

Rosebery Park Baptist Church
'Good News'
May 2026



The beautiful Keyhaven, in Hampshire

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Pokesdown
Bournemouth BH7 6DF
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Creative Facilitation Training

On the last Saturday of April, I (Simon) went to a 'Creative Facilitation' training organized by Southern Counties Baptist Association (SCBA). Clare Hooper, who is one of the SCBA regional ministers led the training.

'Facilitation' means taking a group through learning or change in a way that encourages all members of the group to participate. A core conviction of the training is that each member of the group has something unique and valuable to share. Clare emphasised that in a group setting, we need to remember and affirm that we all have something to contribute. She showed a picture of Jesus looking in a mirror and seeing a group of ordinary people. It might be us! The point is that we are a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). We all have access to God and can all represent God to others. This is good to be reminded of!

'Creative' means doing the facilitation in a creative way!

We were a small group, just four participants, although Clare commented that they had typically had 12-16 participants in previous training sessions.



Clare opened with this picture to give a sense of what the purpose of the training was.

Chairing or leading a meeting isn't easy. There are a lot of things to juggle!

Clare put the 'creative' part of the training into practice from start to finish. Matthew tells us that 'Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd

in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable.’ [Matthew 13:34]. Something like this could be said of Clare and creative exercises. It was one creative exercise after another.

Near the start, Clare introduced an ice-breaker / get-to-know you exercise. She called it the ‘North-South-East-West’ exercise. She got us to move to different parts of the room according to where we were born, say where we born, and then say something we remembered from childhood.

In another exercise, Clare had pictures of various animals and some less attractive traits we might associate with them. For example, the hippo is ‘lethargic and sleepy. Comes up for a yawn occasionally.’



The rhino ‘Charges around putting his or her foot in it. Always upsetting people.’ This provided an opportunity to consider how we might handle people who demonstrate qualities like this in a meeting. (Of course, these same animals have many attractive traits too. There’s a good side to the rhino being large and heavy. He or she is strong, solid, unmoved and not at all ‘flaky’.)

In a third exercise Clare gave us slips of paper with various statements on them, for example, ‘Affirming and supporting people’, ‘Affirming that all ideas have value’, ‘Discerning God’s will’, and several others. The task was to place the slips in order of how well we thought we did these things as a church. That got me thinking about how good we are at Rosebery Park at discerning God’s will. Clare commented, ‘We’ve lost the art of discernment’. I’m inclined to agree. It’s a question we

should all think about. How committed are we to seeking to discern God's will for us as part of the body of Christ? What does that even look like? I don't have a ready answer. But I'm convinced that discerning God's will is really important – and that getting together with others and using some of the creative tools Clare was introducing us to can help us to do it.

– Simon

Greetings from across the pond!

An update from Natalie and Dean

We hope you're all doing well in Bournemouth and we miss not being able to worship with you.



Simon has asked me to give you an update on how we're doing. Our biggest news is that in the next 7 weeks or so we will become a family of three, with our little one due around the 12th June. So we are busy decorating a nursery, setting up our new home and getting all that we need for the baby, which is a lot of fun. We're getting our heads around the idea that we'll soon be parents and all that that entails. Prayers for a safe delivery would be fantastic!

In other news we've joined a church called Connexus, it meets in an old cinema and is a church designed for people who are new to faith. We recently joined a house group and are starting to meet new people there including people from all around the world.

At Easter time our church asked us to 'egg our neighbour', it's not as bad as it sounds! We dressed up as the Easter Bunny and dropped some Easter eggs and a church invitation at the door and ran away. Well Dean ran away I sort of waddled!

There have been lots of challenges since moving here including us both not being allowed to do the jobs we want. So we've had to adapt and be willing to do other things that God is leading us to.

Dean has been able to try lots of new things including roller skating last week and snow tubing, which is sliding down a ski hill in a giant rubber ring. Safe to say I didn't join in this time.

