

Diary of Events

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

ABC

Addlestone
BAPTIST CHURCH

NEWS & INFORMATION

July 2018



Surviving a Scorching East Wind

I'm sitting in my sun-baked East-facing office on a Wednesday morning, trying to work, as the temperature steadily climbs to a predicted 27°C. 'It's just too hot' I hear myself mutter. And I'm immediately reminded of Jonah's grumblings as he sits under a withering vine scorched by an East wind, staring down at what was ultimately a non-event. Nineveh was destined to be destroyed but in God's mercy the city was spared. God's inactivity was a clear demonstration of God's compassion and the people of Nineveh got a second chance. Not what Jonah was hoping for. And one wonders whether he was able to get over his anger. Did he find his heart challenged and changed by God's inaction? Or did he just go off in a huff, frustrated that God didn't do what he

wanted him to do?

One of the greatest challenges I've faced in my walk with Jesus has been that during tough times - the desert experiences when the pressures of life are like a scorching sun beating down on my head - God has often felt absent, or at least inactive. "God, why don't you just do something about this? I know you can!" But often the tough time continues and

the sun beats down, and I long for a time of refreshing. Will it ever come?

How do you survive those times? Well, taking a leaf out of Bear Grylls' tips for survival, he lists four priorities if you find yourself lost in the wilderness: Protection, Rescue, Water, Food - in that order.

So what of PROTECTION? What do we need protecting from? In the spiritual wilderness it is easy to lose focus and drift off-course, and what used to feel important doesn't seem to matter as much. We need to protect ourselves against apathy and becoming luke-warm. We need to protect ourselves against outside influences becoming more important to us than God. And we need to protect ourselves against doubt. The scorching East wind will not last forever and God's love will prevail.

... continued on page 3

In July's Edition:

COVER:

Surviving a Scorching East Wind
- Ben Fortescue



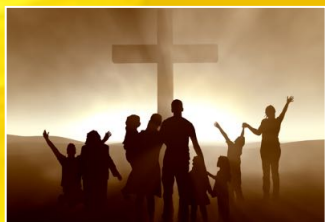
THE GIRLS' BRIGADE
celebrating 125 years
see how ABC's girls chose to celebrate



MISSION FOCUS: Foodbank -
Two stories to inspire!



BEING BAPTIST:
Exploring the importance of
Church Membership



NEWS & EVENTS:



... continued from Cover

Next, RESCUE. We may not be able to bring a desert season to an end but there may be things we can do to speed up it's completion. If we feel we're drifting in our relationship with God we can put in place the practical things that make a difference - reading our Bible, carving out time to pray, speaking/praying with a Christian friend - these are all things that help us make progress through the desert. Yes, we can wait to be rescued but often God wants us to learn the art of self-rescue, with Him as our guide.



Thirdly, WATER. Jesus once said, 'the water I give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life'. Yes, there may be times when we feel parched. But Jesus has promised that those who drink the water of life will never thirst. We have access to springs of living water in Jesus so that no matter

how tough life may be we can always be assured of his refreshing and sustaining presence.

And finally, FOOD. Waiting for God to act is never a passive thing. If you find yourself in a desert season the worst thing you can do is simply wait to wither away. You need to keep your spiritual strength up. You need to find ways of building up your spiritual energy. Draw on things that inspire you, books and stories, testimonies and friendships. Remind yourself how faithful God has shown himself to be.

Feed on the witness of countless generations of believers who have all found the love of God to be the one constant and enduring presence in life. And feast on the word of God, the bread of life.

And before you know it, you'll find yourself no longer in an arid desert but in a cool, refreshing oasis instead.

Ladies' Night out

Are you 18 +, female and in need of a fun night out? Then this is for you!

When: Friday 13th July, 7:30pm

Where: Beijing Chinese Restaurant, Addlestone

Please join us in a social evening and getting to know each other better.

