



Crowthorne Baptist Church

What's on – April 2026



“Be patient and wait for the Lord to act; don't be worried about those who prosper or those who succeed in their evil plans.

Don't give in to worry or anger; it only leads to trouble.”

(Psalm 37:7-8 Good News Bible)

On the fifth Sunday in Lent our theme was “Waiting, anxiety and trust”. Rev. David Hughes brought us an encouraging message based on Isaiah 43:1-7. A few days later, I spotted this post from Graham Kendrick on Facebook:

“It is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord, but waiting is one of our greatest challenges. Waiting quietly at least doubles the difficulty. Trained for instant gratification, our phones are rarely out of reach. We struggle to relax because we carelessly invite a state of perpetual stimulation. Delays become an irritation and our attention spans shrink. Our most precious commodity is time. Can we spend more of it waiting quietly in God's presence?”

It struck me as very appropriate for this church season in several ways. Firstly, this month begins with the Easter weekend. We remember on Good Friday how Jesus was cruelly put to death on the cross, dying for our sins, then we celebrate on Easter Sunday his glorious resurrection from the dead. What was it like for his closest followers? In a state of utter grief and devastation, they waited for the Sabbath to be over so that they could bury Jesus's body properly, not realising what was going to happen. Out of that situation of hopelessness and misery came indescribable hope and joy.

Secondly, we are in a season of waiting as a church – waiting to find our next minister. It's hard to be patient during the search process! Let us take up the challenge in the quote from Graham Kendrick. We have plenty of opportunities for personal and corporate prayer in this special month of prayer (see inside), now that the church profile is “live” on the BU website. May we wait patiently in God's presence, trusting him to work out his plans for us.

Elaine

April at CBC

April starts with the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. For our Sunday services we have a new series called “Alive Forever”, looking at times when Jesus appeared to his followers after his resurrection.

Thursday 2/4	20:00	Maundy Thursday service: Readings, reflection and Communion
Friday 3/4	10:00	CTC Good Friday service at St. John's followed by walk of witness back to CBC
Sat 4/4	10-12:15	Shine Easter Eggstravaganza
Sun 5/4	10:30	All-age Easter Celebration – Alive Forever! (John 20:1-18)
Mon 6/4	14:30	Prayer for the search for our next minister in Room 2 (note the afternoon timing)
Thurs 9/4	14:00	Thursday Fellowship AGM in the Heart
Sun 12/4	10:30	Sunday Worship – “A surprising encounter” (Luke 24:13-34). Preacher: Simon Bird
Sun 12/4	evening	Youth Social – Bowling in Wokingham
Mon 13/4	14:30	Prayer for the search for our next minister in Room 2 (note the afternoon timing)
Mon 13/4	19:30	Church Leaders' meeting
Weds 15/4	10:30	Service at St. Brendan's care home
Thurs 16/4	19:45	Church AGM in the Heart
Sun 19/4	10:30	Sunday Worship with Family Communion – “Seeing is believing” (John 20:19-31) (Communion offering for Tearfund) Preacher: Ricky Mallett
Sun 19/4	12:30	Prayer for the search for our next after the service (bring a packed lunch)

Thurs 23/4	14:00	Thursday Fellowship in the Heart Speaker: tbc
Thurs 23/4	19:30	Prayer Event for the search for our next minister in the Heart or Room 2
Fri 24/5	19:30	Refresh Worship in the Heart
Sun 26/4	10:30	Sunday Worship – “Breakfast on the beach” (John 21) Preacher: James Hood
Thurs 30/4	19:30	Prayer for the search for our next minister in the Heart or Room 2

Holy Week & Easter Events

Maundy Thursday – 2nd April 8pm

Reflective service with Communion



Good Friday – 3rd April 10am

CTC Service, starting at **10am** at St. John’s, followed by Walk of Witness. Hot cross buns, tea and coffee will be served here at CBC afterwards.



Saturday – 4th April 10am to 12:15pm

Shine Easter Eggstravaganza! A morning of Easter crafts, games and fun for families.



Easter Sunday – 5th April from 10am

All-age Easter celebration service at 10:30am.
Come from 10am for extra time of praise in song.



Youth Sports Social – Sunday 12th April

Bowling at Wokingham Superbowl. Details from the Youth leaders: Phil & Emma Joyce



Refresh : Friday 24th April at 7:30pm

Our next informal worship session will be in the Heart and led by Sarah and Phil. All welcome to come along and see where the Spirit leads!



