



Crowthorne Baptist Church

What's on – May 2026



“Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky?

(Acts 1:11a NIVUK)

Which Christian festival do you think is most important? Is it Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Pentecost, or something else? One special day that is often overlooked in some denominations (and can be at CBC if we are honest) is Ascension Day. Like Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day falls on a weekday. It is always a Thursday and is 10 days before Pentecost, so this year it is on May 14th. Luke records the event at the end of his Gospel and again in more detail at the beginning of Acts. He describes how the disciples watched as Jesus was taken up to heaven and a cloud hid him from their sight.

The picture above is one of the ceiling bosses in York Minster. It shows Jesus's feet in the centre (the view the disciples would have) and the disciples' upturned faces, gazing into the sky.

Of course, every event in the life of Jesus is important, which is why we celebrate them during the year. Without Christmas there could be no Good Friday. Without Good Friday there could be no Easter Sunday. Without the Ascension there could be no Pentecost. Jesus said to his disciples at the last supper, *“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”* (John 16:7)

Here are 4 reasons why the Ascension is important: it is proof that Jesus was who he said he was (the Son of God); it shows that Jesus's sacrifice on the cross was accepted by God the Father; it meant that Jesus could send the Holy Spirit as he had promised, and it assures us that Jesus will one day return in glory to put everything right for ever. So let's praise Jesus, not just for his death and resurrection, but for his ascension and for sending the Holy Spirit to comfort us, guide us and to empower us.

Elaine

May at CBC

For most of May we are in the season between Easter and Pentecost. For our Sunday services we conclude the “Alive Forever” series, thinking about what Jesus’s resurrection means for us, then we turn our attention to Pentecost and the birth of the Church. Our Moderator, James Bloice Smith, will be preaching for us twice – right at the end of this month and early in June.

Sun 3/5	10:30	All-age Worship – About turn! (Acts 9:3-11)
Fri 8/5	19:30	Worship Workshop in the Heart
Sun 10/5	10:30	Sunday Worship – “Eternal hope” (1 Cor. 15:1-22). Preacher: Vicki Gibson
Sun 10/5	18:00	Youth Social – Rounders on the Rec Everyone welcome! (Ends 19:30)
Mon 11/5	19:30	Church Leaders’ meeting
Thurs 14/5	14:00	Thursday Fellowship in the Heart Speaker: Chris Stratton (Leprosy Mission)
Sun 17/5	10:30	Sunday Worship with Communion – “Changed in resurrection” (1 Cor. 15:35-58) (Communion offering for Samaritan’s Purse) Preacher: Raymond Shotter
Weds 20/5	10:30	Service at St. Brendan’s care home
Sat 23/5	08:30	Men’s Breakfast in the Hub Speaker: Steve Benton
Sun 24/5	10:30	Sunday Worship for Pentecost Sunday (Acts 2:1-21) Preacher: Steve Benton
Thurs 28/5	14:00	Thursday Fellowship in the Heart Speaker: Tim “Dozer” (Bikers Against Child Abuse)
Sun 31/5	10:30	Sunday Worship – “Created Equal” (Genesis 2:18-25) Preacher: Rev. James Bloice Smith

May Communion Service



In our monthly Communion services, where we celebrate the Lord's Supper, it is CBC's tradition to take up an extra offering for a charity.

This month our offering goes to Samaritan's Purse. (www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/)

Youth Sports Social – Sunday 10th May

Open to ALL! Rounders on the Morgan Rec from 6pm to 7:30pm. Come along and join in or just watch. Bring your own chairs / picnic blanket / picnic.

See Emma Joyce for more details



Men's Breakfast Saturday 23rd May 8:30am

Speaker: Steve Benton
Cost £5. To book see Martin or email:
bookings.crowthornebaptist@gmail.com



Woking Salvation Army Band Concert – Saturday 9th May at 7pm

At Crowthorne Methodist Church. We are invited to join them for some fun music, singing, and cakes and refreshments in the interval!



Donations for the tickets is £5, under 18's free. The tickets are available through CMC, on the door (subject to availability) or by contacting events@crowthornemethodistchurch.org.uk

SABON RAI – NŌVO'S New Project in Nigeria Saturday 9th May 7:30pm at the Kerith Centre



An evening with Andy Partington, Nōvo Founder. Dessert, worship and prayer. All welcome. More information here:

<https://novocommunities.org/communities/sabonrai/>

Christmas Shoeboxes 2026

In May we collect toys for boys, e.g., cars, playing cards, tennis balls, sweatbands, etc. Other ideas on the website. Check the website for what can be included:

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk



Please note that we can no longer put bars of soap in the shoeboxes, due to the complexity of customs restrictions on various items.