For more information or to confirm you can join us, please speak to Gemma or Sarah



Sleepover to celebrate Girls' Brigade's 125 years

To celebrate 125 years of GB we thought we would do something fun and a bit different and the most popular idea was to have a sleepover with lots of small activities. The date was Friday 8th June and began with a short devotion time and setting out camp in our new accommodation. Soon after we had a range of mini tournaments comprising of:- Mini Air Hockey, Horseshoes and Crazy Creatures Croquet.

Ben arrived and led us in prayer and a short talk as well as helping celebrate with some singing, enthusiastic dancing and even more enthusiastic cutting/eating the cake.

After this we watched part 1 of Minions DVD, with popcorn of course. Next up supper (hot choc and marshmallows), followed by bed.

9-30pm - 10pm Lights out but there were still rumblings until some time later until Dawn gave a Final Warning!!

The next day we were up promptly at 7-30am and after getting ourselves set for the day we did some craft and then



watched the other half of our DVD. We then had enough time to test our illustrative skills with a game of Pictionary before everyone headed home by 12 noon.

It seemed a successful event with a good balance of activities and the girls all asked when the next one was going to be!





MISSION FOCUS



Runnymede FoodBank

Addlestone Baptist Church continues to support the Runnymede Foodbank, through the use of its premises and through the monetary and food donations of its attendees. Here are two stories that show why your support is so vitally needed:

HOLLY'S STORY

"The people at the foodbank were wonderful. They understood and saved us!"

Having always worked and never claimed benefits, Holly, 29, from Chichester was bringing up her four-year-old daughter, Phoebe alone. She was determined to give her the best possible start in life, but when Phoebe suddenly fell ill, Holly was forced to turn to a foodbank for help.

The council flat that Holly was living in was in a deprived area with drug dealing and dog fouling taking place in the corridor outside her door. Holly was adamant that her daughter should have a better environment to grow up in and was offered alternative accommodation near her parents but at double the cost.



As well as borrowing money from her parents to meet the cost, Holly was working part time. At the same time, she had been selling second-hand clothes online and the shop she was working in noticed its success and offered her a space selling clothes in their shop. Under normal circumstances, Holly could just about scrape by, but when her daughter became poorly and had to spend three weeks in hospital, she was forced to close the shop temporarily. When Phoebe recovered, they returned home to empty kitchen cupboards, bills

racking up and no income to support them.

Holly felt unable to ask her family for help again and after discussions with the local Citizens Advice Bureau she was referred to the foodbank.

Holly said: "The people at the foodbank were wonderful, they understood and saved us."

Although Holly's situation is still precarious, knowing the foodbank is there in an emergency is a huge weight off her shoulders.

"The foodbank was a lifesaver." Your support is helping us to change lives.



RICHARD'S STORY

"Without the foodbank I don't think I'd be here today!"

Having worked in the police force for six years, followed by 12-years in the Royal Military Police, Richard, 49, from New Milton, had always considered himself fit and healthy. However, this all changed when a chest infection quickly developed into a heart condition and he suffered from two major strokes followed by 19 mini strokes, leaving him unable to work.

Richard's situation deteriorated further when he separated from his wife and moved out of their family home, where, unfortunately due to this change of address his Employment Support Allowance (ESA) was delayed. As a result of his serious heart condition Richard needs 35 tablets a day, but the cost of travelling to collect his prescriptions left him without enough money for food,

and his local Citizens Advice Bureau referred him to the foodbank. Although Richard admits he never expected to be in this situation, on arrival he was put at ease straight away. "The volunteers were fantastic, offering a chat and a shoulder to cry on. I suffer from depression as well and without the foodbank I don't think I would be here today," he said.

Richard looks forward to seeing his 10-year-old daughter every weekend but admits he has skipped meals on a few occasions so she can eat. He explains: "It's a really bad situation that people have to decide whether they can feed themselves, feed their children or put the heating on. It's a case of having to budget or having to go without." At the moment things are still tough for Richard, he's on the waiting list for a heart transplant and will be on medication for the rest of his life, but he's grateful that the foodbank is available if he ever needs some extra help.



