

Belvedere
BAPTIST CHURCH



Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2017



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

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SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING PROGRAMME



February – Money, finances, tithes, offerings and...kisses xxx!!

February is the month of love...Valentine's Day and all that! We'll be looking at how God's love for us motivates our financial giving. But for the first week, we'll be holding a 'Celebration of Love' church service, café style!

5th A celebration of love: 'Giving in relationships': Philippians 2vs5-11

The nature of love is sacrificial – but how do we know if we're being taken advantage of? And what should we do if we feel we are?

12th The faithfulness of financial giving: Leviticus 27vs30-33, Numbers 18vs21-24

God instigated a faithful, regular practice of giving for his people Israel: Tithing. It was to be a fitting response to the grace God showed the Israelites in choosing them as His own people. This makes financial giving an act of honour and love, not legalism

19th The generosity of financial gifts: 2 Corinthians 8vs1 – 2 Corinthians 9vs15

How can we be generous in a difficult economy? Does God still expect us to give if we're on benefits? The state pension merely pays the bills, there is not much left after that? By learning the same few lessons as the Corinthian church did, the example of the Macedonian church's giving will encourage us in our choices and enable us to rely on God even more.

26th Viewing your money correctly: 1 Chronicles 29vs14-19

“Church is just after your money!” you may have heard someone remonstrate. But if everything we have is God’s anyway, who is really giving to who? Today we’ll learn a lesson from the attitude of a king.

WEDNESDAY CHURCH FAMILY EVENINGS

Until further notice, we will be meeting in the Refresh Centre on Wednesday evenings to discuss house groups and what members feel about this. Please join us if you want to have a say.



Who was Santa?

Don't tell the kids, but it was really Brian Mansfield!

FAITH CUP

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

– ROMANS 5:2 KJV



Evergreen Update

As Evergreen enters its fourth year of serving our community, it is amazing how far God has brought the organisation since a few of us sat round a table wondering how it was all going to work out. We now employ 27 members of staff, have over 120 volunteers and are supporting 183 clients. The support for Evergreen has been overwhelming over the years, and the help and encouragement of Belvedere Baptist Church has been instrumental in getting us to where we are today.

Over the Christmas period, we were inundated with messages of thanks from clients, families and other organisations for the wonderful care and support our staff and volunteers have given to the clients they visit. They truly are life-changers, and we value and appreciate all they do, often going that extra mile.

Richard Branson once said "If you look after your staff, they will look after your customers, it's that simple". This simple concept has always been the ethos of Evergreen, in our words "to look after our staff as well as we look after our clients".

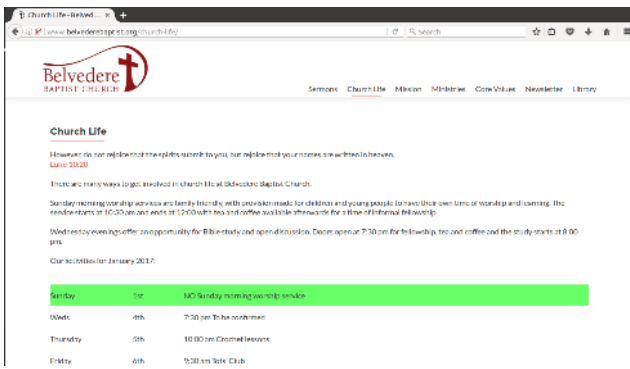
This is why, on March 20th 2017, Evergreen is to become a Living Wage Employer to show our appreciation for the amazing work and dedication our staff have shown to us and their clients. Care work has always been associated with low pay and staff not being valued for the responsibility they carry in their job. If we are to change the landscape of care in our borough, it has to begin with an ethos of care towards our staff. We are already seeing Social Services and other organisations noticing the difference in the care that Evergreen provides, and with the ongoing support of churches, businesses and individuals, together with a workforce of dedicated staff, we truly believe Evergreen can become a beacon for care in our borough.

Thank you all,
Pete & Diane



Church website info

The church website has undergone some changes and is now being updated on a weekly basis. It currently includes sound recordings of all recent sermons, our monthly newsletter in digital form, church monthly events, daily Bible verse, updates on the Refresh library and more. To find it in your browser type in <http://www.belvederebaptist.org>.



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Recent Sermons

15th of January

"The practice of Church Discipline: Matt 18:15-17, 1 Tim 5:17-21"
DAVID HAZELDINE

00:00 / 00:00

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Worship through expressive arts

As a part of worship team developments this year, we are looking to expand the ways in which we worship beyond just music. As part of this, we are trying to include expressive arts such as dance or visual arts like painting or interactive installations.

