



Crowthorne Baptist Church

What's on – February 2026



“As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea – for they were fishers. And he said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.’ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.”

(Matthew 4.18–20, NRSVue)

When our Regional Minister, Hayley Young, came to preach in January, she took Luke 5:1-11 as her theme. The verses above are in Matthew's account of the same story – the calling of the first disciples. Hayley encouraged us as a church to “go fishing” and seek to spread the good news about Jesus in our local community now – and not to wait till we have our new minister.

Just over a week after Hayley came, I read the verses from Matthew in a Bible Society “*Thought for the Day*” on Facebook. I took this as reinforcement of what Hayley had said. The article said that Jesus wasn't just calling Peter and Andrew (and later James and John) to ‘tag along’ with him for a bit, but to leave their old way of life behind, to learn from him, follow his ways and be part of his mission. Three years later, after Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection, his call on their lives remained the same: “*make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you*” (Matt 28:19–20). Perhaps Lent would be a good time for us all to reflect on what following Jesus looks like in our own lives. In what ways are we learning from him, following in his ways and taking part in his mission?

The disciples responded “immediately”. We might find this inspiring or challenging or both! Maybe each of us could ask the Holy Spirit to help us find out whether Jesus is calling us to leave something behind so that we can embrace the purpose he has for us, individually and as a church.

Elaine

February at CBC

Lent starts mid-February. 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 1/2	10:30	Sunday Worship with Baptism Preacher: Rev. Martin Ceaser
Mon 2/2	19:30	Church Family Prayer in the Heart
Sun 8/2	10:30	Sunday Worship – Mark 6:34-44 Speaker: Amy Hiorns from Compassion UK
Sun 8/3	evening	Youth Social – Pancake Party in the Hub
Mon 9/2	19:30	Church Leaders' meeting
Thurs 12/2	14:00	Thursday Fellowship in the Heart Speaker: Keith Saynor
Fri 13/2	19:30	Worship Workshop in the Heart
Sun 15/2	10:30	Sunday Worship with Communion (Communion offering for the Foodbank) Preacher: Matt Ceaser
Weds 18/2		Ash Wednesday – start of Lent
Weds 18/2	10:30	Service at St. Brendan's care home
Thurs 19/2	14:00	Thursday Fellowship in the Heart Speaker: Julie Kennedy
Sat 21/2	10:00-12:15	Shine Saturday Special
Sun 22/2	10:30	Sunday Worship – “Temptation, confession, God's promises” (Luke 4:1-13) Preacher: Vicky Gibbons
Mon 23/2	19:30	Search Team meeting online
Weds 25/2	19:30	Outreach Team meeting

February 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 the Crowthorne Foodbank (www.crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk)

Baptism

We are delighted that Emily Wells is being baptised during the service on Sunday 1st February by Rev. Martin Ceaser, former minster at CBC.



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.

Youth Pancake Party Social – Sunday 8th February

Yummy pancake evening at CBC! Details from the Youth leaders: Phil & Emma Joyce and Emma Frost



Lent and Easter Resources

Lent starts on Wednesday 18th February. It is a good time to follow some focused Bible reading or use some other type of programme as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Here are a couple of ideas:

Quench Christian Bookshop at Holme Grange

Why not pop in and have a look at resources? Phone 0118 9776715. Open Mon. Sat. 10:30am to 4:30pm



Bible Society Lent Encounter

This year the Bible Society is using the book of Psalms, exploring how these ancient songs speak to topics of creation, grief, justice, forgiveness and worship – and how they point us to Jesus. You can sign up for daily emails with a reading and devotional on their website:

www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-lent-encounter



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

Christmas Shoeboxes 2026

In February we collect hats and gloves for girls and boys. 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 straight to Maggie.

The destination of our 2025 shoeboxes is not yet known, but we do know that they were amongst the total of 232,844 sent from the UK!

Coming up in March and beyond

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

Speaker: tba

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.

CBC Quiz Night Saturday 28th March 6:30 – 9pm

Quiz Night with questions devised by Eric. More details later.



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,



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

Sparkle & Shine Easter special! A morning of Easter crafts, games and fun for children.



Easter Sunday – 5th April from 10am

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



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 (link available from Beccy soon).

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.

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.

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.

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.

What is happening at the manse?

An important task during a pastoral vacancy is looking after the manse and making sure it is ready for the arrival of the next minister. Over the summer the maintenance team cleared things from the garden, ensured the garden was kept tidy and has identified things that need fixing. (You will be aware that the church has agreed to employ a contractor to repair the garage roof.)

Over recent weeks the focus has turned to internal decoration. We have removed all wallpaper and have started the internal painting. Already the internal doors and woodwork have been painted and the walls and ceilings on three bedrooms have been repainted. We've already used around 5 litres of gloss / satin paint and around 25 litres of emulsion!

By doing this work ourselves we save a lot of money for the church.



In the coming weeks we will have more painting to do, cleaning the rooms which are complete, general maintenance tasks and more work in the garden. We may decide to leave the painting of the lounge and main bedroom until we've appointed a new minister so that they can choose the colour scheme. **If you would like to help in any way, please speak to Richard Elsbury or Philip.**

Maintenance Team

Members of the CBC Maintenance team are:

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

If you spot anything that 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 (½") border around the stamp then give them to Maggie.



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.



Are you interested in the persecuted church?

Highlighting a country where Christians are persecuted for their faith used to be a regular feature in our Sunday services, but not currently.



Perhaps you would like to take this up, or write a little feature each month for the Newsletter? Speak to Elaine if you are interested.

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.

Leadership Team Structure

The Church Meeting in January voted unanimously in favour of removing the distinction between Elders and Deacons for the time being (to be reviewed when a new minister is in place). Nominations for the elections at the AGM in April will be for two positions: one to replace Elaine, who steps down as a Trustee after 9 years, and one for the Secretary role, which is still vacant. Nomination paperwork will be available for members from Sunday 15th March.

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 Juliany or email booking@crowthornebaptist.org.uk

Find out more on our website:

www.crowthornebaptist.org.uk

Church office phone 07767 186336
(for outside contacts)

