



Crowthorne Baptist Church

What's on – March 2026

The Right Mission



“As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 2:5-6)

If our motivation as Christians is to please God, the natural question becomes: ‘How do we do that?’

As Paul draws his letter to a close, he reminds us that ‘the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night’ (5:2). His words echo Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 24, where he speaks of his return and urges his followers to get ready.

Paul makes it clear that being ‘ready’ for Christ’s return is not about speculation or fear, but about formation. The primary way we please God – our central calling and mission – is by becoming more like the one we follow. God’s will for your life and mine, Paul says, is that we are sanctified (4:3). To be sanctified means to be set apart – distinct in the way we think, speak, and live. Sanctification is both a gift we receive and a journey we continue.

On one level, we are sanctified the moment we’re saved. Paul reminds the Corinthian church, ‘You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ’ (1 Corinthians 6:11). In Christ, we are made holy by grace, not by effort.

At the same time, sanctification is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in us. Throughout our lives, God shapes us, refines us, and transforms us. It’s the heart of discipleship. This is not a side project of the Christian life; it is its central purpose.

From the opening pages of Scripture, humanity is called to bear God’s image in the world. As we grow in godliness, turn away from sin (4:3–6), and mature in faith, we increasingly reflect the character of Jesus. We learn to walk in his ways and live as he lived. *(continued on next page)*

This is our mission. Partly so that when we stand before the Lord, our lives will bear the marks of faithfulness and fruitfulness. But also so that our everyday lives become a living witness to those around us (4:9–12), marked by love, generosity, wisdom, and integrity.

Our future hope shapes how we live today. You have a mission from God right where you are this week. At its core, that mission is simple yet profound: that others would see Christ in you, the hope of glory. Through your words, choices, and actions, may your life point people toward the goodness and grace of God.

Revd David Walker – Director of Work and Leadership, LICC

“Word for the Week” February 16th 2026. Reproduced with kind permission from LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity)

<https://licc.org.uk/resources/theme/word-for-the-week/>

Editor’s note: When I read this, I thought that it fitted very well with our journey through Lent, as we aim to follow Jesus more closely. It is also helpful as we think about our future minister and where we might be led as a church. Elaine

March Communion Service



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 Farming Community Network (www.fcn.org.uk)

Youth Sports Social – Sunday 8th March 6pm

Who will be the champion? Details from the Youth leaders: Phil & Emma Joyce and Emma Frost



Men’s Breakfast Saturday 21st March 8:30am

Speaker: Brian Keal (former magistrate)

Cost £5. To book see Martin or email:

bookings.crowthornebaptist@gmail.com



Can you help? Help needed with greeting, serving, cooking, booking speakers, sending emails ... Speak to Martin or Richard E. if you can.

March at CBC

Lent continues through March. Our Sunday services will take us through a season of waiting, testing and trusting as we journey with Jesus towards the cross, and beyond to Easter morning.

Sun 1/3	10:30	All-age Sunday Worship – “Forgiveness & Community” (Ephesians 4:31-32)
Mon 2/3	19:30	Church Family Prayer in the Heart
Fri 6/3	10:30	CTC Joint service for the World Day of Prayer here at CBC. All welcome
Sun 8/3	10:30	Sunday Worship – “God’s Love” (Luke 15:11-32). Preacher: Rev. Michael Bentley
Sun 8/3	evening	Youth Sports Social in the Hub
Mon 9/3	19:30	Church Leaders’ meeting
Thurs 12/3	14:00	Thursday Fellowship AGM in the Heart
Fri 13/3	19:30	Worship Workshop in the Heart
Sun 15/3	10:30	Sunday Worship with Communion – “God is with us” (Luke 1:26-38) & Mothering Sunday. (Communion offering for Farming Community Network) Preacher: Trevor Allwright
Tues 17/3	10:00	CTC St. Patrick’s Day service at the Methodist Church in aid of Corrymeela
Weds 18/3	10:30	Service at St. Brendan’s care home
Thurs 19/3	13:30	Craft Workshop in the Heart
Sat 21/3	08:30	Men’s breakfast in the Hub Speaker: Brian Keal (former magistrate)
Sun 22/3	10:30	Sunday Worship – “Waiting, anxiety and trust” (Isaiah 43:1-7) Preacher: Rev. David Hughes

