

Diary of Events

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

ABC

Addlestone
BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWS & INFORMATION

June 2018



Players Instead of Pundits!

Yes, it's almost upon us. The FIFA World Cup begins later this month. No doubt such news will be greeted with joy and despair in equal measure. If you love football, there is no greater Summer. If you despise football, a whole month of endless matches reminds you of the 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' verses in the Bible. Yes, it's inevitable that our TVs will be dominated with endless predictions and analysis by an array of ageing pundits. I'm reminded of my mother's top item to be put into Room 101 - 'football pundits'. I can hear her now saying, "they talk for hours before the match about what might happen. Then at half time they tell us what did happen and then what will happen. Then at the end they talk again about what did happen and then what should happen in the next match - why don't they just watch the blinkin' match and see what happens!!!"

The point my mother is inadvertently making is that it's easy to forget to just enjoy the match. And that it's better to be a player than a pundit. That's not to say players don't have opinions. But it's better to be on board as part of the team, working and celebrating in the midst of the action, than sitting on the sidelines over-analysing everything that's happening.

Church is one of those places where getting involved is infinitely better than sitting on the sidelines. Whether that be helping with the set-up and tidy-up of services, or just throwing yourself wholeheartedly into the sung worship and prayer activities - being involved is where it's at! It's a heart-attitude. The old adage - 'you get out what you put in' is as applicable to church as anything else. In fact, the greatest sense of belonging comes through acts of service and commitment when we give ourselves to one another and find that it's reciprocated.

So, whether you can't wait for the World Cup to start, or the World Cup to be over, know that there's a church team - more than that, a family - that's wanting you to come and join in. Get involved in whatever way you can, and if you're not sure how, speak to one of the leadership team who'd be more than happy to suggest where you might contribute.

In June's Edition:

COVER:
Players Instead of Pundits
- Ben Fortescue



General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - What it means for you and Addlestone Baptist Church



MISSION FOCUS: Home Mission - The Baptist family purse



BEING BAPTIST:
Exploring the importance of Believers' Baptism



NEWS & EVENTS:
Being Big Church, Kids Church, Alpha, Foodbank - all the latest



Let me ask you a question: How many updated privacy policies have you read in the last two weeks?



If you've no idea what I'm talking about then you probably don't have email and have probably never bought anything online before.

For those of you who have, you've no doubt been inundated with emails from companies desperate to stay in touch with you before new laws come in restricting organisations' rights to hold onto personal information. A raft of new rules, under the title General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), have been introduced aimed at protecting people's personal data. On the whole this is a very welcome move. And it has come as a shock to many to see how much of our personal information is being held by companies we can't even remember having anything to do with! Hopefully, the new laws will reduce much of the unwanted marketing and cold-calling we all receive. Hallelujah!

That said, there are significant implications for us as Addlestone Baptist Church. The rules apply to **all** organisations, not just marketing firms. As such we are legally obliged to put in place various policies and procedures regarding the personal information we hold concerning our members and attendees. We will be introducing these policies at the June Church Members' Meeting and also explaining a little more about the implications of the new laws.

One significant change is the need to have written consent for us to hold contact information for our attendees - in other words the information found in our church directory. We will, therefore, be asking everyone associated with ABC to fill in a consent form, specifying what information we can hold.

Currently, the church directory is built into our church website and is available **ONLY** to logged in members of the church (it is not available to the general public). This will continue to be the case. However, we will be completely rebuilding the directory based on the consent forms we receive. The reality is that if we don't receive your form we cannot hold any of your contact/personal information and you won't be included in

the directory. So it is imperative you complete the form if you want us to stay in contact with you. Also included on the form are permission boxes for whether you'd like to receive fellowship information, pastoral updates etc. We will be distributing the form later this month.

The implementation of GDPR is challenging and will affect many of the groups that function within the church. We will do our best to roll out the necessary changes as smoothly as possible. One major area to address is the content of our church website. And so, over the next few weeks we will be giving it a complete overhaul, and for a time it may no longer be available. Please bare with us while this happens as these things take time.

