

# Diary of Events

	AM	PM
1	Foodbank (10:00-12:00)	Alpha Course (19:00)
2		Girls' Brigade (17:15), CAP Course (19:30)
3	POLLING STATION	POLLING STATION
4	Little Oaks Toddlers (9:30-11:00)	Boys' Brigade (18:00)
5		
6	<b>Breakfast Church (9:00), Seminar (10:25)</b>	Romanian Fellowship (16:00)
7	BANK HOLIDAY	
8	Foodbank (10:00-12:00)	
9		Girls' Brigade (17:15), LED Group (19:30)
10	Foodbank (10:00-12:00)	
11	Little Oaks Toddlers (9:30-11:00)	Boys' Brigade (18:00)
12		
13	<b>BFC -All Age Service (9:00), Seminar (10:25)</b>	
14	Little Tykes Toddlers (10:00-12:00)	Addlestone Singers Rehearsal (19:00)
15	Foodbank (10:00-12:00)	Alpha Group (20:00)
16		Girls Brigade (17:15), Residents Mtg (19:30)
17	Foodbank (10:00-12:00)	
18	Little Oaks Toddlers (9:30-11:00)	Boys' Brigade (18:00)
19		
20	<b>Breakfast Church (9:00), Seminar (10:25)</b>	
21	Little Tykes Toddlers (10:00-12:00)	Addlestone Singers Concert (19:00)
22	Foodbank (10:00-12:00)	
23		Girls' Brigade (17:15), LED Group (19:30)
24	Foodbank (10:00-12:00)	
25	Little Oaks Toddlers (9:30-11:00)	Boys' Brigade (18:00)
26	Private booking - Splat Messy Play	
27	<b>Breakfast Church (9:00), Seminar (10:25)</b>	
28	BANK HOLIDAY	
29	Foodbank (10:00-12:00)	<b>HALF TERM</b>
30		
31	Foodbank (10:00-12:00)	

# ABC

Addlestone  
BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWS & INFORMATION

May 2018



## Celebrating Good News!

This month we'll be celebrating another Royal Wedding as Prince Harry and Meghan Markle tie the knot. It's time to break open the Union Flag bunting, party hats and car stickers, and get into the street party spirit. No doubt the day will be full of pomp and ceremony despite the couple's efforts to keep it a relatively low-key affair. After all, the day has to be in keeping with such a significant royal event.

All of this reminds us of the greatest wedding in history - a wedding that is still to happen. It is, of course, the wedding found in Revelation 19:6-9

*Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:*

*"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!*

*For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)*

*Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."*

So, have you received your invitation yet? If not, don't worry. You see, you don't really need an invite. I mean, since when does the bride need an invitation to her own wedding? That's right - the bride is the Church! You and me and all those who know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Yes, it's our wedding day! Finally, totally united with the God of love. Have you ever heard of the phrase 'always the bridesmaid and never the bride'? Well, that phrase has little bearing for the Christian. Our future is sure and certain. As Lou Fellingham sings, *"There is a day that all creation's waiting for... The Lord will come to meet His bride. And when we see Him in an instant we'll be changed."* Hallelujah!!!

# *In May's Edition:*

**COVER:**  
A Royal Wedding to which  
we're all invited - Ben Fortescue



**GIRLS' BRIGADE CELEBRATION:**  
2018 marks GB's 125th year of  
mission among girls!



**MISSION FOCUS: Open Doors -**  
60 years of serving persecuted  
Christians



**BEING BAPTIST:**  
Exploring the importance of the  
Congregation



**NEWS & EVENTS:**  
Being Big Church, Kids Church,  
Alpha, Foodbank - all the latest  
news and information



## **2018 marks GB's 125th year of mission among girls!**

The story of the Girls' Brigade's  
development between 1893  
and 2016 is truly inspirational.



It focuses around pioneering  
women in countries all across the  
world, joined by a shared sense of  
God's call to empower girls to  
discover God's transforming love  
and power in their lives. And in  
response, to live as people of  
mission in His world.

Ever since GB began we've been  
on the move, joining in with  
God's mission in His world.

In England & Wales Girls' Brigade  
continued to develop its mission  
as part of the church, specialising  
in providing local community  
groups where (primarily) girls may  
develop their skills, explore the  
Christian faith, make friends for  
life and encounter the hope  
offered by engaging with God's  
offer for us to experience 'life to  
the full'.

