

Belvedere
BAPTIST CHURCH



Newsletter

JULY 2017



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

50 Nuxley Road, Belvedere, Kent DA17 5JG
Tel: 01322 446688
church@belvederebaptist.org

SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING PROGRAMME



The past six weeks of addressing 'If God, why evil?' have really helped us understand this issue from God's 'high view'. Now we want to finish off by looking at how we respond in our daily lives when we're affected by such events.

2nd - Responding to National Tragedies: Luke 13:1-9

Where is God in a national tragedy like a devastating tsunami, a sweeping forest fire or an earthquake? These don't involve man's 'real-will'. These are 'acts of God' according to the insurers. Are they? And if they are, how do we respond?

9th - Suffering & God's discipline in the lives of believers

There is a lot written about suffering in the New Testament. How those early believers tackled such situations is still inspiring people around the world two millennia later. We'll discover how we can limit our suffering and how we can grow through it.



NEW SERIES: How to order your life well.

Have you ever felt out of control of your life? Do you want more order and peace in your daily experience? Have you given up making plans so as to avoid the inevitable disappointment of failure and false hopes? The wise words of biblical writers give us tried and tested principles that can curtail these feelings and set us up for a hope-filled life!

16th - Relationships: Proverbs 20:6

Faithfulness in relationships is so important for a stable and flourishing life. Sex before marriage? Living together? Marriage? These are all issues that people skirt around these days – but what does this proverb have to say about it and how can it help us towards a better life?

23rd - Calmness under fire: Proverbs 15:1

How can we respond when we're being shouted at or confronted by aggressive behaviour? This verse really helps us limit the damage by preventing situations getting out of control.

30th - Persistence in Prayer: Luke 11:1-13

Some of our members have been learning to preach and teach God's word! Today we are in for a special treat with some of them brave enough to share a short message each on prayer.

August Newsletter Deadline: Monday, 24th July



The Website still says **“More details coming soon...”**

So I cannot give you programme information, but as I am sure you will know, Lark in the Park is a community event provided by churches in Sidcup which takes place during the summer holidays and provides kids' clubs, youth activities, fun days, a creative zone, an over-60's venue, community action projects, evening events and much more. No matter who you are, Lark in the Park has something for you!

This year it is running from Saturday 22nd July – Sunday 6th August and everything is FREE! So do put these dates in your diary so that you, your friends and neighbours or the children do not miss this opportunity to enjoy yourselves this summer and get involved with all that Lark in the Park has to offer.

Freda – Outreach Team

My Sabbatical (at last!)

When David first came to BBC, I expressed a wish to take a sabbatical. I haven't progressed that until now for various reasons. I believe it is now the right time to take it, and so from 1st July until 30th September I will not be around BBC.

We decided beforehand to close CAP Job Club until September and will be considering how we should develop it beyond just helping job seekers. It has given the opportunity for me to take a break now.

For those who expressed an interest in the development of Refresh, I will be planning things through some of this period and taking in your comments. If you have any further thoughts, wants or ideas, please e mail them to me.

micknwen@talktalk.net (If you don't have access to email, please ask Charlotte to pass on your comments to me).

I intend to have a holiday with Wendy during this time, to study and seek God's plans, but most important to use the time to be refreshed and renewed in God's beautiful presence.

God bless, Mick

BBC CAP Job Club Staff being sent to prison!

Charlotte, Kath Andrews and myself have (on behalf of BBC), partnered with another Christian organisation called Clean Sheet. They work in prisons across the UK helping offenders who are near their release date to seek and find employment. There is a growing list of UK companies who have registered a willingness to actively consider and employ ex-offenders. We have been asked if we would run the scheme at HMP Thameside on behalf of Clean Sheet. We will go in every third Thursday from 13.30 - 15.00.

As a part of our training preparation, we were given a tour of the prison and spoke at some length to one prisoner. It was quite an education and made us realise how difficult it is for an ex-offender to leave the prison system and, really, how vulnerable they will be once released. There seems little real preparation or support available to them, many will return unfortunately.

Our first session will be on Thursday 20th July. We would appreciate your prayers. Normally we get to meet each prisoner only once, and it is very different to our CAP job club. It is, of course, strictly controlled, so pray we can be creative in our time with them to prepare them for work outside and that the Holy Spirit will connect their hearts to the one who watched them being formed in their mother's womb and wrote all their days in his book. Thanks.

God bless, Mick

Audience of One: Effectiveness of Prayer

Luke 18: 1

"One day Jesus told His disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up."