Foodbank really needs the following:

Tinned fruit

Instant mash

Feminine hygiene products

Deodorant (male and female)

Razors

Shaving foam

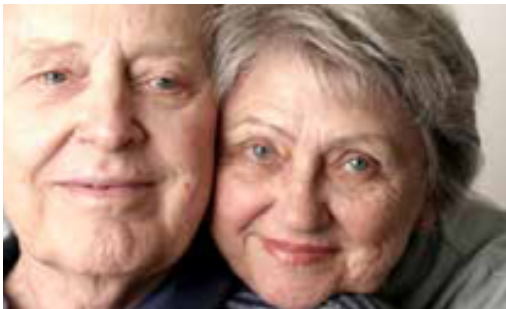
Nappies (size 4, 5 & 6)

Thank you very much!



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 fourth edition we'll be focussing on the importance of Church Membership.

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



4 Church Membership

The first people to hear the Christian message on the day of Pentecost and be baptised went on to devote themselves to the local community of believers (Acts 2:41-42). It was a natural thing for them to do. It was through that community in the form of the original one hundred and twenty believers (Acts 1:15) that they had come to hear of Christ and believe in him. It was in that community that they would continue to learn from the apostles' teaching, to experience the Spirit and play a part in an exciting enterprise. Becoming a Christian was not just a personal decision. It was a social event as the original Christian community extended its reach and incorporated ever increasing numbers within itself. Being a Christian is not just a matter of finding personal salvation. It involves becoming part of a project through which God is working in the world. That project is the Christian Church and it occupies a central part in God's purposes.

The people of God

From near the beginning of human history, God has been concerned to have a people through whom he can work. This work began with Abraham and Sarah and their descendants. God made a covenant with Abraham that was continued with his son Isaac and grandson Jacob, and led to the twelve tribes of Israel. They were specially chosen by God, not because there was anything special about them but because through them God would be able to display his wisdom and power (Deuteronomy 7:7-11). God preserved this people even in times of famine and captivity. God eventually delivered them

from slavery and oppression in Egypt in order that they might occupy the land of Canaan as the Promised Land. Here they were to be under God's reign and were to live out a distinctive communal life by observing the practices of circumcision, sabbath and temple worship and by adhering closely to the law given by God through Moses. Israel was to witness to the nations as 'my treasured possession out of all the nations' and was to be for the God of the whole earth 'a priestly kingdom and a holy nation' (Exodus 19:5-6). They were to be an example so that other nations would say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?' (Deuteronomy 4:7-8).



Jesus was born from the Jewish people and through him, the idea that there was a people set aside for God's purpose, spread to his followers in the Christian Church, both Jews and Gentiles. The apostle Peter could say to the churches, 'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light' (1 Peter

2:9). The church, therefore, represents the continuation of what God began to do with the people of Israel. Through the church, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has come to be honoured and worshipped to the ends of the earth. It exists to live out under the reign of God, the way of life that came to be incarnated (or fleshed out), not now in the book of the law, but in the life of Christ. Its practices now include those of baptism and communion, and its calling is to live as a holy nation scattered among all the nations, bearing its witness to Christ, worshipping God through him and serving the nations by living out the way that he taught.

Believing and belonging

The Church is God's project. We can only become Christians and be baptised because the Church is already there exercising its witness. All Christians have the Church as their mother, as surely as they have God as their Father. We are indebted to it and to the people within it who have been

committed enough to hand its benefits on to us. When we become Christians we enter into the Church's life and become a part of it. We are like the parts of a body that are intimately connected to each other and are directed by the head, which is Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-21). None of us can say we have no need of it or of each other. By believing in Christ we have committed ourselves to belong to Christ's people and this deserves the best that we can bring. Church membership is about committed belonging to the Church in general and to a local congregation in particular. But it is impossible to belong to the Church in general without belonging to a particular congregation. Some years ago a Peanuts cartoon showed Charlie Brown saying, 'I love humanity. It's people I can't stand!' Just as you cannot love humanity without loving people so it is not possible to belong to the Church in abstract, but only in real and committed relationships.

