



Belvedere
BAPTIST CHURCH

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2018



Spiritual and Social
Transformation
in Belvedere, Bexley,
Britain & Beyond

50, Nuxley Road, Belvedere, Kent. DA17 5JG

Tel: 01322 446688, Email: church@belvederebaptist.org

SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING PROGRAMME



February: Relationships

It's the month of love! Valentine's Day is coming up and relationships are on our minds. We don't just have a relationship with our spouse though...we have a relationship with this church too. And not just any relationship, but the Bible talks about covenant relationships. What are they and how are they applied to these two key areas of our lives?

4th - Can I have sex before marriage? And why do I have to get married anyway? How understanding what a covenant is thoroughly answers both these questions.

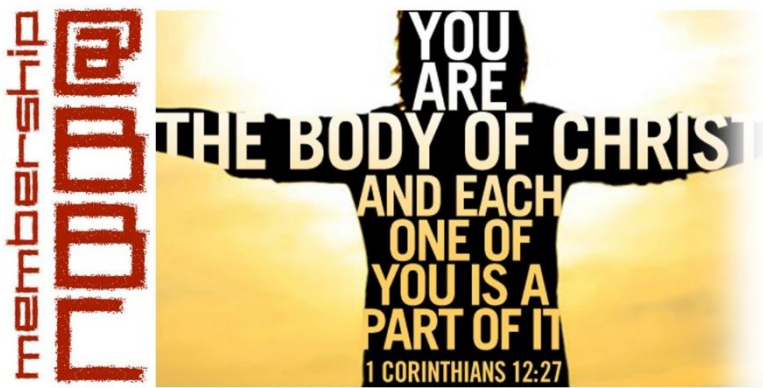
11th - Membership 1: The covenant relationship from church to member. The benefit to you of this covenant relationship is pastoral care, keeping you safe through policies, and encouraging your faith in prayer and God's word. These are done because we love you!

18th - Membership 2: The covenant relationship from member to church & member to member. Love your church!! You show this through publicly becoming a member, through financial giving and using your gifts towards the vision. You also show this by loving 'one another', as mentioned multiple times in the New Testament

25th - Can I marry a non-Christian? We live in a secular culture where most people aren't Christians or have a different faith. Are there covenants in the Bible for this common dilemma?

A short, 1 hour service, with a members' meeting straight afterwards.

March Newsletter Deadline: Monday, 19th February



BIBLICAL REASON TWO 2

If we become members of the Body of Christ through salvation (Eph 3vs6), what's the point of local church membership?

Well, secondly (see other reasons in previous newsletters), covenant relationships are widely promoted within scripture. This is where two people agree to form a publicly recognised relationship with benefits and responsibilities for and on both sides. God with Abraham & Noah for example, David with Jonathan as individuals, the marriage covenant, God's loving covenant with his people Israel throughout the Old and into the New Testament and finally the New Covenant between Jesus and the church.

Christianity is a horizontal faith, lived out in community and in society around us. It is not just a vertical and personal one between us and God. We know this because of how many 'One Another' scripture references there are in Paul's New Testament letters to the local church (Rom 12:10, 1 Cor 1:10, Gal 5:13, Eph 4:32 for example). Special circumstances notwithstanding, merely attending a church service on a Sunday, yet not taking part in the life of that church during the week, is individualism.

Being a church member is a covenant – it is publicly recognised through our members' meeting. The relationship between the member and the church is a mutual one. The church promises to keep them safe in the building, keep their family safe through policies and procedures, build up their faith through sermons, houses groups, release them in their gifts and support them pastorally when in need. The member promises to bless the church with their personal gifts, work towards accomplishing the vision of the church, support it financially and encourage and support other members through relationship and prayer.

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 entering in to a covenant relationship with BBC through local church membership. We know you won't regret it!

Look out for reason No.3 in future months!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Alpha at BBC

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

Safeguarding Training

For church leaders and anyone involved in children's or youth work, 24th February from 9:30 am. Please arrive early.

Special Members' meeting: Sunday, 25th February at 11:30



Calling all worshippers! (Yes, that's you!)

We have vacancies in our worship team, and are looking forward to welcoming new people to the team. We have one required and one desired criteria: that you love Jesus and want to serve him with all of your mind, heart, soul and strength; and secondly that you have some musical (vocal, instrumental, percussion, technical) ability. So, if you love Jesus and can make a joyful noise (or can balance the sounds on the desk to make them more joyful!), come and join us for one of our rehearsal sessions!

Wednesdays: 7:30pm-9:30pm

14th Feb, 14th Mar, 11th Apr, 9th May, 13th Jun, 11th Jul, 8th Aug, 12th Sep, 10th Oct, 14th Nov, 12th Dec.

Saturdays: 9am-11am

27th Jan, 24th Feb, 31st Mar, 28th Apr, 26th May, 30th Jun, 28th Jul, 25th Aug, 29th Sep, 27th Oct, 24th Nov, 29th Dec.

If you have any questions, please speak to Mattski or any member of the worship team.

Audience of One

Hearts can become hardened when we suffer setbacks and disappointments in life. No one is immune to trials here on earth. Yet, just as steel is forged by a blacksmith's hammer, so too can our faith be strengthened by the trials we encounter in the valleys of life. As Paul encouraged the Romans:

"But we also rejoice in our sufferings because we know that suffering produces:

Perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us."

Romans 5: 3-5

Homeless Winter Night Shelter

Just a reminder - BBC continues to host a homeless night shelter until March 24/25th 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) that they can be assessed and registered.



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:	Brenda & John Wilson
Leader:	Linda Tythe
When:	Wednesday 7:30 – 9:30 pm
Spaces:	None at present

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

Women's Own



You are invited to join the Women's Own meeting held at 2.30 pm every Thursday afternoon.

Men are also welcome, providing you can find a woman prepared to vouch for you!

Brian

FEBRUARY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday, 1st	10:00 am	Crochet lesson
	2:30 pm	Women's Own - Richard Payne
Friday, 2nd	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 3rd	10:00 am	Ladies' Discipleship Group
	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 4th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service with Communion
Weds, 7th	10:00 am	Flower arranging with Rita
	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 8th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Dennis Roberts
Saturday, 10th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 11th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Monday, 12th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 14th	7:30 pm	House groups
	7:30 pm	Worship Team practice
Thursday, 15th	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & Crochet lesson
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Music and readings
Friday, 16th	9:30 am	No Tots' Club – half term week
Saturday, 17th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 18th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Weds, 21st	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 22nd	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Richard Barrell
Friday, 23rd	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 24th	9:00 am	Worship team practice
	9:30 am	Safeguarding training
	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 25th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
	11:30	Special members' meeting
Monday, 26th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 28th	7:30 pm	House groups