There are different events taking  
place around the country, to

*continued overleaf*





celebrate 125 years of mission. Our own District is holding a craft, dance, worship and fellowship day for all the girls and staff on May 12th at Woking URC. Maybe you could remember us in your prayers for that day, that we will have a great time together celebrating the work of Girls' Brigade.



If you are interested in getting involved with GB, or simply want to know more than please get in touch with Jen, Dawn or Elizabeth.

# KIDS CHURCH

living, learning and loving Jesus

A fun-packed group for 2s-10s on Sundays starting at 9:30 approx.

For more information please see the separate flyer.



South Runnymede Churches

BEING

# BIG CHURCH

Please note:  
bookings close  
on Sunday  
27th May

# 24

hours of fun, fellowship and  
teaching for all the family

Friday 22nd - Saturday 23rd June 2018



## Event Programme

### Friday 22nd June

15:00 - Arrive and pitch tents  
18:00 - Evening meal\*  
19:30 - 21:30 - Evening celebration

### Saturday 23rd June

7:30 - Breakfast\*  
9:30 - 11:00 Seminar  
11:00 - Break  
11:30 - 12:45 Seminar  
13:00 - Lunch (BBQ Feast or BYO Picnic - tbc)  
14:00 - 17:00 Afternoon activities  
5:00 - Evening Meal\*  
18:15 - 20:00 - Evening celebration  
20:00 - Pack-down and depart

## Prices

£15 per adult  
£25 for one adult and one child  
£40 for a family (two adults + children)

*\*Breakfast and evening meals included*

To book your place please visit:  
[kingschurchaddlestone.org.uk/being-big-church/](http://kingschurchaddlestone.org.uk/being-big-church/)

If you have any questions regarding the event  
please speak to your church leader.

# BOOK NOW TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE!

at [kingschurchaddlestone.org.uk/being-big-church/](http://kingschurchaddlestone.org.uk/being-big-church/)

See separate flyer for more details

# MISSION FOCUS



## Open Doors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

Open Doors works in over 50 countries, supplying Bibles, training church leaders, providing practical support and emergency relief, and supporting Christians who suffer for their faith. In the UK and Ireland Open Doors works to raise awareness of global persecution, mobilising prayer, support and action among Christians.



**DISTRIBUTING BIBLES AND CHRISTIAN RESOURCES**  
**...so that persecuted believers can be nourished with God's Word**

Open Doors satisfies their hunger for God's Word through writing, translating, printing and distributing a wide range of children's Bibles, MP3 Bibles and discipleship literature. Last year, Open Doors distributed over 2.5 million Bibles, books and Christian resources.



**TRAINING CHRISTIANS AND CHURCH LEADERS**  
**...so that they can stand strong for Jesus.**

Few leaders in the persecuted church have had any theological education. Open Doors offers leadership and discipleship training to help believers to grow in their faith. Open Doors trained over 1 million Christians facing persecution and discrimination last year.



**SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND DISASTER**  
**...so that they can live independent, fulfilled lives.**

Persecution often means that families lose their breadwinner to imprisonment or death; violence forces them to flee or lose their livelihoods; discrimination makes

employment difficult. Last year, 879,000 persecuted Christians received relief aid, livelihood support and community development projects.

**BRINGING HOPE TO THE**



**MIDDLE EAST**

Supporters in the UK and Ireland gave an incredible £2.95 million last year our persecuted family in Iraq and Syria with vital aid and long-term projects. So far, people from around 100 countries have signed the global petition supporting Christians in the Middle East. Have you?



**SUPPORTING THE SECRET CHILDREN**

**... to give them protection, provision and a Christian education.**



Thanks to supporters who give and pray regularly for children, Open Doors continues to offer practical help and care to thousands of children who are bullied, displaced or even orphaned, just because they are Christian.



## SPEAKING OUT IN ADVOCACY

**...so that the voice of the persecuted church can be heard.**

The UK Advocacy team takes every opportunity to highlight the persecution of Christians around the world. In 2016 Open Doors launched three parliamentary reports and a global seven-year campaign. The World Watch List 2016 report launch was attended by over 100 MPs - more than ever before.



## MOBILISING THE CHURCH IN THE UK AND IRELAND

**...so that persecuted Christians get the support they need.**

Christian networks and Churches in the UK and Ireland are engaging with Open Doors' ministry more than ever before. Many churches chose to deepen their connections with their persecuted family by becoming Partner Churches.