The challenge of covenant relationship

The word Christians use to describe the kind of relationship involved in belonging to the church is 'covenant'. God entered into a covenant with Abraham and with the people of Israel. Each church is a covenant community. When we share communion we refer to it as representing the 'new covenant' made through Christ's sacrifice. A covenant is a two-way commitment which is open-ended and unconditional. This is what we mean when we speak of the 'covenant of marriage', whereby marriage is meant to be a commitment of faithful love, one which endures and so, discovers new depths of love, not one that comes to an end when it becomes inconvenient. It involves both giving and receiving. Where there is covenant commitment, churches can become strong, they can endure through time and they can do good. Where this is lacking, churches are weakened. Just as marriage is designed to be a firm commitment which strengthens and supports a loving relationship between two people, so church membership is designed to be a foundation for strengthening the relationships within a congregation. When people commit themselves to a church in membership they are strengthening the inner life of the church in a way that will make it more effective in its mission.

There is no doubt that becoming a member in a local Baptist church is challenging. It involves commitment and this in turn requires sacrifice. This may mean the sacrifice of time and money and of emotional and physical energy. In return, there is the reward of belonging to a community of

people who strongly believe in what they are doing and who are working cooperatively to achieve their goals. Membership probably involves swimming against the tide of modern culture in which people have come to see themselves first and foremost as consumers rather than contributors. But this is a tide that needs to be resisted. If the role of the church is to offer alternative ways of living which arise from the covenant relationship we share with God, then committed church membership is worth entering into and commending to others.

Reasons for membership

The following reasons for church membership can be mentioned.

1. Church membership demonstrates that we have understood the importance of the church in the mission of God. The church is described in the Bible as the people of God (1 Peter 2:9), the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-30) and the temple of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22). Each of these images requires commitment from us as living parts of God's project. When you belong to a people, you take your identity from them. When you are part of a body, you are organically joined to it. When you are part of a temple, you are like a brick or a stone cemented together with others (1 Peter 2:4-5).
2. Church membership demonstrates the reality of our personal commitment as declared in baptism. It shows therefore, the sincerity of our commitment to Christ and to Christ's people because we are not holding back from people. Church membership follows on from baptism by showing that we have truly entered into a new way of life, just as the first Christians 'devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers' (Acts 2:41-42).
3. Church membership helps to build strong churches by making sure that each church is supported by a core of people who are prepared to commit time, energy, finance and their own Spiritual gifts and talents to the building up of the body of Christ. Being a member therefore means becoming a active participant in the crucial work of sustaining congregations and passing on the faith to new generations. It also means taking a responsible part in the church's government since church members share in the process of making decisions in Baptist churches.

4. Church membership means that once we have accepted the Christian way of life we have the support of other Christians in sustaining our discipleship and in enduring testing times of illness, bereavement and crisis when they come to us. It also means that we live out our lives under a degree of pastoral oversight that will enable others to correct and guide us should we begin to stray or deviate from a truly Christian lifestyle. This is what Paul means when he says in Galatians 6:1, 'My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit, should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness'.

5. Church membership connects us to other church members in the local Christian community and more widely with other such communities. It is a solid bond that enables us to say that we belong to a movement and to take our place within the universal Church.

6. Church membership enables us to challenge the modern tendency to see ourselves as consumers rather than as contributors. Being a Christian is not a spectator sport but requires our personal and dedicated involvement in the things of God and of the church.

