

BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



BRBC Bulletin

Sunday 7th April 2024

Welcome to our service today.

Events for the next week

THIS SUNDAY

Great power, great grace
Acts 4.32-35

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Tim Carter

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms - Children will
go from the main service

NEXT SUNDAY

What is God really like?

[1 John 3:1-7](#)

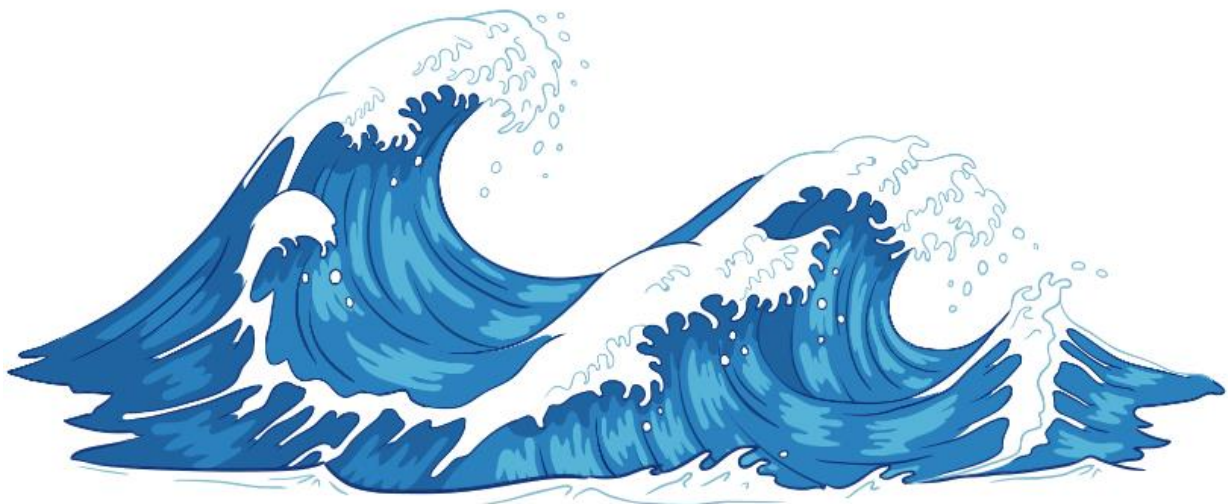
Communion

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Michael Hogg

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms - Children will
go from the main service



Sunday 7th April 10:30am
Sunday 7th April 10:45am
Wednesday 10th April 8:00pm
Thursday 11th April 12:45pm
Thursday 11th April 2:00pm
Thursday 11th April 7:45pm
Friday 12th April 11:30am

Saturday 13th April 11:00am
Sunday 14th April 10:30am
Sunday 14th April 10:45am
Monday 15th April 10:00am
Monday 15th April 2:30pm
Tuesday 16th April 4:00pm
Tuesday 16th April 7:45pm
Wednesday 17th April 2:30pm
Wednesday 17th April 7:00pm
Thursday 18th April 10:00am
Thursday 18th April 10:30am
Thursday 18th April 1:30pm
Thursday 18th April 7:45pm
Friday 19th April 2:00pm
Saturday 20th April 11:00am
Sunday 21st April 9:15am
Sunday 21st April 10:30am
Sunday 21st April 10:45am
Sunday 21st April 7:00pm
Monday 22nd April 10:00am
Monday 22nd April 2:30pm

Sunday Service
BRBK (Kids' Club)
Prayer Meeting
Lunch Club
Craft Club
Worship Group
Easter Toy Library Club -
Healthy Eating
Saturday Kitchen
Sunday Service
BRBK (Kids' Club)
Coffee, Cake & Company
PMA
Toy Library
Allsorts Housegroup
Johnson House Group
Hillside House Group
Art Group
Men's Coffee Morning
Women's Fellowship
Worship Group
Afternoon Stroll
Saturday Kitchen
Mission Prayer Meeting
Sunday Service
BRBK (Kids' Club)
Prayer Meeting for Families
Coffee, Cake & Company
PMA

Weekly Message

Would you believe it?

Sunday 7th April 2024 is the "Second Sunday of Easter". Church traditions/ denominations refer to it by various names including "Divine Mercy Sunday", the "Octave Day of Easter", "Bright Sunday", "Low Sunday", "New Sunday" (or "Renewal Sunday") and "Quasimodo Sunday". The latter arises from a Gregorian chant of this day's Latin introit, based on [1 Peter 2:2](#):

'Quasi modo géniti infántes, allelúia: rationábile, sine dolo lac concupísците, allelúia, allelúia, allelúia.

As newborn babes, alleluia: desire the rational milk without guile, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Quasimodo, the fictional protagonist of Victor Hugo's 1831 French novel *Notre Dame de Paris* (or *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), was found abandoned on the doorsteps of Notre Dame Cathedral on the Sunday after Easter. In the words of the story: "He baptised his adopted child and called him Quasimodo, either because he wanted to indicate thereby the day on which he had found him, or because he wanted the name to typify just how incomplete and half-finished the poor little creature was."

This Sunday is also known as "Thomas Sunday". Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio (b.1571 d.1610) painted "The Incredulity of Saint Thomas" (circa 1601) referring to John's Gospel account of the Apostle Thomas' response to the resurrected Christ. He depicts the doubting disciple as a peasant, dressed in a robe torn at the shoulder and with dirt under his fingernails, putting his finger into Christ's side wound, Christ guiding his hand from doubt into faith.

