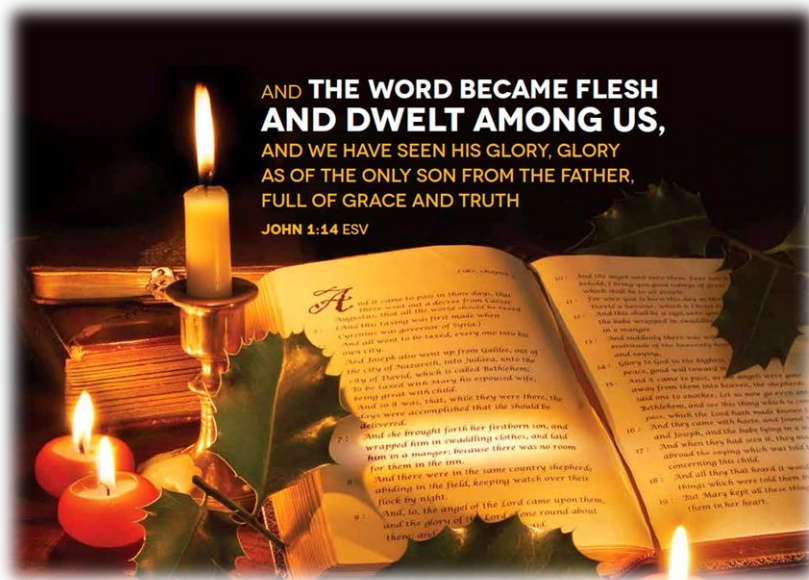


Belvedere
BAPTIST CHURCH



Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017



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

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SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING PROGRAMME



Why did Jesus come to earth at Christmas? Well, there are a lot of reasons actually, too many for us to mention them all. But in the build up to our Alpha course in January we want to get ourselves ready to reach out to others as God reached out to us.

2nd Saturday, 5pm Lights Switch On: Along with the fireworks, BBQ food and live band, there will be traditional carols and a very short Christmas address by Rev. David Hazeldine and information about Alpha.

3rd To bring peace or not to bring peace? That is the question! Luke 12vs49-53, Luke 2vs14. We all have non-Christian relatives or friends and in the run up to Alpha this message will help us understand God's ways.

10th Jesus came to share a particular message and he sends us out to share the same message too. The Alpha course will help us share that message with friends, neighbours and family: Luke 4vs43, John 18vs37, John 20vs21.

17th Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. This is why God is leading us to run the Alpha course, because He is seeking to save people through our church: Luke 10vs19, 1 Timothy 1vs15, John 3vs16-17

17th 6:30pm at All Saints Church, Nuxley Road: Traditional Carols by Candlelight with nativity readings. Rev. David Hazeldine will be doing one of the readings during this service.

24th This morning's service will be run by a collaboration of church members and will comprise of readings and carols, but will also have other seasonal contributions instead of a sermon.

25th Christmas Day Family Service, 10am. Jesus came that we might have full lives as well as full tummies!! This 45-minute family service will see the final advent candle lit, contain 'Christmas Present Show and Tell' for the kids and have cool YouTube and Instagram versions of the Christmas story!
John 10vs10

31st Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. As we can put our faith in a God who has destroyed the works of the evil one, we can look forward to a victorious new year: 1 John 3vs8, Hebrews 2vs14



The GREAT Community SWITCH ON

All Free

Belvedere Baptist Church, 50 Nuxley Road. Saturday 2nd December, 5pm
BBQ, Fireworks & Carols outside ... warm drinks, live band & chat inside

Don't forget, you can find Belvedere Baptist Church at:



January Newsletter Deadline: Monday, 25th December

Why Home Groups?

God himself exists in a perfect community in the three persons of the Trinity - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and this is how it was from the beginning. So it is not surprising that from the beginning, God created us to be in community with one another. Genesis states: "It is not good for man to be alone" and although this can be used as a template for marriage, it also speaks to our fundamental need to be connected with one another in Christian community. Even the early church combined time at the temple or synagogue with meeting in homes and home groups are a great way to share in fellowship with one another as we learn and grow together as a family of God.

There are currently four home groups that meet up and their details are:

Host:	Savannah Lahtinen
Leader:	Alison Fraser
When:	Wednesday 7:30 - 9:30pm
Spaces:	4 extra (5 with a squeeze)
"We love to learn how we can live our lives in the knowledge of God's love and redemptive power."	

