

Newsletter

MAY 2018



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

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SUNDAY MORNING TEACHING PROGRAMME



May Service Themes: The Wrath of God

It is hardly ever talked about in church, but underlies so many of our fears: God's angry judgment! And if we don't know how to talk about God's righteous vengeance on sinful humans we'll struggle to present the full gospel of God's mercy and grace to a dying world. So if God is to be fully glorified, we must understand His wrath – but won't people be turned away from a church that preaches judgment and wrath?

6th - Objects of His mercy *Romans 9vs22-29*

God's wrath is not indiscriminate or without purpose. Great patience is involved as He contrasts his mercy against his wrath. That's why not only Jews can be saved, but also Gentiles like us. He is rich in mercy!

NB: Communion Service

13th - God does not change *Malachi 3vs6-18*

Because God is consistently forgiving and gracious, the human race and God's people are not destroyed even though we deserve it. It is because of His compassion that He warns us about our sins and spares us.

20th - Wrath is stored up *Romans 2vs1-5, Genesis 15vs16 & Leviticus 18vs25*

Humans store up wrath for themselves through stubbornness and unrepentance. God directs his kindness towards them in the hope that they'll repent before it's too late. This principle is why God ejected the tribes from

Canaan and gave the land to the Israelites instead. It's not modern day genocide (as atheists allege!), but the consequence of rejecting God's kindness and patience.

27th - Saved from the coming wrath *1 Thessalonians 5vs9-11*

John the Baptist (Matthew 3vs7-8), Jesus (Luke 13vs5) & Peter (Acts 2vs38-40) all preached a gospel message imploring repentance to avoid the coming wrath. Paul assures us by this same gospel that believers are not appointed for Judgment Day wrath, but for salvation!

Homeless – A sign of the times

Do you ever wonder
How folk end up on the streets
Do you ever think of them
As you snuggle between the
sheets

How on earth did it happen
Day by day how do they cope
Living in such conditions
Have they given up all hope

Everyone has a story to tell
Of how they reached this state
Lost my job couldn't pay the rent
Eviction was my fate

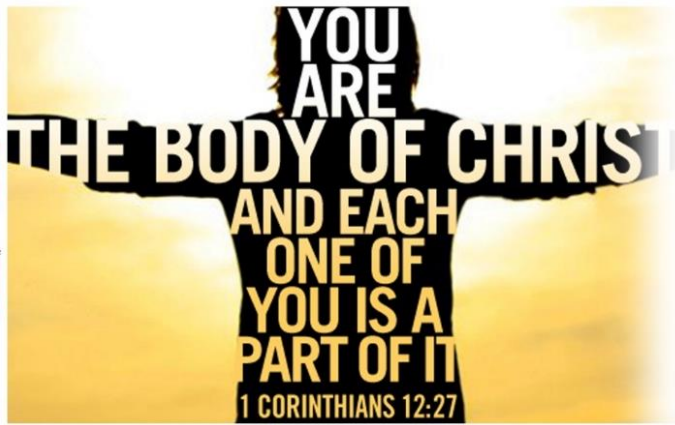
Some use drugs to numb the pain
Others drink to help them forget
It is very tough when it pours
with rain
And you end up soaking wet!

But all is not lost, there are those
who care
And shelter and warmth provide
A hot meal awaits and a good
night's sleep
If they care to step inside

So spare a thought from time to
time
For those with no comfort or rest
They do not have the things we
take for granted
And thank God we truly are blest.

Marjorie





Biblical Reason

Five 5

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

Answer: So we know who we are able to choose our leaders from, and so those leaders know who they are accountable to God for.

Just like we did in April, the early church elected deacons from among themselves (Acts 6vs13). They were to be responsible for practical matters of ministry in the congregation. The people in the congregation who had to choose them obviously knew who were considered part of their fellowship, and who were not. If they didn't have some kind of understanding about this, how would they have known who to choose from? And so it is with us today: We know who to choose as deacons, elders and other leaders because our membership records enable us to see who are dedicated to the people of the church. Granted, the early church may not have kept written records or had a formal structure, but they still collectively knew who was 'among them' and who were enquiring, new, just visiting or leaving.

Hebrews 13vs17 tells us that these early church leaders, and similarly ours nowadays, 'will give an account' to God for those they are 'keeping watch' over. Leaders need to know who they are accountable for and who they are not accountable for, so they can care appropriately before God. The first deacons were very aware that they were only accountable for the Hellenistic and Hebraic Jewish widows in terms of food allocation (there were no pensions back then so those widows unable to work lived by charitable means). They would stand before God one day and account for any lax unevenness of food distribution or favouritism between the two types of Jewish widow.

The upshot of all this is that membership means the member themselves will receive better care than if they were not a member, ie, in terms of access to our modern day equivalent of food distribution ministry – the fellowship fund, pastoral care or discipleship. It also means the leaders will enjoy leadership more as they'll know who to serve and who they'll give an account for.

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:	2-3 extra
"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

Dear Church,

As I'm sure you know, maintaining and improving the gardens around our church building is an ongoing project. As spring is really with us now, I thought it would be a good time to appeal to anyone who might be willing to lend a helping hand. God has blessed us with a building and outdoor space to be thankful for and to take care of, so any amount of time that can be given, no matter how little, will be really appreciated and will keep me company!

AND did you know that 60 mins gardening is as good as a physical workout and can burn as many as 600 calories?? So cancel those gym memberships - forget about Slimming World and reach for the secateurs!!

Please speak to me if you would like to help develop the gardening team.

*Thanking you all in anticipation,
Teresa Dicks*





Appeal from Bexley Foodbank

Last year Bexley Foodbank served 4,095 people in crisis. This year, the figure has risen to approximately 5,500.

This has significantly drained our stocks. **We are urgently in need of the following food items**, if anyone feels able to donate:

Long life milk	Noodles
Long life Juice	Sponge puddings
Squash	Fish
Tinned peas, carrots, sweetcorn	Nappies-any size
Tinned fruit	Baby wipes
Pasta sauce	
Tinned tomatoes	

They will be much appreciated.

Every blessing,
Gill, Bexley Foodbank Manager
Tel:07932 431350

<https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/>

Audience of one

"If we rationalize our problems when He points them out, we will spend less and less time meditating because we won't want to face God in that area of our lives. ~ Charles Stanley

"We are either in the process of resisting God's truth or in the process of being shaped and molded by his truth."

~ Charles Stanley

MAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Weds, 2nd	10:00 am	Flower arranging with Rita
	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 3rd	10:00 am	Crochet lessons with Kathy Gower
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Heather Andrews
Friday, 4th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 5th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	10:00 am	Ladies' discipleship Group
Sunday, 6th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service and Communion
Monday, 7th	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 9th	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 10th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – to be announced
Friday, 11th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 12th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 13th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Weds, 16th	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 17th	10:00 am	Evergreen Knitters & Crochet Lessons
	2:30 pm	Women's Own – to be announced
Friday, 18th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 19th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
Sunday, 20th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Monday, 21st	10:00 am	Calligraphy
Weds, 23rd	7:30 pm	House groups
Thursday, 24th	2:30 pm	Women's Own – Dennis Roberts
Friday, 25th	9:30 am	Tots' Club
Saturday, 26th	10:00 am	Refresh is open to serve you
	2:30 pm	Tea Dance
Sunday, 27th	10:30 am	Sunday morning worship service
Weds, 30th	7:30 pm	House groups
Thurs, 31st	2:30 pm	Women's Own - Mick Harvey