

News and Views



MARCH 2025



ASHURST DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH
Ashurst Drive, Gants Hill, IG2 6QH, 020 8554 7488
www.adbaptistchurch.org.uk

Theme 2025



REBUILD US
LORD

1 Peter 5:10, "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself **restore** you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."

Ashurst Drive Baptist Church

A Local Church Bringing The Love Of Jesus To Our Wonderful Community

SUNDAY MORNINGS at 10.30am

SUNDAY SERVICE PLAN

March 02	Ruin to Revival: Put God first
March 09	Ruin to Revival: Pattern - People - Places
March 16	Defeating Discouragement: External
March 23	Defeating Discouragement: Internal
March 30	Defeating Discouragement: Seeking God

1st Sunday – Communion service

Dear Church,

The Season of Lent calls us for self-reflection!

*“In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.” –
Matt. 7:12*

A Finnish soldier in the three-month winter war with Russia, lay wounded on the battlefield. A Russian soldier approached, pointing his rifle. The Finn was certain his end had come. However, the Russian handed him a medical kit, then kept moving. Remarkably, later on, the roles reversed. The Finn found himself in a similar situation - only this time, a Russian soldier lay wounded and helpless. The Finn, remembering the grace extended to him, handed over medical supplies and walked on.

This is the Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12) that Jesus taught us to live by. Imagine how different our world would be if we all practiced this simple yet a significant principle! Its simplicity doesn't lessen its significance, though it is often overlooked. We live in a world of excess, indulgence, and greed, where few stop to

consider the needs and feelings of others. Society is driven by social status, and many are willing to do anything to get ahead, often at the expense of others. But our Lord was clear and precise in His command. The Golden Rule lies at the heart of humanity - it speaks of the love and care that should be present in all people.

This significant principle cannot be separated from obedience to God. If we are to be what the Lord desires us to be, if we are to represent our Lord in a way that pleases Him, we must be willing to

live according to this principle. When the “Golden Rule” is lived out in our lives, we show the love of God to others. We cannot truly please our Saviour if we are unwilling to love our neighbours. Consider the treatment of Jesus prior to the crucifixion. He had every right to have destroyed His accusers. They were not worthy of His love and sacrifice. Yet, He did not repay them with what they deserved. He offered grace instead of wrath, and gave them what they needed, not what they deserved.

During this Lenten season, Jesus invites us to reflect on this golden principle, which is simple, but significant.

God Bless,

Amutha



Learning to be content

In 2018, when we decided to buy our family house, our priorities were that the house had to be in and around the Newbury Park area as we don't have our family living in the UK and our Church family has become our extended family, we did not want to move far from Church. Our next priority was that it had to be within walking distance of primary and secondary schools for our kids and the tube station for my husband to commute to work. With all our requirements in mind, we started to look for a suitable house within our budget. We looked for months but were unable to find a house. At that time, many of my husband's friends moved to Chelmsford and Kent and purchased new build houses. For the price, we were looking at, we were finding 4-5 bedroom new build houses with 2-3 bathrooms in those areas. I told my husband that our priority is not a bigger or a new house but to stay in this area nearer to Church as we as a family had settled in our Church and our spiritual family is important to us.

One day, my husband told me that we had waited long enough, and it would be wise to go and visit the houses in Chelmsford and he was booking an appointment for the weekend. I prayed to God asking if it is His will, to please show us a suitable house in this area instead. I was restless and couldn't sleep that night and I browsed the property apps Zoopla and Rightmove and at 4am, miraculously I found a house in Ardwell Avenue, a few streets away from our Church and in walking distance of schools and a tube station. I woke my husband up and he immediately booked to view the house that weekend. We viewed the house; we both instantly said yes and bought our family home. It is a 3 bedroom house with one bathroom and a decent sized garden. We thanked God and praised Him for blessing us with the right house meeting all our requirements. One year later Boom!! Two unexpected things happened. Firstly, Covid happened; the whole world came to a standstill, working from home and online schooling came into place. My husband needed a room for his office. Secondly, God gave us a sweet surprise in the pandemic, blessed us with our third daughter Hosanna and she needed a bedroom too. However, during lockdown, we were thankful to God for the larger space and especially the garden for the kids to play in and I explored my interest in gardening and grew a lot of vegetables. The kids went back to school but since then, my husband works remotely and mostly from

home. Slowly, the house started to look small for us and one bathroom was not enough and we started to feel the squeeze.

