

BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



BRBC Bulletin

Sunday 4th February 2024

Welcome to our service today.

Events for the next week

THIS SUNDAY

Gluttony: Don't feed the habit

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

BMS World Day of Prayer

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Tim Carter

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Sports Hall - Children will go
from the main service

NEXT SUNDAY

Don't be a sloth - rise and shine!

1 Kings 19:1-12

Communion

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Tim Carter

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Sports Hall - Children will go
from the main service



Sunday 4th February 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 4th February 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Sunday 4th February 4:00pm	Newcomers Welcome Coffee and Pastries
Monday 5th February 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Monday 5th February 2:30pm	PMA
Tuesday 6th February 4:00pm	Toy Library
Tuesday 6th February 7:30pm	Merryfield House Group
Wednesday 7th February 2:30pm	Johnson House Group
Wednesday 7th February 2:30pm	Hillside House Group
Thursday 8th February 12:45pm	Lunch Club
Thursday 8th February 2:00pm	Craft Club
Thursday 8th February 7:30pm	Roffey House Group
Thursday 8th February 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 9th February 7:00pm	Alpha
Saturday 10th February 12:30pm	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 11th February 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 11th February 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Tuesday 13th February 4:00pm	Toy Library
Wednesday 14th February 8:00pm	Prayer Meeting
Thursday 15th February 10:00am	Art Group
Thursday 15th February 10:30am	Men's Coffee Morning
Thursday 15th February 1:30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thursday 15th February 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 16th February 2:00pm	Afternoon Stroll
Friday 16th February 7:00pm	Alpha
Saturday 17th February 12:30pm	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 18th February 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 18th February 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Monday 19th February 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Monday 19th February 2:30pm	PMA

Weekly Message

Viking Laws and Church” (Part 4 of 4)

In my recent bulletin messages, I've been referring to four “Viking Laws” (from my August trip to Norway) considering their spiritual application for mission and ministry. We come to the fourth and final ‘law’ with its four sub-laws.

4. Keep the Camp in Order

i. Keep things tidy and organised

Apostle Paul wrote, “God is not a God of disorder but of peace – as in all the congregations of the Lord’s people” ([1 Cor 14:33](#)), noting “everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” ([1 Cor 14:40](#)). He lamented, “I may not find you as I want you to be ... I fear that there may be discord ... and disorder.” ([2 Cor 12:20](#)). James taught that “where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” ([James 3:16](#)). Let us, as a congregation, pursue peace.

The Spirit of God brings order to the body of Christ (the church) and to the believer, for their ‘house’ is “swept clean and put in order” ready for the Spirit to reside ([Matt 12:44](#), [Luke 11:25](#)). In Jesus’ coming, “the old order of things has passed away” ([Revelation 21:4](#)) and He heralds and establishes a “new order” ([Hebrews 9:10](#)).

ii. Arrange enjoyable activities which strengthen the group

Enjoyment is a biblical concept. One of God’s Ten Commandments came with a promise; “Honour your father and mother ... so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” ([Ephesians 6:2-4](#)). Paul reminds Timothy that we are “to put [our] hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.” ([1 Tim 6:17](#)) John prayed that his “Dear friend” Gaius “may enjoy good health” ([3 John 1:2](#)). Strengthening others is a crucial aspect of being church in this weakening world. Jesus prayed for Simon Peter, fore-knowing his triplicate denial, “that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” ([Luke 22:32](#)). Even Jesus had needed strengthening - in the Gethsemane Garden, contemplating the cost of the cross, “an angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.” ([Luke 22:43](#)) May we too receive strengthening from one another here on earth, and from angels sent from heaven.

Following persecution, the church “enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened” ([Acts 9:31](#)). In fact, Paul (who as Saul, did the persecuting) later “went ... strengthening the churches.” ([Acts 15:41](#)). He, with Barnabas, was “strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. ‘We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,’ they said. ([Acts 14:22](#)) Paul continued “strengthening all the disciples” ([Acts 18:23](#)) – note how all needed strengthening. Timothy was sent to strengthen ([1 Thess 3:2](#)) – perhaps you are being sent to strengthen others?

Prophets “Judas and Silas ... said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.” ([Acts 15:32](#)) Prophecy is, in part, about strengthening; “the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.” ([1 Corinthians 14:3](#)). Strengthening enables numerical growth: “So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.” ([Acts 16:5](#))

Strengthening comes via speaking and doing: “We have been speaking in the sight of God as those in Christ; and everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening.” ([2 Cor 12:19](#)) Also, through praying, “I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being ...” ([Ephesians 3:16](#)).

Our prayers can reach down deep, perhaps deeper than our words and deeds. The Lord strengthens our hearts ([1 Thessalonians 3:13](#), [Hebrews 13:9](#)) and other body parts! ([Hebrews 12:12](#)) We are strengthened in the/our faith ([Colossians 2:7](#), [Romans 4:20](#)) and “in every good deed and word.” ([2 Thessalonians 2:17](#)) “The Lord is faithful ... he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.” ([2 Thessalonians 3:3](#)) The resources to hand for strengthening are incredible – “being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might ...” ([Colossians 1:11](#)) And, at crucial times, the onus is upon us – see [Revelation 3:2](#).

iii. Make sure everyone does useful work

Paul instructs the Ephesians that, “Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.” ([Ephesians 4:28](#)). Let us be those ‘on-the-give’, not ‘on-the-take’. The Christian is one who is “made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.” ([2 Timothy 2:21](#)). Onesimus was “formerly ... useless ... but now he has become useful ...” ([Philemon 1:11](#)) as a believer and

brother in Christ. You are called and enabled to be useful in God's Kingdom.

iv. Consult all members of the group for advice

Proverbs repeatedly echoes this rule: "... the wise listen to advice" (12:15). "... wisdom is found in those who take advice" (13:10). "Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise" (19:20). "Plans are established by seeking advice ..." (20:18). "... the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice" (27:9). You and I are not called to follow Christ alone, on our own, but alongside one another, walking together and watching over one another – listen to, learn from, love one another.

