

BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



BRBC Bulletin

Sunday 8th December 2024

Welcome to our service today.

Events for the next week

THIS SUNDAY

All one in Christ Jesus

[Galatians 3:26-29](#)

Communion

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Tim Carter

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms - Children will go
from the main service

NEXT SUNDAY

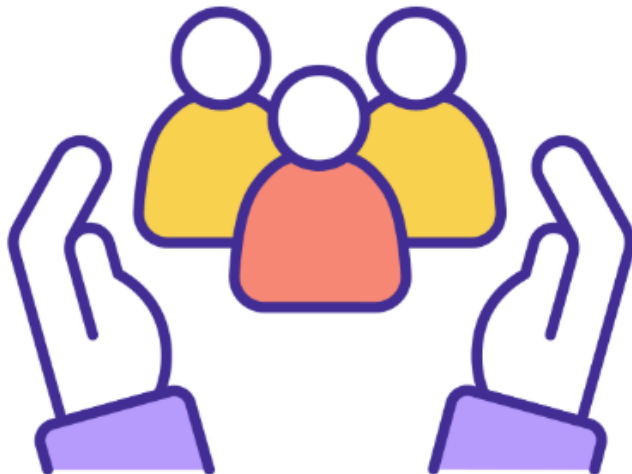
Christingle Service

Creative and Interactive
Worship

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Deborah Packham

An on-line streamed service
will also be available as the
Christingle will not be
livestreamed.



Sunday 8th December 10:30am	Sunday Service
Monday 9th December 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Monday 9th December 2:30pm	PMA
Tuesday 10th December 1:00pm	BRBC Babies & Toddlers
Tuesday 10th December 4:00pm	Toy Library
Wednesday 11th December 8:00pm	Prayer Meeting
Thursday 12th December 12:00pm	Lunch Club Carol Service
Thursday 12th December 12:45pm	Lunch Club
Thursday 12th December 2:00pm	Craft Club
Thursday 12th December 7:30pm	Roffey House Group
Thursday 12th December 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 13th December 7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 14th December 12:30pm	Nativity Lunch
Saturday 14th December 7:00pm	CMCB Christmas Concert
Sunday 15th December 9:15am	Mission Prayer Meeting
Sunday 15th December 10:30am	Christingle Service
Sunday 15th December 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Monday 16th December 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Tuesday 17th December 4:00pm	Toy Library
Wednesday 18th December 2:30pm	Johnson House Group
Thursday 19th December 10:00am	Art Group
Thursday 19th December 10:30am	Men's Coffee Morning
Thursday 19th December 2:00pm	Women's Fellowship
Thursday 19th December 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 20th December 7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday 21st December 12:30pm	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 22nd December 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 22nd December 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Sunday 22nd December 6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight

Weekly Message

‘Come to this table, not because you must, but because you may...’

One of the distinctive features of Brighton Road, which I cherish, is our practice of saying that anyone who wishes to take Communion is welcome to do so. In religious jargon, that means we have an ‘open table,’ rather than having a ‘closed table’, where those who have not been baptised are not permitted to take Communion.

John Wesley argued that Communion was a means of grace; grace that included ‘the first wish to please God, the first dawn of light concerning his will, and the first slight transient conviction of having sinned against him. All these imply some tendency toward life; some degree of salvation; the beginning of a deliverance from a blind, unfeeling heart, quite insensible of God and things of God’ (Works 6.509). In that sense, he saw Communion as a ‘converting ordinance’, a means by which people could express an incipient readiness to turn to Christ: According to Charles Hefling, for Wesley ‘the one indispensable prerequisite for receiving communion is a desire to accept whatever blessing God is pleased to give through it. Such a desire may be only the first faint beginning of conversion...They may not yet be able to make a profession of faith, and they may have only the conception of what they yearn for. The point is that they yearn for it’ (Who is communion for? The debate over the open table | The Christian Century).

Many Christians are wary of this practice: after all, Paul warned against taking Communion unworthily, without discerning the body ([1 Corinthians 11:27-29](#)). Although we might suppose that he is thinking of the significance of the sacrament here, that may not be the case. For Paul, all those who share in the one loaf which is the Body of Christ, are one body (10:16-17).

