

# BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



## BRBC Bulletin

**Sunday 18th February 2024**

**Welcome to our service today.**

### Events for the next week

#### THIS 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

#### NEXT SUNDAY

*Control your anger*

[John 8:42-59](#)

*Creative and Interactive  
Worship*

**10:30am Sunday Service**

led by Michael Hogg



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
Tuesday 20th February 1:00pm	Clive Reed Funeral
Tuesday 20th February 7:45pm	Allsorts Housegroup
Wednesday 21st February 2:30pm	Johnson House Group
Wednesday 21st February 2:30pm	Hillside House Group
Thursday 22nd February 2:00pm	Craft Club
Thursday 22nd February 7:30pm	Roffey House Group
Thursday 22nd February 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 23rd February 7:00pm	Alpha
Saturday 24th February 9:30am	Prayer Meeting
Saturday 24th February 11:00am	Praying for Peace - Marking 2 years of war in Ukraine
Saturday 24th February 12:30pm	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 25th February 10:30am	Sunday Service
Monday 26th February 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Monday 26th February 2:30pm	PMA
Tuesday 27th February 4:00pm	Toy Library
Tuesday 27th February 7:30pm	Merryfield House Group
Wednesday 28th February 7:45pm	Church Members Meeting
Thursday 29th February 1:30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thursday 29th February 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 1st March 7:00pm	Alpha
Friday 1st March 7:00pm	World Day of Prayer Service
Saturday 2nd March 10:15am	Saturday Walk
Saturday 2nd March 12:30pm	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 3rd March 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 3rd March 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Monday 4th March 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Monday 4th March 2:30pm	PMA

# Weekly Message

## Picture Language

In 1961, after the Russian astronaut Yuri Gagarin made the first journey round the world on the edge of space, he famously said, “I didn’t see God up there.” Now of course he didn’t see God up there, because when we say that God lives in ‘heaven’ we are using picture language. We are not saying that God lives in the sky 62 miles above the earth. We are saying that God pervades the universe.

There is an old proverb which states that a picture is worth more than a thousand words. We regularly use picture language because it helps us to understand things that otherwise would be difficult to understand. For the same reason the Bible also uses picture language in many places. For example, it tells us that God has eyes ([Psalm 139:16](#)), ears ([Psalm 130:2](#)), and a heart ([Genesis 6:6](#)). This is meant to remind us that God knows us and cares about us. He has hands ([Psalm 10:12](#)) and feet ([Deuteronomy 33:3](#)) and walks on the earth ([Genesis 3:8](#)). This emphasises that he is there to guide and support us.

The account in Genesis chapter 1 of the creation of the world poses an interesting question: is this literal language or is it picture language? Some Christians believe the seven days are literal days and others that they represent long periods of time. Whichever answer you prefer, I have always been intrigued by the fact that the order of events described in Genesis 1 is remarkably similar to the order of events described by the theory of evolution, and was even more remarkably written thousands of years before Darwin wrote his book ‘On the Origin of Species’.

The classic examples of picture language in the Bible are the parables of Jesus, in which he illustrates spiritual truths with scenes from everyday life. For example, the parable of the Prodigal Son illustrates what God’s great love is really like in practice (Luke 15); the parable of the Sower illustrates how different people react to the preaching of the gospel (Mark 4); and the parable of the Good Samaritan illustrates the kind of behaviour that is expected from the followers of Jesus (Luke 10).

As far as our ultimate future is concerned, because it is impossible to know exactly what it is going to be like, the Bible inevitably has to use

picture language for this. The pictures suggest that it will be like being present at a wedding feast (Matthew 22); it will be like being in a beautiful city (Revelation 21); it will be like relaxing in a delightful garden ([Luke 23:43](#)). The nearest the Bible comes to describing literally what the individual Christian's future will be is that "we will be with the Lord for ever." ([1 Thessalonians 4:17](#)) But the details of this have to remain in pictures.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the most powerful picture language of all: the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper. Because the deep meaning of the death of Jesus is really beyond our understanding, he gave us this simple but amazingly helpful pictorial way to show us what his death means for us: "This is my body given for you; this is my blood poured out for you." ([Luke 22:19,20](#))

So, in the light of all these examples, we thank God for the picture language in the Bible, because it provides an appropriate way for us to begin to understand its many important spiritual teachings.

Howard Gordon

## Notices

### Special Prayer Meeting

Our next opportunity to pray about the proposed appointment of someone to work with our families and young people will be at 9.30 am on Saturday 24th February. This will give us a chance to pray together before our church meeting on Wednesday 28th.

Hope you can join us!