Host:	Doug and Beryl Morten
Leader:	Doug and Beryl Morten
When:	Wednesday 7:30 - 9:30pm
Spaces:	2 extra (3 with a squeeze)
"We start with coffee/tea and a chat, followed by a Bible study. We are a relaxed group with everyone feeling free to ask questions. Time is spent in prayer and occasionally we hold communion."	

Host:	Jill Grant and Helen Bennett
Leader:	Spero Mifsud
When:	Wednesday 7:30 - 9:30pm
Spaces:	1 extra (2 with a squeeze)
"A friendly and talkative group keen to learn how to apply biblical examples to our personal lives. Light-hearted teaching with practical application"	

Host:	Linda Tythe
Leader:	Details to follow
When:	Details to follow
Spaces:	Details to follow
Details to follow.	

Please speak to the host or the leader if you would like to join one of these house groups and they can tell you more. We hope to be starting more groups as leaders and hosts are found.

Spero



A very big 'THANK YOU' to everyone who donated items and money to these two charities, which we as a church support.

Doug filled the car with your generous donations of food, clothing, items of stationery, colouring books, pencils, etc.

Cheques were sent to both charities - £100 to TWAM and £253 to Falconer Trust which included donations from Women's Own and Tots' Club.

Just to remind you that Derek collects tools for TWAM all through the year so if you, or anyone you know, have any unwanted items or you are not sure if they are suitable, please speak to Derek or Doug.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Beryl Morten

Audience of One

Where do you think a shepherd boy got boldness and authority to rule over a nation and defeat armies?

He spent his life watching the Most High God do it.

He lived his life not before men but before God.

He had a wonderful gift of meekness that kept God at the centre of all his increase in authority, wealth and favour.

Johnathan Edwards writes:

"God's purpose for my life was that I have a passion for God's glory and that I have a passion for my joy in that glory, and that these two are one passion. "

Kathy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Christmas Eve service - led by church members, there will be a service at 10:30 am on Christmas Eve followed by refreshments.

Alpha at BBC

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

Valentine's Event

Saturday, 10th February 2018.

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.



Top 3 questions about giving



The following 3 questions are 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?

3. Answer: It is right to give our time and skills to the church in service of our Lord. That is indeed why He gives us skills, for the benefit of others, and time to use them. Our church is very thankful and appreciative of all the time and skills that people contribute to it and to the lives of those it seeks to serve. But there is something special about our financial offerings...our hearts. Jesus said *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Luke 12:34). He knows that our hearts are linked to our treasures, and though He is obviously interested in our gifts and time, it's ultimately our hearts that He is most interested in. If someone is going through a testing time financially, God may use this to reveal to them where their hearts are by what they cut out or reduce in order to get by. Similarly, He may be wanting to grow someone's faith by getting them to continue giving, trusting Him to provide, even in difficult times. If a Christian is receiving benefits, it is still important for them to contribute financially to God's work, as they are receiving those benefits freely (Matthew 10:8). Above all, God wants to put Himself at the centre of someone's finances by producing His character of generosity in them. He worked this characteristic in the Macedonian church as a great encouragement to us. (2 Corinthians 8). May these following words inspire faith in us all as we give to the Lord's church and His work *"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

We hope this helps answer your queries on this and helps you live out your Christian life according to the Word of God. Blessings!

Last month we answered question 2, and before that question 1.

For a deeper study on this answer check out 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.

DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 1st	9:30 am	Tots' Club
		Worship Team meal
Saturday, 2nd	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	10:00 am	Ladies' Discipleship Group
	5:00 pm	<i>Christmas lights</i>
Sunday, 3rd	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service and Communion
Weds, 6th	10:00 am	Flower arranging with Rita
	7:30 pm	House groups? – check with leader
Thursday, 7th	10:00 am	Crochet lessons with Kathy Gower
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Lynda Bryant (Food Bank)
Friday, 8th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 9th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 10th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Monday, 11th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 13th	7:30 pm	House groups? – check with leader
	7:30 pm	Worship Team practice
Thursday, 14th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Party
Friday, 15th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 16th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 17th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Weds, 20th	7:30 pm	House groups? – check with leader
Thursday, 21st	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & Crochet lessons
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Andrew White
Saturday, 23rd	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 24th	10:30 am	Christmas Eve service
Monday, 25th	10:00 am	<i>Christmas Day service</i>
Sunday, 31st	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service

Future Events:

See dates for your diary on page 6.