GDPR may come across as a difficult, stressful, and at times over-complicated process, but ultimately it is there for our protection and we at ABC want to be good practitioners of this latest legislation. We will endeavour to keep you as informed as possible about the whole process - with your permission of course!

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:
We're still
taking bookings
but the sooner
you book the
better!

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/

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/

See separate flyer for more details

MISSION FOCUS



BUGB Home Mission

Home Mission is all about helping Baptist churches and individuals to reach their mission potential and bring the love of God to their communities. It is the Baptist family purse, and each year our Union has an appeal to raise money for Home Mission.

Communities around our nation are being transformed by Home Mission through grants to churches and regions which facilitate church planting, the resourcing of local churches and enable churches to develop new and creative mission projects. Through Home

Mission, hundreds of lives have been affected and many have found faith in Jesus.

This year BUGB need to raise over £4m to continue the work that Home Mission makes possible. That sounds like a lot of money – but if every Baptist Church gave at least 5% of their general income to this vital work we would raise that – and more!

The money raised is used to fund:

Grants to local churches. These 200+ grants identified by regional associations include church planting, renewing local churches and mission project grants. Through Home Mission, hundreds of lives have been affected and many have found faith in Jesus.

Regional Associations, who are engaged in missional development in their area, supporting new initiatives and churches and supporting the on-going work of churches and their ministers and families.

Three Specialist Teams to resource churches in their work through legal, ministries and finance support. In addition, representing the mission of God in national ways such as engaging with Government and speaking out on matters of faith.

An example of how Home Mission is supporting local congregations:

The Arabic Community Church
Arabic Community Church is a congregation of Arabic speaking people from the Middle East, based at the Southern Cross Evangelical Church in Portslade, Brighton.



Pastor Gadalla writes, 'this has been another fruitful and blessed year through God's presence and guidance in the UK and Egypt. The church worships together on

Sundays with a Bible Study once a month after Sunday worship, and a regular Prayer Meeting on Fridays.

Church news and activities:

- Church meetings run well and there is a good spirit within the church fellowship at this time.
- Around 50 new families in Brighton and Hove are regularly visited, which includes sharing Word of God with them and prayer.
- The Evangelism Street Project for 10 days in August 2017 was fruitful, encouraging and inspiring. We met around 170 people, from The Gulf, Palestine, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- Two people received Jesus Christ as Saviour, the one from the Gulf now is strong and active in evangelism among his family and community. Halleluiah!
- The Prayer Meeting has a great impact on the life and ministry of the church. Many of us have seen our lives change and also receiving answers to our prayers for our difficult issues and problems. A member said "God works with us as a family more than ever before, that's because He hears our prayers"
- The Arabic Christian Church and Arabic Community Church will be joining in The Evangelism Street Project in August this year. We will then run outreach in Brighton and Hove together every other month.



Mission in Egypt:

- The Arabic Community Church grows in its Mission in Egypt alongside other Evangelical Pastors and local church leaders.
- The church is involved in an 'Evangelism Through Sports' initiative in Egypt.



Church minister

- Pastor Gadalla is studying for a Masters at Spurgeon's College.
- Gadalla has been nominated to be a representative of the Egyptian Evangelical Church in Europe. He travelled to USA from 18 January to 5 February 2018 in this capacity with Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in North America. The trip included New

York, New Jersey, Michigan (Grand Rapids) and California.

Things to praise God for:

Arabic Community Church continues to grow in the Holy Spirit and mission activities.

God was glorified in the Evangelical Street Project, and praise God for those who accepted Jesus Christ as a Saviour, and are now being used by God in their families and in the community.

The Prayer meeting that makes big difference in church members lives.

New experience with CRC in North America.

Things to ask God for:

- Blessings for prayer meetings and the new people who became members recently, especially those who came from a Muslim background. And for a new Syrian family in Coventry, pray to God to plant a new Evangelical meeting there.
- For providing and resourcing our ministry in Brighton and Hove and in the wider Egyptian Mission
- For good church leaders to be raised up for the future in Brighton and Hove
- For Pastor Gadalla to be able to carry on his Masters course. And guide him in his Church mission work in Egypt.

