

The ethos of Broadwater Baptist Church

We believe that Broadwater Baptist Church is called to be the face of Christ in this area, with a mission to embrace those in the community in the love of God because people matter to God.

Our ethos or motivation, and therefore our relationships and who we seek to be, is rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ and in his love. Such a faith encourages us to respond and declare the grace of God. No matter what age, background or stage of people's spiritual journey, Broadwater Baptist welcomes everyone - as we have been welcomed - and encourages people to respond to the Lord we worship.

We adhere to the statements of faith, principles and practices of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. We exist to praise God and to bear witness to Him in the world, to share his mission, to make known His faithful and saving love for all creation and to express His concern for the wholeness and harmony of all that He has made. We proclaim and live by the fact that:

† Each individual is unique, made in God's image and matters to God with a life that is to be used to His glory.

† God is love and this love pervades the universe and is unconditional rather than earned. Our response to this love is repentance and faith and a desire to embrace the world in the love of God.

† In His Son, Jesus, he personally took on the human condition, entered the disordered mess of struggling humanity in order to set it right by His life, death and resurrection and now by His Spirit enables us to live as Easter people.

† Church Membership usually involves Believer's Baptism and we are part of the historic, apostolic and world-wide church of Jesus Christ. The church is a demonstration and tool of the Kingdom of God - which is God's restorative presence.

Readings for Sunday 1st are Numbers 6:22-27, Galatians 4:4-7 and Luke 2:16-20

Luke 2:16-20 - "So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told."

Walking the way of Jesus

"Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us."
2 Timothy 3:17 The Message

BROADWATER BAPTIST CHURCH 2012

Services in January

Jan 1st	New Year's Day Our own Candlemass
Jan 8th	II Sunday service
Jan 15th	Communion
Jan 22nd	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with Andrew Fadoju and a united service at Offington Park Methodist in the evening

Dear Friends,

On July 27th the Olympic Torch, which will have passed through Worthing, will ignite The Games and will see many races. Many of the Olympic athletes will come from Europe, where recently leaders have been rushing to save the Euro. We will be watching on our TV screens while not really knowing our neighbours and then often turning off our TV's at night saying we have not had time to read our Bibles. Speed and rush in all around I see!

This year I want all of us at BBC encouraged to see the Christian life as more of a marathon than a sprint. As a church we have built many bridges into people's lives, and sensitively we should be looking for opportunities to now influence them to join us on the Jesus' way. This year, there will be an emphasis on sharing friendships, strengthening relationships, preaching on set passages and encouraging all to walk the way of Jesus.

The actual verse from 1 Timothy encourages us along this route through the Word. So this year I will also be attempting something quite unusual for us as a Baptist Church - preaching on passages and texts of the Bible which will be known in advance. The Lectionary is a listing of set readings for every Sunday in the year (and in fact for every single day in the year). This will enable everyone to know in advance what Bible passages can be read as a preparation to Sunday's sermon - sermons which will not always be preached on by myself. It is about re-reading passages of old and knowing what those passages will be in advance so that we can come to church already aware of what Scriptures we will read.

On a more personal level, it is to be the year when I will have the privilege and honour of conducting a number of weddings including one very, very special one! We hope to see Stuart again soon, as he will be the best man to his brother's wedding and we have a lot to look forward to. Undoubtedly, Angela, our Youth and Outreach Worker, will be challenging us in our witness and there are plans afoot for some special outreach activities. There are lots of good things in front of us all and I look forward to our ongoing journey and I am ever hoping to get back on my bike. Does anyone fancy a 2 day weekend trip in Devon later in the year?

At some point in the next few days, please take time to really ponder 2 Timothy 3:17 which tells us that "through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us." As I have spent time with it I have seen that it talks about the priority of relationships, the authority of Scripture and the opportunities for witness.

Sandra joins me in wishing you all joy and optimism for our New Year,

David

Notices

Church Members' Meeting around the communion table - Jan 26th

Come and hear some plans, pastoral issues and some personal acknowledgements from David that should concern us and pray for the future life of Broadwater Baptist. This is definitely a Church Meeting not to be missed!

June 2nd

A great line up of artists which will bless the soul and stimulate the mind. We have been asked to provide some car-parking attendants for the Sunday. It really is not an onerous task and simply involves standing in a line directing traffic for a couple of hours. Ideally the organisers would like a team from the same church and have asked us to provide that team. For the privilege of this small task you get free entry and you can still hear all the music! If you can help please talk to **David**.



For your prayers

Maisy has been in hospital for most of last week and we commend her and **Gemma and Owen** to your prayers. Please also continue to pray for **Stuart** as he travels around to try and obtain an emergency passport to get home.

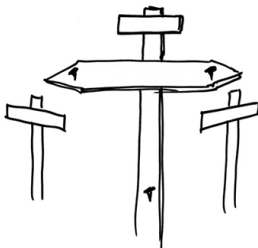
Baptismal service - 12th February

Baptism is a witness that we are walking in the steps of Jesus, it is an exciting public declaration of personal faith and leads into Church Membership. Two people have already said that they want go through the waters of Baptism and if you also want to join them, please speak to **David** as soon as possible. In Acts chapter 2 we read that baptism is tied up with beginnings and an act of discipleship. If you believe you are a disciple of Jesus then you will have given thought to getting baptised yourself.



The BBC Forum – Where Do We Go From Here?

As we consider 'Walking The Way Of Jesus,' we will be taking the opportunity to share with each other the things that are important to us and what activities the fellowship of Broadwater Baptist should be doing to support this. All are invited to join together on the morning of **Saturday 25th February** from 9:30am until 1pm to explore 'where do we go from here?'



As part of our preparation, there are a couple of activities for homegroups to complete. Could leaders please see **Paul Rycroft** to collect a worksheet for your homegroup.

Entrance (Psalm 103:20)

David: Within your temple,
All: we ponder your loving kindness, O God.
As your name, so also your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with justice.

Creed

All: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

David: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who, with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

All: We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer after the sweets

David: Father, your heart is love;
All: we offer you these bitter-sweet prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who was born and died for us. Amen.

BMS BIRTHDAYS Happy New Year and Happy Birthday!!

4th Julie Moon (70th!!) 18th Angela Butler
19th Sandra Hill 31st Diane Barrs

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