



Newsletter

JANUARY 2018



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

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SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING PROGRAMME



January: How to kick start your year

After all the festivities at the end of last year, we can sometimes be left either tired out because of it all, or really well rested. Either way, both scenarios can lead to low motivation to get back into the normal flow of life. This can also be true spiritually. This month we're promoting four practical ways that can help you kick start your spiritual motivation!

7th Kick start the joy of your salvation: Bring someone to Alpha! Psalm 51:12

14th Kick start your prayer life: Forgive someone! Mark 11vs12-25

21st Kick start your spirit: Do a fast! Matthew 6vs16-18

28th Kick start your blessings: Help the needy! Matthew 5vs7

February Newsletter Deadline: Monday, 22nd January

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

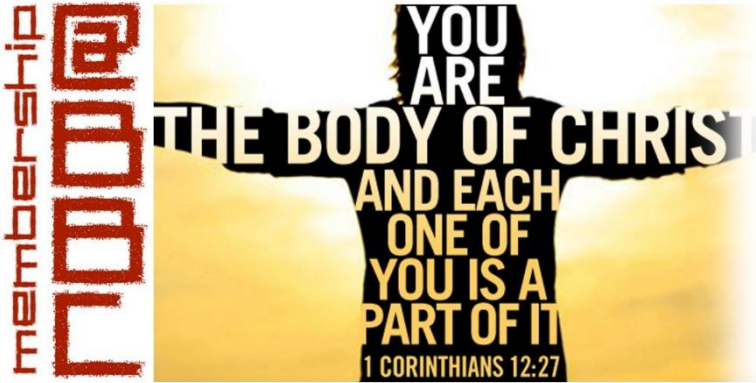
Alpha at BBC

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

Members' meeting: Wednesday, 17th January at 7:30 pm

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.



BIBLICAL REASON ONE 1

If we become members of the Body of Christ through salvation (Eph 3vs6), what's the point of local church membership? There seems to me to be 6 reasons why membership of a local church is biblical.

The 1st reason is this: So we know who we can trust and what message we can trust.

In the early church, travelling preachers who didn't really belong to a house church were claiming that Jesus didn't really come in the flesh (he might have been a ghost or something!). In John's three letters he addresses this situation by helping believers spot these false teachers. It was not just what they taught that would identify them, but also that they didn't really 'belong' to a local body of believers (1 John 2vs19). John is at pains to say that when someone 'belongs' to a local church, their love for others is known and seen by all throughout life's up's and down's – that is how you can tell whether Jesus lives in them. Diotrephes was a great example of this as his love for others was 'known by all' (3 John vs9), but in contrast, Demetrius, who was trying to control the church to be his little club, was a bad example of the love of Christ.

Here at BBC we want to be able to know and trust our leaders so we know and trust what they teach us. We often want people who know us to pray for us, and we also have the privilege of giving into the lives of those around us who trust us. It is local church membership that helps develop this trust because the process of becoming a member sets us all on this course of building relationships where we know each other. When you get to know others your gifts can be validated and encouraged to grow, and where you feel called to share your gifts with the wider body of Christ, as many have, we can all validate that and recommend your ministry. John's letters clearly send the message that God wants Christians to belong to local churches in real, tangible ways.

We want you to know that you belong! We want you to feel at home and really connect with people here so you get to know people at a deeper level than you would if you just attended our Sunday service. To become a church member there is a short three week course to find out about us and for us to find out about you, a 1-1 visit with an existing church member to hear about your journey to faith, then a vote on your possible membership at the next quarterly family members' meeting.

Please speak to one of the elders: David, Mick or Spero, or speak to our Church Secretary Chris Bryant or Office Manager Charlotte Kenton if you're interested in belonging to BBC.

Look out for reason No.2 in future months!

David Hazeldine

Homeless Winter Night Shelter

Just a reminder - BBC will be hosting a homeless night shelter from January 3rd to March 24/25th 2018 in partnership with other Bexley churches and groups. Please pray for those involved.

If you know someone who is homeless, contact Ian at Cornerstone (07434 733 507) so that they can be assessed and registered.



Audience of One

"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)



Starts Thursday 11th January, 7:30pm at Refresh or the Manse

The Alpha Course is a great way to discuss big questions about life and faith and meet like-minded people as well.

The basic structure of the 1.5hr evening is: food, talk/video then discussion. As the course develops and people get to know each other, worship and prayer might be introduced.

