

Belvedere  
BAPTIST CHURCH



# Newsletter

DECEMBER 2016



**Spiritual and social transformation in Belvedere,  
Bexley, Britain and beyond**

50 Nuxley Road, Belvedere, Kent DA17 5JG  
Tel: 01322 446688  
[church@belvederebaptist.org](mailto:church@belvederebaptist.org)

# **SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING PROGRAMME**

## **December: Christmas Prophesied**

The power of vision is such that it can give eternal hope to those experiencing darkness. Isaiah, Micah, Hosea and Jeremiah all had visions of great hope from God – Jesus, the Saviour was promised. But at the time of receiving these visions God's people were in dark times, away from Him and heading for exile. Matthew, in an effort to convince his fellow Jews to believe in Jesus, drew on these four major visions and their fulfilment in the birth of Christ. Similar to Old Testament times, the Jews of Matthew's day were experiencing dark times of foreign oppression. Matthew harnesses the power of vision in his writings to inspire hope and faith in the Jewish reader to get through these times. This same hope and faith can inspire us this Christmas to face whatever it is we're facing.

## **4<sup>th</sup> December: 'A virgin with child', Isaiah 7 & Matthew 1vs22-23**

There can be no greater encouragement than to know that God is with you, particularly when you don't feel you deserve it. King Ahaz was not living for God at the time he received news of Isaiah's vision and he knew he didn't deserve help. He was facing invading armies and wasn't even turning to God, yet still he received a message about a great sign of deliverance that would encourage him, God's people and world.

## **11<sup>th</sup> December: 'For out of you will come a ruler' Micah 5vs1-5a & Matthew 2vs4-6**

When you're feeling insignificant, to hear that you've been chosen for something important can be a lifeline. That's exactly what happened to the people of Bethlehem. The vision Micah received was so important that years later, Kings and wise men would refer to it to find the Saviour.

## **18<sup>th</sup> December: 'Out of Egypt I called my Son' Hosea 11 & Matthew 2vs15**

Some people respond to warnings, some people don't – like God's people. They were turning their backs on God in terrible ways and weren't heeding his warnings. God gives Hosea a vision of His love for his people in the midst of this hardness of heart and God's judgement is stayed. Matthew, in seeking to soften the hearts of his fellow Jews who had rejected Jesus as Messiah, was seeking to remind them of this powerful vision of times past in slavery

and exile. God had lovingly saved them twice before and in showing great empathy through His Son, Jesus, could loving save them again.

**10AM: 25<sup>th</sup> December: Jeremiah 31 & Matthew 2vs17-18**

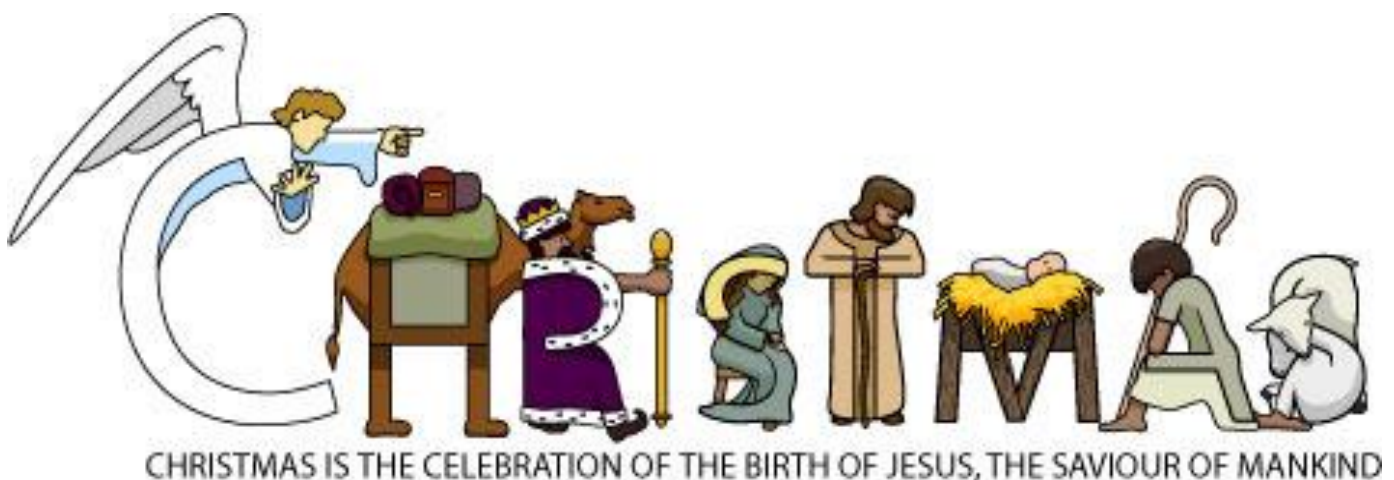
On Christmas Day it is good to remember those who are less fortunate than ourselves: those in war torn areas, those in poverty and those isolated and alone. Christmas is not always a happy time of year for everyone; indeed, the events surrounding the first Christmas were tragic: a state-sponsored massacre of boys under the age of two! What vision of God is this? Where is God in this and how can He let this happen?