Things to thank God for:

- For the funding from Baptist Home Mission to enable the church to continue.
- For all SEBA Leaders who enable Gadalla to feel cared for and supported in his ministry.
- BUGB for providing a bursary for the pastor's study this year.
- For congregations who support Arabic Community Church and who invite pastor Gadalla to share God's Word in Sundays

Trip of Arabic Community Church to Egypt 14 – 31 March 2018

- After arriving in Egypt Gadalla was extremely busy in a variety of areas including biblical teaching 40 Pastors; regular preaching engagements; visiting children's cancer hospitals; church run football games in Cairo followed by meetings with Egypt's Immigration minister, Youth Minister and some members of Parliament, Pastors, Imams, popular and Executive leadership; meetings to organise evangelism for a local church in Upper Egypt; speaking with 50 pastors and their families including retired pastors about "the gap between ministry and retirement" and leadership training for 70 local leaders in Upper Egypt.

All Blessings,
Pastor Gadalla



ABC and Home Mission

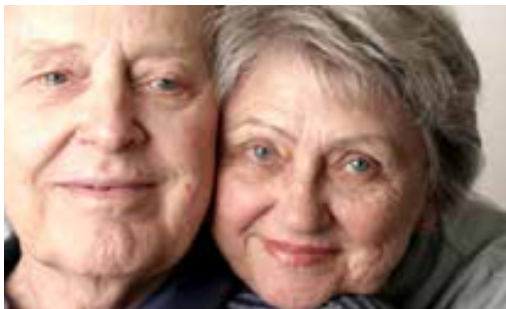
Not only has Addlestone Baptist Church faithfully supported the work of the Baptist Union through Home Mission, but the church has recently been a recipient of Home Mission's many blessings. We were awarded a Home Mission Grant in 2010 in order to enable the calling of Ben to be our minister. Thanks to God's goodness, after a short time the church became financially self-sufficient and no longer required Home Mission support.

However, due to some financial challenges in recent months we've gone back onto a Home Mission grant. What this means is that Baptist churches across the country are financially supporting the mission of ABC here in Addlestone. Currently, half our minister's stipend is being paid for through the support of the Baptist family. Without such support we could not afford to employ a minister full-time. We are aiming to reduce our reliance on Home Mission each year, with the goal to be financially self-sufficient as soon as possible - that way Home Mission resources can be used to support other missions and ministries around the country.



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 third edition we'll be focussing on the importance of Believers' Baptism.

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



3 Believers' Baptism

Baptists derive their name from the very visible practice of believers' baptism. Baptism involves the total immersion of a person into water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit on their own profession of faith. Unlike some other Christian denominations, Baptists do not baptise infants but only those who are of an age to make a clear declaration of their own free will. By means of baptism, a person declares their desire to turn from a life without God to one which is lived for God through Jesus Christ. Christian faith is not something that anybody can choose for any one other than themselves. A person does not become a Christian because they are born in a certain country with a Christian heritage. Neither do they do so because this is what their parents or others would wish. Each person needs to be 'born again' on their own account (John 3:3) because they have intentionally turned from a godless life to a life in God. They have done this because they have come to believe for themselves that the Christian faith is true, that their lives are falling short of what they should be, and that Jesus Christ is the one through whom they can receive forgiveness from God and a new life in God's Spirit. Believers' baptism makes all of this clear and so is a challenging symbol of Christian discipleship.