April Communion Service



This month is our quarterly Family Communion service where the children and young people join with us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Grown-ups are encouraged to talk to their children about the meaning of this special symbolic meal.

It is CBC's tradition to take up an extra offering for a charity at our monthly Communion services. This month our offering goes to Tearfund (www.tearfund.org)

Christmas Shoeboxes 2026

In April we collect small soft toys. They must have the CE label on them and contain no tiny polystyrene balls inside them (you can tell by squeezing them). Keep looking for bargains! Check the website for what can be included:

www.samaritans-purse.org.uk



Maggie would like to thank the person who has knitted the colourful hats that were put in the box in the foyer. The children will love them.

Abstinent – Beccy's challenge for Lent

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



Last year she raised over £700. It's not too late to sponsor her. See Beccy for the paper form or give through Justgiving via the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/rebecca-al-jadir-2>

Coming up in May and beyond

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

Speaker: Steve Benton

Cost £5. To book see Martin or email:

bookings.crowthornebaptist@gmail.com



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 after Easter 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

- **Thursday April 16th** – 7:45pm AGM
- **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.

Do you have a story to share?



It's always good to hear what God has been doing in people's lives. If you have a story to tell, we can fit it into a Sunday service at any point, not just during CBC Celebrates. Please speak to Sarah, Elaine, Sue Burrow or Phil Joyce if you would like to speak, or if you would like your story to be read out for you.

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.

Church Family Prayer – 1st Monday in each month

Monday 6th April is Easter Monday. Our normal evening Family Prayer is changed to the afternoon at 2:30pm as part of our month of prayer.

April – Month of Prayer – finding our next Minister

The Church Profile was approved at a special Church meeting on Sunday 22nd March and went “live” on the BU Website on 25th March. Ministers will be able to see and respond to our profile up until this round’s closing date of April 30th.

Our Moderator, James, urges us to engage in special prayer over this period. Emma has co-ordinated some special prayer events in this period. Please try to join one or more of these. There is also a leaflet of prayer focus points. Please use these in your house groups, for prayer meetings and as individuals.

- **Monday 6th April 2:30pm** - Meeting room 2 (Sally leading)
- **Monday 13th April 2:30pm** - Meeting room 2 (Sally leading)
- **Sunday 19th April after our Sunday service** - in The Hub. Please bring along a packed lunch. We will share food and then pray together (Emma leading)
- **Thursday 23rd April 7:30pm** – Heart / Room 2 (Emma leading)
- **Thursday 30th April 7:30pm** – Heart / Room 2 (Emma leading)

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.

Maintenance Team

Members of the CBC Maintenance team are:

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

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



Using the Church Premises

If you are using any of the rooms at church for a meeting or event, don't forget to **remind Philip on the Sunday morning before** so he can set up the heating.



Philip would also like help with some of the routine tasks below (they are not difficult). Please speak to him for details.

- Fire alarm testing and training
- Timer adjustments (lights and heating)



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 (1/2") border around the stamp then give them to Maggie.



Maggie has kindly volunteered to produce a piece about the persecuted church for the newsletter each month.

Focus on the Persecuted Church

Did you know that 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.

The logo for OpenDoors, featuring a stylized white icon of an open door with a cross inside, followed by the text "OpenDoors" in white on a purple rectangular background.

Open Doors has compiled a **World Watch List** for 2026, which names the 10 worst countries to live in as a Christian. Number 2 is **Somalia**. All Somalians are expected to be Muslims and the persecution against Christians is intense! Those who decide to follow Jesus are treated as outcasts who have defiled the family name. They can be shot and intimidated in many different ways.

Prayer

This prayer is part of a Somalian Christian's prayer.

Heavenly Father when you are with us, no one can be against us. You told us that the gates of Hell cannot prevail against the church. When we have you, everything we want to do in the Kingdom of God is possible. In your name we pray. Amen.

Let us uphold our brothers and sisters in prayer so that they feel supported and strengthened as they bravely endeavour to live out their Christian lives.

You can find out more about the World Watch List here:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/>

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. Please pray for the Team as we look towards the future and the process of appointing a new Minister.

Elders	Elaine Hood (till the AGM)
Treasurer	Justine Wells
Secretary	<i>vacancy</i>
Deacons	Emma Frost, Sarah Webb, 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

Any ministers who see our church profile on the BU website and are interested in CBC will request that their profiles are sent to us. Anonymised profiles (with age, sex, race, etc. details removed) will come to the team by 30th April. The Search Team will meet on Tuesday 5th May to review any profiles received. The week of 18th – 22nd May has been set aside for potential interviews.

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)

