

BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



BRBC Bulletin

Sunday 12th January 2025

Welcome to our service today.

Events for the next week

THIS SUNDAY

Openness to change
Communion Service

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Julie Rudd
with Julie Shimizu

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms -
Children will go from the main
service

NEXT SUNDAY

Fruit of the Spirit: Joy

10:30am Sunday Service

led by Raja Mukherjee
with Michael Hogg

10:45am BRBK (Kids' Club)

Meeting Rooms -
Children will go from the main
service



Sunday 12th January 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 12th January 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Monday 13th January 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Monday 13th January 2:30pm	PMA
Tuesday 14th January 1:00pm	BRBC Babies & Toddlers
Tuesday 14th January 4:00pm	Toy Library
Wednesday 15th January 7:00pm	Hillside House Group
Thursday 16th January 10:00am	Art Group
Thursday 16th January 2:00pm	Women's Fellowship
Thursday 16th January 7:45pm	Worship Group
Saturday 18th January 12:30pm	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 19th January 9:15am	Mission Prayer Meeting
Sunday 19th January 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 19th January 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Monday 20th January 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Tuesday 21st January 1:00pm	BRBC Babies & Toddlers
Tuesday 21st January 4:00pm	Toy Library
Tuesday 21st January 7:30pm	Merryfield Housegroup
Tuesday 21st January 7:45pm	Allsorts Housegroup
Thursday 23rd January 2:00pm	Craft Club
Thursday 23rd January 7:45pm	Worship Group
Friday 24th January 10:00am	Listen and Pray
Friday 24th January 6:00pm	BMS - Peter & Louise Lynch
Saturday 25th January 12:30pm	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 26th January 10:30am	Sunday Service
Monday 27th January 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company
Monday 27th January 2:30pm	PMA

Weekly Message

Thoughts on our place in the Universe

I have watched David Attenborough's Blue Planet series, and recently Prof. Brian Cox's programme on our solar system. Then, mention of the wise men's star and our Housegroup study of Paul's letter to the Roman church chapter 1 got me thinking and reading library books about our place amongst God's creation of this Universe.

In Horsham, we seldom see more than a few stars and planets in our night sky because of air and light pollution – though we do have a designated 'Dark Sky' area in the South Downs National Park.

The ancients of Abraham's time (approx 1900BC) on a clear night would have seen, from horizon to horizon, the myriad of stars slowly wheeling around their night sky. So when God made his covenant with Abraham in Genesis Ch15 vs4-5 He said "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them" and "So shall your offspring be." For a childless man, that would have been mind-blowing, as there were countless thousands of stars.

David, too, when a shepherd sitting on a hilltop (approx. 1020BC), would have seen this ceiling of stars, and felt his smallness; and yet he knew his significance in his Creator's eyes. He expresses this beautifully in Psalm 19 v1-6:-

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge."

From the first Christmas time we remember the visit of the wise men to Jesus' family, led by following a 'star'. Royal Museums, Greenwich, give 5 possible explanations:- a Nova or Supernova explosion, a comet, a conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, a stationary point of Jupiter, or a conjunction of Jupiter, Regulus and Venus. But perhaps, like the angels appearing to the shepherds with the good news of Christ's birth, the 'star' was another heavenly appearance. Wise men sought Jesus then, and they still do!

In Paul's letter to the Roman church, he explains how all people can know

their creator God through knowing the created world in which we live. In the 1st Chapter vs19-20, Paul writes, "They know everything that can be known about God, because God has shown it all to them. God's eternal power and character cannot be seen. But from the beginning of creation, God has shown what these are like by all he has made." That's true for us, too, of course.

Now with the latest James Webb Infra-red Telescope, we look deeper into space. The Universe we see becomes bigger still, so we can feel still smaller and more insignificant.

In Psalm 8 vs 3-6 David first felt his insignificance in creation, but then he acknowledged the value that God gives to mankind and mankind's responsibility for God's creation:-

"When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour."

Each Christmas reminds us how much God continually values and loves us, however small we might feel. He doesn't abandon his creation; rather he demonstrated his loving commitment to us, that while we were still sinners (disobedient, wilful, mis-users of his created world), his son Jesus Christ was born, lived and died for us. So we can sing the hymn:-

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

So look up and out and wonder. Enjoy this world God has given us to care for; and worship our Creator who knows us and loves us.

Keith Johnson

Notices

Mission Prayer Meeting

At 9.15am on Sunday 19th January in the main hall there will be an opportunity to hear news of some of those we partner with who serve overseas and to pray for them.