A sign of a new beginning

Baptism marks a new start. It is intended to take place near to a person's first commitment to Christ and as part of the process by which they pass from the world of unbelief to the life of faith. People of all ages and mental



ability are welcome to be baptised as soon as they are able to make a clear personal decision. Becoming a Christian is described in various ways, for instance as being 'born again', 'saved', 'coming to faith', 'being converted', 'making a commitment to Christ', 'accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour' or 'becoming a disciple'. There is

one Christ but there are many ways of coming to Christ, as people's stories will quickly reveal. Although for many people there will be a crucial moment of decision in which they cross consciously over the line into faith, for everybody there is a journey taking place which includes various elements. It may take a shorter or longer time according to circumstance but should lead to a firm commitment to follow Christ. When people asked the apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost how they might respond to his message about Christ, he replied, 'Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:38). This serves as a pattern for baptism and it can be seen that there are three agents at work:

- **what we do.** In the process of becoming Christians we repent of our sins and believe in Jesus Christ. To do this we need to have heard and understood enough about Christ to make some response to him; we do not believe in a vacuum but in response to the message which is communicated to us. We are called to turn from our sin, our self-centredness and wrongdoing, and to believe in Jesus Christ as the one who can save us from ourselves and our sinful condition.
- **what the church does.** The church responds to our faith by baptising us. In this way it accepts the sincerity of our confession of faith. Invariably when people are baptised they are asked to proclaim 'Jesus is Lord!', which is the fundamental Christian statement of faith (1 Corinthians 12:3). By submitting to baptism, which has of necessity to be performed by somebody else, we demonstrate that we need power outside ourselves to save us. We are incapable of doing this for ourselves. To accept our own powerlessness is part of believing that in Jesus Christ we have a Saviour. It also points us to our need for the Christian community to support us in our faith and this shows that baptism and belonging to the Christian community are inseparable.

- **what God does.** God grants the gift of the Holy Spirit to renew our inner life and to work in us the spiritual power to live holy and godly lives. This is how we can say, 'So if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation' (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is not to suggest that God only comes into this process at the end and all the rest we do in our own strength. Rather, God has been there from the beginning, awakening us to our need and enabling us to respond. The response we make in faith is therefore itself a gift from God, and this is only possible because God is already working in us.

Baptism in the name of Father, Son and Spirit

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus' last words to his disciples are recorded as, 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'. Baptism should take place, then, in the name of the God. This means both that the person doing the baptising is acting on behalf of God, and also that through baptism we enter into the life of God, Father, Son and Spirit. Using the name of the Trinity is essential for making baptism a truly Christian baptism. It is more important for instance than the amount of water used or the exact way of baptising. The early church also used to baptise people 'in the name of Jesus Christ', but in time this seems to have given way to the use of the Triune name. It is important to note, that to be baptised was also to become a member of the church, the new community of those who shared in and reflected the fellowship in love of Father, Son and Spirit.

The meaning of baptism

Baptism is a dramatic and symbolic act and it is rich in meaning. It speaks of the following spiritual realities:

- **Being born:** In John 3:5-6 Jesus speaks of the need to be 'born of water and the spirit' in order to see the kingdom of God. Being 'born of water' can be seen as a reference to natural birth. Jesus would therefore be saying that just as we are born physically, so we need to be born spiritually; both births are necessary for fullness of life. Being a Christian is about entering into and then living a life which is brought about through the Holy Spirit and makes us alive towards

God. Baptism demonstrates this new birth into a spiritual life through Jesus Christ.



- **Being washed:** Inevitably, the drama of baptism can also be seen as taking a bath. Titus 3:5 refers to the 'washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit'. New birth carries the idea of being washed clean from the polluting effects of the sinful life. Through his sacrifice on the cross, Christ brings about a cleansing of sin and enables us to break free from its guilt and shame. Our consciences are then put at rest and we can be assured of forgiveness.
- **Being buried and raised:** Baptism is also like being buried in a grave and then raised to a new life beyond death. Paul puts it like this: 'Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life' (Romans 6:3-4). Baptism therefore marks the end of one life and the beginning of a new one.
- **Being immersed in the Holy Spirit:** When a person is baptised, they are usually fully immersed in water. There are other ways of baptising, such as the pouring of water over the head symbolising the anointing of the Spirit, but total immersion captures the idea of being plunged into the realm of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brings spiritual life and also enables us to live for God in God's strength. Being in the realm of the Spirit, we have new resources that enable us to live holy lives, to serve God effectively and to think the thoughts of God (Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16).

