

BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



BRBC Bulletin

Sunday 11th February 2024
Welcome to our service today.

Events for the next week

THIS 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

NEXT SUNDAY

Baptism

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Ken Carter
with Tim Carter

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Sports Hall - Children will
go from the main service



Sunday 11th February 10:30am
Sunday 11th February 10:45am
Tuesday 13th February 4:00pm
Tuesday 13th February 7:30pm
Wednesday 14th February 8:00pm
Thursday 15th February 10:00am
Thursday 15th February 10:30am
Thursday 15th February 1:30pm
Thursday 15th February 7:45pm
Friday 16th February 2:00pm
Friday 16th February 7:00pm
Saturday 17th February 12:30pm
Sunday 18th February 10:30am
Sunday 18th February 10:45am
Monday 19th February 10:00am

Monday 19th February 2:30pm
Tuesday 20th February 1:00pm
Tuesday 20th February 7:45pm
Wednesday 21st February 2:30pm
Wednesday 21st February 2:30pm
Thursday 22nd February 2:00pm
Thursday 22nd February 7:30pm
Thursday 22nd February 7:45pm
Friday 23rd February 7:00pm
Saturday 24th February 9:30am
Saturday 24th February 11:00am

Saturday 24th February 12:30pm
Sunday 25th February 10:30am
Monday 26th February 10:00am

Monday 26th February 2:30pm

Sunday Service
BRBK (Kids' Club)
Toy Library
Merryfield House Group
Prayer Meeting
Art Group
Men's Coffee Morning
Women's Fellowship
Worship Group
Afternoon Stroll
Alpha
Saturday Kitchen
Sunday Service
BRBK (Kids' Club)
Coffee, Cake &
Company
PMA
Clive Reed Funeral
Allsorts Housegroup
Hillside House Group
Johnson House Group
Craft Club
Roffey House Group
Worship Group
Alpha
Prayer Meeting
Praying for Peace –
Marking 2 years of war in Ukraine
Saturday Kitchen
Sunday Service
Coffee, Cake &
Company
PMA

Weekly Message

Why bother with church?

'I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"' ([Psalm 122:1](#)). Church? I love it! I wouldn't miss it for the world. It's my number 1 priority, the best part of my week... If I'm honest, I don't always feel quite that enthusiastic about church! And it's clear, post-Covid, that increasing numbers of people don't feel that way about church at all. Despite pockets of growth, and a few people who dispute this perceived statistical trend, it really does look as though Covid has turned a trajectory of church decline into a nose-dive, particularly among families and young people.

Why is church dwindling with increasing rapidity in the West? Theories abound. Some people got out of the habit of attending church during the pandemic, and (to their surprise) they really don't miss it. Either they have found viable, alternative ways of sustaining their faith, or they have found that, actually, their faith doesn't matter all that much anymore. Some struggle now to find the time for regular Sunday attendance in their busy lives; others found no joy in the prospect of getting sucked back in to juggling a seemingly endless succession of rotas – and their reluctance to get back in the treadmill then puts unwelcome pressure on those who find that church makes more and more demands on their time and energies because there are fewer people available to share the responsibility. Quite a few people still attend church regularly, but regular attendance in their book these days is maybe once a month. That can be hard for those who are still 'twicers' at heart, and who feel discouraged and maybe even demoralised when they see churches not as full and vibrant as they used to be.

Some people have stopped coming altogether because they have not been made welcome or feel that they have been made unwelcome (churches tend to be very good at this, and Brighton Road is no exception). Others, rightly or wrongly, feel that they would not be welcome because of what they think, how they live or who they are. Some people find that their beliefs have changed, and that can be difficult if they are beginning to doubt and question what others consider to be non-negotiable aspects of the Christian faith. Others again fail to see a relevant connection between what happens in church on a Sunday and what happens in their lives or in the world the rest of the time. Others have turned their back on church because they have been personally hurt and damaged by unkindness or abuse within the church; others have become disillusioned because so many high-profile

church leaders just seem to have feet of clay. There really is not much to celebrate and plenty to grieve over, particularly if you love God and you share his love for his people.

And there is no shortage of suggestions as to how to fix the issue, but they don't command universal assent: my ideal kind of church, the perfect church I conjure up in my mind, doesn't actually exist anywhere, and if it did, it would not necessarily be your kind of church at all. A few things in particular drew me to church when I first started going as a teenager. One was that the sermons were biblical and they made sense to me – and I was a bit surprised by that. Another was that I found in church a group of people who accepted me for who I was. It also provided a much-needed spiritual reset, equipping me with the resources I needed to face a demanding week. And I encountered God there. I'd been to church other times and been bored stiff by it,

so what was different about this particular church? Maybe the people there worshipped God from their hearts. That had nothing to do with the style of worship, and everything to do with being in the company of people whose faith really mattered to them, and that encouraged and enabled me to take it seriously.

