

september's diary

- Fri 4th** **Friday Fellowship** 2.30 – 4.00pm
Come and hear some interesting speakers and enjoy a cup of tea – Particularly for older members of the community. All welcome!
- Thurs 10th** **Papercraft Club** 7.00 – 9.00pm
All Welcome! – Why not bring a friend?
- Wed 16th** **CAP** (Christians Against Poverty)
12.00 noon – 1.30pm
Formal opening of the Chichester Office. All welcome.
- Thurs 17th** **Searchers** 6.00 – 7.30pm
Club for School Years 3 - 5
- Elev8** 7.30 – 9.00pm
Club for School Years 6- 8
- Fri 18th** **Friday Fellowship** 2.30 – 4.00pm
- Sat 19th** **Torch** 2.30 – 4.30pm
Meeting for the Visually Impaired
All Welcome.
- Tues 22nd** **Alpha Taster Evening** See Advert
- Sun 27th** **Back to Church Sunday** 10.00am
Special Guest Service
All Welcome.
- Tues 29th** **Start of the Alpha Course**
7.00pm – 9.30pm

All events held at CBC unless specified.

Please call 01243 782582 for more information.

Regular events

- Sun** **Church Club** (Restarts Sunday 6th September) 8.00pm
Youth Drop in School Year 9+
- Tues** **Acorns** (Restarts 8th September) 10.00 – 11.30am
Parents & Toddlers Group - All Welcome!
- Thurs** **Bible Study** (Restarts 10th September) 10.30 – 12.00 noon
Friendly Bible study for older people in the community – All Welcome!
- Lunch Club** (Restarts 10th September) 12.15 – 1.30pm
Friendly meal for older people in the community – You will be very welcome!
- Fri** **The Hub** (Restarts 11th September) 7.30 – 9.30pm
Youth Drop in for School Year 9+

Other events taking place at CBC to which all are welcome:

- Fitness League** – Every Tuesday from 15th September onwards from 2.30pm – 3.30pm followed by a cup of tea. Come along to a gentle keep fit class for those 55 and over. (sessions also include seated exercises if required)
For more information contact Christine Cook 01243 533612
e.mail: chcook@madasafish.com
- Parklands Surgery** – Patients Participation Group – Wednesday 23rd September at 7.30pm – All Welcome!
- Chichester District Senior Forum** – Thursday 17th September – 2.00 – 4.30pm – A forum for older people aged 60+ to discuss, share information, campaign and enjoy a range of social events – For more information contact Yvonne Green - 01243 531940.

BacktoChurchSunday

Guests are always welcome at our services, but if you haven't been for a while, why not join thousands of others throughout the UK who will be going 'back to church' on Sunday 27th September. Our 10am service is specially for you if you'd like to try church again after a break!

you're invited!

We would like to invite you, as our close neighbours, to the public launch of the Chichester Christians Against Poverty Centre here on Wednesday 16th September at 12.00 noon finishing by 1.30pm. There will be a brief presentation followed by the formal launch by the Mayor of Chichester. Light refreshments will be provided. If you are able to come please either

e-mail Chichester@capuk.org or ring the church office on 782582.

CAP is a national debt counselling charity working through a network of centres based in local churches. It offers hope and a solution to anyone in debt through its unique in-depth service.



sunday services

10am Morning service with children's and youth groups and crèche.
Please join us for tea or coffee and a chat after this service.

6.30pm Evening service
Communion: 1st Sunday of the month during the 6.30pm service and the 3rd Sunday of the month during the 10am service.



Chichester Baptist Church, Sherborne Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 3AW.
T: 01243 782582 E: info@chichesterbaptist.org.uk

www.chichesterbaptist.org.uk

contact

September 2009

timeless



The last time we went down to Cornwall to visit my mother, we had one of those evenings when the old photos were retrieved and my children had a good laugh at what their father looked like 30 years ago. “Look at those clothes!” “What a hairdo!” It’s undeniably me, but some how all those years ago I seem to have been devoid of dress-sense. Actually, I get similar comments nowadays too, but that’s a different story ...

Well, we hope you like the new-look Contact magazine. It’s undeniably us, but we’re updating our image this autumn to move with the times. If you wander past our church building you might notice some other things, and if you venture inside, more still.

But it’s undeniably us. If you scratch beneath the surface, you will find that our core message is unchanged. We don’t see ourselves as a company that needs to rebrand itself with a new image to back up a new message. Our perspective is that we have a timeless message, contemporary in any age, and that our medium of delivery needs to keep up-to-date.