His concern could well have been that some members of the church, the Body of Christ, lived their lives at others' beck and call because of their low social status, and consequently they frequently arrived late, only to find that all the food had been eaten in their absence (11:20-21). For Paul this was a travesty, and he urges the church to wait for everyone to arrive before celebrating the Lord's Supper (11:33) – though the verb translated 'wait for' here can actually mean 'welcome' or 'receive'. So, according to Otfried Hofius, Paul is actually telling them here to “Care for one another!” “Receive one another warmly!” “Grant one another table fellowship!” “Show hospitality to one another!” (Garland, 1 Corinthians, 554-555).

That's why the practice of having an open table is close to my heart. Joshua Jipp puts it well: 'Those who eat of the Lord's Supper and thereby remember the divine hospitality received from the Lord's loving and saving death ... commit themselves to pursuing the pattern of love, equality, unity, and friendship within the church' (Saved by Grace and Hospitality, 63). In Communion, God welcomes us – all of us – to his table, and we gladly and warmly extend that welcome to others.

Tim Carter

Notices

PMA Pleasant Monday Afternoon

Steve and Sandra Piggott will be leading our PMA Carol Service on Monday 9th December from 2.30 – 3.45pm in the Main Hall. All are welcome to join.

Mission Prayer Meeting

There will be an opportunity to hear news from some of the overseas mission workers we support and to pray for them next Sunday, 15th December at 9.15am in the Main Hall.

Christmas Lunch Club

The Christmas Lunch Club will be on Thursday 12th December. It will be preceded by a short Carol Service which will start at 12 noon, and 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 put your name on the list at Reception, or email 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

Crawley Millennium Band Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert will be held in the church on Saturday 14th December at 7pm. As usual, this concert is free but we would like you to consider giving a donation to Pancreatic Cancer as you leave. This is in memory of Peter McMahan who was a great supporter of the band and also a church member here. He died from this awful cancer in 2018. We will have a card reader available so you can donate by card as well as by cash. Refreshments will be available in the interval. Finally don't forget your Christmas hat! Judy McMahan.

Horsham Churches Together Christmas Carol Service

HCT Carols in the Carfax, with the Slinfold Concert Band, will take place on the Carfax bandstand on Saturday 14th December 2024.

Festive music from 11am

Carol service from 11:30am to 12:15pm, with singing, Bible readings, and a gospel talk and more festive music until 1pm.

Walks

If you would appreciate a break from preparing for Christmas and would enjoy a winter stroll in the countryside there will be a short walk on the morning of Friday 20th December. Meet at church at 10am. Note change from the usual time.

An exhibition of your favourite Christmas Carols

Come and enjoy colourful and creative exhibits of artistic interpretations including paintings, crafts, models and floral displays of your favourite Christmas Carols at Horsham United Reformed Church, Springfield Road, Horsham on Friday 20th December and Saturday 21st December, 10am-3pm. Entrance free of charge. Delicious festive refreshments will be served accompanied by, of course, your favourite carols to get you into the festive spirit.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The annual week of prayer for Christian Unity will take place between 18th January and 25th January 2025. There will be daily prayer meetings and a United Service at 6pm on Sunday 19th January 2025. Full details will be released nearer the time.

BMS Birthday Scheme

Celebrating birthdays this week are Christine Oakley on Tuesday 10th and Doreen Hawes on Sunday 15th December.

For Prayer

God of love,
guide our feet into the ways of peace;
fill our hearts with a passion to serve,
and shed the light of your acceptance
into the darkness of our insecurity.

As we listen to your Word and offer our prayers,
may we hear you calling us afresh or for the first time
to the tasks you have entrusted to each of us.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Mission Prayer Request

Give thanks with Cally that a suitable place has been found for the Eagle Project to rent as a Headquarters. They have been invited to share facilities with another organisation. The sessions are going really well at the youth prisons and they are coming to the end of the term soon. Son Ben has had a good first week in his new job! Pray that enough funding will be received to allow the team to give Christmas gifts to all the families they want to give them to.

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