

Diary of Events

| AM | PM |
|----|---|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | Foodbank (10:00-12:00) |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | Breakfast Church (9:00), Seminar (10:25) Romanian Fellowship (16:00) |
| 8 | Little Tykes Toddlers (10:00-12:00) |
| 9 | Foodbank (10:00-12:00) |
| 10 | Girls' Brigade (17:15), Table Tennis (19:30) |
| 11 | Foodbank (10:00-12:00) |
| 12 | Little Oaks Toddlers (9:30-11:00) Boys' Brigade (18:00) |
| 13 | |
| 14 | Breakfast Church (9:00), Seminar (10:25) |
| 15 | Little Tykes Toddlers (10:00-12:00) |
| 16 | Foodbank (10:00-12:00) Alpha Course (19:00) |
| 17 | Girls' Brigade (17:15), LED Study (19:30) |
| 18 | Foodbank (10:00-12:00) |
| 19 | Little Oaks Toddlers (9:30-11:00) Boys' Brigade (18:00) |
| 20 | |
| 21 | Breakfast Church (9:00), Seminar (10:25) |
| 22 | Little Tykes Toddlers (10:00-12:00) |
| 23 | Foodbank (10:00-12:00) Alpha Course (19:00) |
| 24 | Girls' Brigade (17:15), Table Tennis (19:30) |
| 25 | Foodbank (10:00-12:00) Townswomen's Guild (13:45) |
| 26 | Little Oaks Toddlers (9:30-11:00) Boys' Brigade (18:00) |
| 27 | |
| 28 | BFC All-Age (9:00), Seminar (10:25) |
| 29 | Little Tykes Toddlers (10:00-12:00) |
| 30 | Foodbank (10:00-12:00) Alpha Course (19:00) |
| 31 | Girls' Brigade (17:15), LED Study (19:30) |



Addlestone
BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWS & INFORMATION January 2018

With the loud crackle

of fireworks 2018 has arrived and a whole new twelve months lies ahead of us. What will this year bring for ABC? Well, for a start, we're going to be thinking about 'new beginnings' during our Breakfast Church Services, celebrating our amazing God of fresh starts and clean slates. To complement this, our seminar series will guide us through the New Testament book of Acts as we journey with the early believers taking the good news of Jesus around the known world. And if that's not enough to whet your appetite, we shall be launching our first Alpha course in a decade later this month. And it's still not too late to join the course, either as a participant, helper or someone who just wants to brush up on their core Christian understanding. Speak to one of the leadership if you're interested. These Tuesday evening meetings promise to be full of good food and good conversation. So why not come and be a part of it!



Well, that's all ahead of us. But what about where we're at now? Towards the end of last year we sent out a report explaining some of the financial difficulties we were facing. Well there's good news! While our budget is very tight for 2018 we are able to continue to employ a full-time minister. This is possible, in part, by our receiving a Baptist Missions Grant. This, coupled by an expected rise in our general offering indicated by last year's pledges, has meant we can continue to finance the ongoing vision of ABC to reach out with the gospel to the Addlestone community. And therein lies our greatest challenge for 2018: Evangelism! There, I said it. A word that so often strikes fear into the most faithful of church-goers.

DO THE WORK

2 TIMOTHY 4:5

OF AN EVANGELIST



Evangelism can be such an emotive word. As Christians we all know we should do it, but actually finding the courage to open our mouths and speak about Jesus can often be challenging. And yet, for 2000 years people have been sharing the good news of Jesus by doing just that. It now falls on us to continue that great commission in our generation. So how do we go about this practically? Well, there's no 'silver bullet', no perfect strategy, no fantastic resource that makes it easy. Certainly, there are one or two things we can organise as a church, such as Alpha courses and events,

but evangelism has always come down to individuals speaking and witnessing to their friends and family. This is the challenge before us. We've come a long way as a church and our Sunday morning services are now much more accessible, welcoming and seeker friendly. So who can you invite to come along and enjoy a croissant or two? Why not spend some time seriously praying about who you might be able to invite. Our church will not grow itself, but if we all play our part and actively seek to bring people closer to Jesus amazing things can happen.

