

Belvedere
BAPTIST CHURCH



Newsletter

NOVEMBER 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



November: Questions?

This month is about answering a collection of common queries raised by many people in church life. If the question isn't relevant to you, you will probably know someone whom it is relevant for...and perhaps you can help them with it after hearing the answer!

5th - What is repentance? Why is it relevant to me today? After all, I'm a Christian now – so why do I need to repent if all my sins are forgiven?
Matthew 3vs8 & James 4vs8-10

12th - Jesus is the only way: How do I explain this without sounding judgmental towards earnest followers of other religions? How can I reason with people on this without coming across as narrow-minded and intolerant?
John 14vs6, Romans 3vs23, Colossians 4vs6

19th - Help! My spouse is a non-Christian (and I want them to come to church): What do I do? This is a situation many of us find ourselves in and scripture gives some clear, practical guidance.
1 Corinthians 7vs12-16 & 1 Peter 3vs1-6

26th - What's so special about Sunday? How can we manage our family, work and hobbies around this special day? Here are some practical tips about how to enjoy the benefits of this day the way God first intended it.
Genesis 2vs1-3, Galatians 4vs8-11

December Newsletter Deadline: Monday, 20th November



Top 3 questions about giving



The following 3 questions are the most commonly asked when the subject of financial giving in church is raised:

1. Tithing is not mentioned in the New Testament so surely it's not relevant for today?
2. Who should I give my gift to: Church, charity or both?
3. I don't have much money so I give my time and skills, is that ok?

Last month we answered No.1, below is an answer to No.2:

2. Answer: The whole tithe goes to the local church, after that charitable offerings can be made.

The Old Testament outlined 3 tithes:

- **Tithe for Levites:** (Numbers 18) This was offered to God, for the Levites, so His work could be funded. The Levite priests, who carried out the ministry of the word and worship, lived off these offerings and sacrifices because they had no inheritance in the land. The Israelites offered the first 10% of their yearly income in the form of food, wine, oil, crops etc. God graciously let the Israelites keep 90% of their income all to themselves.
- **Tithe for Feasts:** (Deuteronomy 14:22-27) The Israelites had a national system of 7 feasts per year, and they contributed 10% from their income on top of the Levites tithe to fund these for everyone. We don't have such nationally organised celebrations today.
- **Tithe for the Poor:** (Deuteronomy 14:28-29) Every three years Israelites gave a further 10% (so approx. 23.3% per year) towards humanitarian support for fellow Israelites. This honoured God and reflected His character.

If we apply these Old Testament laws, not as matters of salvation but as principles as the New Testament demonstrates, our regular tithe is to go towards the local church and it's 'Levites' so that God's work can be carried out. Typically this goes towards the ministers' income, reimbursing volunteer expenses, investing in our facilities, funding youth and children's work, missions work, etc. After this 10% is gifted, the

believer can consider what other charitable causes they might like to put further monies towards.

We hope this helps answer your queries and helps you live out your Christian life according to the Word of God. Question 3 will be answered next month.

For a deeper study on this answer see Rev. David Hazeldine's sermon titled 'The Faithfulness of Financial Giving', 12th Feb 2017, on the church website (www.belvederebaptist.org) under the 'sermons' tab.

For your info: As a church we tithe a tenth of all our income to missions and our minister tithes his income too. His income is limited by agreement with the diaconate and is not affected by any increase in attendance or congregational offerings. His salary, staff salaries and our church expenses are totally self-funded by offerings from members and income from hirers. We receive no financial support from the Baptist Union or the government.

Audience of One

An organisation called the Lighthouse of Prayer movement decided to perform a test on the effectiveness of praying for strangers. The organisers randomly selected two sets of 80 names from a phone book, and listed them on two separate pages.

A group of Christians began to pray faithfully every day for the first group of 80; but no one prayed for the second 80. The prayers continued daily for 6 weeks.

At the end of the six weeks, they called all 160 names they had selected from the directory and invited them to church.

In the second group of 80, the ones who had not been prayed for, not a single person responded to the invitation.

Within the first group however, 62 out of the 80 on the list said they would come to church, and they did!

Prayer works - even in the lives of randomly selected strangers! God hears our requests, and if we pray according to His will and His Word, He will answer.

