

BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



BRBC Bulletin

Sunday 25th February 2024

Welcome to our service today.

Events for the next week

THIS SUNDAY

Control your anger

[John 8:42-59](#)

Creative and Interactive Worship

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Michael Hogg

NEXT SUNDAY

*Envy? Live your own life, not
someone else's!*

[Philippians 1:15](#)

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Tim Carter

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Sports Hall - Children will go
from the main service



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
Tuesday 5th March 4:00pm	Toy Library
Tuesday 5th March 7:45pm	Allsorts Housegroup
Wednesday 6th March 2:30pm	Johnson House Group
Wednesday 6th March 2:30pm	Hillside House Group
Thursday 7th March 10:00am	Art Group
Thursday 7th March 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 8th March 2:30pm	Margaret Bird's Thanksgiving Service
Friday 8th March 7:00pm	Alpha
Saturday 9th March 12:30pm	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 10th March 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 10th March 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Monday 11th March 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Monday 11th March 2:30pm	PMA

Weekly Message

Is nothing sacred?

What do silent discos, crazy golf and a helter-skelter have to do with sacred space? The answer is that cathedrals in Canterbury, Rochester and Norwich have all provided these facilities in their buildings, opening their doors for people to have fun in space traditionally viewed as dedicated to the worship of God.

Predictably, people have polarised over the issue. Fans of the idea talk about a consecration by God of all that is good in life, providing creative and innovative ways to share the story of the Bible, and helping people to understand that it's not all boring and serious. Rochester Cathedral has seen more people attending Saturday Evensong as a result. Critics see the move as a desecration or an unprofessional mistake: they claim that putting entertainment in a Cathedral is just 'naff', and detracts attention from God. According to Dr Ashenden 'For such a place, steeped in mystery and marvel to buy in to sensory pleasure and distraction, is to poison the very medicine it offers the human soul.'

This strikes me as a rather sweeping statement, given that listening to music is about as sensory as it gets: when our ears appreciate music, blood flows into the limbic system of our brain, triggering feelings of pleasure and wellbeing. Our capacity to enjoy music is one of God's gifts to us, and worth celebrating. And musical tastes vary – not everyone appreciates organ recitals. Should cathedrals restrict themselves to 'sacred music,' written to enlighten the spirit and to glorify God? Should Manchester Cathedral be hosting Candlelight Concerts which pay tribute to the music of Taylor Swift and Coldplay? If those concerts lift people's hearts with a sense of wonder at what they have heard and seen, is that not part of what cathedrals are designed to do?

The experience of transcendence has been described as 'that flight of the human spirit outside the confines of its material, physical existence which all of us, secular or religious, experience on at least

a few occasions...the sense of being more than oneself, of being in some way joined to the whole of life.' Such experiences are significant because because we are spiritual beings and in such moments God can draw close to us. If you have experienced transcendence, was that in a 'sacred space' or somewhere else? It was Salman Rushdie who gave us that description of transcendence in his essay, 'Is nothing sacred?' Does knowing the source of the quotation make you more or less inclined to agree with it? Why is that the case? Because I have cited Salman Rushdie in the church bulletin, does it feel to you as if I am bringing a secular writer into what should be a sacred space, exclusively set apart for Christian thinkers?

The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity wants us to abolish what it refers to as 'the sacred-secular divide': the whole of life should be holy. If that is the case, then we should look for the presence of God in every part of our lives, in every moment of the day, and we might find him in unexpected ways and places and sources. We certainly should not expect him to be corralled into ecclesiastical buildings for an hour on a Sunday morning.

Our own church buildings were designed to be multi-purpose, a resource for the community as well as a place for us to gather for fellowship and worship. It is great to see our buildings being used so effectively in these ways, and I am grateful to all those who work so hard to make this happen. When these premises were built, it was never part of the vision for their use to be restricted to activities which could be classified as 'holy' rather than 'secular.' But would we hope that people entering these buildings catch a sense of the presence of the God who is worshipped by the congregation who gather for worship here week by week? Why would they do so? Simply walking into Brighton Road is not going to bring them into the presence of God, though some people do talk about finding a sense of peace here, and I am always glad to hear that. But what might they see of God through the fabric of our building, and how might they encounter him when they meet us on the premises?

