



Crowthorne Baptist Church

What's on – January 2026

*"Standing at the portal of the opening year,
Words of comfort meet us, hushing every fear,
Spoken through the silence by our Father's voice,
Tender, strong and faithful, making us rejoice.
Onward, then, and fear not, children of the day,
For his word shall never, never pass away."*

Frances R. Havergal (1873)



Some churches, like the one I grew up in, have a tradition of a Watchnight service on New Year's Eve. Our service started at 11:30pm. Just before midnight, we had a couple of minutes of silent prayer. At the stroke of midnight, the organ played the introduction of an appropriate hymn. Sometimes we sang the one above. I don't think that this is sung very much at all these days, but I like the words.

Of course, New Year's Day is a day like any other, but it reminds us of the passage of time. It also reminds us that we have no idea what the coming year will bring. That can lead some people to be anxious. Corrie Ten Boom famously said, *"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."*

Through Advent we thought about Jesus as a "Small Wonder", a tiny baby – God in human form. In the last email of this series from LICC, Ken Benjamin wrote, *"We don't need to wonder if God cares or if our lives matter, because Jesus coming in this small but wonderful way demonstrates that God cares for and values all of us. We don't need to wonder if God understands what we're going through, because in Jesus he became human, allowing him to understand all aspects of being one of us. We don't need to wonder if we belong, because Jesus gives us the right to become children of God."*

Whatever we face individually and as a church in 2026, we can face it in confidence that God is with us. The last verse of the hymn says:

"He will never fail us, he will not forsake; His eternal covenant he will never break. Resting on God's promise, what have we to fear? God is all-sufficient for the coming year."

May God bless us in the coming year.

Elaine

January at CBC

In the weeks leading up to Lent in February we have a number of speakers who wish to choose their own topics, so we have no specific theme this month.

Fri 2/1	12:00	Thanksgiving service for Jim Sargeant in the Heart. (11:00 at the crematorium)
Sun 4/1	10:30	Sunday Worship – All-age for the New Year “Gratitude”
Mon 5/1	19:30	Church Family Prayer in the Heart
Thurs 8/1	14:00	Thursday Fellowship in the Heart Speaker: Sally Clarke
Sun 11/1	10:30	Sunday Worship – Theme tba Preacher: Steve King
Mon 12/1	19:30	Church Leaders’ meeting
Sat 17/1	08:30	Men’s Breakfast in the Hub
Sun 18/1	10:30	Sunday Worship with Communion (Communion offering for Homestart) Preacher: Rev. Hayley Young
Sun 18/1	18:30	Crowthorne & Sandhurst churches joint service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Michael’s Sandhurst
Mon 19/1	19:30	Search Team meeting in the Heart
Weds 21/1	10:30	Service at St. Brendan’s care home
Thurs 22/1	14:00	Thursday Fellowship in the Heart Speaker: tbc
Sun 25/1	10:30	Sunday Worship – “Unity in diversity” (1 Corinthians 1:10-13 & Ephesians 4:1-6) Preacher: Ian Burrow
Sun 25/1	12:00	Church Forum Meeting follows the service

January 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. In January our offering goes to Homestart Bracknell (www.hsbf.org.uk)

Farewell to Jim Sargeant Friday 2nd January

Jim's funeral service is at Easthampstead Crematorium at 11am, followed by a service to celebrate his life here at CBC at 12 noon. Refreshments will be served following the service.



Men's Breakfast Saturday 17th January 8:30am

Speaker: tba

Cost £5. To book see Martin or email:

bookings.crowthornebaptist@gmail.com



Church Flowers 2026

There is a new Flower Rota for 2026. If you would like to put flowers or a plant in church on any Sunday during the year, please see Alison Gray.



CBC Big Christmas Card 2025

The card raised £141 for Thames Hospice. (Other donations may have been made online.) Thanks to Cheryl for organising this again.



Christmas Shoeboxes – Starting again for 2026!

In January we collect toothbrushes and flannels (coloured ones preferably). Please feel free to bring other suitable items at any time.



Items can be put in the box in the Hub foyer or given straight to Maggie. If you find any items in the Sales that are listed on the website then feel free to buy them!. www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

Thank you for helping to spread the Good News of Jesus .Maggie hopes to be able to let us know the destination of our 2025 boxes in the next newsletter.

