

BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



BRBC Bulletin

Sunday 24th March 2024

Welcome to our service today.

Events for the next week

THIS SUNDAY

Palm Sunday

Putting humility before pride

[Philippians 2:1-11](#)

Creative and Interactive
Worship

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Tim Carter

NEXT SUNDAY

Easter Sunday - 'Jesus is alive!'

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Tim Carter

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms - Children
will go from the main service



Sunday 24th March 10:30am	Sunday Service
Monday 25th March 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Tuesday 26th March 4:00pm	Toy Library
Wednesday 27th March 2:30pm	Hillside House Group
Thursday 28th March 2:00pm	Craft Club
Thursday 28th March 7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Joint Communion
Thursday 28th March 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 29th March 10:00am	Good Friday Service
Friday 29th March 11:15am	Horsham Churches Together Good Friday Service
Saturday 30th March 7:30pm	Dove English Orchestra Charity Concert
Sunday 31st March 10:30am	Celebration of Easter - Sunday Service
Sunday 31st March 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Tuesday 2nd April 4:00pm	Toy Library
Tuesday 2nd April 7:30pm	Merryfield House Group
Wednesday 3rd April 2:30pm	Johnson House Group
Thursday 4th April 10:00am	Art Group
Thursday 4th April 1:30pm	Women's Fellowship
Thursday 4th April 7:45pm	Worship Group
Saturday 6th April 10:15am	Saturday Walk
Saturday 6th April 11:00am	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 7th April 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 7th April 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Monday 8th April 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company

Weekly Message

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

'If you only knew today what is needed for peace! But now you cannot see it!' That was Jesus' lament over Jerusalem as he entered the city on Palm Sunday ([Luke 19:42](#)). On that occasion he was weeping because of the destruction he knew was coming on the city and on its inhabitants. [Psalm 122:6](#) exhorts us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We may legitimately spiritualise this and pray for the peace of God's church (please make use of this psalm to do so!), but it is also entirely appropriate that we should pray for the peace of the geographical city of Jerusalem.

We cannot – and should not – pray for the peace of Jerusalem without also praying for Gaza. On a number of occasions last year, rockets were fired at Jerusalem from Gaza, both before and after the terrible attack on Israeli settlements that took place on 7th October. Israel's reprisal has been deadly and catastrophic for the region. Their assault on Hamas is said to have resulted in tens of thousands of civilian casualties and has left children dying of malnutrition as the population of Gaza now faces the real prospect of famine. While the debate rages as to whether Israel is acting in self-defence or with genocidal intent, scarcely a week goes by without a credible report emerging of a fresh atrocity committed by the IDF.

So, does Jesus weep now for the people of Gaza? If the Lord wept for Jerusalem in his grief for their suffering, then I suspect that he weeps for Gaza too, and his tears are all the more bitter because the suffering in Gaza is being inflicted by his own people. God's love for his people does not place them beyond censure: on the contrary, just as a father disciplines his child, so the Lord rebukes those whom he loves ([Proverbs 3:12](#)). Loving someone does not mean you have to approve of or endorse whatever it is they do - quite the opposite, in fact.

Paul says that all Israel will ultimately be saved because the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable ([Romans 11:28-29](#)), and the patriarchs are the reason why God loves and has elected a rebellious and obstinate nation. God keeps his promises to Abraham. Yet here and now, as Israel stumbles in disobedience to God, those promises are fulfilled in Christ. When God called Abraham, he promised that he would bless those who bless him and that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed ([Genesis 12:3](#)). Paul traces that line of blessing down through Isaac, not Ishmael, and through Jacob, not Esau ([Romans 9:6-13](#)), down to those in Christ who receive the promise of the Spirit by faith

([Galatians 3:14-16](#)). In this way the promise of [Genesis 12:3](#) is fulfilled in us.

What, then, of God's 'everlasting covenant' to give all the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants 'for an everlasting possession' ([Genesis 17:7-8](#))? There is no doubt that an awareness of this promise played a crucial part in the thinking of many of those who campaigned and fought for the establishment of Israel as a nation state within the boundaries of their traditional homeland. At one level, this was an amazing development, but if you are inclined to see the hand of God at work in that political decision, you should not allow that perspective to blind you to the devastating impact it had on those Palestinians who were forced off their land and who lost their ancestral homes.