Why be baptised?

Baptism is therefore the way in which Christians declare that they have turned to God and placed their faith in Christ with the intention of living as Christian disciples. Those who want to follow Christ should be baptised for a number of reasons.

First of all, because *Jesus has commanded it*. This is clear in Matthew 28:19 where Jesus told his disciples to go into the world and teach people about himself. Those who believed were to be baptised. If being a Christian means calling Jesus, Lord, one of the first steps is to be baptised as he commanded. This is an act of loving obedience.

Secondly, because *to do so is to follow Jesus' example*. Jesus himself was baptised by John the Baptist at the beginning of his ministry. At that time the Spirit came upon him to enable him to fulfil his mission as the Messiah (Matthew 3:13-17). When we follow Jesus in baptism we enter his own mission to the world with the assurance that the Spirit who rested on him will also rest on us.

Thirdly, because *it is the best way to confess Christ publicly*. For any person who wishes to declare their loyalty to Christ, the best way is through baptism, which from the beginning has been the Christian way of making a stand for Christ. The first Christians were baptised on the day of Pentecost and so should we be today. Jesus stressed the importance of being willing to confess loyalty to him in front of others (Matthew 10:32). The willingness to be baptised can be a very powerful witness to others and is often the means by which they are first drawn to Christ themselves.

Fourthly, because *baptism is a means of grace*. Baptism is a powerful symbol. It is given extra depth because it is a means of grace, that is to say, the Holy Spirit uses it to convey spiritual blessing and benefit through it. The realities that baptism symbolises, such as new life, cleansing, death to sin and immersion in the Spirit, are deepened and renewed in the lives of believers through baptism. Baptism is never therefore a mere symbol, it is a spiritually powerful act.

Fifthly, because *baptism is good for the church*. It is not only those who are baptised who benefit from it. The whole church is blessed when baptisms

take place in its midst and the faith is passed on to others. Through baptism the power of Christ to transform lives is proclaimed afresh.

Believers' baptism and infant baptism

What do Baptists think about infant baptism? They are not persuaded that infant baptism is truly based upon the teaching of the New Testament and they believe that it makes baptism into something that it is done to us rather than something we choose to do. In the process, it loses some aspects that are essential for baptism to be baptism, as we regard it. Baptism has meaning when it can be said to be 'an appeal to God for a good conscience' (1 Peter 3:21). Infants are not capable of this, nor of the repentance and faith which are necessary before baptism can be meaningfully performed. It is true that the Confirmation is designed in infant baptism circles, to supply the element of personal response that infant baptism lacks. For this reason, many Baptist churches are happy to accept this pattern of initiation into the Christian faith (infant baptism + confirmation) as the equivalent of believers' baptism, provided there is every sign of personal faith in Christ and discipleship. Churches that welcome such fellow Christians into church membership have what is known as 'open membership' and comprise many of the congregations in the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The desire here is to accept that people travel to Christ through different journeys and that respect should be given to people when they believe in good conscience before God, that they are properly baptised.

The initiating sign

Because of its expected place at the beginning of the Christian life, baptism is sometimes called the 'initiating sign'. It belongs to the process of responses and events that mark the early stages of being a Christian. It is meant to be like an anchor giving stability to the inner choice to be a Christian. It is also meant to lead into a firm commitment to the local church that we call church 'membership'. Baptism is a joyful step to take that can provide a good foundation for the whole of life (Hebrews 6:1-2).

Church Chores for June

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.