Kathy Gower

Releasing your spiritual gifts

Thursday 23rd November for 3 weeks
8pm to 9:30pm, 21, Eardley Road
LIMITED TO 12

Interpretation
Prophecy Tongues Wisdom
Word of knowledge

BBC Emergency Prayer Group.

Jill has asked me to take over the Emergency Prayer Group.

The group prays for anyone who needs prayer urgently, whether for illness or other situations.

If you would like the group to pray for you or someone you know needs support in an urgent situation, please text your request to me on **07990660895**. I will forward it to the group.

If you don't have access to mobile phone texting, please just phone, speak to me or e mail: micknwen@gmail.com

These prayer requests are kept within the group and are not passed on. All requests for prayer are treated with discretion but should you wish to remain anonymous, please state that in the text to me. I will pass on only the relevant prayer request details.

If you wish to be part of the group and will commit to pray for others, please speak to me.

Our thanks to Jill for heading and developing the group until now - it has had some wonderful results.

God bless, Mick Harvey

Homeless Winter Night Shelter

BBC will be hosting a homeless night shelter from January 3rd to March 24/25th 2018 in partnership with other Bexley churches and groups. There will be a three-shift system 7 pm - 10 pm; 10 pm to 6.30 am; and 6.00 - 8.30 am.



There will be training and enrolment sessions held at Welling Baptist Church, Axminster Crescent, Welling, DA19 1HF on:
Saturday 4th November 9.30am - 12.30pm
Wednesday 15th November 7.30 - 9.30pm (refreshments available from 7.00)
Saturday 25th November 2pm - 5pm

There is car parking in the church car park and on the street.

If you would like to find out more or become a volunteer, please let me know ASAP so I can book you in for the session of your choice.

God bless, Mick

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Working Party to decorate the Magnolia tree and the church on Saturday, 25th November from 10am. Come for fellowship and fun!

Christmas lights – Saturday, 2nd December, 5 pm to 7:30 pm.

Alpha at BBC

Commencing on Thursday, 11th January 2018 for 11 weeks.

Safeguarding Training

For church leaders and anyone involved in children's or youth work
24th February – please let Marolin know whether am or pm is best.



JOB VACANCIES CHRISTIAN MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP

Temporary Finance & Administrative Assistant for 3-4 months at CMF office in Southwark to carry out, under supervision, some finance and administrative tasks in the membership and income system.

£11.15 per hour. A minimum of GCSE in Maths and English.

Executive Assistant: Full time post at CMF office in Southwark to assist the Chief Executive in his leadership of a highly effective, efficient and motivated organisation dedicated to the achievement of the aims of the Fellowship. Ensuring the Chief Executive's time and communications are appropriately managed to ensure he is able to deliver maximum effectiveness in his role.

Starting salary £26,830. Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience/qualification. Recent experience supporting at senior level with ability to do fast accurate typing, audio-typing, and a good working knowledge of MS Word, Outlook (including diary management), Excel and PowerPoint.

Editorial Assistant: Part time, four days per week at CMF office in Southwark to assist the Head of communications, working with publications, proof reading publications, web content, blogs, etc.

Starting salary £17,952.

Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience/qualification, close attention to detail with a demonstrable ability to copy edit and proof read referenced articles, recent demonstrable experience of print production with a good working knowledge of MS Word, Outlook (including diary management), Excel and PowerPoint and a grasp of current developments in new media technologies.

E-mail recruitment@cmf.org.uk for further details or see Gwen.

NOVEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds, 1st	10:00 am	Flower arranging with Rita
	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 2nd	10:00 am	Crochet lessons with Kathy Gower
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Maureen Varrall
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 and Communion
Monday, 6th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 8th	7:30 pm	House groups
	7:30 pm	Worship Team practice
Thursday, 9th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Dennis Roberts
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
Weds, 15th	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 16th	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & Crochet lessons
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Richard Payne
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
Monday, 20th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 22nd	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 23rd	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Members' afternoon
Friday, 24th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 25th	8:00 am	Worship Team Breakfast and practice
	10:00 am	Working party – Christmas decorations
	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 26th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Weds, 29th	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 30th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Barbara Wallace

Future Events:

See dates for your diary on page 7.