## RAISING AWARENESS AND ENCOURAGING PRAYER

**...so that persecuted Christians know they are not forgotten.**

Tens of thousands signed the global petition last year and at least 37,500 people prayed regularly for the persecuted church using Open Doors resources. The secular and

Christian press also gave significant coverage to the rise of persecution.



## PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPPORTERS

**...so that persecuted Christians can be hopeful about the future**

Over 4,500 young people engaged with the *Hope for the Middle East* campaign at summer festivals last year. Hundreds of youth groups got involved in BLACKOUT, a 48-hour social media fast, raising prayer, awareness and money to support Christians silenced for their faith.

**"WE DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND HAVE NEVER SEEN YOUR FACES, BUT YOUR SUPPORT IS OUR STRENGTH AND ENCOURAGEMENT."**  
- NORTH KOREAN CHURCH LEADER



# PRAYER

Would you like to be part of Open Doors secret network, supporting persecuted Christians in prayer? The latest Prayer News DVD includes a mix of short videos and audio tracks that will take you across borders and right into their world.

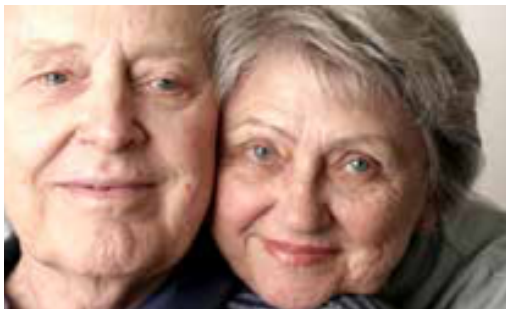
Share this resource with your church, too, by ordering *Prayer News* from our Inspire team on 01993 460015 or by emailing [inspire@opendoorsuk.org](mailto:inspire@opendoorsuk.org)

Don't forget, you can keep up to date with the latest news and needs of persecuted believers around the world by signing up for our emails. Get a weekly or monthly dose of inspiration and information delivered to your inbox. It's a great way to pray for, support and speak up on behalf of our persecuted family!



As a regular feature of our Monthly magazine we're exploring what it is to be a Baptist church - our history, our core values and our wider baptist family! In this second edition we'll be focussing on the place of the local congregation.

(The following information was produced by the Baptist Union of Great Britain)



## 2 The Congregation

The Christian Church is spread throughout the earth and the primary way in which people will encounter it is through local congregations (another word for 'church'). All over the world it is possible to find groups of Christians gathering in the name of Christ. They vary in size from tens of thousands to a mere handful. They will meet sometimes in the most beautiful and historic buildings the world possesses, and at other times in simple gatherings in people's homes. These congregations mean that the Christian Church is present in hundreds of thousands of neighbourhoods across the globe, making the Christian faith present and accessible to whoever is searching for faith and attracted to the Christian way. Through congregations, the universal Christian Church becomes the local church. They have the potential to contribute to the well-being of the wider society by supporting people and motivating them to seek the welfare of the whole community. Through the congregation, Christians are empowered to seek the common good. The congregation is a truly remarkable and unique phenomenon and is often the most diverse and enduring community presence in a society. It seems that it plays a fundamental part in the purposes of God for the world. The congregation is God's idea.





## The congregation in the New Testament

A large proportion of congregations in the New Testament were Baptist in conviction or very close to Baptists in what they believed. But over the two thousand years of Christian history all kinds of cultural and religious traditions have developed and been adopted by Christian churches. This means that church life can vary in practice from the highly elaborate and ritualistic to the most simple and unstructured of forms. Baptists have preferred more simple ways in the belief that the religion of the heart is what counts. With many others, Baptists have tended to refer back to the early church as described in the New Testament to find a pattern for church life. They have then used that pattern as a reference point for their own church life. The first Christian church ever to exist is described in the early chapters of the Book of Acts in the following terms:

So those who welcomed [Peter's] message were baptised, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:41-42).

These verses set out some of the essential ingredients of congregational life and they are worth describing as principles valid for all time. A congregation comes into being amongst people who believe the Christian message. This was being preached by Peter on the day of Pentecost and was an appeal to believe in Jesus Christ who had been raised from the dead, to turn from sin and be baptised. People declare themselves to be members of a Christian congregation when they are baptised 'in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven' and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to transform them inwardly (Acts 2:38). Having done this they devote themselves to the life of the local community of Christians, sharing in its worship and its relationships. They truly belong to each other and give themselves to the shared life of the community.

