

LONDON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

Monthly News Sheet

March 2024!

**Totally committed to God
Empowered by the Holy Spirit
Introducing others to Jesus**

LRBC



LRBC Senior Minister

Rev Lou Webber

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Duty Deacon

w/c 3rd March - Anna Smith

w/c 10th March - Craig Emerson

w/c 17th March - Lynn Scott

w/c 24th March - Ray Dorling

w/c 31st March - Jess Peacock

dutydeacon@londonroad.org.uk



News sheet items in by 6pm Monday
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Church Office

Open: Wednesdays

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Registered Charity in England & Wales no: 1131765 / CCL Licence no: 4673

SERVICES

Sunday Morning Service with Communion 3rd March: Rev Lou Webber will be preaching,

10:30am **Kidz Church** (Small Hall)
10:30am **Crew** (Youth Lounge)

Mothering Sunday 10th March:
Rev Lou Webber will be preaching,

10:30am **Kidz Church** (Small Hall)
10:30am **Crew** (Youth Lounge)

Sunday Morning 17th March: Rev Lou Webber will be preaching,

10:30am **Kidz Church** (Small Hall)
10:30am **Crew** (Youth Lounge)

Sunday Morning 24th March: Rev Lou Webber will be preaching,

10:30am **Kidz Church** (Small Hall)
10:30am **Crew** (Youth Lounge)

Maundy Thursday Communion.
28th March 7pm – 8pm

Easter Sunday 31st March:
Communion - 9:30am – 10am.
Refreshments - 10am – 10:30am
including Bacon/Sausage Rolls.
All Age Service - 10:30am

Prayer Corner: please also remember that one-to-one prayer is available to you from the prayer team after every Sunday service.

NOTICES

News Sheet: The next news sheet will cover the month of April.

Please send any items for inclusion by **Monday 18th April before 6pm** to the Church Office.

Reminder emails of church events will continue to be sent. **For event details please use this**

link <https://londonroad.org.uk>

click 'What's On' to view LRBC's Calendar

ChurchSuite App: powered by ChurchSuite, the LRBC app is packed with features including Calendar, Latest Sermons, List of planned courses, Latest communications, and Links to lots of useful resources. You can also update your contact details and manage your privacy settings. Download the app at <https://londonroad.org.uk/app/>



We would just like to say thank you so much for all your prayers, love, messages, and cards following our engagement on February 13th, we are extremely excited about planning our big day, and we praise God for bringing us together!
Love Laurence and Andrea xxx



Ladies' Prayer Meeting

Our meetings for March are on the 6th & 20th at the usual time of 10:30 – 11:30 am. Please remember that we meet on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Church Lounge.

Our primary focus during this time is to enter His Presence with our love and adoration, and to thank God for who He is and what He has done. So, ladies you are invited to come and join us and just be you in His Presence. There is a time for petitioning and intercession as Holy Spirit leads us.



Whitton Life Community Hub

We are all looking forward to spring at Whitton Life, we can leave the dark nights and mornings from February behind and look forward. But before we do, a quick recap from February. We have had more of a police presence around the estate in the last few months, this is due to a new scheme to have more policemen in the community. We have had quite a

few visits from them, with them checking in with us and just making themselves present in the community so that they feel more confident in talking to them and getting them to help with the issues that can be around on the estate. The little children love it when they come in but more so when they leave and put their lights and sirens on, it makes their day. The police will also be coming in to most of the groups and chatting about security, social media and anti social behaviour to name but a few.

We also launched our 40 days of giving on 14th February, which will be continuing throughout lent, we have had a very supportive start to this scheme and we know that this will continue. So if you are able to donate any items, either food or toiletries etc, we will be extremely grateful. We will put together what has been donated at Easter and will give out to those in need.

We also have FISH, this is always so well attended not just with us but at other venues throughout the town. Please continue to pray for those that lead the team and for those at the different venues as they provide meals to many families throughout the town in the school holidays.

March will see us celebrate Mother's Day but it also gives us many opportunities throughout the groups to tell the Easter story. It is so important that we are able to tell them this. So please remember the group volunteers as they prepare the best way to do this, especially for the leaders of After School Club. The children who come along have been very receptive recently and we are very encouraged by their responses in recent weeks, and as we invite them along to all age service at Easter with their parents, we pray that some good seeds have been and will be sown.

