

Bearsden Baptist Church Newsletter - 16th November 2023
Sunday, 19th November 2023 10.30 Morning Service - Ordinary Glory

We look forward to welcoming you to our morning service, and hope you will be blessed by your time with us. We'd love it if you joined us for a chat over a tea or coffee after the service. Refreshments will be served from the hatch in the foyer.

This week @ BBC

Sunday 19th November 2023 - 10.30 am

Duty Deacon - Peter Candlish

Welcome Team - Sandra Blackstock, Fiona Bradnam, Leslie Morrison

Crèche - Kirsty Carduff, Carina Craib

Tea/Coffee - Catrina Henderson, Iain Henderson

Prayer Ministry - Sheila Crozer, June Grindley

Monday 20th November - 9.30 am - Bumps and Bundles

Wednesday, 22nd November - 2 pm - Well-come Café 10:30 am

Next week @ BBC

Sunday 26th November 2023 - 10.30 am

Duty Deacon - Alex Carduff

Welcome Team - Liz McLeod, Moira Shaw, Roddy Shaw

Crèche - Lorna McLean +1

Tea/Coffee - Margaret Gillies, Tina Osemeke

Prayer Ministry - Shona Menzies +1

Monday 27th November - 9.30 am - Bumps and Bundles

Tuesday 28th November - 12.30 am - Lunchbreak

Wednesday, 29th November - 2 pm - Well-come Café 10:30 am

Weekly newsletter distribution (from later in November)

We are preparing to change from MailChimp to ChurchSuite for sending our weekly newsletter to you. The transition will happen later this month. You will receive the email in the same way as before; we will just be producing and sending the email using ChurchSuite instead of MailChimp. To ensure that you continue receiving the newsletter, please check in ChurchSuite

that your communication preferences (under My Details) are set to "Receive general emails". If you're not yet signed up for ChurchSuite, you can do that here:-

<https://bearsdenbaptistchurch.churchsuite.com/embed/addressbook/form>

If you'd like help checking your communication preferences, contact Joe office@bearsdenbaptistchurch.com or Peter peter_martin@wycliffe.ch

Baptismal Service – We are holding a baptismal service on Sunday December 10th. If you have not yet been baptised as a believer and would like to take this opportunity to make that special step of obedience to the Lord, then please speak to John Craib.

Men's Curry/Quiz Night

A Men's Curry/Quiz Night for those associated with the Church and their friends has been arranged for Friday 8th December at 7pm. The curry will be supplied by Spice Chilli in Bearsden.

Please book on Eventbrite as soon as possible to give an idea of numbers, the cost is £12.50 payable on the night. **Please note, you can also book by emailing the office.** Cancellations can only be accepted until December 3rd, thereafter we will require to commit total numbers to the restaurant.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mens-curryquiz-night-tickets-755691653077?aff=oddtcreator>

BBC Succession Group Report on Progress 12th November 2023 by Ray Davis

It is a privilege to act as Moderator/Chair of the Bearsden Baptist Church Succession Group and is a joy to work with the six church members you have appointed to carry out the task of finding a new pastor. They acknowledge and are grateful for the faithful service and ministry of John and Carina over these past 25 years, and realise that it is not going to be easy to fill their shoes.

It is, as I am sure you will understand, a requirement of a vacancy group to maintain confidentiality in order to protect the position of those who express an interest in the position of Pastor at BBC. However, I thought it might be helpful to provide you with a report on progress as the Succession Group has been working hard on your behalf and there is a danger due to the confidentiality aspect that you might be asking the question what is happening?

I have been impressed by the group's prayerful concern and desire to seek the person of the Lord's choosing. The first meeting of the group took place on the 3rd April 2023 and the main purpose was to pray and agree the process. The initial requirement was to produce a Church Profile that could be given to the BUS to be placed on their Pastoral Vacancy List and also used to send further afield. The Group felt it was important to discern what the congregation were looking for in a new minister and also to provide a preliminary picture to a prospective candidate summarising who you are as a Church.

This involved a congregational meeting on the 10th May 2023 which many of you will have attended and where you prayerfully discerned the current characteristics of BBC and where you felt the Lord was directing you as a Church in the future. The feedback from this meeting resulted in the formation of the Church Profile and this was distributed UK wide and further afield on the 22nd May 2023. (see below)

The initial response to the pastoral vacancy was slow but in the meantime the group met with John and Carina on the 10th July 2023 to hear their heart for the ongoing ministry at BBC. John shared that his last sermon at BBC would be on the 31/03/24 (Easter Sunday) It was noted that a handover would be better than a vacancy but it was recognised a replacement pastor would be in the Lord's timing and that could mean a gap.

As of today's date, the group have received ten responses to the vacancy, and after prayerful consideration have decided not to take certain applications forward. They have however met informally with three candidates (one by Zoom) These informal meetings took place on the 1st August, 21st September and 8th November 2023. In between these three informal interviews, the Group met again on the 2nd October 2023 to review and discuss the various applications. They did not feel they wished to proceed with the individual they met on the 1st August, however, they were largely positive about the individual they met on the 21st September but felt they would like to consider one other application before deciding whether to bring a name to the Church for consideration. (this meeting took place on the 8th November 2023)

In the meantime, the Group would like to thank you for your patience and would ask you to be in prayer that they would be given spiritual discernment and wisdom as they move forward in faith to recommend to the Church the person of the Lords choosing.

Every Blessing in Christ

Ray Davis

Bearsden Baptist Church Profile

“Being and Making Disciples of Jesus”

Who are we?