So, I still love church, and that is not just because as your minister I am seriously invested in Brighton Road! Nor do I love church because it is perfect – it isn't and never will be until the day when Christ presents the church to himself as his perfect bride – without spot or wrinkle or any such blemish. I guess I love the church because God has placed a love for Brighton Road in my heart, and that is important, because in God's book, loving him goes hand in hand with loving his people.

So, why bother with church? Well, even though we can sometimes be half-hearted, recalcitrant and grumpy, Christ is 100% committed to us and he has faithfully promised to join us as we worship Sunday by Sunday and to share his steadfast love, his grace and his life-changing power with us. It is in Christ and through fellowship with his people that we find redemption. Church matters. And so, by the grace of God, I often get back from church thinking, 'It was good to be in the house of the Lord today.' Flawed as we are, Jesus still thinks church is worth it, and maybe so should we.

Tim Carter

Notices

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.

There will be no PMA this week either because of half term.

BRBC Art Group Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday 15 February 10-12pm in the Sports Hall.

All welcome. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits.

Robert Hardwick

Men's Coffee Morning

Thursday 15th February 2024 10:30am – 12:00pm. Our speaker will be David Ansell and his subject is "Sussex Martyrs". All men are warmly invited .

Brain Carey 01403 264903

Afternoon Stroll

On Friday afternoon, 16th February, I plan to take advantage of the opportunity of enjoying the countryside in winter. Anyone wishing to join me for a stroll in Southwater Country Park is welcome to join me. Meet at church at 2pm or in the Country Park main car park at 2.20pm.

The next Saturday walk will be on March 2nd.

Mary Breeze

Mission Prayer Meeting

On Sunday 18th February there will be an opportunity to hear news from our mission partners and to pray for them at 9.15am in the Main Hall.

Message from the Reed Family

Joan Reed and the family would like to express their heartfelt thanks for all the cards and kind wishes following Clive's death. The funeral has now been arranged for Tuesday 20th February. There will be a burial at Hills Cemetery at 12pm followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Brighton Road at 1pm. All are very welcome.

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; booking fee applies). Online booking:



www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-zzjqvqk.

Alternatively, go to the Ticket Source website www.ticketsource.co.uk and search for Dove English Orchestra.

Eco Tips

Can you cut your energy consumption, and save money at the same time? You can:-

Leaving appliances on standby uses a surprising amount of energy. So, try turning some things off overnight and others off if you go away.

Your kettle is one of the most energy intensive gadgets in your house. So, boil the minimum amount of water. You can perhaps fill the kettle with a cup.

Miriam Hughes.

Horsham, Seedy Saturday - annual seed swap

Calling all gardeners & allotmenters: are you interested in finding something local & different to plant this year? Have you saved seed from last years vegetables or flower crops? Come and swap your seeds or make a small donation if you want any local seeds.

The seed swap is part of the Sussex Green Hub at: United Reformed Church, Worthing Road, RH12 1PT on February 24th 2024 10 am - 2.30 pm.

Radio 4 Appeal

On Sunday, February 18th, the BBC Radio 4 Appeal will feature the work of INF in Nepal. Paralympian Anna Strike shows how INF helps to change the life of people with disabilities. Watch at 7.54am or 9.25pm to learn more.

Rosemary King.

BMS Birthday Scheme

Celebrating a birthday this week is Marion Richardson on Thursday 15th.

For Prayer

Father and lover of life,
you know the depths of my innermost self,
and you understand me.
You protect me on every side,
shielding me from all harm.
When you put me together
in my mother's womb,
you knew all about me.
I thank you for the wonder of myself,
and I stand in awe
at all that you have made.
As you know and love me,
so may I come to know and love you.
Guide me in your ways.

Mission Prayer Request

Give thanks for the programmes that SAT-7 PARS is able to prepare for viewers in Iran and Afghanistan. The Iranian presenters and those who work with them live and work in London and are now unable to return to Iran due to the nature of their work. Pray for strength and encouragement for these families who have sacrificed so much to show their fellow Iranians the light of Christ.

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.

Church Office (01403) 211150
Monday to Friday 9:30am – 4:30pm
Minister – Rev Dr Tim Carter (01403) 267587
Leader of Community Evangelism – Rev Michael Hogg 07926 045598
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