Apostle John writes, "A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side." ([John 20:26-27](#)).

What led to Christ's special reach out to Thomas? We read, in verses earlier how Thomas "... was not with the disciples when Jesus came. [That first Easter Sunday] So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the

Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." (v24-25)

I am thankful for the inclusive love of the resurrected Christ. He is indeed "merciful to those who doubt" (Jude 22). Jesus took Thomas at his word and did a re-run: same house, still the same locked doors, same standing among them, same greeting "Peace be with you!" But this time, straight to Thomas – wanting him, in particular, to physically reach out to Him, to carefully look at Him - the disciple's finger examining his Teacher's nail-pierced hands, the doubter's hand put into his Friend's spear-pierced side - a close-up, hands-on, forensic, physical, visceral examination by a (formerly) sceptical eye-witness to the resurrection, able now to give account of what he saw and felt, for us also to believe.

And with a clear instruction, encouragement, command: "Stop doubting and believe." (v27) In this moment, Thomas was face to face with ... well, he puts it this way: "My Lord and my God!" (v28) Not a dead Lord. Not a dead God. But the Living Lord God. Thomas saw Him, touched Him, vouched for Him. And Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (v29)

How incomplete and half-finished a poor little creature Thomas was on that Quasimodo Sunday. Perhaps we all, torn and dirty, recognise that we must come to Christ for mercy and help. Believing Thomas' examination and declaration – his feeling and seeing his way through doubt and so growing in faith - gives us hope.

Laying aside all guile, spiritual newborns are to grow up in their salvation, having tasted (and examined) that the Lord is good. We come to Christ, the LIVING Stone, rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him and precious to those who believe, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." ([1 Peter 2:2-7](#))

Revd Michael Hogg

Notices

Coffee, Cake & Co.

Coffee, Cake & Co will not be meeting over the Easter Holidays. Our next meeting will be on Monday 15th April 2024. PMA will also not be meeting until 15th April.

BRBC Lunch Club

The next Church Lunch Club is on Thursday 11th April. The 2 course lunch will be served at 12.45. We ask for a small contribution of £4. All are welcome .

If you wish to attend please can you 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

Toy Library Easter Event

This will take place on Friday 12th April from 11.30am-1.30pm in the Main Hall. There will be a Bible Story, Toy Library and a free lunch. Registration forms are available from reception or email toylibrary@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 that adult's responsibility throughout.

Walks

The next afternoon stroll will be on Friday April 19th.

Persecuted Church Prayer Support Group

For the past few years a small number of BRBC members have been praying specifically for the persecuted church. At the end of each month I produce a list of prayer suggestions gathered and selected from information passed to me by Open Doors, Barnabas Fund and other Christian organisations dedicated to bringing help and support to the many Christians overseas who are suffering for their Christian faith, sometimes in ways we can scarcely comprehend. We currently have less than 10 people receiving this monthly one page prayer suggestion list which is a very small percentage of our membership total. We would love to get more of you involved! Basically, I do the work and you commit to pray. Please contact me if you might like to join our group and let me have your e-mail address/contact details. It would be lovely to hear from you and a real encouragement to our small team of pray-ers as well. Our prayers are working! In even the darkest places and situations the church is growing.

Robin Thomas

Bric-a-Brac Donations needed by Horsham Matters!

Horsham Matters are urgently requiring donations of bric a brac! If you're having a clear out, please consider donating any good quality items; these can be dropped off at 1 Redkiln Close Monday- Friday, 9:30am-4:00pm. Your kind donations will help create funds to support those living in need. For larger furniture, please send a photo to info@horsham-matters.org.uk

Horsham District Foodbank 10 year Anniversary

The Horsham District Foodbank is 10 years old this year and there will be a series of awareness events including fundraising campaigns throughout the year. However, this 10-year anniversary is not a celebration as the main aim is to end the need for foodbanks. A [Just Giving page](#) has been set up asking residents to donate £10. Additionally, the team are facing unprecedented demand for support from the foodbank and are desperate for donations to help them keep up with the need. These donations can be placed in the shopping trolley at the front of their Redkiln offices, Monday- Friday 9:30-4pm or at any of their donation points including their Love it Again shop in West Street, Tesco, Lidl and Waitrose.

She did it!

My granddaughter Emma completed her sky dive for Parkinsons UK on Saturday 30 March. She was blessed with a beautiful day and said the whole experience was amazing. She has asked me to thank everyone who sponsored her and I add my thanks to hers. I will let you know the link for her video and the final total raised as soon as I can.

Angie Hockley

BMS Birthday Scheme

Celebrating birthdays this week are Angie Hockley on Sunday 7th and William Stevens on Thursday 11th April.

For Prayer

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred let me bring your love;

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;

And where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Oh, Master, grant that O may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console;

To be understood as to understand;

To be loved, as to love with all my soul.

(From a hymn by Sebastian Temple)

Mission Prayer Request

Give thanks that the Baptist Mission Training Centre in Bangladesh has recently sent out its first set of 18 trainees to various parts of the country to be involved in church planting and discipleship ministries while also studying for a diploma in applied mission. Pray for them as they settle into areas where the lifestyle and culture might be different from their own. Pray that the Lynches' visa renewal will be granted soon.

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