Alpha Meal - Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?

Week 1 – Who is Jesus?

Week 2 – Why did Jesus die?

Week 3 – How can I be sure of my faith?

Week 4 – Why and how do I pray?

Week 5 – Why and how should I read the Bible?

Week 6 – How does God guide us?

Day Away: Holy Spirit? Who, What, How

Week 7 – How can I resist evil?

Week 8 – Why and how should we tell others?

Week 9 – Does God heal today?

Week 10 – What about the church?

Contact Steve Wheatley to help with catering and group discussion leading, or to register a friend, colleague or family member:

alpha@belvederebaptist.org



Rev. David Hazeldine: Lead Elder (and married to Sam!)



Mick Harvey: Elder & Refresh Project Lead



Wendy Harvey: Children's Team Leader



Spero Mifsud: Elder



Margaret Baderin: Youth Team Leader



Chris Bryant: Church Secretary (Deacon)



Gwen Gowers: Treasurer (Deacon)



Steve Wheatley: Alpha Team Leader



Marolin Watson: Admin Deacon



Steph Harris: Teaching Team

Matt Harris: Worship Deacon



Sue McCarthy: Hospitality Team Leader



Olive Gibson: Welcome Team Leader & Women's Own

Kath Gower: Prayer Co-ordinator



Brian Mansfield: Buildings Deacons



Charlotte Kenton: Church Office and Refresh Centre Manager (Staff)

Belvedere BAPTIST CHURCH LEADERSHIP

For info: Elders and Deacons are elected, and team leaders & staff are chosen by gifting. Collectively, we all make up the BBC Huddle Team.



Update from the Elders

Instead of having a year book, the deacons have decided that we're going to have regular update articles from different areas of church life in this monthly Newsletter.

As an eldership, we have been figuring out our main role in the decision making process at church - to bring faith to help us all move forward with what God is saying through the church meeting. Sometime this means seeking the Lord to work out how to handle hesitancy, or perhaps how to increase all our faith for something specific, or maybe how to handle things pastorally that have held us back in the past. Either way, we draw our faith from the word of God directly as that is how faith comes – when we hear the Word.

This year has come with its fair share of challenges and it would have been easy to feel overwhelmed or overpowered, but this has been the sense. A focus of 'fixing our eyes on God' (Heb 12:2) has been very clear and has led us to pursue priorities within our fellowship and our local area. Children and youth work has been one of these priorities and has seen many changes in both workers and engagement. Young people have often been described as "the next generation" but this is not right, young people are this generation.

We aim to create and maintain a safe growing environment where the Holy Spirit is free to move amongst us, so that everyone can find the place or role that God wants them to have. We want to be a church family where everyone can be encouraged and given opportunities to try different things without worrying if they get it wrong. It has been exciting to see a good number of us trying ministry or getting involved in different ways of serving the community. The Homeless Winter Shelter project is one way we are reaching out to the community, with an amazing response from so many of us who want to be involved. We also run the job club which now also goes into two prisons, plus money and debt counselling with other projects in the pipeline.

Where are we heading? Well, each one holding fast to the head, supplying as they ought, (Colossians 2:18-19) we will grow together, demonstrating the reality of God's love and power to each other and to the community. We will find a new depth of true worship as the Holy Spirit is given greater access to our lives and we will know God's presence with us when we come together and as individuals. How will we get there? That will take you and each of us to work together with God. Exciting days are here, God is on the move in Belvedere and beyond!



JANUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds, 3rd	10:00 am	Flower arranging with Rita
	7:30 pm	House groups (check with leaders)
Thursday, 4th	2:30 pm	Women's Own - speaker to be confirmed
Saturday, 6th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 7th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service with Communion
Weds, 10th	7:30 pm	House groups
	7:30 pm	Worship Team practice
Thursday, 11th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – speaker to be confirmed
Friday, 12th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 13th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 14th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Monday, 15th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 17th	7:30 pm	MEMBERS' MEETING @BBC
Thursday, 18th	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & Crochet lessons
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – speaker to be confirmed
Friday, 19th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 20th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 21st	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Weds, 24th	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 25th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – speaker to be confirmed
Friday, 26th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 27th	8:00 am	Worship Team Breakfast and practice
	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 28th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Weds, 31st	7:30 pm	House groups

Future Events:

See dates for your diary on page 2.

