

# BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH



## BRBC Bulletin

**Sunday 19th January 2025**

**Welcome to our service today.**

### **Events for the next week**

**Sunday 19th January**

*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 26th January**

*Fruit of the Spirit: Peace.*

All Age Worship

Baptism Service

**10:30am Sunday Service**

led by Marion Richardson



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
Wednesday 22nd January 7:00pm	Hillside House Group
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
Tuesday 28th January 10:30am	Alpha Course
Tuesday 28th January 1:00pm	BRBC Babies & Toddlers
Tuesday 28th January 4:00pm	Toy Library
Thursday 30th January 2:00pm	Women's Fellowship
Thursday 30th January 7:45pm	Worship Group
Saturday 1st February 12:30pm	Saturday Kitchen
Sunday 2nd February 10:30am	Sunday Service
Sunday 2nd February 10:45am	BRBK (Kids' Club)
Sunday 2nd February 7:00pm	Prayer Gathering
Monday 3rd February 10:00am	Coffee, Cake & Company

# Weekly Message

## Joy amidst the embers

How might we experience joy in the midst of the fires of trial or trouble? I've been following the news about the devastating fires in California. The BBC, in one online report said, "For thousands of residents of Los Angeles, the fires took almost everything they had ... as the embers cooled, some residents of Altadena, which was ravaged by the Eaton Fire, returned to see what remained: An artifact from their lives before this disaster. From the rubble, many found small trinkets that brought them smiles and, occasionally, a moment of joy amid the hellish ordeal."

"A moment of joy" - is that all we can expect or hope for in this momentary life? Scottish Baptist evangelist and teacher, Oswald Chambers, in his book "Run Today's Race" wrote, "Happiness depends on what happens; joy does not."

The scriptures teach that true joy stems not from external circumstances nor inner emotions, nor in the finding of trinkets amidst the trauma. True joy, lasting joy, is found in the presence of Christ and in living according to His word and will. The joy that Jesus offers is not fragile or fleeting, nor dependent on worldly successes or possessions, which will, one day, all disappear. Jesus' joy is eternal; rooted in the unchanging love of God, ultimately expressed through Christ's cross.

The Apostle Paul, despite enduring hardships, imprisonment and suffering for the sake of the gospel, welcomes joy as an essential part of the Christian life. He exhorts the church, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!" ([Philippians 4:4](#)). Paul chooses to focus on God's goodness - to always have the attitude of gratitude: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." ([1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)). Theologian Karl Barth said, "Joy is the

simplest form of gratitude.”

Available for every receiver of Christ, joy is fruit which the Holy Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)) cultivates in the garden of our heart. It has been said that, “Joy is the flag that flies over the castle of our hearts announcing that the King is in residence today.” (Anon) Is the King in residence in your heart today? Jesus tells his disciples that, through relationship with Him, His joy completes their joy: “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” ([John 15:11](#)).

The Doxology of Jude assures believers of everlasting joy, even in the face of devastating loss in this world, “To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.” (Jude 23-25)

I pray we each, through Christ, experience lasting joy, especially amidst the embers of this perishable world.

Revd. Michael Hogg

# 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.

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## 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 Julie Shimizu or just turn up to the next one on the 24th.

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## 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' has started. The overarching theme for the week is "Do you believe this?", marking the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Details of this week's programme are as follows:-

- 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 - Tickets for the Watoto Children's Choir concert are no longer available.

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## **Elsie Phillips**

It's with great sadness that we must announce that Elsie Phillips passed away peacefully on Monday. We will miss her dearly.

## **Service of Thanksgiving**

This will be held on Wednesday 5th February at 2.30pm. All are welcome to join in this celebration of our mother's life. Refreshments will be served in the main hall after the service.

Please wear colourful clothes. Family flowers only. Charity donations will go to the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance (KSS).

Val Hardwick and family.

## **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)

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## **Advance Notice!**

The World Day of Prayer will take place as usual on the first Friday in March, 7th March. It is a service for everyone and hopefully at a time to suit you as there will be three venues in Horsham at three different times on that day. The women of the Cook Islands have prepared the service. See the posters on board at Reception.

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## **Coffee Morning & Presentation on Saturday 8th February**

You are invited to a coffee morning at the Salvation Army Hall at 10.30 am. It will include a presentation of background pictures of the Cook Islands so that you are better informed to appreciate the World Day of Prayer service taking place in March. There is no charge. Hope you can come and learn more about the Cook Islands.

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## **Messages from Ian Rose**

With the volatile situation in the Middle East it would be good for us to continue to pray for SAT7 and the work they do in encouraging isolated Christians and spreading the gospel message in the area. Their Prayer Diaries are available in the literature stand in the Reception Area.

Secondly, we have been requested to continue to produce our Heart Song broadcast so we desperately need a lot more people willing to chat with me for a few minutes about their favourite hymn or song.

Ian Rose

## **BMS Birthday Scheme**

Celebrating a birthday this week is Brian Carey on Friday 24th January.

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### **For Prayer**

Let us pray for the United Service at St. Mary's Church this evening - that it will be well attended and that it will be a blessing to all. Pray, too, that the following week of prayer will strengthen the sense of Christian unity in our town.

### **Mission Prayer Request**

Pray for Claire Bedford as she continues her various roles in the Guinebor 2 Hospital in Chad. Give thanks for the opportunities there are in the hospital for sharing the message of God's word and pray for the staff as they continue to show Christian love and care. Continue to pray that the road to the hospital will be properly fixed before the next rainy season.

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**Notices for the weekly bulletin should be sent to [bulletin@brbc-horsham.org.uk](mailto: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  
Leader of Community Evangelism - Rev Michael Hogg 07926 045598  
Church Secretary - Ken Carter  
[www.brbc-horsham.org.uk](http://www.brbc-horsham.org.uk)