Gray's Farm Opening Times in May

Rhubarb is available to pick or buy on Saturday mornings in May between 9:30 and 12:30.

Full opening for strawberries from Saturday 23rd May

Speak to Peter Gray for more info.



Coming up in June and beyond

Family Games Night – Saturday 6th June 6 – 8pm



All ages welcome. Free entry. Refreshments. Invite friends and neighbours.

To book, see Eric or email:

bookings.crowthornebaptist@gmail.com

Important Safeguarding Briefing – Sunday 7th June



For all who work with our children and young people at CBC. Immediately after our Morning Service lasting no more than 20 minutes.

After this there will be another short meeting for all those who work with Creche and the 4-11 group on Sunday mornings. Please attend if you can!

SHINE! “Sparkle & Shine” Saturday Specials

A fun time of craft, games and music for all the family to enjoy together on Saturday mornings 10am to 12:15pm



Next one is on Saturday 13th June

Suggested donation £2 per child. To book, please speak to Sarah or email shine.crowthornebaptist@gmail.com

Church Meeting Dates 2026

- **Sunday June 28th** – Forum meeting after the service
- **Monday Sept 28th** – 7:45pm
- **Sunday Nov 29th** – Forum meeting after the service



Our church meetings are usually open to anyone who is connected to CBC, but only church members can take part in any voting processes. All church members are encouraged to make these meetings a priority, especially in this time of pastoral vacancy.

Crowthorne Carnival 4th – 13th July “Planet Earth”

- Saturday 4th July Carnival Day: Church open for refreshments during the parade.
Volunteers needed! See Emma Frost
- Saturday 11th – Monday 13th July: Flower Festival at St. John’s Church. Sally is preparing CBC’s arrangement on the theme of Mount Everest



Abstinent Success!

Beccy gave up chocolates, biscuits and cakes for the whole of Lent to raise money for Yeldall Manor



The total raised is provisionally £642 (including gift aid) and may be more in the end. Well done, Beccy!

CBC Quiz Night Update

The Quiz Night in March raised an impressive **£249**. The money has been split equally among 3 worthy causes: MND Association, Tearfund and CBC.

Many thanks to Eric and everyone who helped and supported.



Motor Neurone Disease (MND)

Yvie shines a spotlight on this disease, which is very personal to her.



Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is often described as a snowflake disease — not because it is delicate, but because no two people experience it in the same way. In the UK, around six people are diagnosed every single day, each facing a journey that is unpredictable and deeply life-changing. In January 2025, I was formally diagnosed with progressive spinal muscular atrophy, a form of MND that has so far affected my speech and ability to swallow. It carries an average life expectancy of 2–3 years. Like so many others, I am learning that this condition touches every life differently and brings challenges that evolve over time.

This is why the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) is so vital. They fund groundbreaking research, provide essential equipment, and offer emotional and practical support to families navigating MND.

As a church family, we invite you to join us in supporting their work - perhaps through a sponsored silence, a quiz night, wearing blue and white (MND colours) to church and donating, hosting a tea morning, taking on a personal challenge, or simply helping raise awareness. Many will remember the Ice Bucket Challenge of 2014; that same spirit of compassion and community can still make a real difference today. Together, we can turn awareness into action and hope into progress.

For more information visit the website:

<https://www.mndassociation.org/>

Prayer Matters

Prayer Space

Would you like someone to pray with you after the Sunday service?



Two members of our Prayer Team will be ready and happy to pray with you at the front of the Heart on most Sundays. Please go over and speak with them.

NO Church Family Prayer this month

Monday 4th May is a Bank Holiday Monday. Please pray at home, remembering our continued search for a new minister and our church life together.

Focus on the Persecuted Church

In many countries in the world, following Jesus could cost you your life. There are violent extremists and dictatorial authorities that have one aim; to make being a Christian impossible.



Open Doors has compiled a **World Watch List**, which names the 10 worst countries to live in as a Christian. Number 3 on the list this year is **Yemen**. Khalid, a recent convert to Christianity said, "I had an extremist mentality towards anyone who wasn't a Muslim. When my family found out about my new faith, I was disowned by my father, who now views me as a blasphemer and no longer his son!! I had bruises on my back, my sides, my arms and my face, when I managed to make contact with the Christian community, who were a lifeline in those tough, tough days.

Open Doors Prayer for Yemen

Lord God, raise up more believers in Yemen we pray. Bless the online ministry of courageous Christians like Khaled, and place unstoppable curiosity in the hearts and minds of those who encounter these posts and videos. Please help Yemeni Christians develop and grow in their faith and show them the love of a powerful and gentle Father. Amen

CBC Golf – Bill Adams Golf Day

For quite a number of years, CBC has held a golf day locally in the summer. The trophy was named in honour of Bill Adams.



