# BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

# **BRBC Bulletin** Sunday 2nd March 2025 Welcome to our service today.

# **Events for the next week**

Sunday 2nd March Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness 10:30am Sunday Service led by Ken Carter with David Wickersham 10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club) Meeting Rooms - Children will go from the main service

#### Sunday 9th March

Building Together All Age Worship with Communion United Baptist Service **10:30am Sunday Service** led by Horsham Baptist Ministers





Sunday 2nd March 10:30am Sunday 2nd March 10:45am Sunday 2nd March 7:00pm Monday 3rd March 10:00am Tuesday 4th March 1:00pm Tuesday 4th March 4:00pm Tuesday 4th March 7:45pm Wednesday 5th March 2:30pm Wednesday 5th March 7:00pm Thursday 6th March 10:00am Thursday 6th March 2:00pm Thursday 6th March 7:45pm Saturday 8th March 12:30pm Sunday 9th March 10:30am Monday 10th March 2:30pm Tuesday 11th March 1:00pm Tuesday 11th March 4:00pm Wednesday 12th March 8:00pm Thursday 13th March 12:45pm Thursday 13th March 2:00pm Thursday 13th March 7:45pm Friday 14th March 2:00pm

Saturday 15th March 12:30pm Sunday 16th March 9:15am Sunday 16th March 10:30am Sunday 16th March 10:45am Monday 17th March 10:00am

Sunday Service **BRBK** (Kids' Club) **Prayer Gathering** Coffee, Cake & Company **BRBC** Babies & Toddlers **Toy Library** Allsorts Housegroup Johnson House Group Hillside House Group Art Group Women's Fellowship Worship Group Saturday Kitchen **Sunday Service** PMA **BRBC** Babies & Toddlers Toy Library **Prayer Gathering** Lunch Club Craft Club Worship Group **Thanksgiving Service** for June Jarvis Saturday Kitchen **Mission Prayer Meeting** Sunday Service **BRBK** (Kids' Club) Coffee, Cake & Company

# Weekly Message Faithfulness faced with Faithlessness

"What makes authentic disciples is not visions, ecstasies, biblical mastery of chapter and verse, or spectacular success in the ministry, but a capacity for faithfulness. Buffeted by the fickle winds of failure, battered by their own unruly emotions, and bruised by rejection and ridicule, authentic disciples may have stumbled and frequently fallen, endured lapses and relapses, gotten handcuffed to the fleshpots and wandered into a far county. Yet, they kept coming back to Jesus." (Brennan Manning, The Ragamuffin Gospel)

How might we be faithful, faith-full disciples, repeatedly returning to Jesus, however far or frequently we may have strayed or stayed away? Can we be, and feel, faithful, faced with a faithless world characterised by instability, betrayal and disillusionment? Even God lamented, "There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land" (<u>Hosea 4:1</u>).

Faithfulness flows from God's very being and character. David declares, "Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies." (<u>Psalm 36:5</u>) God is faithful, not fleeting, steadfast not short-term. He offers constancy and certainty, an unshakable foundation and impenetrable protection: "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart." (<u>Psalm 91:4</u>)

Our Father's faithfulness is not contingent on His children's actions or faith, but stands alone and undeserved. Jacob acknowledges this, admitting, "I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant." (<u>Genesis 32:10</u>). Being aware of God's faithfulness is being aware of His manifold grace towards us.

God's unchanging, unmerited faithfulness often collides with human unfaithfulness. Scripture is saturated with stories of those struggling with shaky faith. Yet God continues to call us to remain faithful. Why would he call the fickle to such faithfulness? To answer, we could ask, "Why would He call us to anything less?" God does not want anything less than the best for us.