Bearsden Baptist Church was constituted in 1973 making us 50 years old this year. We are members of the Baptist Union of Scotland and have grown from a small group of pioneers to a congregation of around 150 people across all the generations. It is our desire that everyone should feel welcome and that they belong. We would describe ourselves as Bible based and Spirit led and hope to glorify God by presenting Jesus faithfully in word and deed through the power of the Holy Spirit. We seek to encourage people to grow in both the fruit and gifts of the spirit, contribute to the life of the congregation and outreach to our community and beyond.

Where are we?

We are in Bearsden a suburb of Glasgow, Scotland. Bearsden town centre and the surrounding area is one of the least deprived parts of East Dunbartonshire and the wider Glasgow city region and has a decreasing and ageing population.

We own our building and in 2003 built a new sanctuary to accommodate the growing congregation. In the 1980s we planted Castlehill Baptist Church.

Our building is built on a Roman fort which was constructed around 142AD as part of the Antonine wall. We have worked in partnership with the “Rediscovering the Antonine Wall Project” which has provided funds to develop our gardens and add new installation and signage. The gardens are an asset for the local community and used for family fun days, coffee mornings and heritage events.

Our staff and activities

The staff currently comprises six people: our Senior pastor (who is retiring after 25 years of fruitful ministry), Youth Pastor, Children and Families Worker, Church Administrator, Cleaner and Caretaker.

We have a leadership team of eight Deacons (3 men and 5 women). In addition, congregational groups (Worship Team, Pastoral Team, Property Group, Garden Vision Group, Finance Team, and Mission Group) and a strong team of volunteers support the ministries of the Church as well as other para-church activities.

On a Sunday morning, we live stream our services and have 178 subscribers.

A typical service will have a mix of contemporary and traditional worship, prayers, readings and a talk. We run a crèche, Kidzone (preschool to P6) and Catalyst (youth group for P7-S4). After the service we offer prayer ministry by trained volunteers.

On a regular basis we run:

- * Lunch-break for older people
- * Bumps and Bundles for parents and toddlers
- * Well-Come café - support for mental health and wellbeing
- * Slow Down Breathe and Refresh - silence and contemplation in the outdoors.
- * Crafternoon - crafts and chat.
- * Mid-week small groups
- * Prayer Triplets
- * Friday night drop in for young people in conjunction with Killermont Church
- * 2Forty2 a mid week Bible Study Group for S3-S6's
- * Monthly play scheme to support families affected by autism (Lead by Creatovators)

We occasionally run:

- * Alpha Groups
- * Freedom in Christ
- * 24/7 Prayer Course
- * Parenting Groups
- * Men's Curry Nights
- * Quiz nights
- * Community concerts

We are looking for a Pastor with, vision and courage, able to lead a team and passionate to activate and further draw out the gifting and skills in our congregation. (Please see Appendix 1)

You should:

- * Have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and be a baptised believer.
- * Have a deep understanding of biblical beliefs and teachings and be able to effectively communicate its teachings to the congregation.
- * Be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- * Be a team player and provide leadership and guidance to the congregation and be able to work collaboratively with other members of the pastoral team.
- * Have a heart for people and be able to connect with

them on a personal one-to-one level.

- * Be a person of integrity, who lives a life consistent with biblical beliefs and teachings.
- * Love and care for everyone and equip them to serve according to their gifting.
- * Oversee pastoral care of the wider church and coordinate a comprehensive pastoral care ministry.
- * Have a concern for home and overseas mission

We are looking for someone with the above qualities who can manage a diverse congregation. Who can strengthen and challenge us to further serve one another and our community. We have a lot going on and we look forward to our new Pastor bringing fresh insight and perspective to enable us to continue to fulfil our vision of "Being and making disciples of Jesus".
Ministry Practicalities

This is a full-time post that will be recompensed accordingly.

We would expect the new pastor to live within the Bearsden area and be active in the local community.

We do not have a manse at present; however, details will be discussed with the preferred candidate taking into consideration their personal housing needs.

Contact:

Allison Ferguson Succession Group alliB63@icloud.com

Appendix 1

Feedback from our meetings with the congregation.

Baptist Union of Scotland Pastor Attributes	Kids/ YP Total	Adults	Congregation Priority Rank
Church builder – concerned for and involved in the growth of the whole church, whatever their specific calling, and equipping people to serve according to their gifts	9	39	48 (1 st)
Bible teacher – able to understand, teach and inspire a response to Scripture	10	37	47 (2 nd)
Gatherer – able to build community, which includes drawing people together, hosting gatherings, caring for people in need, challenging people who are complacent and nurturing unity in the Spirit	8	28	36 (3 rd)
Disciple-maker – leading others to faith and deeper obedience	12	15	27 (4 th)
Engaged in mission – modelling a responsibility of every believer	8	16	24 (5 th)

Feedback from kids:

A person who puts all their trust in God,

A kind person who likes kids

They need to love kids Likes art

Is grateful for the church Caring

Wise

Feedback from YP:

Keeps talks short

Is interactive and engaging

Bethany Christian Trust - Caring Christmas trees.

The collection date from the church car park is Saturday, 9th December from 10 am till 12.30 pm Please contact Carina directly if you are able to help.

Please support the work of Bethany Christian Trust - trees can be ordered from the website - <https://www.caringchristmastrees.com/about>



ChurchSuite

Have you signed up for ChurchSuite, our communication platform? The mobile app gives you secure access to our address book (where you can update your own details), events calendar, small groups, rotas, and links to the church website <https://bearsdenbaptistchurch.com/> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BearsdenBaptistChurch>

Register for ChurchSuite here:-

<https://bearsdenbaptistchurch.churchsuite.com/embed/addressbook/form>

It's a two-step process, and includes a link to download the mobile app once your registration has been processed.