Did you know?

Operation Christmas Child was started in 1990 by an English businessman called Dave Cook .The plan was to send gifts to children in Romanian orphanages. In 1993 Franklin Graham (Billy Graham's son) joined from the USA and launched a global project which grew rapidly. Toys, hygiene items and school supplies are sent to needy children all over the world. They are packed in a shoebox and included is a booklet sharing the Gospel message.

We have been supporting this ministry for many years at CBC and collect different items each month.

Coming up in February and beyond

Baptism

We are delighted that Emily Wells will be baptised during the service on Sunday 1st February. Rev. Martin Ceaser will be returning to officiate at the baptism and to preach on the day.



In the Baptist tradition, baptism is for people who publicly affirm their faith in Jesus and it is by total immersion in water. Please speak to Elaine or Emma Frost if you are interested in being baptised at some stage in the future.

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 21st February

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

CTC (Churches Together in Crowthorne) Events

World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March 10:30am

A special service here at the Methodist Church to mark this international day of prayer. All are welcome to attend.



St. Patrick's Day Service Tuesday 17th March 10:00am

Led by Rev. Laura Wheatley Downs at the Methodist Church. Held every year in aid of Corrymeela (a Christian reconciliation centre in Northern Ireland). Refreshments to follow the service,



Church Meeting Dates 2026

- **Sunday Jan 25th** – Forum meeting after the service
- **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 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.

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

Please join us in The Heart from 7:30pm until around 8.15pm. We encourage everyone to join us as we pray. Don't worry if you don't want to pray out loud yourself. Let Emma know of any items for prayer and we can bring these things to our amazing God.

Help needed for Crèche, CBC Kidz and CBC Youth

We desperately need more volunteers to help when the children and young people go out to their groups on Sunday mornings.



Please see Beccy if you could help on the Crèche or CBC Kidz rota. See Phil or Emma Joyce if you could help with the Youth group.

The Ark – help needed on Thursdays!

The Ark Preschool urgently needs more people to help with walking the children back from Wellington College (Byron Drive gate) to church on Thursdays.



Meet the staff and children at the gate at 11:25am and help to walk them back to church. It takes 30 minutes or less and the children are great fun to chat with along the way. If you could spare a bit of your time occasionally on Thursdays to do this, please speak to Avril.

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/>)

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.

Sue Burrow highlights a shocking situation

Just before Christmas I watched a news item from a refugee camp in Gaza. It was one of the most distressing images that I have witnessed. Already displaced people trying to exist in temporary shelters which had been inundated by torrential rain-leaking rooves, foot deep water and essential belongings completely drenched. This is how DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee, which is a group of 15 Aid agencies) described the situation.



“Winter is approaching in Gaza. Recent flooding inundated people's tents and destroyed their precious belongings. Children are sleeping without warm shelter, clothes or blankets. The humanitarian needs remain huge. Since the ceasefire agreement in October 2025, DEC charities and their local partners have scaled up their work providing desperately needed, food, water, cash, medicine and essential supplies.”

Every pound donated by the UK public to the Middle Eastern Humanitarian Appeal will be matched this winter by our Government to support people in Gaza, Lebanon, the West Bank and Syria.

The needs are huge. Please can I encourage you to donate now. Please visit:- <https://donation.dec.org.uk/middle-east-appeal>

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 (Plus 1 vacancy)
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.

Leadership Team Structure

There has been a suggestion that we drop the distinction between Elders and Deacons for members of the Leadership Team for the time being, whilst we are in the pastoral vacancy. This was discussed at the November Church Forum Meeting. Please pass on any comments or questions to a member of the team, as we seek to clarify the nomination process for the AGM in April 2026.

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



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.



Regular Activities

House Groups at CBC

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

- Monday and Friday mornings
- 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)
Cash Hub	Weekdays 9am to 5pm in the Hub
The Ark Preschool	Weekday mornings in term time in the Hub
Zone6 (for year 6)	Mondays in term time 3:15-5:00pm
Zone78 (for year 7/8)	Fridays in term time 7-8:30pm
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)