So what is this timeless message that we work so hard to present in a contemporary way? Quite simply, it’s this. God, our Creator, loves us more than we can imagine, and wants us to know him. We, the masterpiece out of all his creative activity, have turned our backs on him, broken his laws, and proudly declared in our actions if not in our

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words that we are good enough, strong enough, big enough to live without his help, thank you very much.

And yet something deep inside us knows that there is more to life than what meets the eye, that there is a spiritual dimension to life, and we feel restless and hungry, sometimes purposeless and even despairing, to know that reality. God graciously reaches out to us in our need and offers us hope – the promise of a new start (not just a make over), the promise of a new quality of life.

And the key to it all is a person – Jesus Christ. Jesus, through his death on a cross, bridges the gap between a loving but just God and a helpless but fallen humanity, and faith in him makes the relationship between the Creator and his creation a reality.

That’s the timeless message that we hope to present in ever fresh ways. It’s undeniably us. But ultimately, it’s undeniably about him.

This month: Under pressure • Our new CAP office launch

under pressure

Many people who have no interest in the Bible claim that it is irrelevant to modern-day living. Those of us who read it know better.

Take a very topical issue – STRESS! According to the Health & Safety Executive¹, up to 5 million people in the UK are ‘very’ or ‘extremely’ stressed through work. Many more are stressed at home or in other environments.

The Bible has a lot to say about stress. It invites us, “Be still, and know that I am God.”² We would benefit from following the basic advice of the first two words – “be still”. If we stopped periodically throughout the day, laid down our tools of work, slowed down our breathing, and stayed still, we would be better off for it.

We would benefit even more if we reflected on the fact that God is God – that there is nothing that escapes his attention, nothing too hard for him to do, no situation in which we find ourselves where he is not present, nothing that he can’t understand. If we did that then the feelings of stress – which come when we feel like things are out of control – would not have such a strong hold over us.

That’s just one phrase among countless in the Bible that make it relevant to modern day issues. No wonder another writer said, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”³

¹ www.hse.gov.uk

² Psalm 46:10

³ Psalm 119:105

**“IS THERE
MORE TO LIFE
THAN THIS?”**

**Explore life’s big questions
on Alpha.**

Taster Evening 22nd September,
7.00pm at Chichester Baptist
Church.

Call 01243 782582 for more details.



a new start

I was brought up in a Christian home. My dad was a deacon and my parents ran the youth group. Sunday was a different day to the rest; we went to church, had a roast and chilled out. My dad said it should be a day that was different and I do agree even now, although that is easier said than done with our busy lives.

When I was 14, I went to a Christian crusade and made a conscious decision to become a Christian. As a teenager that can be hard, but I have never gone back on it.

One of the main events in my life was when I married at 21, after a 3 year engagement. My

other affairs during our marriage, three friends amongst them!!

I have vivid memories of sitting in bed one night sobbing and God reaching down to me. I felt He was so close I could touch Him. I always knew He had a purpose and plan for me but didn't know how He could fulfil that without

letting me have my dream of a husband and family. I knew God's will must be done and He would be with me, and help me in whatever He had for me. He promises that in his Word.

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husband was meant to be a Christian also and went around in a Christian band preaching at kids. I've always been the marrying kind and wanted the 2.4 kids and a dog. After three and a half years my now ex-husband told me he was leaving me. I was devastated. He had decided to go off with our best friend's fiancée. I had no idea. Then I found out he had been having

I also needed to forgive my ex husband and the girls so that my relationship could be right with God; not to make them feel better but for me, so bitterness wouldn't have a hold on me. Since then I have met my new husband and have three great children (and a dog). God is faithful and he is there all the time. He hurts with us and He always cares. He never leaves us nor forsakes us.

who you might meet in church

Joanne Hawker



What do you do?

I'm currently doing A-Levels at Bishop Luffa.

What is your favourite food?

Pizza!

How do you like to chill out?

Chocolate and Facebook.

Which person past or present would you like to meet?

Sir Robert Peel; dubbed one of the greatest Prime Ministers, he certainly changed his mind a lot!

What is your favourite book of the Bible?

1 Timothy.

What is your word of wisdom for today?

Never give up!

What winds you up?

My brother and sister!

What would you do if you were Prime Minister for the day?

Be indecisive?

What are your aspirations for the next 12 months?

Finish my A-levels and get a place at a good university!

Sum your life up in five words

Often stressful but always blessed.

What gadget would you find it hard to live without?

My computer.

What is your favourite television programme?

I don't watch that much TV, but I did enjoy 'All the Small Things' on BBC1 recently.

Have you any claims to fame?

I babysit for a little girl who was once on Eastenders...