



BBC NEWS

We meet in various ways ...

- Sundays Morning service:** 11am
- Carol Praise:** 10th @ 6pm (Church Institute)
- Tea-time Service:** (not happening this month)
- Home Groups:** Monday & Tuesday evenings
- Connect:** 14th December @ 2pm
- Well-being Revive:** Mondays, from 1pm until 2.30pm
(not Christmas Day and New Year's Day)
- Children & Family activities (term time)**
- Revive Café:** Mondays @ 2.30 (term-time)
- Bratton Bugs:** Fridays 8th & 15th @1.45-3pm
- Comets:** Friday 8th at 6.30pm (for Key Stage 2 chn.)
- Messy Church:** Sunday 17th @ 4pm
- Fusion:** 1st December (for 11-14s)
- "Early Bird" Joint Prayer Meeting:** Wednesdays @ 7am
- Pickleberry Ladies coffee & catch-up:** Thursdays @ 11
- EE Christmas Lunch:** 6th December at 12.15
- Opportunity to worship:** Friday 7pm (see Steve D.)
- Leadership Team:** Monday 4th @ 7.30pm

Advent Calendar Trail:

Join us in sharing joy and peace this Christmas. Join our advent celebration and decorate your window. Contact Allison for more information.



Join us on **Friday 22nd December at 4pm:** collect a trail map and explore the excitement of Christmas by visiting the advent window displays around the village. We will be serving hot drinks and Christmas treats.



Update from Esther:

Dear church,
Wishing you all a very happy Advent season - hopefully you'll be able to join us in our Advent readings for December as included below.

If you're looking to serve at any of the Christmas events, do speak to me as I have lots of opportunities for helping out! I have two Wednesdays left at college during December and then unbelievably I'm half way through my final year! During December I'll be in the office as normal on Mondays and Fridays.

Wishing you all a peaceful Advent season and praying that you may know the reality of Christ's presence close with you in the coming weeks.

Every Blessing

Esther



01 Dec Isaiah 2:2-5	13 Dec 2 Peter 3:3-13
02 Dec Isaiah 9:1-7	14 Dec Mark 14:60-65
03 Dec Isaiah 11:1-9	15 Dec Jer 33:14-17
04 Dec Isaiah 11:10-16	16 Dec Micah 5:2-5
05 Dec Isaiah 39:5-40:11	17 Dec Eze 34:11-31
06 Dec Isaiah 52:1-12	18 Dec Zec 8:1-8
07 Dec Isaiah 61:1-4	19 Dec Zep 3:14-17
08 Dec Galatians 4:4-6	20 Dec Isaiah 7:10-17
09 Dec 1 Thess 4:13-18	21 Dec Matt 1:11-17
10 Dec 1 Thess 5:1-11	22 Dec Luke 1:26-38
11 Dec 1 Cor 15:20-28	23 Dec Luke 1:39-56
12 Dec Col 1:15-20	24 Dec Matt 1:18-25



Other Notices:

Preachers during December:

- 3rd: White Horse Wonderers + Fellowship Lunch
- 10th: Martin Smith
- 17th: Esther McManus
- 24th: no morning service
- 25th: Christmas Day at 10am (Esther)
- 31st: Graham Warmington



Sunday 24th December at 6:30pm.

Join with us in gathering outside the chapel to sing Christmas Carols and experience the wonder of the Christmas story, with mulled wine and mince pies served after.

Messages from Janet Waring:



There are 14 members of this scheme. I have the date of their birthdays and I give them a BMS birthday card each year near the date. They then give a gift of money to this mission if they can. They can either send the money direct or give to our church treasurer to send on. If anyone else would like to join please let me know—but no pressure at all, as I know you all give to charities that you favour already!

Also, thank you to all those who are contributing their



used stamps and putting them in the container at our church. From what I understand, another parcel from local churches will be posted very soon which will

make seven so far this year. This is the time of year when people usually receive more stamped post. May we encourage you to save used stamps for the Bible Society who sell them and funds raised go towards their work in so many ways, such as sending 356,000 Bibles to Ukraine when they received a request.

Praying for each other ('23 Annual report):

1] The following members of our congregation:

Those whose names begin with "H", especially Graham Harris (who has recently been in hospital) and his wife, Alwyn.

2] The Soup Run. Teams from Bratton continue to support the soup run in Trowbridge Multi-storey car park. Please continue to pray for the work of the soup run and for the Churches that work together to support it.

Extra message from Esther:



"We will be working towards becoming a dementia friendly church. As part of this we have arranged for a representative from Alzheimer's Support to come and give an information session. Here are the details to put in your diaries."

Date: Thursday, 11th January, 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Alzheimer's Support dementia awareness session aims to help you gain a better understanding of dementia; including the common causes, effects and tips on supporting people living with dementia in our community.

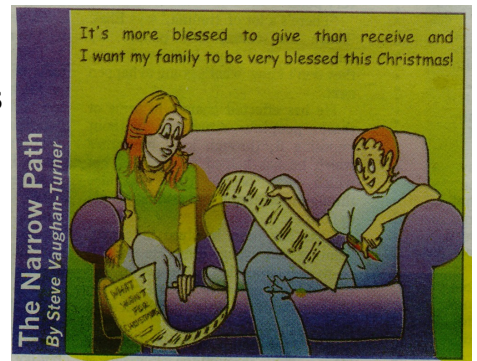
We suggest a donation of £10 on the day to cover the charity's cost. However, times are hard, so please donate what you can - every contribution helps!

You can sign up by contacting Esther McManus: email: esther@brattonbaptistchurch.org.uk or phone: 07879 137 565

Please sign up by Friday, 5th January, 2024



This month's cartoon: originally from the Baptist Times



If you wish to include something in next month's Newsletter, please let me have it (electronically or on paper) by the 28th of the previous month - (other than February, of course).
By just telling me of something will probably mean that I will have forgotten it, by the time I get home!

Graham

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And finally:

"The Christian should resemble a fruit tree, not a Christmas tree! For the gaudy decorations of a Christmas tree are only tied on, whereas fruit grows on a fruit tree."

(John Stott)