Entering into church membership

Each church has its own ways of accepting people into committed church membership but there tend to be common elements. A person entering into membership is interviewed and a report is made to the Church Members' Meeting which makes a decision to receive the applicant into membership or to delay this. Once received into membership by the Church Members' Meeting, this is symbolised by a welcome with the 'right hand of fellowship' in a service of worship, often at a communion service. In some churches, the welcome will be given at the same time or shortly after a person has been baptised. The reasons for this practice are as follows:

- Membership is something mutual, a covenant involving commitments on both sides. Existing church members are also entering into a commitment to new members and need therefore to receive them intentionally into the community.
- Membership is based upon personal commitment to Christ and the

public confession of Christ as Lord. Each person's testimony needs to be heard. Churches will want to understand the shape a person's individual pilgrimage has taken, when they were baptised, and, if they are coming from another Christian tradition which practises infant baptism, whether they have been confirmed and how they feel about believers' baptism.

- It is important that every church member should be able, with good conscience, to uphold a church's understanding and practice of the faith. If not, they might be happier in another congregation. It is helpful to clarify these things at the beginning so that they do not regret the decision later. Some churches have courses of introduction in which the commitments and values of the particular church are set out and opportunity given for questions to be asked.
- When somebody asks to become a member of a local church, the interview gives a good opportunity to talk about how they might contribute to its life and find the best ways to use their gifts and opportunities in God's service.

Some local Baptist churches insist that each person requesting membership is baptised by immersion as a believer before they can become full members of the church. Many Baptist churches are prepared to recognise that some people have become believers in another Christian tradition and will not insist on believers' baptism as a prerequisite for membership. However, this would probably need to be discussed and most Baptist churches would expect that whatever the shape of an individual's pilgrimage they would have been baptised at some time, even if this was infant baptism. Sometimes when a person has not been confirmed it is appropriate to explore whether baptism by immersion might be appropriate. In many churches new members are asked to affirm their faith when they are received into membership.

Church membership is a practice which helps to build strong churches and so, is good for individuals and good for the church.



KEEP CALM AND COMPLY WITH GDPR

As you are no doubt aware new laws governing the collection and use of personal data have come into force recently. These new laws affect all organisations, not just businesses. And therefore, we as Addlestone Baptist Church, are having to put in place new policies and procedures.

We therefore, require your written consent for us to hold certain information about you such as your address and telephone number. We also need your written permission if you would like to receive news and information via our email contact lists.

A form is now available, from Brian Channell, to be filled in should you want to be included in our church contacts database. More information on how your personal data will be stored and used is contained within that form. Without your written consent we will not be able to hold any information about you, so the quicker the form can be returned to us the better.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding GDPR and your personal data please contact Brian Channell either face to face or by emailing dataprotection@addlestonebaptist.org.uk



'Thank You' to everyone who supported Ben in his London2Brighton Cycle this month

The 54 mile event, in aid of the British Heart Foundation, involved cycling from Clapham Common to Brighton seafront.

Ben managed to complete the 54 miles in 3 hours 13 minutes. However, with a cycle to the start and a short ride at the end, he covered a total of 86 miles.

Thanks to the wonderful support of friends and family Ben managed to raise £555 for BHF research.

Foodbank really needs the following:

Tinned fruit, instant mash, feminine hygiene products, deodorant (male and female), razors, shaving foam, nappies (size 4, 5 & 6)

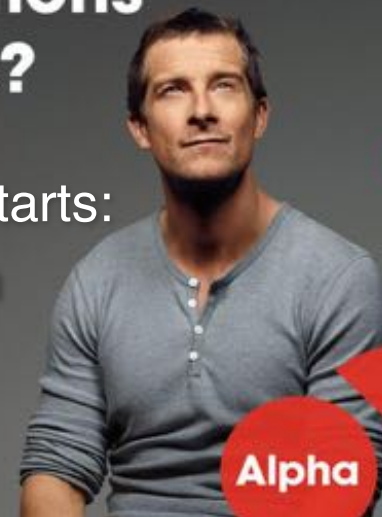
Thank you very much!



Got questions about life?

**Next course starts:
Tuesday 11th
September**

For more info please speak to Ben Fortescue



Alpha

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.



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Addlestone
BAPTIST CHURCH

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