*This 45min packed, interactive service is for all the family with praise (carols), prayers, presents & presentations (kids video clips) – let's put Jesus at the heart of Christmas and really celebrate His birthday with Him!!*

## WEDNESDAY CHURCH FAMILY EVENINGS

**These evenings are a mix of Bible study/discussion, prayer and growing in faith plus time to just chill out together.**

The evenings are open to anyone who wishes to come along, whether you would like to be part of small group learning, sharing and growing together, or just wonder what happens on Wednesday evenings. You are very welcome. For the first two weeks of December we will continue our study of Romans.





**Do Come and Join Us On**

**SATURDAY  
3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER  
at 5.00 pm for our**

**“Switching on the  
Christmas Lights”  
Event**

**Belvedere Baptist Church  
50 Nuxley Road, Belvedere**

**The evening will include  
Barbecue (including Vegetarian)  
Carols and Entertainment**

**You are Invited to An  
Exhibition Of  
Calligraphy**

*- Demonstrations Included -  
At Refresh Community  
& Family Centre,  
Nuxley Road, Belvedere  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
10.00 am - 4.00 pm  
Entrance is Free  
Everybody Welcome*

***Please note!***

Charlotte's phone number is now 07391 912939. Please change the number in your church directory and on your mobile phones.



## Hi BBC, and merry Christmas in advance!

Many thanks for all your prayers and support over the last few months. We had a great trip to New York and made some exciting connections with other arts teams from all over the world. I was so inspired by what God is doing across the world in cities. We heard amazing testimonies from many church, ministry and business leaders and one of the most incredible of those was from a pastor from China! I was particularly amazed to meet and pray with two leaders from Spring Harvest who led workshops and seminars that impacted me so much in my youth. It was amazing to be in that global leadership context representing the work God is starting amongst artists in Mumbai. I was convicted specifically regarding prayer for the Arts Collective. So please pray for me as I'm currently trying to instigate a habit of seeking God in prayer and worship together as leaders of the Arts Collective. It's proving very difficult to get time together to do this.



My work situation may be changing since the regular spot I have singing at the Taj hotel could be coming to an end. I trust that God will continue to provide for me in the miraculous and mysterious way that he does every month. I'm excited to see what new things may come since I've signed up with a new management company.

I've started leading worship fully in church which is fun. I'm happy to be serving in that way with the team. We're also doing our last few rehearsals for the Pray For India conference. It's been really great to get to know these musicians from other churches. They are really excellent and I'm going with a very expectant heart to see God move powerfully there.

We had a fun football tournament with church this weekend and all the kids from the life centre where I had been teaching maths clubs were there. It was so great to see them again. They've all grown so much!

Please pray for India with us this week. The conference is 30th Nov-2nd Dec. It'd be great to have you praying with us. You may have heard about our current cash crisis due to the PM announcing very suddenly that 500 and 1000 rupee notes were becoming illegal tender over night. The banks and ATMs have been over whelmed with massive queues all day every day. There have been not enough new notes in circulation and the new notes coming out are just 2000 rupee notes. So no one has change to buy the basic day to day things. Its very chaotic and stressful for the whole nation.