## New Testament patterns for church life

The Christian congregation has a number of things at its heart:

- *There is the 'apostles' teaching'.* The apostles were the witnesses to Christ's life and resurrection and occupied a unique position of authority in the early church. Because they had been with Jesus

from the beginning and were witnesses of the resurrection they were in a position to bear witness to Jesus, to pass on his teaching, to interpret the Old Testament in the light of Christ, and to develop a faithful interpretation of the Christian faith that was still in its infancy. In due time the apostles' teaching came to be identified with the writings now contained in our New Testament. When we read the New Testament we have access to what the apostles taught.

- *There is the 'fellowship'.* which means sharing together in the things of Christ and in mutual support. This even extended in the first church to the sharing of possessions so that nobody was left in need (Acts 2:44-45). This truly was an expression of community and there was an intense level of joy involved in belonging to it (Acts 2:46).
- *There is the 'breaking of bread'.* This could refer to the fact that these Christians ate together on a regular basis, giving and receiving hospitality. But it may also refer to the Christian practice of communion which in the early church took place within the context of a regular meal. These were later called 'agape' meals because they were expressions of Christian love.
- *There are the 'prayers'.* This could be a way of saying that these Christians prayed together, which they plainly did. It may also suggest that there was a regular rhythm of prayer along the lines of the Jewish synagogue, with which all of them were acquainted. At the heart of the church was a disciplined life of prayer.

We may say then, that a Christian congregation is a gathering of those who have turned to God in Christ, confessed this in baptism and devoted themselves as a priority to learning, sharing in fellowship, breaking bread together and prayer. When they do this they create a spiritual energy that is both attractive and transforming. It is no surprise to read about the first church that, 'Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles' (2:43) and that, 'day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved' (Acts 2:47). Mission and evangelism' flow out of churches that are spiritually alive.

## The welcoming congregation

Christian congregations aim to be accessible to all people who are serious about their relationship with God. It is a fundamental aspect of the Christian faith that, unlike some other religions, it is not defined by race or ethnicity. It is



a truly international faith which includes people on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ and which invites people of all kinds and conditions to share in the benefits he brings. Christ creates a bond that is greater and stronger than the bonds of ethnic identity, gender and social status. In this sense the Christian faith is both radical, in that it contradicts standard human prejudices, and egalitarian, in that it affirms the fundamental equality of all people before God and in each other's eyes. This is what is meant by the apostle Paul when he writes, 'There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3:28). Christ is the common bond that supersedes any other and renders them of less importance. The first major council in the church is described for us in Acts 15. The divisive issue at stake was whether Gentiles needed to become Jews by being circumcised in order then to be true Christians. The decision was that the decisive qualification for entry into the church was faith in Jesus and the reception of the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:11, 19-20). Since that time it is clear that any attempt to reintroduce into the church, divisions based on ethnicity, gender or status are anti-Christian. They contradict the very nature of the church.

Congregations are called to be welcoming and hospitable to all who come to them. This is true of the welcome given to those searching for faith. It is also true of those who choose to become committed to the congregation as active church members. Participation in the life and government of the congregation is based upon spiritual gift, character and ability alone. In this way the congregation becomes a genuine sign of the kingdom of God in that it proclaims God's favour towards all those whom God has created. The Book of Revelation gives us a vision of the fullness of time and describes 'a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb' (Revelations 7:9). This inclusive, affirming vision is what inspires local congregations in their practice of Christian hospitality.

### Healthy congregations

Because the congregation plays such an important part in the purposes of God, the health of Christianity is intimately bound up with that of the local church. There has been much research as to what makes for a healthy congregation. The following signs of health are taken from Robert Warren, *The Healthy Churches Handbook* (London: Church House Publishing, 2004)

and are worth reflecting upon carefully in each congregation. Churches thrive when they are:

