BRIGHTON ROAD
BAPTIST CHURCH

BRBC Bulletin

Sunday 16th August 2026

Welcome to our service today.

Events for the next week

THIS SUNDAY

Daniel 2: Only God knows the future.

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Michael Hogg

NEXT SUNDAY

Daniel 3: Can God intervene in our world?

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Marion Richardson
with David Wickersham

Sunday 16th August 9:15am	Mission Prayer Meeting
Sunday 16th August 10:30am	Sunday Service
Monday 17th August 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Co
Thursday 20th August 10:00am	Art Group
Thursday 20th August 10:30am	Men's Coffee Morning
Thursday 20th August 7:45pm	Worship Group
Sunday 23rd August 10:30am	Sunday Service
Thursday 27th August 10:00am	Holiday @ Home
Thursday 27th August 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 28th August 10:00am	Holiday @ Home
Friday 28th August 10:00am	Listen and Pray
Sunday 30th August 10:30am	Sunday Service

SCAN ME

Weekly Message
Facing the Future

"He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him." (Daniel 2:22)

The future fascinates us. We make forecasts, write plans, book holidays, save for retirement and fill our diaries and wall calendars months in advance. Yet, as Daniel chapter 2 reminds us, only God truly knows what lies ahead. Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealed that kingdoms rise and fall, empires come and go, but the God of heaven remains sovereign over history. The future is never hidden from Him.

That does not mean we stop planning. Scripture encourages wise preparation. But it does mean we hold our plans lightly. James gently reminds us, *"You do not even know what will happen tomorrow ... Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that'"* (James 4:13-15). We plan prayerfully, trusting rather than presuming.

For some, however, facing the future is not exciting but exhausting. The past can imprison us. Painful memories, abuse, failure, broken relationships or regret can cast long shadows over tomorrow. Others feel trapped in the present by debt, grief, loneliness, declining health or difficult circumstances. Some fears are known; others are unknown. Much of life is uncertain.

The philosopher Søren Kierkegaard observed, "Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." We cannot rewrite yesterday, but by God's grace we need not remain captive to it. Our past may explain us, but it does not define us. Christ offers forgiveness for sin, healing for wounds, and hope beyond our scars.

Even science reminds us of our limitations. Quantum mechanics suggests that, at the smallest scales, events are described in terms of probabilities rather than certainties. However we understand those mysteries, they point us back to a simple truth: human knowledge is always limited. God's knowledge is not. A.W. Tozer wisely wrote, "While our world is filled with unknowns, God is never surprised."

So what can we know with certainty? We know that God loves us. We know that Christ died and rose again. We know that the Holy Spirit is with every believer. We know that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We know that God works in all things for the good of those who love Him. We know that one day Christ will return, every tear will be wiped away, and His kingdom will have no end.

Corrie ten Boom, who endured the horrors of Ravensbrück concentration camp, encouraged countless believers with these words: "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." This is wisdom worth waking up to.

We cannot control tomorrow, but we can trust the One who already stands there. Let us face the future: not with fear, but with faith; not with panic, but with peace; not with despair, but with hope. For our future is not ultimately found in circumstances, but in Christ Himself.

Revd Michael Hogg

Notices

Coffee, Cake and Company

Coffee Cake and Company is here this Monday, 17th August. Everyone is very welcome to drop in for coffee and refreshments any time between 10 o'clock and 11.30. Looking forward to seeing anyone who would like to come!
Jackie Hillier

Men's Coffee Morning

We invite all men to join us at the Horsham Cricket Ground for coffee and a chat from 10.30 a.m. onwards on Thursday, 20th August.
Brian Carey 07813 739 896

Women's Fellowship Garden Meeting

The second of the garden meetings will be at Sheila's house, 51, Guildford Road, from 2.15pm on Thursday 20th August, when you are invited to help her celebrate her big birthday!
If the weather is bad we will meet indoors.

We will start our new programme on Thursday 3rd September.
Sheila Stevens

Afternoon Stroll

The next afternoon stroll will take place on Friday 21st August. Meet at church at 2pm.

SPACE

Anita Pinnock will be leading an informal time of worship at church from 6-7pm on Sunday, August 23rd. All are welcome to join.

Holiday at Home & Heat Alerts

Given the potential for heat alerts to be issued for our area, we are mindful of the wellbeing of both our guests and volunteers at Holiday at Home. We are closely monitoring Met Office weather warnings and, should conditions become unsafe, we may need to cancel this year's Holiday at Home programme. If that becomes necessary, we will communicate any decision as soon as possible.

Gillian "Jill" Boniface

Our much loved church member, sister-in-the-Lord and friend, Gillian Boniface - 'Jill' - went to be with the Lord peacefully on Wednesday 12th August, just before 6pm, after a very short illness. Please keep her son Graham, daughter Sarah and the rest of her family in your prayers at this time.

Message from Horsham Matters

The demand for food from the Horsham Matters food bank is outstripping supply. In June, 3,684kg came in, and 5,021.kg was given out. That’s a gap of over 1,300kg! Behind those numbers are real families, real neighbours, real people who needed a little extra help to get through the month. Could you help close the gap by donating food or giving money so that we can continue to make a real difference to people’s lives in Horsham District.

Big Church Festival

The UK's largest Christian music festival, Big Church Festival, is returning to the beautiful Wiston Estate over the August Bank Holiday weekend (28th–30th August 2026). Visit bigchurchfestival.com to book tickets, check out the full line-up, and see options.

Women Spending Time with God (WSTWG)

This is an interdenominational monthly gathering for women, presented by Christian Love Ministries. The August gathering will offer an opportunity to 'Connect, Pray, Worship and Be Encouraged through the Word of God'.

Saturday 29 August 2026, 6.30–8.30pm Bohunt School, Bailey Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 6AP

Church Flowers

The flowers today have been given by Rosemary Tracey in loving memory of her husband, Bill.

BMS Birthday Scheme

Celebrating birthdays this week are Ian Jepps on Sunday 16th and Sheila Stevens on Wednesday 19th August.

For Prayer

Let us pray for any of our young people facing anxiety, pressure or uncertainty about the future as they will have received their exam results. Pray, too, for school staff, youth workers, families and church leaders who support teenagers.

Mission Prayer Request

Give thanks for the work of SAT-7 bringing the message of God's word to the Middle East and North Africa through TV and social media. Give thanks, too, for the encouragement brought to isolated Christians through these mediums. Pray for the programme producers and presenters and for the audience response teams who respond to comments and questions received from viewers.

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
Leader of Community Evangelism – Rev Michael Hogg 07926 045598
www.brbc-horsham.org.uk