And when we turn back to the New Testament, we see that, in the light of the Christ event, Paul reinterprets God's promise to give the land to Abraham and his descendants, so that now the promise that they would inherit the world comes to those who are descended from Abraham because they walk in the footsteps of Abraham's faith and that is what makes them his children ([Romans 4:11-13](#)). So, it's complicated... But even if some of us would want to claim that the promise of the geographical land of Israel still holds good for the nation, that cannot be used to justify expanding the controversial programme of building Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank: it's a policy which even the United States has condemned as illegal, and inconsistent with international law. The ends do not justify the means.

We could all point to injustices and incidents of violence perpetuated on all sides of the ethnic conflict in that land. There are valid reasons for anger, hatred, enmity and mistrust that go back for generations, in a culture which still prefers the practice of taking an eye for eye rather than offering forgiveness. Who knows what is needed for peace today? Yet the search for a path that leads in the direction of peaceful co-existence must go on: there can only be peace where Israel's right to exist is recognised and accepted by its neighbours, and where Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are also able to find independence, security and prosperity. It would be easy to despair of a solution ever being found – but that is precisely why we need to keep praying, for the peace of Jerusalem – and Gaza.

Tim Carter

Notices

Bible Notes

The last of the Bible Notes in our series on the Seven Deadly Sins has been posted onto the homepage of the website. We will resume posting Bible Notes after Easter as we start our series on Christian Foundations on 14th April.

Maundy Thursday Joint Communion Service

This will take place at 7.30pm at the URC in Springfield Road.

BRBC Good Friday Service

There will be a special service at BRBC on Good Friday at 10 a.m. We will then walk into town together to take part in the HCT service in the Carfax.

HCT Good Friday Service – 29th March 2024

This year's Horsham Churches Together Good Friday Service will take place at The Bandstand in the Carfax on 29th March 2024 from 11:15 'til 12 noon. Kath Jones from Connect Southwater Community Church will be speaking, and the musicians from Trafalgar Road Baptist Church will be leading the sung worship.

HCT Good Friday Service – Call for Stewards

To help make the Good Friday Service possible, we need a small team of stewards to support the event on the day. The main task is distributing the songs sheets and helping to keep the walkways clear for those passing by. If you can help, please email pete.dibdin@horshamct.org.uk

Message from Angie Hockley

Just a reminder that my granddaughter's skydive for Parkinson's UK is on March 30. If you would like to donate, the link is www.justgiving.com/page/emma-hockley-skydive.

I will let you know how she gets on.

Angie Hockley

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 Granville 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!

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 right.



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 fill in the list at reception or let Francis Poon (francis_poon@yahoo.co.uk) 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.

Saturday 30th March, Sussex Green Hub

The Sussex Green Hub takes place on the last Saturday every month, 10am-2.30pm, at the United Reformed Church, 45 Springfield Road, Horsham RH12 1PT. It is a monthly event that offers environmental services such as the Horsham Repair Cafe, zero waste shop and recycling education stand, plus partners from the Horsham Community Fridge, Horsham Eco Churches, Community Energy Horsham and Transition Horsham. Plus a community café where you can enjoy a drink and light refreshments

Walks

Dates for your diary: Saturday walk – April 6th. Friday Stroll – April 19th

Message from Eileen Cherriman and the Jepps

Many will remember with gratitude all that Pat Harris did for our church and the community. Amongst many of her voluntary activities were wellness and Warnham Nature Reserve. To mark 10 years since her passing there will be a gentle walk from the Reserve on Saturday April 6 starting at 10am. It is hoped that those who knew Pat will come and enjoy the walk and visit the bench that was placed in her memory.

For any further details please contact Michael Vertue 07719 467861.#

Toy Library Easter Event

Friday 12th April 2024, 11.30am-1.30pm in the Main Hall.

Bible story, activities, Toy Library and free lunch for children aged 0-11 years.

Come and join us!

Registration forms available from reception or email us on toy.library@brbc-horsham.org.uk with numbers attending and dietary requirements.

All children must be accompanied by an adult for the whole session and will remain your responsibility throughout.

BMS Birthday Scheme

Those celebrating birthdays this week are Andrew Farquhar on Sunday 24th and Clementine Rudd on Tuesday 26th March.

For Prayer

You who are love itself,
give me the grace of love,
give me yourself,
so that all my days may finally empty
into the one day of your eternal life.

Mission Prayer Request

Pray for Prabhakar Salvi and the Deepgruh Foundation working in a rural area of India. This coming summer Deepgruh are planning to hold a Youth Camp for 300 young boys and girls. The Theme of the Youth Camp is 'Dare to be different'. Pray that the camp will be able to go ahead and that it will lead to many young people choosing to give their lives to 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.

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