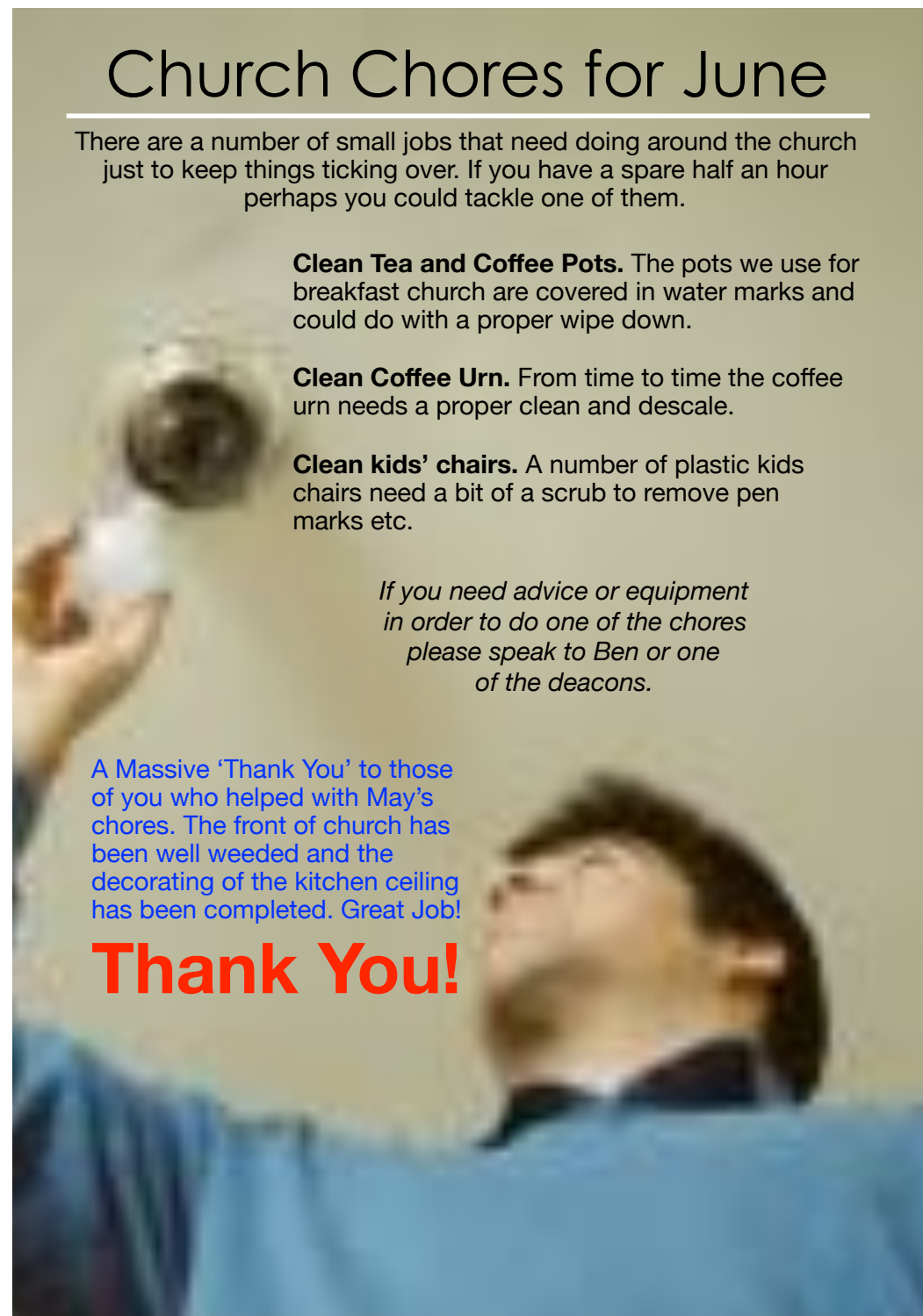
Clean Coffee Urn. From time to time the coffee urn needs a proper clean and descale.

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.*

A Massive 'Thank You' to those of you who helped with May's chores. The front of church has been well weeded and the decorating of the kitchen ceiling has been completed. Great Job!

Thank You!





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 Thank You!

Foodbank really needs the following:
**long-life juice, squash, tinned custard,
 sponge puddings, anti-bacterial surface
 cleaner, hair conditioner,
 men's toiletries, kitchen roll**

Thank you very much!



**Got questions
 about life?**

**New Alpha course starting
 September 2018**

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



Alpha

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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