- **Energised by faith:** It stands to reason that only where there is a strong spiritual core to a church is it likely to thrive. This spiritual heart is healthy where there is attention to scripture and to the sacraments of baptism and communion, allied to prayer and personal spiritual commitment. This reflects the life of the early church as described in Acts 2.
- **Outward-looking in their focus:** Churches which have become religious clubs, concerned only with those who are already members, are not likely to thrive as spiritual communities. Instead they need to be aware of the community around them and to find ways of serving it and pursuing its welfare.
- **Seeking to find out what God wants:** Congregations exist to serve the purposes of God and therefore need to devote time and attention to seeking to know and do the will of God. Without this they lose the sense of going somewhere and end up going nowhere.
- **Willing to face the cost of change:** Every congregation has a tendency to settle down into a way of life that is comfortable and undemanding. Religious organisations are particularly prone to develop traditions that they then are unwilling to dispense with or change. These can then obstruct the effectiveness of its mission. Churches which are unwilling to face the cost of change (and change can be painful) are likely to become more and more irrelevant to the world around.
- **Prepared to operate as a community:** The church is a community before it is an organisation. Although it does need to be organised, it is first and foremost a fellowship and a community where people discover and sustain life-giving relationships. This is a church's greatest strength. Often it is expressed through small groups where people can draw closer to each other.
- **Willing to make room for all:** This is in line with the kind of welcoming community a church is called to be. It is important to make room for newcomers and enquirers, of all ages. These people, as they are welcomed, will bring spiritual gifts that will help renew the life and mission of the congregation and serve people, both in and beyond the congregation.
- **Doing a few things and doing them well:** A church cannot do everything. If it attempted to, it would do nothing very well. Having



sought God's will, it needs to decide where to put its energies. There are some things that all churches do, such as worshipping, preaching and caring for others, and all of these need to be done attractively and well, as do the 'occasional' services such as weddings and funerals. But each church will be given particular opportunities to serve and should do these to the limits of its ability.

### A congregation of congregations

It is worth remembering that each Baptist congregation is called to be part of a movement, expressed in Baptist circles first by Regional Associations of churches and then nationally by the Baptist Union of Great Britain. These connections exist for the mutual support and help they are able to give each other. The value of such structures is that they are able to help local congregations maintain a healthy spiritual life, stay focused on God and their mission and serve effectively in their neighbourhood. Christ is present not only in the local congregation but in the wider network of churches that confess him. This means that the local congregation can draw life, encouragement and resources from the larger network, and at the same time contribute what it has itself to offer. The unity of the whole Church is therefore something pleasing to God and beneficial for every congregation. Jesus prayed for his Church with the words, 'As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me' (John 17:20-21).



<sup>1</sup> For more information see Baptist Basics: Mission and Evangelism

# Church Chores for May

There are a number of small jobs that need doing around the church just to keep things ticking over. If you have a spare half an hour perhaps you could tackle one of them.

**Clean Tea and Coffee Pots.** The pots we use for breakfast church are covered in water marks and could do with a proper wipe down.