In 1844 George Muller was 39 years old when he committed to pray for the conversion of 5 men that he knew.

According to his journals Muller **"prayed every day without a single intermission, whether sick or in health, on land or at sea."** And after **18 months** of praying, only one of those men accepted Christ.



Muller thanked God and kept on praying. 5 years later the next man was converted, 6 years after that, the 3rd man gave his life to Christ.

Muller kept praying for the final two, but they remained unconverted. When he died at 93, he had been praying for them more than 52 years, seemingly without result. But at his funeral, one of those men said "Yes" to Christ; then a short time afterward, the 5th man was converted.

George Muller was a man of prayer. Everything he did in life was not done unless it was rooted in prayer.

He was known to pray for weeks on a subject, sometimes months and then at other times years.

Prayer was never "A one off" or even "when he felt like it" type of thing. When George Muller prayed he prayed daily.

When Muller asked God for the right course of direction in His life (he was 20 at the time and in training to be pastor/minister) it took weeks before he finally received his answer.

At that time his father was paying for his training as a pastor/minister; but when Muller told his father that God had told him to change his course of direction, from a pastor to being a missionary, his father was not best pleased and tried to persuade his son to continue as a pastor; as that would bring him more income than a missionary would.

From that point on, Muller stopped taking his father's money as the Lord had told him that HE would provide.

Muller spent the rest of his life leading churches and orphanage's, preaching both in England and abroad and of course praying. He is best known for the orphanages built in 1849 – 1879 in Ashley Down in the North of Bristol.

They were built to show that God not only heard but answered prayer!

When each child from the orphanage was old enough to live on their own, George would pray with them and put a Bible in their right hand and a coin in their left. He explained to the young person that if they held onto what was in their right hand, God would always make sure there would be something in their left hand as well.

Kathy Gower

.....

Invitation to



Advance tickets: £8.00.

Purchase tickets in advance from Audrey or David Lumsden on any Sunday from 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm at Belvedere Baptist Church

At the door: £10.00

Hospitality - Light snacks and soft cold drinks, tea and coffee are all included in the ticket price

on **July 20th 2017** at **8 pm** (to 10 pm) at Refresh Community Café

Featuring: Audrey Jazz + Trio - an evening of great Jazz swing/standards, plus popular ballads, original works and a guest or two.

Gerbera Nights - Audrey's album will be on sale on the night at £10.00 each and £2.00 of each sale will be donated to the NSPCC - The National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

CHURCH DAY OUT

We would like to invite everyone to our church day out; this year we have decided to go to Hall Place on Saturday, 22nd July. We chose this venue because it is very easy to get to and there are local buses for those who don't drive but are able to catch a bus. We can find lifts for those that can't use a bus. It will be a day of games, laughter and bonding, with a bring-and-share lunch.



We will meet at 11 am at the café at Hall Place and find ourselves a nice space to be able to play, eat and chat.

Could you let Charlotte know if you are attending or interested in going.

Deep Clean Day

We are grateful to Marcel for all the hard work that he does around the church, but as we can all fully appreciate, some areas that are not in Marcel's job description need a little spring clean. We are also attempting to start making the gardens more appealing to newcomers and those who walk past. If you are free and able to contribute an hour or two, please would you let Charlotte know. We are meeting on the 8th of July at 10.30am.

JULY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 1st	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	10:00 am	Ladies Discipleship Group
Sunday, 2nd	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service and Communion
Monday, 3rd	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 5th	10:00 am	Flower Arranging with Rita
	7:30 pm	House Groups
Thursday, 6th	10:00 am	Crochet lessons with Kathy Gower
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Members' afternoon
Friday, 7th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 8th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 9th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Weds, 12th	7:30 pm	House Groups
	7:30 pm	Worship Team practice
Thursday, 13th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Avril & Olive
Friday, 14th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 15th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 16th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Monday, 17th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 19th	7:30 pm	House Groups
Thursday, 20th	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & Crochet lessons
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Hymns and readings
	8:00 pm	Jazz Evening with Audrey Lumsden
Friday, 21st	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 22nd	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 23rd	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Weds, 26th	7:30 pm	House Groups
Thursday, 27th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Linda Tythe
Saturday, 29th	8:00 am	Worship Team Breakfast and Practice
	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 30th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Monday, 31st	10:00 am	Calligraphy

Future Events:

BARN DANCE – Saturday, 11th November 2017 from 7 pm - 10 pm