These might sometimes challenge our normal mindset and even provoke us to expand our spirit and mind beyond our common Sunday experience.

Ideas like **What would we do/feel differently, if Jesus was standing right by our side** on our regular Sunday morning, led me to explore this idea of experiencing this with the aid of the figural painting of Jesus as is depicted by popular Christian movies.

The beginning of the New Year seemed like a good time to remind ourselves that the One in charge is always our Lord, seated on the throne in heaven, continuously interceding for us.

The Nativity scene, with all its characters, felt a bit like a mission to me, as I felt strongly about the need to refocus our attention to the real reason for Christmas.



As we also try to become more relevant to the younger generation, we need to embrace new means of passing on our faith to them. This is done best with lively and highly visual teaching, as the younger generation craves visual impulses more than any other stimulation.

I hope and pray people can find in this form of worship something to inspire them rather than to irritate or offend them. The aim is not to make a tangible figure to worship, but to symbolise or point our spirits to the spiritual reality we don't see with our earthly eyes. This is new to me too. I was surprised that the Holy Spirit has led me to do this in this season for our congregation. Let's see where he takes us next - I pray it is from glory to glory.

P.S. Anyone, who would like to join the team of people, expressing their love for God in the way of visual arts, should talk to me and Jill. For more information on the new developments in worship please speak to Matt Harris.

Domí



It is the first anniversary of the Erith & Thamesmead Debt Centre and we've had a busy, successful year meeting 26 clients, half of whom are working with CAP to become debt free. Just after Christmas we had the good news that our first client had gone debt free!

Before Christmas we put out an appeal for support to produce Christmas hampers for each of the clients working with CAP and the response was overwhelming. The clients who received the hampers, which included groceries and a small personal gift for each household member, were blown away by the generosity of strangers. So a big thank-you to all those who contributed to this project, including those who helped with hamper preparation and delivery. It is such a wonderful practical witness and a very real blessing to the clients.

We are still getting regular enquiries about the service CAP offers and I am kept busy following up of existing clients and meeting new ones. The team of support workers for visits is expanding and if anyone feels they would like to help in this way please ask me about it.

Prayer support is essential for the success of the Centre's work and the effectiveness of the prayer cover we've had for client visits and clients' needs, which are many and various, has been evident. We love being able to offer prayer to clients and many of them are really appreciative of this expression of love and support. It is lovely to be able to remind them of those prayers when we see that something has happened that has been an answer to prayer. I would love more people to be involved in prayer ministry for the Centre, so if you would like to support our work in this way please speak to me or Kathy Gower to get updates on prayer needs. I am still working to get prayer links going with the other churches that support the work of the Centre.

This year I plan to positively encourage CAP debt clients to do a CAP Money course to help them with their budgeting. We have a series of the free courses planned for this year at different local venues and they are open to all, so if anyone wants information about the courses contact me, Nadine White or Paul Fryer.

If anyone would like to help with the CAP work that goes on through our church, which includes Job Club, or wants to know more about what is involved please speak to me or one of the other members of the CAP team – Mick Harvey, Charlotte Kenton, Nadine White and Paul Fryer.

Kath Andrews CAP Debt Centre Manager

FEBRUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds, 1st	7:30 pm	Meeting in Refresh – everyone welcome
Thursday, 2nd	10:00 am	Crochet lessons
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – members' afternoon
Friday, 3rd	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 4th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	10:00 am	Ladies Discipleship Group
Sunday, 5th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
	6:30 pm	Communion service
Weds, 8th	7:30 pm	Meeting in Refresh – everyone welcome
	7:30 pm	Worship Team practice
Thursday, 9th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Lilian Piddington
Friday, 10th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 11th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 12th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Monday, 13th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 15th	7:30 pm	Meeting in Refresh – everyone welcome
Thursday, 16th	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & crochet lesson
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Matt Harris
Friday, 17th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 18th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 19th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service and Communion
Weds, 22nd	7:30 pm	Meeting in Refresh – everyone welcome
Thursday, 23rd	2:30 pm	Women's Own – David Hazeldine
Friday, 24th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 25th	8:00 am	Worship Team breakfast and practice
	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 26th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Monday, 27th	10:00 am	Calligraphy

Future Events:

JAZZ EVENING IN REFRESH – Friday, 10th March from 8 pm – 10 pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 16th April 2017

BARN DANCE – Saturday, 7th October 2017