

# **BRBC** Bulletin

Sunday 8th September 2024 Welcome to our service today.

## **Events for the next week**

#### THIS SUNDAY

Only one gospel! 
<u>Galatians 1:6-12</u>

Communion Service

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Tim Carter

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms - Children will go from the main service

#### **NEXT SUNDAY**

Changing sides – Galatians 1:13- 2:10

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Deborah Packham with Julie Shimizu

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms - Children will go from the main service



Sunday 8th September 10:30am **Sunday Service** Sunday 8th September 10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club) Monday 9th September 10:00am Coffee, Cake & Company Monday 9th September 2:30pm PMA Tuesday 10th September 1:00pm Toy Library & Toddler Event Wednesday 11th September 8:00pm **Prayer Meeting** Thursday 12th September 7:45pm Worship Group Saturday 14th September 10:15am Saturday Walk Sunday 15th September 9:15am Mission Prayer Meeting Sunday 15th September 10:30am **Sunday Service** Sunday 15th September 10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club) Monday 16th September 10:00am Coffee, Cake & Company Tuesday 17th September 12:00pm **BRBC Toddlers** Wednesday 18th September 2:30pm Johnson House Group Wednesday 18th September 7:00pm Hillside House Group Thursday 19th September 10:00am Art Group Thursday 19th September 10:30am Men's Coffee Morning Thursday 19th September 2:00pm Women's Fellowship Thursday 19th September 7:45pm Worship Group Friday 20th September 10:00am **Listen and Pray** Afternoon Stroll Friday 20th September 2:00pm Sunday 22nd September 10:30am **Sunday Service** Sunday 22nd September 10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Coffee, Cake & Company

**PMA** 

Monday 23rd September 10:00am

Monday 23rd September 2:30pm

## Weekly Message

#### Don't be anxious

According to a report published in The Guardian on 27th August, the number of children and young people being referred to NHS mental health services for anxiety is increasing exponentially: 'In 2023-24 there were 204,526 new referrals of patients aged 17 or under where the primary cause was anxiety, official figures show. In 2019-20, the year before Covid-19 struck, the total was 98,953. In 2016-17 it was 3,879.' Their anxiety is related to a range of issues, including academic pressures, cyberbullying, concerns about their appearance, widening inequalities, rising poverty levels and the cost-of-living-crisis. There is no doubt that the loss of routine caused by the pandemic is a factor here. Routines provide stability and help children feel calm and secure, and most of us adults understand that life is less stressful where a sense of structure undergirds our freedom.

In The Concept of Anxiety, Søren Kierkegaard described anxiety as 'the dizziness of freedom' (61). He imagines someone standing on the edge of a tall building or a cliff: they are not afraid that someone will push them over the edge, but they are anxious because there is nothing to stop them jumping off should they choose to do so. In the complete absence of any kind of boundary, they dread the existential freedom they have to do the unthinkable.

Yet, despite the anxiety it causes, Kierkegaard saw freedom as God's greatest gift to humanity: our freedom brings with it the option to trust in God's providence. Jesus repeatedly tells us, 'Do not be anxious' (Matthew 6:25-34), inviting us to put our trust in our heavenly Father who cares about us and who knows just what we need. The lilies of the field silently remind us that as individuals we are in God's presence, and He is infinitely close to

us. The lilies and the birds obey God quite naturally, as they were created to do, and by their example they teach us, as God's creatures, the importance of obeying Him as our Creator.

It occurs to me that God did not give us the gift of freedom without also giving us his reassuring presence, and that can make all the difference. I am aware that your diehard existential atheist will dismiss all this God-talk as a sign of inadequate 'bad faith' on my part, a reluctance to embrace the awful responsibility of being a radically free human agent. But, as Gary Cox cogently observes, 'a degree of bad faith appears vital for sustaining well-being, and even sanity' (Kierkegaard: Young, Free & Anxious | Issue 145 | Philosophy Now).

So, when anxiety crowds in, can I encourage you to take it to the Lord in prayer, because you are not alone. As St. Paul rightly says, 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 4:6-7).

Tim Carter

## **Notices**

## Horsham Churches Together Worship and Prayer Event

A Worship and Prayer Event will take place on Sunday, September 8th at 5pm in the Human Nature Garden, Horsham Park. All are invited to join and to bring a picnic from 4pm.

### **Pleasant Monday Afternoon (PMA)**

PMA restarts after the summer break on Monday 9th September. All are welcome to join from 2.30-3.45pm in the Main Hall. Our speaker this week is Fiona Castle, a well-known inspiring speaker. She has entitled her talk 'Seasons of Life' so whatever season of life you have reached, you are welcome to come and hear what she has to say on the subject.

#### Walks

The next Saturday walk will be on September 14th. It will be an approximately 8 mile walk from Balcombe and will visit Ardingly Reservoir. The next afternoon stroll will be on Friday, September 20th.

## **Mission Prayer Meeting**

Next Sunday at 9.15am there will be an opportunity to catch up on news from some of the overseas mission workers and organisations that we support and to pray for them. All are welcome to join in the Main Hall.

#### **Horsham Matters**

Horsham Matters continues to need regular donations so that the Food Banks can continue to help those in need. They are also requesting donations of fiction paperback books. Your kind donations will help create funds to support those living in need. All donations can be placed in the green Food Bank box in the reception area at church. Current needs are for long life milk, coffee, instant noodles, biscuits, tinned potatoes and tinned meat.

Due to Horsham Matters re-arranging their stock they will not be accepting any bric-a-brac until the end of September.

## **Turning Tides Harvest Food Appeal 2024**

A message from Turning Tides: "Harvest is a time of giving, sharing, and community. We all need nutritious food, but the type of food we consume and its availability can vary widely. At Turning Tides, we provide food and refreshment year-round for people who are rough sleeping, in temporary accommodation, and those housed in our residential projects across West Sussex. Unfortunately, the number of people we support is rising, and increasing costs are making it challenging for those experiencing homelessness to stay fed, hydrated, healthy, and well. Every item counts, no matter how small. Your contribution can make a big difference."

How You Can Support Turning Tides - Give a Breakfast Boost, Lunchtime Bite, or Super Supper! To donate or for further information contact donations@turning-tides.org.uk

## **Charity Concert in aid of Cancer Research**

7.30pm on Saturday 28th September at Holy Trinity Church, Rushams Road.

Taking part are Pelleas Ensemble – flute, viola and harp and Collyer's Sinfonia, a group of talented 6th form instrumentals led by their teacher.

Entrance is free but booking is requested at <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DSHE">www.trybooking.com/uk/DSHE</a>

#### **For Prayer**

God our Father,
you made the great lights in our sky:
the sun to rule in the day,
and the moon and the stars in the night
- all because your great love lasts for ever.
Our sun and moon
and the stars that you call by name
all give you praise,
because they do what they were created to do.
Lead me, Father,
to reflect the light of Christ your Son
and so live fully
as, in your love, you created me to do. Amen.

#### **Mission Prayer Request**

Give thanks that SAT-7 is able to produce programmes in many of the different languages spoken in the Middle East and North Africa, even those spoken by relatively small groups of people. Pray that programmes in Azeri for people living in Azerbaijan and Northern Iran, in Dari for viewers in Afghanistan and in Amazigh (Berber) for viewers in Algeria will speak to the hearts of those who tune in and lead many to learn about the gospel message.

Notices for the weekly bulletin should be sent to <a href="mailto:bulletin@brbc-bullet

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