In the next year, we are going to be sending out some appeals for additional volunteer help for project support. There are so many opportunities to help those in crisis in the Runnymede area. We want to make our current teams more effective and to increase the reach of our Foodbank services across more of Runnymede. It will be helpful if you can talk to your friends about the Foodbank and tell them your personal stories of people you have helped through your volunteering. I hope it will inspire more of the community to get involved.

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."
Galatians 6.9.

God bless you and may His favour shine on you in 2018.

Thank you for everything you have contributed in 2017.

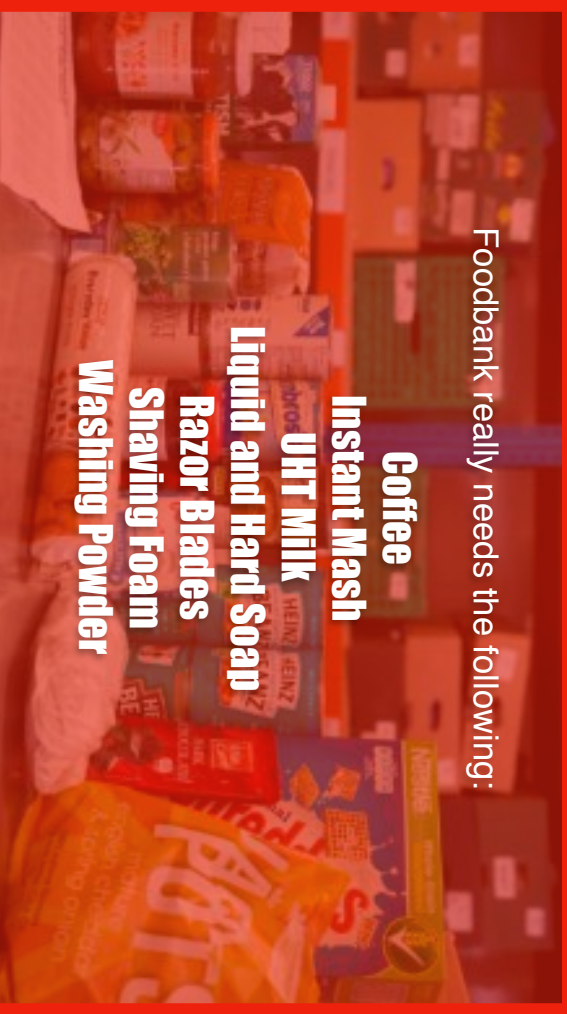
Love,

Helen, Steve, Iris, Lynn and
Stephanie

Runnymede Foodbank needs your help

Foodbank really needs the following:

Coffee
Instant Mash
UHT Milk
Liquid and Hard Soap
Razor Blades
Shaving Foam
Washing Powder





Letter from Helen Hallet Manager of the Runnymede Foodbank



I wanted to take the time to wish you peace and joy in our deep mid winter.

Looking back on last year I have been overwhelmed with the spirit carried by the Runnymede Foodbank volunteers. You are faithful and reliable members of the community who turn up week after week to help those who have fallen into crisis. Your combined efforts have brought hope to people who didn't know how to get through their situation. We have sat with so many people in despair and desperation and listened to them. When they receive love from you

and the parcel of practical help, their faces soften and their hearts are touched because they realise that people care about them.

We are also looking after the few who will never actually be out of crisis. Can I encourage you that, although the Foodbank is mainly for those in temporary crisis, your kindness towards those whose needs extend beyond our help still make a difference in their lives.

This December, it has been a struggle to keep up with the supply and demand in our local area. Everyone has been very busy keeping up with the work load.