We hope to come back and visit when we can see all of our friends that we are missing at RPBC and introduce you to the newest member of the family!

Love and blessings!
Natalie, Dean and baby S x



Calendar for the month ahead

Church flowers

3 May	Sue and Adrian
10 May	Ann with Brownies
17 May	Church flowers
24 May	Irene
31 May	Paula and Steve



Sunday morning coffee rota

3 May	Sue Thomas and Ann Wilson
10 May	Tbc (2 Care?)
17 May	Rosemary and Jo Caddick
24 May	Cathy and Skip
31 May	Tbc (2 care?)



Sunday School plan for May and June 2026

Sunday	Lesson/Unit	Taking the lesson
03-May	34	Cathy and Skip
10-May		Family service
17-May	35	Paula and Irene
24-May	36	Ann and Jo
31-May	37	Sophie and Irene
07-Jun	38	Cathy and Skip
14-Jun		Family service
21-Jun	39	Paula and Irene
28-Jun	40	Ann and Jo

Sunday services preaching

3 May	Rev. Ian and Ruth Coffey
10 May	Simon Bartlett
17 May	Joanna Milis (Christian Aid)
24 May	Simon Bartlett
31 May	TBC



Baptist Union Prayer Diary for May

3 May

Alex Afriyie will be inducted as President of the Baptist Union at the Baptist Assembly later this month. Alex will be encouraging us to 'walk worthy of our calling' (Ephesians 4:1) to be Jesus centred, community orientated and mission focused. Please pray for Alex as he begins his term of office. www.baptist.org.uk/president

10 May

The 'A Million Acts of Hope' initiative aims to counter negativity by celebrating small, everyday acts of kindness and solidarity.

Bless the 'Million Acts of Hope' that are being sown across our communities. May the small acts of kindness, the whispered words of comfort, and the quiet gestures of solidarity multiply, breaking down

the walls of hatred and prejudice. Enable us to see the humanity in everyone we meet, and to work together for a better world.
www.millionactsofhope.org Prayer from Churches Together in England

17 May

The Baptist Assembly is taking place this weekend in Harrogate. Pray for those attending, those taking part in leading and those who have organised the event; that it will be a wonderful opportunity to discover more of the diverse and beautiful ways that Jesus is at work through our churches and communities. www.baptistassembly.org.uk

24 May

At the Baptist Assembly the newly Fully Accredited Ministers and Pastors will be recognised. Please pray for them as they begin to live and work in this new phase of their calling.

www.baptist.org.uk/ministry

31 May

This week we pray for the Central Baptist Association. Pray for the team of Regional Ministers, and the 150 churches of the Association as they walk together in ministry and mission. www.centralba.org.uk

Kamala Abel Bellary

We are sad to report the death of Kamala Abel Bellary last month. Kamala was wife to Rev. Sampath, and mother to Judson and to Herald, and aunt of Seidel Abel Boanerges, all of them at one time members of Rosebery Park. Kamala came to this country from India to work as a psychiatric nurse at Kings Park hospital in order to be able to bring the rest of her family over, when Judson and Herald were at the stage of needing qualifications.

That must have taken some courage, to come over on her own, never having been to the UK before. Eventually Sampath and Judson were able to come, and Judson later brought his new wife, Beulah. Then Herald and his wife Jeen also came.

Herald and Jeen returned to India; then in 2013 Jo was invited over to join them and to open the Hakkipikki Church near Bangalore, which Sampath and Kamala had been praying for over many years, having witnessed to that tribe of people years before. The following year, our minister Rev. Alison Overton, also went out there, and ordained the pastor.

Our sympathies go to all the family.

Other dates in May

10th – Men’s breakfast at Le Munch, 9 a.m., before church

12th – Deacons’ Meeting 7.30 p.m. online

10th – 16th: Christian Aid Week

15th – 17th: Baptist Assembly, Harrogate. Simon to attend

16th – Brephos prayer for the unborn children 10 a.m. at church

21st – Church Members’ Meeting 7.30 p.m. at church

30th – Church outing to Keyhaven

And ... the president is coming!

