptist.church](mailto:admin@parkbaptist.church)

### Prayer Room & Pastor's Drop-in

The Pastor's office is open to anyone who wishes to speak with Peter every Tuesday from 10-12.

The prayer room is also open at this time and on Thursday evenings from 7-9pm. Please enter the church using the back door.

### Church Meeting

Church members are reminded that our next church meeting is on Wednesday 25th January, 7.30pm in the church. Agendas will be emailed and printed copied available from Sunday 15th January.

### Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training will be held at Witard Road Baptist Church, Norwich on Saturday 25th February. If you've not had any training in the past three years then speak to Nigel to book a place.

### Men's Weekend Away

A few tickets are still available for our men's weekend 23-25th June. See Peter for details.