Please also continue to pray for Angie as she is still recovering from her operation, that she will feel stronger each day and be reassured of God's presence. Also remember the volunteers, we have been a little short staffed in recent weeks, pray for good health, strength and peace for them all.



YOUTH UPDATE

Ferne and Jen are hoping to attend this conference on the 27th April, and we would love to extend the opportunity to join in to all who are involved with children and youth ministry.



Are you interested in joining us for a **day of teaching, resourcing and equipping for anyone involved in ministry with children, young people and families.** More information can be found here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/one-big-day-conference-just-one-thing-tickets-796096043697?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>

Reminder: The Energize introduction training on the 3rd March for those involved with children and youth ministry here. Energize is a helpful resource we use at LRBC to plan for children's and youth groups.



Thank you for all the pancake mixes that were donated for our Pancakes and Prayers morning. Any leftovers were donated to Whitton for the Lent '40 days of giving.'



On the 18th February, Kids Church and CREW gathered together for **Pancakes and Prayers**. After eating delicious pancakes, we engaged with some creative prayer activities. Did you take part in any of the activities?

One of the activities encouraged asking God a question, and these were wondered....**'Do you see earth as the planet or as people?'** **'When you see earth do you think "Oh my gosh, what have I done?"** or **"Oh, the world is a lovely place"?**



Schools Work

February was a month to focus on the schools in our local community. As a team we managed to donate donuts to staff at 13 schools along with a prayer card. Please pray for the conversations we were able to have with staff, and for God to open doors where He wants us to have a presence within these schools. Thank you for the kind donations towards the cost of this.

Additionally, a few of us gathered (in the pouring rain) to prayer walk around some of the schools closest to the church building.

And finally, we focussed prayer on schools during the prayer encounter evening, where we offered an insight into the local community schools and were able to see some of the struggles that children and young people face.



Youth Groups

MOTB has been meeting in the church building on a Thursday since the start of the

year. At the start we didn't really know if the young people would come to the church building, but it has been so good to have (on average) 20 young people joining us. We have been able to get to know a few more of the 'players' a bit better through conversations and continue to have great chats with the 'spectators.' It has been so good to see how the group has felt comfortable in the space, have explored the rooms, sat in the sanctuary, and joined in with different games. And I am grateful to have been in the dry and warm. We do hope to return to the outdoor space as soon as we are able to.

PULSE has had a good start to the year, with lots of friends being invited. This term we have welcomed two youth practitioners from the Youth Justice hub who have facilitated conversations with the youth around safety in the community. We have introduced lent, eaten pancakes, given out bibles and welcomed Jesus in conversations.

For the term ahead, we have a trip planned to Laser Tag and lots of Easter fun activities.

Prayer Prompts:

- We are waiting for a date to return to EPA football pitch, hopefully it will be soon.
- For more helpers to join the youth ministry team (see note below)
- For all who help with youth ministry within LRBC.
- Please pray for the 95% of children and young people who do not go to church.
- Please pray that LRBC youth groups remain as safe spaces where young people can hang out, build relationships, explore faith and have fun.



The CREW, PULSE and MOTB teams need more helpers to allow these groups to run as they currently are.

We have had to introduce a waiting list for Friday night PULSE, as the group has grown to a size that cannot allow any more young people to currently join us.

On a Sunday morning, we need more adults to help, to lead sessions and to have discussions with the youth in the setting. This will allow us to continue offering the age-targeted group on most Sundays.

Please speak to Jen if you would like to know more about how you can serve in this way.



From the 3rd of March the older children will have their own children's table in Church and will now come into Church for the first two songs and offering. Kidz Church are making a commitment by all using a cross bookmark to add stickers for coming to church, being kind, helping others etc. all the way up to Easter and then they will be presented with a devotion book or Bible and certificate.

The children enjoyed our half term prayer space on the 18th of February with pancakes and the older ones really engaged in the activities in the hall. All the children took home pancake mixes, prayers, and a 40 days of Lent pack to use as a family.

At Kidz Church I welcomed in a new friend called Prayer Bear who children can hold if settling in or feel sad, they can also take him home for the week and pray with him. There was no Kidz Church on the 25th of February but colouring and activities were left out for the service.

