

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.



5th April 2026

**Today's sermon: God's Rescue
*Isaiah 25:6-9***

Preacher: Rev. David Lockwood

The service will include the baptisms of Emily and Tabitha

A warm welcome to anyone here for the first time today.

Please make yourself known to a steward.

Prayer prior to the service will take place in the
Buckhurst Room from 9am.

Motto Verse for 2026

**'... so is My word that goes out from My mouth:
It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it'**

Isaiah 55:11

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.

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CHURCH DIARY

Sun 5 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	Ashburnham Place BBQ
	4 - 5 pm	Afternoon Communion Service (Buckhurst Room)
Mon 6 th		EASTER MONDAY
Tue 7 th	12.30-2 pm	Mental Health Group (Barnett Barn)
	7.30 pm	Connect Group (Buckhurst Room)
Wed 8 th	10 - 12 pm	Ukrainian Hub (Beulah Centre)
	10-12 noon	Warm Space Café (Buckhurst Room)
	11-12.30pm	Community Meals for those who have booked (Clifford Hall)
	7.00 pm	Beta Group (Payne Room)
	7.30 pm	Men's Connect Group (Barnett Barn)
Thu 9 th	10.00 am	The Lighthouse Club (Clifford Hall)
	10.30 am	Open Prayer Session (Psalm 23 Room)
	7.30 pm	Worship Group Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Fri 10 th	10.00 am	Connect Group (Barnett Barn)
	7.30 pm	Square Dancing (Clifford Hall)
Sun 12 th	9.00 am	Sunday Morning Prayer (Buckhurst Room)
	10.00 am	Morning service - <i>Guest speaker: Guy Partridge</i>
	10.15 am	OYPs Group (Payne Room)
	12.30 pm	Sunday Lunch Club for those who have booked
	6-7.30 pm	Ethos (Barnett Barn)
	6.30 pm	Leadership Prayer Meeting (Payne Room)

Rev. David Lockwood, our Senior Pastor, will be on annual leave next week. For any emergencies please contact our pastoral Elder, Brian Wightwick or our Pastoral Co-ordinator, Joanna Legg-Bagg on pastoral@beulahbaptist.co.uk.

Karline Botha, our Family Worker, will also be on annual leave next week.

Again, as part of the growing church and the children's ministry, we are urgently seeking **volunteers to support Sunday Club**. In particular, those with gifting in complex needs would be greatly appreciated and would bring a much-needed boost to our team. Please prayerfully consider getting involved and speaking with Karline Botha. You do not have to be trained, but a heart for children or a calling is a requirement. God doesn't call the equipped, but He equips the called.

The following **Connect Groups who meet at Beulah**, will not be meeting this week:

- Tuesday 10:30am group & Tuesday 2pm group
- Wednesday 2pm group

Meetings will commence from week beginning Monday 13th April.

Join us for our monthly **Bring-and-share Lunch**, on Sunday 26th April. The theme this time will be Greek! Why not take part by bringing along a dish inspired by the flavours of Greece? You could try classics such as moussaka, souvlaki, Greek salad, or spanakopita. For something sweet, baklava, Greek yoghurt with honey and nuts, or loukoumades would be wonderful additions. It's a great opportunity to enjoy good food and fellowship together - everyone is warmly welcome!

We would love you to join us for our upcoming **Praise & Prayer evening**. The evening is a special time to come together in God's presence, with around 1.5 hours of worship interlaced with prayer, testimonies, and space to listen and respond. These evenings are powerful and important for our church life. Come expectant, and be part of all that God is doing among us.

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

Brian Wightwick:

Broadway Utd, Hampden Park - 12th April at 10am

Normanhurst Care Home - 12th April at 3.30pm

Bernhard Baron Care Home - 26th April at 5.00pm

Polegate Free Church - 26th April at 6.30pm

Pat Reigh:

Robertsbridge Community Church - 19th April at 10.30am

Ashburnham Chapel - 19th April at 6.30pm