My prayer is that this bulletin series on Viking Laws has stimulated us to some wholesome thinking ([2 Peter 3:1](#)). Vi takker deg, Herre. Amen.

Revd Michael Hogg

Notices

P.M.A. aka Pleasant Monday Afternoon

Tomorrow our guest speaker is Mr David Martin, project manager for the Horsham YMCA. David will be telling us about the work the YMCA is doing in our area. You probably see the building as you drive through Horsham and have no idea what goes on in there. Well, this is your chance to learn and ask questions so that we are more informed and may be drawn to help in some way. Please join us in the main hall from 2 30pm to 3 45pm, we would love to see you.

Celia Steere

Coffee, Cake and Co

There will be no Coffee, Cake & Co on Monday 12th February 2024 as it is half term. We will begin again on Monday, 19th February 2024 and look forward to seeing you again then.

Church Lunch Club on Thursday 8th February

The next Lunch Club is on Thursday 8th February. The 2 course lunch will be served at 12.45. We ask for a small contribution of £4. All are welcome.

If you wish to attend please put your name on the list at Reception, or email me on valeriej.hardwick@yahoo.com or ring the Church office on 01403 211150 to book your place. Please let us know if you have any dietary or allergy requirements. Any requiring lifts to or from the church please contact Chris Gargano Phone - 01403 266229 or email - kcgargano@gmail.com
Val Hardwick and Chris Gargano

Flower Calendar 2024 - help needed

The Flower Calendar 2024 is there for people to select a date for giving flowers, or more usually the money for the flowers, that enhance our worship on a Sunday morning. The date chosen often commemorates a special birthday or is in memory of a loved one. During 2023 only 26 of the 53 Sundays were filled on the calendar. It has emerged from the office where only 3 people found it. At present it is on the board behind reception. This is probably not its final position but I am looking for people to sign up and fill many of the dates. I hope that you can help!
Thank you. Sheila Stevens

World Day of Prayer

In preparation for the service on Friday March 1st, a Coffee morning and Presentation will be held on February 10th 2024 at 10.30am at the Salvation Army Hall, Booth Way. Countries to write the service for the first Friday in March are chosen about 5 years in advance, so is it coincidence or God's plan that this year the focus is on the Christians in Palestine? So put the date in your diary and come along and see the background slides and script that the women of Palestine have written. There is no charge. The actual service will take place in 3 different venues at 3 different times, so hopefully there will be one to suit you. Posters to remind you of these dates will be put up as soon as we have noticeboards!

Marking 2 years of war in Ukraine – Prayer for Peace

There will be a service marking 2 years of war in Ukraine and praying for peace: 11am Saturday 24th February, 2024, @ St Mary's Church Horsham, followed by a soup lunch. It will be led by Canon Lisa Barnett and Michael Hogg.

Horsham Climate Pilgrimage

Join Horsham Eco Churches and Sussex Green Living for a 30-minute Climate Pilgrimage, a reflective journey open to people of any faith or none, around Horsham town on Saturday 24 February at 9am. Start and end at the United Reformed Church. Then visit Horsham Repair Cafe, Horsham Community Fridge, Transition Horsham, Sussex Green Living Recycling, Refill Shop, Horsham Eco Churches and the cafe at Sussex Green Hub, in the United Reformed Church.

Easter Charity Concert

There will be an Easter Orchestral Concert at Brighton Road Baptist Church put on by the Dove English Orchestra in aid of Turning Tides (Ending Local Homelessness) at 7:30pm, 30th March. Tickets will be £14 (on door); £12 (online in advance) - online booking information to follow.

Church Flowers

The flowers this week have been given by Helen and Chris Gargano to the caring and supportive BRBC family.

BMS Birthday Scheme

The BMS Birthday Scheme enables you to support the work of BMS World Mission by making a donation on your birthday. If you would like to join the scheme, contact Brenda Rowley – email:- bren151@talktalk.net
Celebrating a birthday this week is Tim Carter on Thursday 8th February.

For Prayer

Loving Lord,
you tell us in the Bible
that whatever wrong we have done
you tread down our faults
to the bottom of the sea.
We know there is no need
to keep thinking
about what we have done in the past,
because you pardon
the wrongs we have done,
and you delight in showing mercy.
You bind up all our wounds
and you renew us by your love.
Lord, you love all that you have made,
and it is your very nature
to love and forgive.
Lead us to be generous
in accepting and forgiving others
in the same way
as you accept and forgive us. Amen.

Mission Prayer Request

Since 4th February is BMS World Mission Prayer Day, let us pray especially this week for the BMS workers we support – Claire Bedford at the G2 Hospital in Chad, Peter and Louise Lynch working with the Baptist Church of Bangladesh and Genesis Acaye helping farmers in the north of Uganda.

Notices for the weekly bulletin should be sent to bulletin@brbc-horsham.org.uk before 6pm on Wednesday.

Brighton Road Baptist Church is part of God's family, where anyone and everyone is made welcome, and we are all equipped to live our lives for Jesus with a shared sense of unity and purpose. We warmly welcome you to our worship today and hope that you feel at home among us as we worship God together.

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