In March we are celebrating Mother's Day and the lead up to Easter with an Easter Party on the 24th of March.



Little Fishes Parent and Toddlers

Little Fishes have enjoyed using the musical instruments at song time this half term and had the bible story Jonah and the whale with crafts as well as making valentines' cards. We gave out a treat for our parents for valentines and Lent to give them 5 minutes of Self-care with 'Love yourself through Lent' over the half term holidays.

We are back at Little Fishes on the 28th Feb with our Spring and Easter activities.



Activities for the Easter term

28th Feb Spring
playdough
6th March Mother's Day
cards
13th March Spring/Easter
Messy Play
20th March Easter stamping
27th March Easter Craft
We will also have the Easter
Story and an Easter Treat with
book for the children to take
home.



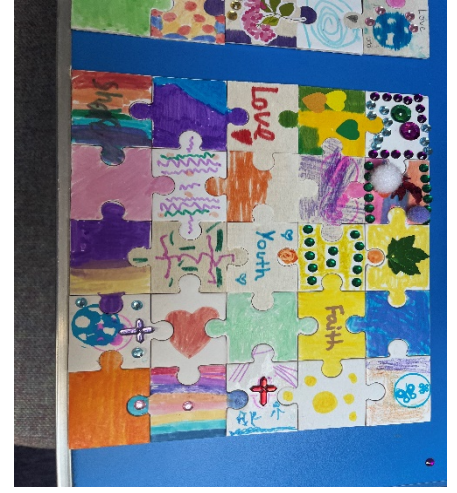
Hand Massage: This term Esther and the chaplaincy will be back with their fabulous hand massages on the 20th March to give the adults a treat.

Easter Photos: We are hoping to have our Photographers back this term with an Easter theme, we are just waiting to hear from them so will keep you posted.



The All Age service on the 11th February was about being a part of the body of Christ. We started at 10 o'clock with breakfast pastries and the congregation were given a puzzle piece to decorate who they thought they were in the body of the church. In the family area there was build what you thought church was like or would like and why with Lego and magnetics.

Everyone joined in with a quiz on the human body, Lou talked about what it was to be the body of Christ and a short video was played from Saddleback Kids. The children and Youth coloured in a body and the congregation responded to the call of what gifts and talents they could use for church by writing on a thumbs up post it note and sticking it on the body.



Easter Egg donations

We are looking for donations of Easter Eggs for our children and Youth this year and will leave a box out in the foyer if anyone is able to donate that would be amazing!

Thank you, Ferne, Jen & Liz



Please pray for all our children, families, and volunteers leading up to Easter.

Ferne is away from the 21st of February until the 2nd of March and then will be working on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday ASC, and Sunday this term, If you need anything, please contact: Ferne on childrenandfamilies@londonroad.org.uk



Chaplaincy Collective

First Light Festival: We are in the process of planning our space at the First Light Festival again this year. It was really lovely to be invited back.

Please pray for us as we consider what might be the right thing this year.

If you would like to chat about joining us do come and see me: we offer full training and it's a really fun time!

MINDFULNESS COURSE

The 'Introduction to Mindfulness' course I'm running has two weeks left. It has been really fun to do and it's great to see people exploring faith and spirituality as part of it.

Please pray that as people meditate from the Christian viewpoint that God meets them.

What's been great? *Chatting easily about well-being and Christian spirituality and people being responsive to it.*

If you would like to learn to be more present, more connected to God in the moment, and less overwhelmed by your emotions – get in touch to register for the next course.



Chaplaincy

Weekly we continue to meet in WellWellWell on alternate Fridays and to give out breakfast alternate Mondays and Fridays.

What's been great? *Making new good contacts with shop owners, being invited into their lives, writing specific 'words' from God on napkins and seeing them resonate powerfully with people*

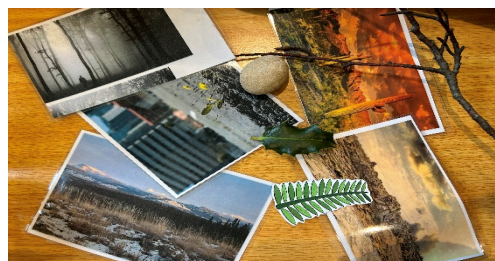
(The picture is fabulous Dorothy from Gunton Baptist)

COMING UP: The Chaplaincy Collective is getting out and about in different venues: Friday 8th March: Women's Forum for International women's day at Gunton Community Hall

Wednesday 20th March: Session at Parent and Tots @LRBC

What's been great? *Being able to go to different secular events and have a healing presence there is so good. Also, going to Parent and Tots is enabling us to support the parents and introduce them to Jesus, building friendships and links.*

WILD CHURCH



We met inside on Sunday 18th February due to the torrential rain (we are not that wild!) and our theme was Wilderness as we explored Lent and God being with us and leading us through Wilderness.