PMA – Pleasant Monday Afternoon

PMA resumes this Monday, 13th January, after the Christmas and New Year break. Michael Hogg will be our speaker and he will introduce our motto text for this year, Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”. All are welcome to join us.

Men’s Coffee Morning

All men are invited to my home on 16th January 2025 from 10.30 a.m. onwards for coffee, conversation and friendship and I look forward to meeting up with many of you.

Brian Carey 01403 264903 brian.rosalyn@me.com
9 Fitzalan Road, Roffey (off Crawley Rd. By Co-op store) RH13 6AA

Women’s Fellowship

Thursday January 16th 2pm – 3pm with Tim and Mary.

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.

Thanks from Claire Bedford

Thank you for your on-going support! It was great to be with you in October. May you know peace and joy through this season. Many best wishes for 2025.

Claire Bedford

Thank You from Michael & Sandra Hogg

A heartfelt Thank You to the fellowship of BRBC for your kind and generous gift at Christmas. Our Father God is always good and gracious to us, and your love and care for us is a great encouragement. Bless you all. We look forward to serving in partnership in all the ways the Spirit leads us in these times ahead, as the good news of Jesus is advanced among us and through us as a church. Love from Michael & Sandra.

Listen and Pray

Listen and Pray is a monthly group that meets in the chapel for one hour on the 4th Friday of the month from 10-11 am. We read some Scripture together, reflect on it in silence asking the Holy Spirit to speak to us through it and then we pray together as we might feel led. They are always very special times as we seek God through his Word.

If you feel you would like to go deeper in your prayer life this year then Listen and Pray might just be for you so please do join us. If you'd like to know more, then do speak to me, Julie Shimizu or just turn up to the next one on the 24th.

Visit from Peter and Louise Lynch (BMS)

On Friday 24th January 2025, Peter and Louise Lynch will visit us to share an update on their work with BMS.

We will start the event with afternoon tea at 6pm and then Peter and Louise will share a presentation of recent events and progress of their work in Bangladesh. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers. Please sign up by either contacting the office or signing the sheet on the reception desk by Sunday, 19th January 2025. This will help for catering purposes.

Please do come along and encourage Peter and Louise Lynch whom we support as a fellowship.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' starts on Saturday 18th January 2025, full of opportunities for us to join together in prayer and worship. The overarching theme for the week is "Do you believe this?", marking the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed.

Details of the week are as follows:

- Saturday 18th January 2025, 10:30am - Morning Prayer Meeting at Horsham United Reformed Church, RH12 2RG
- Sunday 19th January 2025, 6pm - United Service at St Mary's, Horsham, RH12 1HE The service this year will be led by St Margaret's Warnham
- Monday 20th January 2025, 7:30pm - Evening prayer meeting at St John the Evangelist, RH12 2PJ
- Wednesday 22nd January 2025, 7:30pm - Evening prayer meeting at Cornerstone Methodist Church - St Andrews, RH12 4DX
- Friday 24th January 2025, 1:30pm - Afternoon prayer meeting at Trafalgar Road Baptist Church, RH12 2QL
- Saturday 25th January 2025, 11.30am Caring for Creation Together - a reflective service with Eco Churches & Sussex Green Living, during the Sussex Green Hub at Horsham United Reformed Church, RH12 2RG
- Sunday 26th January 2025, 6pm - Watoto Children's Choir performing "Better Days" – an uplifting concert of praise, dance & storytelling at Kingdom Faith Church, RH13 5PX. Free tickets available from www.kingdomfaith.com/watoto.

The Hiding Place

Tickets are now on sale for 'The Hiding Place' an account of Corrie Ten Boom's family after the Nazis invaded Holland, performed by Oddments Theatre Production at The Horsham United Reformed church on Thursday 6th February at 7.30 (Doors open at 7pm).

With all the divisions in our present world, this remains a story for our own time. As Corrie Ten Boom said, "In darkness, God's truth shines most clear." To purchase tickets please

visit <https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/HPHorsham> (at £13.99)

BMS Birthday Scheme

Celebrating birthdays this week are Dick Beazley on Monday 13th, Beth Richardson on Wednesday 15th and Alison Edwards on Thursday 16th January.

For Prayer

Let us pray for Tim and Sue as they settle into life and work in Durham – for Tim as he starts teaching and building relationships with students and fellow staff, and for Sue as she begins to make friends and seeks to discern the way ahead.

Mission Prayer Request

Pray for wisdom for the SAT-7 Arabic team as they are no longer able to film live church services in Algeria as so many churches have been closed. Pray for the congregations having to find other ways of meeting and pray that the new programme called 'Home church from Algeria' will connect, inspire and strengthen many.

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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