

Belvedere  
BAPTIST CHURCH



# Newsletter

MAY 2017



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

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# SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING PROGRAMME

## **May: If God, why evil?**

This is the big question that most humans struggle with – but there is an answer to this tough question, and it can be found in the Bible. We promise not to leave you with the unfulfilling “Ultimately, we’ll never know...” answer, or the short-sighted “It’s all down to freewill” answer. We will give you THE reason!

## **7<sup>th</sup> - Guest Speaker: Gordon Raggett, CEO of C.R.I.B.S.**

Gordon will be sharing a message he believes God has put on his heart for us, and then in the afternoon will be spending some time with our leadership ‘Huddle’.

## **14<sup>th</sup> - No one’s perfect right? Genesis Ch1 - Ch3**

To help us answer the perplexing question of suffering we must first start at the beginning: Who is God and who are we? The Bible answers these two questions in its first few chapters. We’ll do well to start at the beginning too!

## **21<sup>st</sup> - If God, why evil? Part 1**

This question seems fraught with contradictions: If God is good why did He create evil? How can good God allow such bad things to happen? But if He didn’t create it, who did? And does that mean God isn’t really God? Oh dear...Atheist 1, Christian 0.

This service will contain communion.

## **28<sup>th</sup> - If God, why evil? Part 2**

If it was possible to wriggle out of last week’s seemingly impossible question, what now? What is God doing with evil? Why doesn’t He step in now and stop all the suffering of the innocent? It seems He’s not very good after all. Oh dear...Atheist 2, Christian 0.

**June Newsletter Deadline: Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

## Quiz Night on Saturday 3rd June

Every year, one in ten children across the UK is admitted to hospital. While the majority of these admissions are brief, many children will spend weeks or even months undergoing treatment at a specialist hospital far from home. This takes them away from their home, family and friends. For the family it can mean financial devastation, splitting the family unit and even sleeping in cars to ensure they can be near their seriously ill child.



Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) is an independent charity, which provides free 'home away from home' accommodation for families with children in hospital across the UK. This enables families to stay close to their child and maintain a degree of normal family life during what can be an emotionally challenging time.

RMHC was established in the UK in 1989. Fourteen Ronald McDonald Houses have been built; however, there is still a great deal to do. Many families continue to sleep on hospital camp beds or in their cars so they can be close to their children. The charity is determined to help as many of these families as possible.

When our son Timothy was born, we became one of those families. Staying at RMHC Camberwell enabled the three of us to stay together as a family and be a just few minutes away from Timothy, whilst he recovered from surgery in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Kings. The RMHC accommodation was not only beautifully kept and furnished, but completely free for the duration of our stay – no matter how long that could have been.

In response to their kindness, we have decided to help support the RMHC to ensure future families are able to stay there, and we have set ourselves a target of £5,000 - which would cover the cost of a family staying for 200 nights. Our next event is a Quiz Night on Saturday 3rd June at Refresh. Doors will open at 7:30pm and the quiz will start promptly at 8pm. Tickets are £5 per person and will be available on the door with a maximum of 8 people per team. All proceeds will be donated directly to the RMHC in Camberwell.

We have a capacity of 120 competitors and would love to see every seat filled and every question answered correctly by at least one person! You don't

need to be a brainbox to do well, our aim is that you have fun and score highly!

If you have any questions, please speak to *Matt or Steph Harris*.



Refresh Library is celebrating its **1<sup>st</sup> anniversary!** With the 222 titles and 30 members it is steadily growing and blessing visitors and members alike.

After two successful fundraisings, we will attempt to purchase anniversary set of 5 visionary books by **Praying Medic**, more details in the library.



*Blessings, Librarian*

### THE GUARDRAIL



A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life,  
but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.

— PROVERBS 19:16 NIV



## Hello lovely church people,

I guess you're all enjoying spring time now. It's turned very hot here a couple of months early so we're all hiding from the sun between 11am and 5pm looking forward to monsoon rains.

I've been performing a few Jazz gigs and started writing songs for my second album. I haven't been making enough money to pay my salary for the last few months so I've also been spending time listening to God on what the future holds and seeing what is unfolding slowly. I'll share more on that when I see you next month :). I'm very much looking forward to time at home.

I've been asked for quite a few acting auditions recently. Not many of these pan out but I did my first bit of acting in a Bollywood movie this month. It ended up with me plaiting a British girl's hair for 15 minutes in the corner of a salon. The girl was from Kilburn! haha! so we had a good chat about London.

Our church put on a fantastic art gallery for Easter which told the whole story of redemption from Genesis to the crucifixion through 12 art works. I made 2 abstract art installations. One representing God, the trinity, hovering over the waters before creation. The second depicting Jesus the King of Kings bent over in sorrow during his triumphal entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. I was particularly blessed to see so many from other churches getting inspired, non-Christians experiencing the gospel for the first time and, (most exciting for me) the families that we have been building relationships with in the Carter Road Crew ministry (you may remember the key rings we sold last summer made by the women) all came and visited the exhibition. It was so exciting to see such underprivileged people come and enjoy a relatively hi-brow art gallery. Some were very moved by the explanations of the stations.