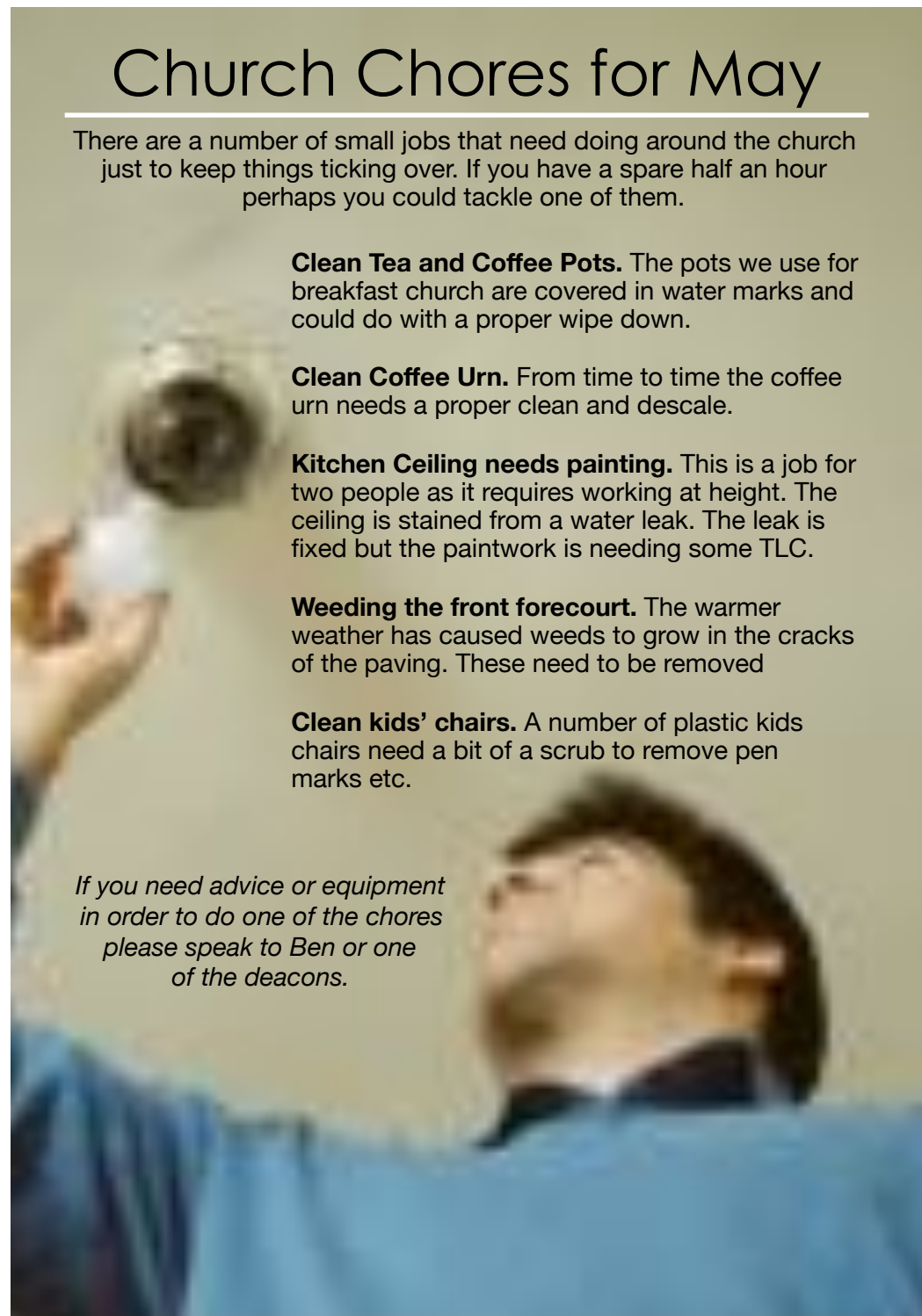
**Clean Coffee Urn.** From time to time the coffee urn needs a proper clean and descale.

**Kitchen Ceiling needs painting.** This is a job for two people as it requires working at height. The ceiling is stained from a water leak. The leak is fixed but the paintwork is needing some TLC.

**Weeding the front forecourt.** The warmer weather has caused weeds to grow in the cracks of the paving. These need to be removed

**Clean kids' chairs.** A number of plastic kids chairs need a bit of a scrub to remove pen marks etc.

*If you need advice or equipment in order to do one of the chores please speak to Ben or one of the deacons.*





Our Minister, Ben, will be taking part in this year's London to Brighton charity cycle ride on 17th June.

The event is held to raise money for the British Heart Foundation and consists of a 54 mile cycle from Clapham Common to Brighton seafront. The British Heart Foundation has a 5 year aim of funding over half a billion pounds of research to improve the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of all heart and circulatory diseases including heart attack and stroke, heart failure, congenital heart disease, heart muscle diseases and abnormal heart rhythms.

Ben is seeking to raise £200 in sponsorship. If you'd like to support him in this please visit: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ben-Fortescue](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ben-Fortescue) Thank You!



The King's Church, Addlestone runs a CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Centre which provides help and proven ways out of debt for anyone in our local community.

On 12th May 2018 some members from Kings (including our debt centre manager and minister) will be taking part in day 1 of the London Revolution as a fundraiser for our CAP Debt Centre. This is a 100 mile cycle ride from the Lee Valley Athletics Stadium to Windsor. Please sponsor us to make the pain worthwhile!!!

Donating to our CAP Debt Centre with [give.net](http://give.net) is really easy and completely secure. If you are a UK taxpayer, please confirm that you would like to reclaim Gift Aid on your donation. This will add 25p to every £1 you give. Thank You!

Foodbank really needs the following:  
**Tinned vegetables, tinned spaghetti, long-life juice, squash, tinned custard, sponge puddings, hair conditioner, deodorant, shaving foam and razor blades**



**Thank you very much!**

**Got questions about life?**

New Alpha course starting September 2018

**Interested?**  
Please speak to Ben to find out more details



**Church contact details:**

5 Crouch Oak Lane  
Addlestone, Surrey  
KT15 2AN

Minister: Ben Fortescue  
Secretary: Brian Channell  
Treasurer: Sarah White



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Addlestone Baptist Church is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

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