



BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



BRBC Bulletin

**Sunday 22nd December
& 29th December 2024**

Welcome to our service today.

Events for the next week

THIS SUNDAY

God sent his Son
[Galatians 4:1-5](#)

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Michael Hogg

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms - Children will go
from the main service

6:30pm Carols by Candlelight

led by Tim Carter

NEXT SUNDAY

"You are no longer a slave but a son"
[Galatians 4:6-7](#)

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Michael Hogg

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms - Children will go
from the main service

CHRISTMAS

"For to us a child is born"

Tuesday 24th December

11:30pm Christmas Eve Communion

led by Tim Carter

Wednesday 25th December

10:30am Christmas Day Service

led by Tim Carter



Sunday 22nd December 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 22nd December 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Sunday 22nd December 6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Tuesday 24th December 11:30pm	Christmas Eve Communion
Wednesday 25th December 10:30am	Christmas Day Service
Thursday 26th December 7:45pm	Worship Group
Sunday 29th December 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 29th December 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Sunday 5th January 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 5th January 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Sunday 5th January 7:00pm	Prayer Gathering
Monday 6th January 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company



Weekly Message

You have a visitor...

'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people' ([Luke 1:68](#)). That's Zechariah's prophecy, uttered after John the Baptist was born. Zechariah may have been thanking God for giving his wife Elisabeth the capacity to have a baby in her old age (like Sarah and Hannah in [Genesis 21:1](#); [1 Samuel 2:21](#)), but it looks like he is looking ahead to Jesus coming as 'the embodiment of God's visitation' (Jipp, *Divine Visitations and Hospitality to Strangers*, 221), since he goes on to speak of the sunrise visiting us from on high, to give light to those who sit in the darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace ([Luke 1:78-79](#)).

God's visits normally make a difference, for good or ill. Exodus speaks of the people responding in faith and worship when they hear that God has visited them and will redeem them from their affliction (4:31), but we also read of God visiting their sin upon them after they worship the golden calf (32:34). Jeremiah prays that God will visit him and avenge him on his persecutors (15:15), and he also prophesies that after seventy years God will visit his people in exile in Babylon and bring them back home in accordance with his promise (36:10).

Luke records how people realised that God had visited them when Jesus brought the widow's son back to life in Nain (7:16), and also he cites James' acknowledgement that God had visited the Gentiles when he sent Peter to visit Cornelius ([Acts 15:14](#)) and they received the Holy Spirit. God visits people in and through his servants, and one of my prayers is that God will visit people through my pastoral work with them.

And my prayer for Brighton Road is that God will visit you in ways that you can recognise and welcome and celebrate in the coming year. I have no doubt that he will come, but he may visit you in unexpected ways. The wise men looking for a new-born king assumed they would find him in a palace in Jerusalem, but instead they were directed to Bethlehem. The shepherds found the promised Saviour lying in a manger because when God visited the earth in the newborn baby Jesus, there was no place for him and his parents in the inn.

2025 is going to be a busy year for BRBC, but in all your making plans and running programmes, I would encourage you to ask God for the grace to perceive when and how he visits you and to make space and time available to be ready to welcome and receive him whenever and however he comes.

‘Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown when Thou camest to earth for me; But in Bethlehem’s home there was found no room for Thy holy nativity; O come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for Thee’ (Emily E. E. Steele Elliott).

Tim Carter

Notices

Fellowship Lunch

As you are probably aware, Sunday 29th December 2024 will be the last Sunday that our Senior Minister, Rev Tim Carter will be with us before moving to Durham to take up his new role at Cranmer College. We want to ensure that as a fellowship we have an opportunity to say goodbye to Tim and Sue over a meal together and we would therefore like to invite everyone to share with us in a fellowship lunch after the morning service on Sunday 29th December 2024. It would be very helpful for the purposes of catering, if you could sign up if you plan to come and mention any dietary requirements you might have. Please sign up no later than Monday 23rd December, and please DO COME!! All are WELCOME.

BRBC Art Group Meeting

The next meeting will be on the 16 January 2025 in the Main Hall 10-12pm. All welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available.

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.

Oasis News

The latest Oasis Crisis Pregnancy Centre Newsletter is on the BRBC website. Please go to "What We Do" then "Community" then "Oasis Crisis Pregnancy Centre" and click on the link to read the most recent newsletter. You can read all our news and see how you can support us through prayer.

Thank you

Lynn Woroniecki

Flowers

The flower calendar for 2025 is now up in its new permanent position, on the right wall by the entry to the Main Hall. It would be good if lots of the dates could be filled, particularly at the start of the year. Signing up means you are willing to give the flowers, or more usually the money to buy the flowers, that enhance the worship on Sundays and then go to people in need of hearing that we care for them and remember them. It would also help if you could arrange your own flowers, just in a vase of water or in the stands. This is very important as in February we will be down to just 3 arrangers!

We would appreciate having more arrangers! Can you help, either on a regular basis or occasionally, or just arrange the flowers when you are giving them?

Sheila Stevens

Soundwaves Christmas Broadcast

Some copies of our BRBC Christmas Broadcast are available in the Reception area. Feel free to take a copy before they all go.

BMS Birthday Scheme

Celebrating birthdays within the next two weeks are Mary Reed and Muriel Kent, both on Sunday, 29th December.

Church Office Christmas and New Year Closure

The church office will be closed from December 24th to January 3rd.

For Prayer

God of wisdom and wonder,
we praise you for your gift of peace:
for its depth when we are most troubled;
for its comfort when we are most afraid;
for its simplicity when we are most pressured;
for its truth when we are most disconcerted;
and for its stillness when we are most swamped by the
noise and busyness of Christmas.
We praise you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Mission Prayer Request

Let us pray for those of the overseas mission workers we support, who will be celebrating Christmas away from family and in an unfamiliar culture. Pray that they will find joy in celebrating the birth of Christ and opportunities to share the good news of the real message of Christmas.

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
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