It was a great opportunity for some of the artists from The Arts Collective to take part and spur us amateurs on to greater excellence. We met even more Christian artists, several who are not part of any fellowship, who we are following up with. God is doing something very special in Mumbai, raising up more and more artists to discover their purpose and to become part of

this growing community. Thank you all for your prayers.

*Heather*

<http://www.heatherandrews.org>





## CAP Update

Although things are relatively quiet in terms of new clients for the Erith and Thamesmead debt centre, we are getting regular enquiries about the service CAP offers and I am seeing new clients each month. I am delighted to report that another client has gone debt free this month – the third one for the centre and a cause for celebration!

The rest of the clients who are continuing to work through their route out of debt need regular support and encouragement as this demands commitment and perseverance with budgeting, but it is a privilege to do this through prayer and contact, knowing that they will soon be debt free and able to begin a fresh start. We have a great team of support workers for visits, but I would like to see more people involved in the ongoing support of the clients, so if anyone feels they would like to help in this way please ask me about it. Our goal is not just to see clients go debt free but to enable them to see God's hand at work in their lives and for them to know the freedom Christ brings through salvation.

Prayer support remains an essential for the work of the centre and I would love more people to be involved in prayer ministry, so if you would like to support us in this way please speak to me or Kathy Gower to get updates on prayer needs.

Last month some of us went to a CAP United conference in London and were encouraged and inspired, particularly by a DVD about the latest CAP initiative CAP Life Skills courses. This 8 week course expands on the CAP Money budgeting themes and includes other areas, such as health and relationships, which can be impacted when living with budget constraints. Watch this space as BBC may be looking into starting these courses here.

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*

## FINANCE UPDATE (April 16, 2017)

Money in bank:		<b>£42,218.00</b>
Cheques outstanding:	-£ 145.31	

### Restricted funds

General	-£ 187.77
Kazakh fund	-£ 2,737.00
Youth fund	-£ 1,381.13
Gift Day for Church Heating	-£ 1,670.00
Heather	-£ 183.00

<b>SUB TOTAL 1</b>	<b>£35,913.79</b>
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Less tithe for 2015/16	£ 6,030.00
Less tithe for 2016/17 (approx)	£ 7,613.00

<b>SUB TOTAL 2</b>	<b>£22,270.79</b>
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Plus Gift Aid for 2 years	£16,057.90
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£38,328.69</b>
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### Reserves:

The above total does not include a reserves figure which is needed to pay outstanding wages, bills, etc, should the church cease to exist. It was agreed at the deacons/elders meeting that this should be a quarter of our estimated expenditure for the coming year. **However based on expenditure for financial year 2016/17 this would amount to £19,000**

### Good news:

Although expenditure for 2016/2017 exceed income by £12,000 this will hopefully be rectified by the increase in standing orders amounting to approximately £10,600 pa, plus the increase in a few of the existing standing orders. Also we are now receiving rental income for the upper office space from Evergreen and once Evergreen move to their new premises we will be looking for new occupants to rent this space.

However we should not be complacent as we still do not know what our final bill will be for the BU pension scheme. We are still paying for this on a monthly basis which will obviously be taken from the final debt.

### Tithes:

- Belvedere (details to be decided by members)
- Bexley (eg, Evergreen, Food Bank, CRiBS)
- Britain (eg, CAP, Home Mission)
- Beyond (eg, BMS, Heather)

## MAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Weds, 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10:00 am	Flower arranging
	7:30 pm	House groups
<b>Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Crochet lessons
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Music afternoon
<b>Friday, 5<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Tots' club
<b>Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	10:00 am	Ladies Discipleship Group
<b>Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
<b>Monday, 8<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Calligraphy
<b>Weds, 10<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30 pm	House groups
	7:30 pm	Worship Team practice
<b>Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup></b>	2:30 pm	Women's Own – David Hazeldine
<b>Friday, 12<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Tots' club
<b>Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
<b>Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
<b>Weds, 17<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30 pm	House groups
<b>Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & Crochet lessons
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Richard Payne
<b>Friday, 19<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30 am	Tots' club
<b>Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
<b>Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup></b>	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service and Communion
<b>Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	10:00 am	Calligraphy
<b>Weds, 24<sup>th</sup></b>	7:30 pm	House groups
<b>Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup></b>	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Jack Merrifield
<b>Friday, 26<sup>st</sup></b>	9:30 am	Tots' Club
<b>Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup></b>	8:00 am	Worship Team practice
	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
<b>Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup></b>	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
<b>Weds, 31<sup>st</sup></b>	7:30 pm	Housegroups

### Future Events:

BARN DANCE – Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017