Alex Afriyie

On Saturday 27th June, Rev. Alex Afriyie, who will then be the president of the Baptist Union, is coming to Rosebery Park in the evening, probably at 7.30 p.m. He will be in the BCP area over the weekend and among other things, will lead four studies in the book of Ephesians in some of the smaller Baptist churches in BCP. We’re delighted to be one of them. Please do come to this if you can.

Birthdays

No birthdays that we know of, but Happy Birthday to you if you do have a birthday in May!



Christian Aid Week May 10th to 16th

<https://caw.christianaid.org.uk>



What is Christian Aid?

'Christian Aid is an international charity determined to fight poverty and respond to humanitarian emergencies, no matter how tough it gets. Our work first began in 1945 when churches across the UK came together to respond to the urgent refugee crises following the Second World War. We're rooted in the Christian faith and supported by churches, but our work supports all people in need regardless of belief. United by hope, we work with organisations and people of all faiths and none, and our partners reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. Together, we deliver essential programmes across the world and raise awareness and funds to support lasting change. By turning hope into action, we're helping to build a fairer, more peaceful world.'

Who will Christian Aid Week support this year?

This Christian Aid Week, your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children. By funding urban farming projects alongside specialist training from our partner Beacon of Hope, we can help parents fight food insecurity, grow fresh vegetables in small city spaces and earn an income to support their families. This May, we invite you to help mothers like Fridah Moraa and Belinda Kasudi living in crowded informal settlements so they can protect their children from hunger and grow a more hopeful future.

Belinda's story:

Belinda Kasudi lives with her husband, David, and their five children in a one-room rented home in Dagoretti, Nairobi. Space is tight and income is uncertain. Work in the settlement is unreliable. When there is no work, there is no money. And when there is no money, there is no food. Saving for emergencies once felt impossible.

'Everything here has to be paid for. We even buy water... Providing enough food for the children is very difficult.' – Belinda

Belinda was already part of a women's savings group when she heard about Imarisha Kilimo, a project supporting women to grow nutritious food in the city. She welcomed the chance to learn new skills:

'I was very happy because there were so many lessons. I felt at home.'

Through the project, Belinda received tools, seeds and a cone garden. This space-efficient design allows many plants to grow in a very small area.

'That's a blessing because it's very difficult to find a place to grow food here in Nairobi.'

*If you would like to give something towards Christian Aid's work, there will be Christian Aid envelopes in church from Sunday May 10th. Please put cash or cheque (payable to Christian Aid) in an envelope and put in the boxes at the front or back of church. Alternatively, you can hand them to Jo Harmsworth. **THANK YOU!***

'BHF-DECHOX'

On Friday 1st May I (Cathy) began 'Dechox', an initiative where participants commit to not eating any chocolate products for the entire month of May, all 31 days of it! This is to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. My father had heart disease as well as diabetes and the BHF helped him a great deal.

As well as being sponsored, I have committed to using the money saved not buying chocolate products to purchasing some more much-needed stationery for the Sunday School children's sessions. Please sponsor me if you feel able and also pray for superhuman, God-given strength to put chocolate 'back in its wrapper', so to speak.

Here's the link: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/cathy-basiel-7> in case you would like to sponsor me, or you can give money directly to me at church and I will pass it on.

Thanks!

Cathy.



Tuesday morning Bible studies

Priscilla leads Bible studies at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings at Costa in Boscombe. They are currently looking at the Sermon on the Mount.