In December alone we have received donations of over 6,000kg of food. The neighbourhood collection at Tesco contributed an enormous 4,600kg to our storehouse – more than twice the

amount of previous years. In my estimations, we have given out 5,000kg of food in December.

With that food, we have made 120 hampers for local individuals and families combining the generosity of local schools and businesses as well as individuals. The hampers consisted of Christmas items including chocolates, biscuits, cakes and crackers, specific gifts for each child in the family as well as a supply of our usual tinned and ambient grocery items. As well as a voucher for fresh vegetables and meat.

Other significant Christmas collections include:

- Foodbank volunteers manned Tesco neighbourhood collections at two Tesco's this year – both of which collected many Christmas items.
- Charles Borromeo School collected a large number of Christmas chocolates and cakes.
- Royal Holloway students collected Christmas items at Waitrose in Egham.



• Chep in Weybridge had an angel tree and donated toys for specific children.

• Enterprise in Egham donated £1,300. This bought £10 Tesco gift vouchers for our clients to purchase meat and or vegetables for their Christmas dinner.

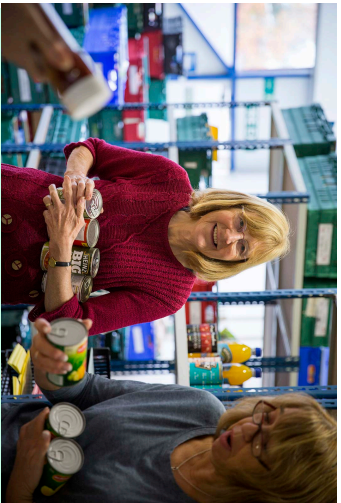
• Jubilee High School had a school wide competition where each form created a hamper full of food.

• Tasis collected a large volume of food from their junior school children.

• Plus lots of others, too numerous to name.

In addition to our hampers, we distributed Food4Lunch meals. This Christmas, we decided we would give each member of the family a hot dinner and dessert for every day





of the holidays. We are anticipating helping around 50 families in this holiday period.

In collaboration with Royal Holloway University London, we donated 120 bags of mince pies and Christmas biscuits to Age UK for local residents.

We have donated over 1,100kg of food to our local Besom project which provides practical help in the home. They are distributing 80 hampers and we have provided the food for them.

We have given 560kg of our excess Christmas food and toys to the Salvation Army in Addlestone. We have continued to give to Jubilee High School breakfast bars and hygiene products including deodorant and toothbrushes etc. This is given to children whose parents don't provide for them at home.

We also donate a regular supply of food to Staines Probation Service who gives out the food to prisoners released on a Friday morning which gives them a bag of food to take wherever they are going to stay. I believe that by collecting each and every individual tin donated by the members of our local community we actually build a stronger and better community to live in. As those who give, feel they belong and own the situation.

By volunteering at the Foodbank, you have enabled the Runnymede residents to collectively help themselves and others.

The delivery and warehouse team; with the ethos of collecting that one tin, from one person; won the Runnymede and Spelthorne 'Best Team' award for their contribution to the community having distributed 20 tonnes of food in 2016/17.

The Foodbank centre staff have also faced a huge increase in clients this month with Egham, ABC and Kings busier than ever. This Wednesday at Chertsey saw Magnus and team break the Runnymede record, seeing and helping 24!! clients in the 2 hour time slot.

Transport to Sunday Services
If you are finding it difficult to attend our Sunday services especially as the Winter weather sets in, please let us know and we'll arrange lifts for you. Also, if you are able to offer lifts to anyone please notify the leadership so we can put the needs together with the offers of help.



Got questions about life?

The Alpha Course at ABC

Tuesdays @ 7:00pm
(starting 16th January)

The evenings include a meal, video presentation and informal chat. If you're interested please speak to one of the leadership team, or call 01932 820709.



KIDS CHURCH
living, learning and loving Jesus

A fun-packed group for 2s-10s starting at 9.30 approx. For more information please see the separate flyer.



Church contact details:



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