Sun 22/3	12:00	Special Church Meeting after the service
Mon 23/3	19:30	Search Team meeting online
Thurs 26/3	14:00	Thursday Fellowship in the Heart Speaker: Mike Frost
Sat 28/3	19:00	CBC Quiz Night
Sat 28/3 – Sun 29/3		British Summer Time begins. Put your clocks FORWARD 1 hour.
Sun 29/3	10:30	Sunday Worship for Palm Sunday– “King on a donkey?” (Matthew 21:1-11) Preacher: Elaine Hood

CBC Quiz Night Saturday 28th March 7 – 9pm

Quiz Night with questions devised by Eric. Hot drinks, nibbles and cake. Suggested donation £5 per head.

Invite friends and neighbours and form a team of 6.



CTC (Churches Together in Crowthorne) Events

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

A special service here at CBC to mark this international day of prayer. Refreshments after the service. 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.



Yeldall Celebration Evening Friday March 20th

Yeldall's Spring Graduation evening will be at Norreys Church, Wokingham at 7:30pm. All welcome



Christmas Shoeboxes 2026

In March we collect pencils, coloured pencils, pencil cases, biro's and metal sharpeners. Please feel free to bring other suitable items at any time. Maybe you can find some bargains in the sales? Check the website for what can be included: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk



Items can be put in the box in the Hub foyer or given to Maggie.

2025 Destination: More than 65,500 shoeboxes, including our 50, went to a country in Eastern Europe, where sharing the Gospel is restricted. The specific country cannot be shared due to ongoing political and religious sensitivities!

Clocks Change to British Summer Time

BST starts on Sunday, 29th March. Don't forget to put your clocks **FORWARD** 1 hour the night before!



Coming up in April and beyond

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.



Easter Sunday – 5th April from 10am

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



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 4th April – Easter Eggstravaganza

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

Abstinent – Beccy's challenge for Lent

Beccy is once again joining in with Yeldall's Abstinent challenge. This year she is giving up all chocolates, biscuits and cakes for the whole of Lent!!



Last year she raised over £700. Please sponsor her if you can using the paper form or via Justgiving via the link below:

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

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

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.

Special Prayer Focus – finding our next Minister

We have reached a key point in the search for our next Minister! The Search Team will finalise the Church Profile this month and we expect to be able to approve this at a special Church meeting on Sunday 22nd March after the service. Then the profile will go to our Regional Minister, Hayley, for checking before it goes "live" on the BU website.

Our Moderator, James, urges us to engage in special prayer over this period. Emma will be co-ordinating some special prayer events in the coming weeks. Don't wait till then, however – get praying NOW!

Looking for a House Group to join?

The Friday group meets in the Heart from 10:15 to 12 noon during term time for fellowship and Bible study. There is room for more people to join. Please speak to Avril or Beccy if you are interested.



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.

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 Open Doors, featuring a white icon of an open door inside a purple circle, 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 1 is North Korea. If you profess to following Jesus here, you run the risk of undergoing interrogation, imprisonment or even death! However, there are some extremely brave people who trust in a God who can do the impossible, like one man who is called Gun-Yeong. He visits the mountain forests where escapees from North Korea hide. He takes food, blankets and water to tired, exhausted and frightened people. He offers them a Bible and tells them about safe houses, supported by Open Doors, where those without hope can find Christians who will explain who Jesus is and the hope he can give them.

Prayer

Dear God, we ask that you embolden, strengthen and encourage believers in North Korea as they face enormous risks when they follow you. Please protect the Open Doors secret fieldworkers, so they don't become targets or outcasts. Help them to continue what you have called them and equipped them to do, in sharing your compassion and love to hurting people. Amen.

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
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.

Elections to the Leadership Team – please pray!

Nominations for the elections at the AGM on 16th April will be for two Trustees: one to replace Elaine, who steps down after 9 years, and one for the Secretary role, which is still vacant. (There is no distinction for the time being between Elder and Deacon roles.) Nomination paperwork will be available for members from Sunday 15th March. Nominations to be returned by Sunday 5th April (Easter Sunday). Please pray about who to nominate and for willing candidates.

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)
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
Zone78/9 (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)