Would doing the Macarena in a silent disco help?

Actually, I wonder whether the whole idea of getting people into our ecclesiastical buildings so that they will encounter God there is a misconception. God's agenda is less about safeguarding sacred space and more about releasing his holiness into the world, sending us out into the community so that Christ can reveal himself in us and through us. Paul talked about making himself a slave to everyone to win as many people as possible to the gospel ([1 Corinthians 9:19](#)). For him, every time he met someone, it was an opportunity for him to serve them in the name of Jesus, and for them to meet Jesus through the way in which he treated them and spoke to them.

If we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, then maybe for us the answer to the question, 'Is nothing sacred?' should be, 'Isn't everything?'

Tim Carter

Notices

P.M.A. aka Pleasant Monday Afternoon

Tomorrow, 26th February, we welcome Ella Perseides as our speaker. Ella works for Ukraine Christian Ministries. She is an excellent speaker and will bring us up to date with their work at this very difficult time for the country of Ukraine. Please don't miss this opportunity to learn more about and support those who are working so hard to bring God's love in this war torn country. We meet in the main hall from 2.30 to 3.45pm and would love you to join with us.

Celia Steere

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.

Walk

On Saturday 2nd March I plan to enjoy a walk of approximately 8 miles from West Grinstead Station. With the recent warm weather, the spring flowers are already appearing so it will be a good opportunity to rejoice in the beauty of God's creation. Those wishing to join me should meet at church at 10.15am. The next afternoon stroll will be on March 15th.

Mary Breeze

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:

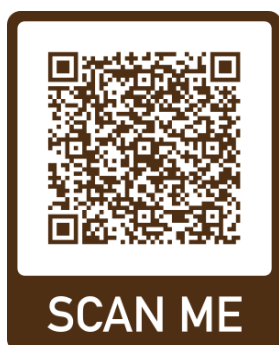
- 10:30am St Mark's Church, St Mark's Lane
 - 1:30pm St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 3 Springfield Road
 - 7pm Brighton Road Baptist Church
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Easter Charity Concert

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).

The Dove English Orchestra is a Christian orchestra and Grenville is a Christian music composer. The orchestra will share the glory and blessing of God through his music. It is also an exciting opportunity to hear the Auschwitz Violin played!

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



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

Alternatively, go to the Ticket Source website www.ticketsource.co.uk and search for Dove English Orchestra or scan the QR code on the left.

Easter Charity Concert Volunteers

We need some volunteers for the Easter Orchestral Charity Concert by the Dove English Orchestra on Saturday 30th March, starting 7:30pm - in aid of Turning Tides (Ending Local Homelessness).

Please let Francis Poon know if you are willing to serve as a volunteer for the evening - staffing the on-the-door ticket sale, stewards to welcome and help people to their seats, helpers in the kitchen. Thank you.

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

Seminar at Trafalgar Road Baptist Church

On Saturday 2nd March, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm, Trafalgar Road Baptist are hosting a seminar led by Stuart Parker from The True Freedom Trust ([Support for Christians with Same-Sex Attractions | True Freedom Trust](#)). If you would like to attend, please register at administrator@trbc.info

For Prayer

Mysterious God,
you love and hold the universe in being.
You treasure each of us as a work of art,
a sign of your presence.
When we haven't a clue what you are doing,
help us to trust you,
knowing that you see the whole picture.
Amen.

Mission Prayer Request

Praise God that the Eagle Project has received enough funding to continue with the 5 groups in the Sao Paulo youth prison this year. Pray for the new groups to go well, that the boys will decide to take part and that they will have the desire to leave their lives of crime. Pray for Victor, who has just been released and would like to train as a barber.

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
www.brbc-horsham.org.uk