

DEAR NEIGHBOUR

The Old Baptist Chapel
Nuxley Road
Belvedere

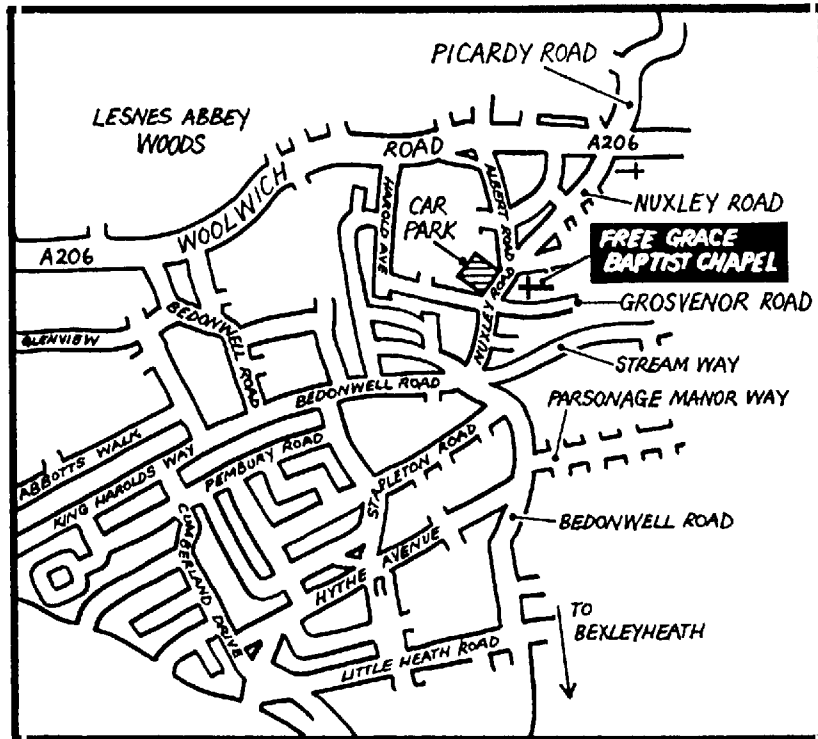
Services:

Sunday 11.00 a.m.
3.00 p.m. Sunday School
6.30 p.m.
Thursday 2.30 p.m. Ladies' Rest Hour
7.45 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study



The Minister and members of
The Old Baptist Chapel, Nuxley Road
(opposite the Public Car Park)
invite you to join with us for worship:

SUNDAYS at
11.00 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.



Pastor David Allen, B.A., M.Ed.,
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My dear friends,

I think you will agree with me when I say that we are living in dark and dismal days of lawlessness. The most violent crimes against women, children, and the aged, are committed with such callous and cruel indifference. In the home we have seen the erosion of marriage as a sacred institution, with one in three marriages now ending in divorce. Children no longer appear to have that respect for authority which only twenty years ago we took for granted! Why are these things so? Why has there been such a breakdown in law and order in our society over the last twenty-five years? Why is it that our prisons are over-crowded? What is happening to our society? Where will it all end? Surely these are things which deeply concern you.

It is not without significance that these developments have taken place at a time in our history when there has been such a massive turning away from God and His Word. A generation of young people have never been to Sunday School, neither have they been taught the Scriptures in the home, nor at school. These things have happened at a time when there has been an almost total abandonment of the Bible and Christian standards.

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but
sin is a reproach to any people.” (PROVERBS 14 verse 34)

Let me focus on two issues:

- (i) *What does the Bible have to say regarding Capital Punishment?*

“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood
be shed; for in the image of God made he man.”

(GENESIS 9 verse 6)

Our politicians and judges are called ‘ministers of God’, and they have been delegated with the responsibility of ‘bearing the sword’, and thereby ensuring that the dangerous and vicious criminal is put to death in fulfilment of the moral basis of government outlined in Genesis chapter 9.

“for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of
God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.”
(ROMANS 13 verse 4)

According to ECCLESIASTES chapter 3 and verse 3, there is a time to kill. There is a time when the shedding of man’s blood by man is not only lawful, but necessary if righteousness is to exalt a nation. It should not surprise us therefore that there has been such an escalation of violent crimes over the last twenty years, for as a nation we have abandoned God’s standard of justice and moral government!

- (ii) *What does the Bible teach regarding the Sabbath Day?*

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”
(EXODUS 20 verse 8)

The first day of the week, that is, the Christian Sabbath is to be kept as a DAY OF REST. All work of every kind ought to cease as far as possible. Our Lord taught that works of necessity and mercy may be done. The other great rule about the Sabbath is, that IT MUST BE KEPT HOLY. It is to be a rest in which the affairs of the soul are attended to. It is not a day of pleasure and inactivity, but a day when communion with God and Christ are kept up. How sad it is, that over the last twenty years we have become a nation of sabbath breakers.

God said of old:

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall
humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and
turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from
heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal
their land.” (2 CHRONICLES 7 verse 14)