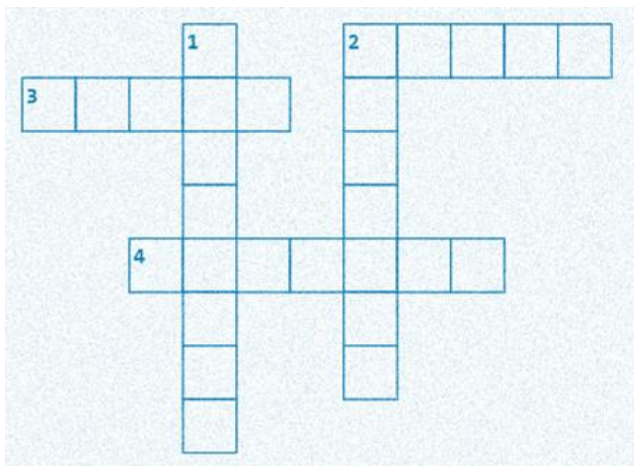
Thursday evening Bible studies

The Bible studies are at 7 p.m. on Thursday evenings in the church hall. We are continuing 'The Christian in Creation' course on Thursday 9th April, which is prepared and is delivered by Simon.

If you're interested in coming to either study, please speak to Priscilla or Simon.

The worlds' easiest adult's Bible crossword ever!

WHO'S WHO?!



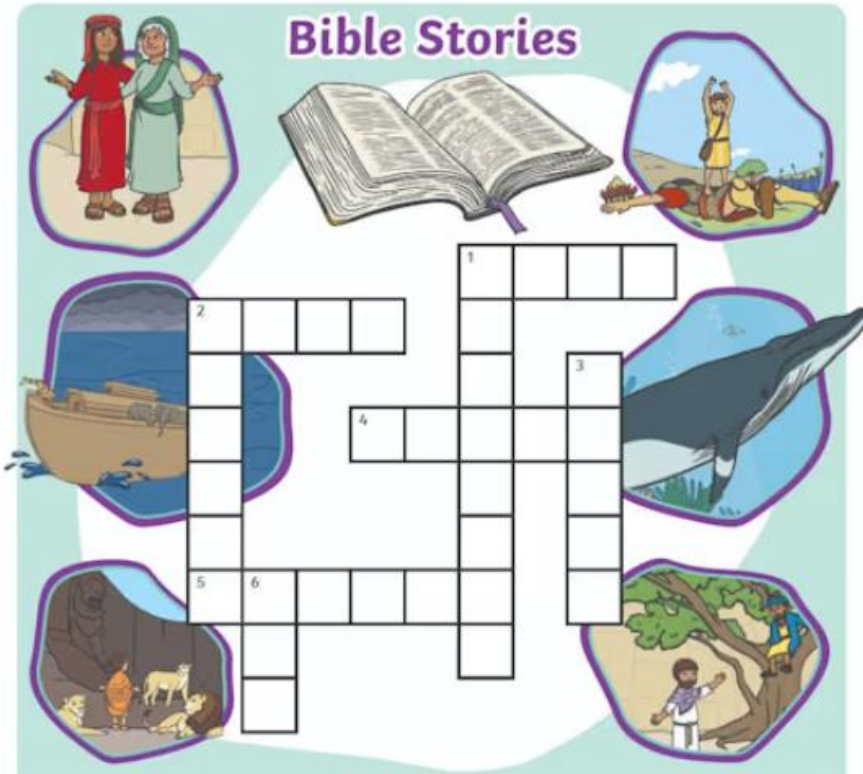
Across

2. Who is believed to have written most of the Psalms?
3. He denied Jesus three times.
4. When he died, Jesus wept. Then brought him back to life.

Down

1. What is the name of Joseph's youngest brother?
2. Who is the only female judge in the Old Testament?

Children's crossword



Across

1. Which special item of clothing did Joseph receive from his dad?
2. Jesus fed the 5000 people with bread and
4. Which animal swallowed Jonah?
5. Who was thrown into a den of lions?

Down

1. What did David use to defeat Goliath?
2. Ruth was a good to Naomi.
3. Who did Zacchaeus invite to his house for tea?
6. What did Noah build to save the animals from the flood?