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### BRBC AGM and Church Members' Meeting

Our AGM will be held on Wednesday 28 February at 7.45pm, followed immediately by an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting. We hope that as many members as possible will be able to join us as we review the past year and consider plans for the months ahead. The relevant papers can be found on the church website in the members' area - please take the time to read these before the meeting. If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact the church office.

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## **P.M.A. aka Pleasant Monday Afternoon**

P.M.A. will meet tomorrow, 19th February in the main hall from 2 30pm to 3 45pm. Our guest speaker will be Hayley Dower who will tell us about the work of Age UK in and around Horsham.

On 26th February we look forward to having Ella Perseides from Ukraine Christian Ministries with us once again to tell us about their vital work in Ukraine at this very difficult time. Our members are writing messages of encouragement which Ella will translate and send, with our love, for our Christian brothers and sisters to receive at Easter. If you would like to write a message, either hand it in to the office, give it to me, or bring it along to P.M.A. on 26th February and hear Ella yourself.

Celia Steere

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## **Clive Reed Thanksgiving Service**

Clive's 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.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## Bible Notes

Bible notes on the Seven Deadly Sins will resume for Sunday 25th February, following Beth's baptism on the 18th.

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## World Day of Prayer – March 1st

Every year the World Day of Prayer is held on the first Friday in March. This year the Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. Despite living in an area of the world where there is ongoing conflict and the future is uncertain, the women of Palestine are sharing with love a reminder that they are there, and they want to give hope to everyone. The theme of the service 2024 'bear with one another in love' seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ.

Services in Horsham are as follows:

- 10:30 am St Mark's Church, St Mark's Lane
  - 1:30 pm St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 3 Springfield Road
  - 7 pm Brighton Road Baptist Church
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## Easter Charity Concert

Brighton Road Baptist Church is hosting an Easter Orchestral Concert by the Dove English Orchestra, conductor Grenville Harding; in aid of Turning Tides (Ending Local Homelessness). It is also an exciting opportunity to hear the Auschwitz Violin played! Here is some information about the Auschwitz Violin: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6EqhjVWLS0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6EqhjVWLS0)

[www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2673742032734948](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2673742032734948)

Do come as it is going to be a great evening! Here are some taster clips of the music played by the orchestra in their Jerusalem tour

2023: [youtu.be/zrAe86-Jn6o](https://youtu.be/zrAe86-Jn6o)



The concert will be at 7:30pm, 30th March. Tickets are £14 (on door) and £12 (online in advance; booking fee applies). Online booking: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-zzjqvqk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-zzjqvqk) Alternatively, go to the Ticket Source website [www.ticketsource.co.uk](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) and search for Dove English Orchestra or scan the QR code on the left.



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## **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.

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## **Thank you from Horsham Matters Foodbank**

The team continues to support people facing hardship in our community, and we are so grateful for your continued support. Your congregation at BRBC kindly donated 3.36kg of food to the Horsham District Foodbank in January. We are bracing ourselves for a busy year once again. The latest Joseph Rowntree Foundation Destitution in the UK report shows that nearly 4m people experienced destitution in 2022 - an extraordinary 148% increase over the last five years. This includes one million children, nearly three times as many as in 2017. Their report shows that poverty is deepening and that people in poverty are moving further and further below the poverty line. We hope to continue to support the most vulnerable with the support of our church community. Amalia Lovett at Horsham Matters

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## **Sustainable Church Floristry**

On Saturday March 9th a workshop is being held at Trafalgar Road Baptist Church from 10am to 1pm. Guest speakers will include Claire Brown: flower farmer, florist and presenter. Entry is free and open to all and there will be light refreshments. For details and to register email [office@dandelionfarewells.com](mailto:office@dandelionfarewells.com)

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## **Church Flowers**

Flowers today are given by Jill Boniface in loving memory of dear Bernard.

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## BMS Birthday Scheme

Celebrating birthdays this week are Judy McMahon on Tuesday 20th and Jill Boniface on Friday 23rd February.

## For Prayer

Lord, we remember before you  
all our brothers and sisters  
who are weighed down with suffering.  
Bless and guide us  
that your love may be reflected  
in our concern for the hungry,  
the oppressed and the unloved.  
Help us to acknowledge  
and grow in appreciation  
that all people are made  
in your image and likeness. Amen.

## Mission Prayer Request

Praise God for the new leaders of the Bangladesh Baptist Church and pray for them and Peter and Louise Lynch as they work together. Give thanks for the many baptisms that have taken place in the new outreach areas and pray that those baptised will be able to stay strong in their faith. Pray that the Lynches' visa renewals will go smoothly, as they will not be able to leave Bangladesh with hope of returning until they are through.

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Notices for the weekly bulletin should be sent to [bulletin@brbc-horsham.org.uk](mailto: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  
[www.brbc-horsham.org.uk](http://www.brbc-horsham.org.uk)