To those of flaky faith, God promises "I will not take my love from him, nor will I ever betray my faithfulness" (Psalm 89:33). To those who have experienced betrayal, disappointment, and heartache from the actions and attitudes of others, the call is heard, "Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness." (Joshua 24:14). Faced with all the false gods and false promises that this world musters to offer us, let us always be turning back to trust in the truth. May we feature the faithfulness of God, even through our own faltering love and lives. We are called to together remain true to God, when tempted to turn away. Faithfulness is not just a personal choice but a collective, communal responsibility to uphold the integrity of God's covenant in Christ, the Only Faithful One, when the world only offers discouragement and distractions.

Jesus called his people to (<u>Matthew 23:23</u>) "... the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness." The call of Christ is to go beyond superficial adherence to rules, to embody the values of our Faithful God's kingdom. Such faithfulness can only be Kingdom fruit produced by God's Faithful Spirit (<u>Galatians</u> <u>5:22</u>).

**Revd Michael Hogg** 

# **Notices** Sunday 2nd March at 7pm - Prayer Gathering

All are encouraged to pray concerning the future of our church and this is an opportunity to gather in the chapel to prayer with others in the chapel.

### World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer (WDP) in 2025 will be held on Friday, March 7. The theme will be "I Made You Wonderful" (Psalm 139:14) and comes from the Cook Islands. The 2025 WDP program invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God. Come to one of the World Day of Prayer services, at a time that suits you:

- 10:30am Holy Trinity Church, Rushams Rd, – the service will be followed by refreshments, and it would be good if everyone attending could bring or wear a flower – as bright and colourful as possible!

- 1:30pm St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 3 Springfield Road.

- 7pm St John's Church, Broadbridge Heath, – led by the youth of St Johns.

#### **BRBC Art Group Meeting**

The next meetings will be on the 6th and 20th of March 2025 in the Main Hall 10-12pm. All welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

### June Jarvis Thanksgiving Service

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of June Jarvis will take place at 2pm on Friday 14th March.

#### **BRBC Lunch Club**

The next Church Lunch Club is on Thursday 13th March. The 2course 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)

## **Oasis Quiz Night**

A reminder about the Quiz Night at Brighton Road starting at 7pm on Saturday 15th March, 2025. Come with your friends/colleagues/neighbours as a team of 6 or be joined to a table to make a team for a great fun-filled evening.

We will be having a raffle on the evening to raise funds for Oasis to be able to continue the free services they offer in Horsham and Crawley and surrounding areas.

Snacks will be on the table; please be sure to bring soft drinks (no alcohol please) with you on the night. Doors will open at 6.30pm and the quiz will start promptly at 7pm. Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite or through the Oasis website.

#### Horsham Matters Foodbank

When it began in 2014, the foodbank provided 119 individual food parcels a month. Currently it is providing 800 individual parcels a month - and this in the more prosperous part of the country.

Our foodbank needs the following items of food: tinned potatoes, instant mash, long-life custard, small bags of sugar, general cleaning items and washing up liquid. Recently, someone said, "When I have felt like I had nothing or no-one, Horsham Matters has been there."

Please continue to help people through the Horsham Food Bank and make use of the food-bank container in the church Reception. Thank you.

#### Horsham Churches Together Prayer and Worship Evening

The next HCT Prayer & Worship evening will be at 6pm on Sunday 16th March at Kingdom Faith Church.

#### **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

#### **For Prayer**

Give thanks for the prayer day that was held last Saturday and for the number of people who took part in various ways. Pray that we will all continue to make prayer for our church a priority at this time of transition.

#### **Mission Prayer Request**

Give thanks for the positive outcomes resulting from the two year training courses that Genesis conducted in Northern Uganda with local farmers and pray that those who participated will continue to put what they learned into practice. Pray, too, for the courses recently begun with a new set of households in a different area.

#### Notices for the weekly bulletin should be sent to <u>bulletin@brbc-</u> <u>horsham.org.uk</u> 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 Leader of Community Evangelism – Rev Michael Hogg 07926 045598 Church Secretary – Ken Carter www.brbc-horsham.org.uk



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