An ATM with no queue... and no cash.

Miss you all! I'm thinking of you in the Christmas period and all that you're doing and ways that you're serving in Belvedere.

*Heather Andrews* <http://www.heatherandrews.org>

### **Testimony Booklet**

This is just a reminder about the testimony booklet that I am producing, aimed at non-Christians. Please pass on your testimonies to me showing God's supernatural power e.g. healing, great answer to prayer etc.

"Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!" 1 Chronicles 16:8

Thanks

Julie Robson

[jdrobson@hotmail.com](mailto:jdrobson@hotmail.com)

*Let's do something different this Christmas...*

Alison Fraser will be putting a box at the back of church near the entrance for people to put money in from the first week in December for the Toilet Twinning scheme run in partnership with Tear Fund. To remind you:

## **2.4 billion people don't have a loo**

- Around a third of the world's population have to use fields, streams, rivers, railway lines, canal banks, roadsides, plastic bags or disease-breeding buckets.
- Every minute a child under the age of 5 dies because of dirty water and poor sanitation
- In Africa, half of young girls who drop out of school do so because they need to collect water or because the school doesn't have a basic toilet
- Women and girls are vulnerable to being bitten by snakes, or attacked, as they walk to the edge of their community to go to toilet in the open, late at night.

*Convinced that this is a good idea?*

For **£60** we can twin our toilet with a single, household latrine in an impoverished community.

For **£240**, we could twin with a school block.

We will receive a framed certificate to hang in our loo – featuring a photo of our twinned toilet, the latrine's location and even the GPS coordinates so we can find our twin(s) online.

For more information, visit [www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)





Evergreen and the Refresh Centre hosted yet another successful **Afternoon Tea** which was extremely well attended and enjoyed by everyone. The Mayor also attended and joined in with helping the staff, we had some lovely donations from the Co-op, bookers, Tesco's and a Lady called Mary Kelly, and the lady in the café. Derek and Alison joined in with their T dance.

The police cadets also attended and they were such a blessing to have. They worked extremely hard to ensure that all the clients were topped up with tea and cakes!! A special thank you to all the ladies who worked in the kitchen making teas, and with the washing up.

We look forward to hosting the next one in the near future! *Charlotte*





*Don't miss...*

**Sunday 18th December** – 6:30 pm - Carols by Candlelight: All Saints (please feel free to attend this traditional service as we will not be running one this year - David will be attending too).

**Sunday 25th December**, 10am - Christmas Day interactive family service - 45mins action packed for all the family (show and tell for favourite present, and 'Who got up the earliest' competition!!). Let's put Jesus first on his birthday!

*Don't forget...*

**Sunday 1st Jan** - no service

## *A Message from Olive*

I have been overwhelmed by the love and support received from all my friends which includes my Church Family before and after my recent surgery.

Thank you for the many cards, flowers, plants and gifts – I have been truly blessed.

Before my surgery, a friend shared with me a text – John 14:27: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

Another friend left me with the following prayer: “Lord, help me to remember that nothing is going to happen today that you and I together can’t handle.”

On the day of my surgery, I was amazingly calm. Thank you to you all for being there with me.

Many blessings to you all, *Olive*





## DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup></b>	2:30 pm	Women's Own – David Hazeldine
<b>Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	9:30 am	Tots' Club
<b>Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
	10:00 am	Ladies' Discipleship Group
	5:00 pm	Switching on the Christmas lights
<b>Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
	6:30 pm	Communion service
<b>Monday, 5<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Calligraphy with Christina Hulme
<b>Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
<b>Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup></b>	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Ruxley Manor Garden Centre
<b>Friday, 9<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Tots' Club
<b>Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
<b>Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
<b>Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30 pm	Church Family Evening
<b>Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & crochet lesson
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Christmas music & readings
<b>Friday, 16<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Tots' Club
<b>Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you (till 12:00)
	10:00 am – 4 pm	Calligraphy exhibition at Refresh
<b>Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service and Communion
	6:30 pm	Carols by Candlelight at All Saints Belvedere
<b>Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	<b>INTERACTIVE FAMILY SERVICE</b>