It is open to anyone connected to CBC who plays golf and friends can be invited too. The date and venue can be flexible to accommodate the majority!

If you would be interested in playing this year, then please see Philip Hood as soon as possible.

Maintenance Team

Members of the CBC Maintenance team are:

**Alan Gravett : Philip Hood : Mike Stephenson :
Richard Elsbury and Richard Wells**

If you spot anything that needs needs attention, please let Philip or Mike know or you can email the group on maintenance@crowthornebaptist.org.uk



Eco Church

Charity Collections at CBC

We collect standard plastic milk bottle tops and used postage stamps for charity. Collection point in the Hub foyer or give them to Elaine.



Used Postage Stamps for Bible Society

The used stamps we collect are sent to the Bible Society. Please CUT stamps off envelopes (rather than tear them) and ideally leave around 1cm (½”) border around the stamp then give them to Maggie.



Crowthorne Foodbank

Donations to the Foodbank are always welcome at any time. We have a box in the Hub foyer where you can leave items.

The list of things needed is subject to change from week to week, so check the website for up to date information (<https://crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk/>)



Some suggestions are below.

- Long life milk
- Pasta
- Pulses (lentils, etc)
- Dried rice (500g packs)
- Jars of pasta sauce
- Tins of spaghetti
- Jam
- Tinned meat and fish
- Tinned fruit & vegetables
- Tinned tomatoes
- Fruit juices
- Tinned puddings
- Breakfast cereals
- Porridge
- Biscuits
- Small jars of coffee
- Squash
- Black bags
- Toilet rolls
- Anti-bac spray
- Bleach
- Laundry detergent capsules
- Washing up liquid
- J cloths / sponges
- Liquid hand wash
- Bars of soap
- Shampoos / conditioners
- Shower gel
- Deodorants (men & women)
- Toothbrushes for adults
- Toothpaste for adults

The Foodbank is located at the Vineyard Centre in Wellington Business Park and is open Mondays and Thursdays from 12 to 2pm. There is an additional session on Mondays from 5:30 to 7pm.

If you know of anyone who needs to be referred to the Foodbank for help, vouchers are available. Please speak to Sue Burrow or Elaine.

The Leadership Team

We are in a period of pastoral vacancy, which means that there is more work to do for all of us, especially the Leadership Team. At the AGM in April, Sue Burrow was elected as Deacon and Elaine Hood stepped down at the end of her term as an Elder. Please pray for the Team and the process of appointing a new Minister.

Treasurer	Justine Wells
Secretary	<i>vacancy</i>
Deacons	Emma Frost, Sarah Webb, Sue Burrow, Richard Elsbury & Eric Panayiotou

Photos of all members of the Leadership Team are in the Heart Foyer. **Please contact any member of the Team** if there is anything you want to share, an issue you want to raise or if you have any pastoral concerns. Individual contact details are in the Church Directory. There is also a single email address that will reach every member of the team individually: leadershipteam@crowthornebaptist.org.uk

Leadership Team Meetings

The team usually meets for a business meeting on the 2nd Monday in the month and prayer on the 4th Monday. Your prayers for these meetings and for issues discussed are very much appreciated.

A summary of the minutes from each meeting is available on the noticeboard near the Heart. They are emailed out to everyone on the CBC list. If you would like a printed copy, please speak to Emma.

Search Team Update

There were no enquiries from prospective ministers by the 30th April deadline. Our Moderator, James, reassures us that this is not unusual. The profile will be posted again on the BU website. More information in due course.

Regular Activities

House Groups at CBC

Groups meet at different times during the week for Bible study and fellowship:

- Monday and Friday mornings
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings

Please speak to one of the Leadership Team if you would like to join one - or even start a new one!



Midweek Events at CBC

Good Neighbours	Weekdays 10am to 12 noon in the Hub Foyer (Telephone 01344 761001)
The Ark Preschool	Weekday mornings in term time in the Hub
Zone6 (for year 6)	Mondays in term time 3:15-5:00pm
Zone78/9 (for years 7/8/9)	Fridays in term time 6:30-8:30pm
AA	Every Monday 7:00-8:30pm in the Hub
Breakaway Brass	Every Tuesday 8:00-10:00pm in the Hub
CTC Coffee Shop	Every Thursday 10:30-11:30am in the Heart

Would you like to book a room at CBC?

Ask Julianty or email

booking@crowthornebaptist.org.uk

Find out more on our website:

www.crowthornebaptist.org.uk

Church office phone 07767 186336
(for outside contacts)