We ended with marking each other with an Ash cross and saying the words "Remember you are made from dust, but you are so very loved."

We met on Monday 19th for our dinner and prayer/discussion. Our theme will be exploring the different views on sexuality in the Bible.

Does the idea of what we are doing inspire you? We could do with another core couple or a man to join us as we are a little female heavy! Have a think and pray

What's been great? *Seeing one of our group invite Jesus into their life, seeing*

people opening up about how they are, exploring together how Jesus is relevant to life, eating pancakes!!!

In March our dates are:

Saturday 2nd: social

Monday 11th: dinner and prayer/discussion

Sunday 17th: Wild Church morning

Easter Sunday 31st: 9am on the beach.

An Easter Invitation to All to 'Journey with Jesus'.

Between Tuesday 26th March and Good Friday, the church will be set up with 9 reflective prayer stations where there will be an opportunity for you to journey through the Passion story given in Mark's gospel. You will be invited to interact with different elements of Jesus' journey to the cross in the run up to Easter. Everyone Welcome!

Church opening times.

Tuesday 26th March 10am – 12pm

Wednesday 27th March 1pm – 3pm

Good Friday 29th March 10am – 12pm.



Weekly Prayer Focus: Gunton Baptist Church

Gunton is a suburb of Lowestoft in Suffolk where Gunton Baptist Church is situated on a large estate in a deprived area. The church has a small and mainly elderly membership and has been without a minister since 2022.

There is a leadership team of four deacons. Sunday services are led by one of the deacons, several of the members preach or local lay preachers or sometimes videos are used. The church has a very busy programme of weekly activities that reach out into the wider community. These include:

- Create 'n' Craft with coffee and craft activities.
- A very popular Hub café with drink and food served at a low cost. It provides a great opportunity to meet others and build friendships locally.
- A weekly prayer and Bible study meeting.
- The Roots Community Clothing Scheme which is like a charity shop and provides clean, good quality clothing and household items for the local community. Any money raised provides equipment for homeless people and those who are moving in to new accommodation.
- A small foodbank to support the needs in the local community.
- And Baby Basics which works with midwives, health visitors and other professionals to provide Moses baskets, baby clothes bundles, cots, prams, pushchairs and high chairs to vulnerable mums in and around Lowestoft.

The church has a very practical focus in its outlook and ministry that tries to help those in need in the local area. Their greatest prayer is for families and children to become part of the church.

Please pray:

- For new people to join the church and make things grow.
- For guidance and leading in what God wants the church to do in the future.
- For fresh ideas and how the church can look for new opportunities.



Pakistan number 7 on the worlds watch list. Last year's devastating attack on the Christian community in Jaranwala was a sobering reminder of the hostile environment that Pakistani believers live in. This violence drew the world's attention, but Christians also face less obvious persecution every day. Rehena says –

"We are a lower class, because we are Christians". At the factory, Rehena has to keep her faith quiet. "it is dangerous to discuss my faith in Jesus" she says. "we have to hide our identity. We cannot even say the name of Christ. "If I must choose between Jesus and a better life, the choice is not difficult. Jesus is the only way, this is what I cling to."

Please Pray With Rehena. Heavenly Father, please watch over 600,000 Christian women in Pakistan who, like Rehena, work under conditions in factories.

Keep their eyes fixed on you, and show them your loving kindness. Protect and encourage all your children in Pakistan. Amen.

For more information about the persecuted church go to – opendoorsuk.org

PRAYER NEEDS

Your faithful prayers are appreciated by all who have needs such as illness, health issues or other anxieties.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please remember LRBC events in your prayers. All future events can be found either via our website link <https://londonroad.org.uk> or via My ChurchSuite