

Why we baptise people (Baptist Union)

When people asked the apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost how they might respond to his message about Jesus, 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 turn away from 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 key 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.

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.

**Sunday - 10 am**

Today's sermon: Mary Meets Jesus

John 20:10-18

Preacher: Rev. David Lockwood

*The service will include the baptisms of
Els Busby, Ola Coker, Braam Botha and Hannah MacDonald*

Motto Verse for 2025

'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.'

Romans 1:16

Our vision

Knowing Jesus, Transforming people,

Changing society

There are collection boxes for your offering as you enter the sanctuary or exit for refreshments. If you wish to donate via BACS the account details for Beulah are Barclays Bank, Beulah Baptist, Sort Code 202791 A/c No 70094730

There is now also an option for contactless giving via our card machines, located in the foyer or on the reception desk.

Beulah Baptist Church

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CHURCH DIARY

Sun 20 th	9.00 am	Sunday Morning Prayer (Buckhurst Room)
	10.00 am	Morning service - Easter Sunday
	10.15 am	ACCESS Group (Payne Room)
	2 - 5.30 pm	Beulah Easter Picnic at Ashburnham Place
Mon 21 st	EASTER MONDAY	
Tue 22 nd	10.00 am	Toddlers (Beulah Centre)
	11.00 am	St. P&P School Easter Day (Sanctuary)
	2 - 4 pm	Connect Group (Buckhurst Room)
	2 - 4 pm	Art Club (Clifford Hall)
	6-7.30 pm	Limitless Youth Club (Beulah Centre)
	7.30 pm	RunningSpace (Clifford Hall)
Wed 23 rd	10 - 12 pm	Ukrainian Hub (Beulah Centre)
	11-12.30pm	Coffee Drop-in and Community Meals (Clifford Hall)
	7 - 9 pm	Beta Group (Barnett Barn)
	7.30 pm	Men's Connect Group (Payne Room)
	7.30 pm	Church Prayer Meeting (Buckhurst Room) <i>- Praising, waiting, seeking and interceding and revival</i>
Thu 24 th	9.00 am	Clifford Day Centre (Clifford Hall)
	7.30 pm	Worship Group Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Fri 25 th	11.30 am	Thanksgiving service for Sarah Clarke (Sanctuary)
	7.30 pm	Square Dancing (Clifford Hall)
Sun 27 th	9.00 am	Sunday Morning Prayer (Buckhurst Room)
	10.00 am	Morning service
	10.15 am	OYPS Group (Payne Room)

Please note that during the Easter period, there will be no study notes for this week.

Beulah Arts & Crafts Exhibition - 10 & 11 May 2025

With just two weeks to go before registrations close for the Art & Craft Exhibition, it would be really helpful to know if you wish to exhibit something. We can then plan rooms and spaces. The theme for this year is "**The parables and miracles of Jesus**"



We are looking for a Team Leader for our popular **Tuesday Toddler Group**, as Caroline will be stepping out of this role shortly. If you are interested in leading a great team of volunteers, as part of a well-established ministry, please speak to Karline Botha.

Ministry beyond Beulah: some of our members who regularly preach at Beulah often preach in other churches. They serve a wider ministry and would appreciate prayers as they do so.

Brian Wightwick:

Broadway Hampden Park - 20th April at 10am

Polegate Free Church - 27th April at 6.30pm

Please note that the **Men's Coffee Morning** will not be meeting on Easter Monday, but will meet next Monday 28th April. Speaker, Peter Ewan.

Sarah Clarke's funeral service will be held on Friday, 25th April at 11.30am here at Beulah. All welcome to join, there will be refreshments in the Clifford Hall afterwards.

There will be a service at the Hastings Crematorium at 10.15am, for close friends and family only please.

Building Development - meeting on the church premises, on Friday 25th April at 2pm, we have the first of a series of meetings with representatives from the Local Planning Authority to explore what they are likely to allow us to do with regard to either rebuilding part of our premises or adapting what we have to give more flexible, usable space. Pastor David, Paul Hellyer and Pat Reigh will meet with the Planners. Many of you will be aware of the discussions that have gone on for a long time and we would appreciate your prayers for this meeting.