Gradually the problems of the old house started showing up. The house, which we once thought was a blessing started to cause discomfort to us. Last year was a difficult one as our toddler was being potty trained and with one bathroom, it was very difficult. With my husband working from home and as he is always busy with meetings, I was unable to invite people to our house. One more area we struggled was, we were unable to show hospitality to people and especially when they came from India and other countries, we were unable to host them and provide accommodation as we don't have an extra bedroom. When I visited our friends' new houses, I started questioning myself if I had made the right choice and was it really God's plan? The evil used to whisper that if it is God's plan why is it not perfect and why were we not able to enjoy living in it. From being grateful, I started becoming dissatisfied, grumbling and complaining about the house. I was not able to show hospitality to others with gladness as I had to make space to invite people and sometimes even ended up not inviting people at all. Then came the guilt, What am I doing? As a Christian woman, I should welcome people, but I was not doing it and what was I teaching my kids about hospitality?

We made plans to extend the house, got the permits approved but unexpectedly those plans came to halt. A few months ago, we had a series of issues in the house. One Sunday as our family was getting ready for Church, I was having breakfast in the kitchen when I noticed water dripping from the kitchen ceiling and within minutes the water was leaking as if the floodgates were opened. I was standing there in shock, crying and asking God, "Why God, already we are short for space and now the leak?" My husband encouraged us to go to Church and deal with the leak later. As it was a Sunday it was difficult to get a plumber, but a kind handyman came around 9:30pm, stopped while going out to dinner with his family and carried out a temporary repair. Until then I was only looking at the problem, but God opened my eyes to see His provision, the handyman whom He sent to help us. God made it clear to me that we may or may not move to a bigger house, we may or may not extend the house but now in this difficult circumstance, I have to learn to be content with our house and trust His plan. When I started to grasp

that, I was amazed to see how through our house, God has helped my husband to gain basic carpentry, electrical and handwork skills and how my children are learning to wait patiently, plan their showers and to take turns. God also taught me that people who visit our house will notice how they are made to feel more than our house. Our guests need to feel good about themselves not about me or my house and our home does not need to look like one from magazines but has to look lived in and welcoming. This has changed my perspective completely, now before inviting people to our home instead of feeling anxious, I pray for God's wisdom to make our home more welcoming and to equip me with ways to show Christ's love to them. My house situation did not change but I have learned to be content in all circumstances.

Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:11, *"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."* Paul wrote this letter from the prison in Rome. He is saying that he has learned to be content. Contentment does not come to us humans naturally. We always strive and wish to have more; more clothes, more money, more cars, more houses, more wealth, more comfort and more materialistic things. Paul had gone through various difficult situations beaten, flogged, stoned, shipwrecked, experienced hunger and thirst, suffered by a thorn in his flesh but he is saying that he has learned to be content because God's grace and strength is enough. Similarly, our contentment does not depend on the circumstances but on God's strength and knowing that He is in control. God provided Manna for the Israelites in the wilderness every day for 40 years. God taught them to rely on Him every day for His provision and to be content.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, whatever seasons of difficulty we might be in, let us learn to trust God and be content in who God is rather than our circumstances.

God bless us all!

Latha Billa

From Romani tent to global pulpit: Gypsy Smith

No one is beyond the reach of God's love and purpose

It will be a good day for all the Churches when their members ask themselves whether they are doing the work for which their Lord establishes them. If they cannot win others to Christ, Christ will ask them why they disobeyed His commands to share His Gospel with their needy neighbours. They answer, "Lord, we were so busy studying deep theological questions, arguing about the validity of critical inquiries as to the books of the Bible, preaching and hearing eloquent discourses, comforting and edifying one another, that we had to leave the Christless masses alone." **Gypsy Smith**

Linking back to February N&V - Rodney "Gypsy" Smith (1860 – 1947) who was born in a tent in **Epping Forest** is one of the more captivating evangelists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Early Life and Conversion - His early years were in poverty and hardship. His family were Romani gypsies, living on the fringes of society in Epping Forest. They sold goods and performed music, often facing prejudice and exclusion. He lost his mother with smallpox at 5 years old.

He taught himself to read and write and was converted at 16 from various factors; the witness of his father hearing Ira Sankey sing and a visit to the home of John Bunyan (writer of Pilgrims Progress) all contributed.

"I can't read or write well," he reportedly said, "but I can tell and sing about Jesus". People also knew him as "the singing gypsy boy."

Despite his limited education, Smith quickly gained a reputation for his heartfelt and engaging preaching. He would walk miles to speak at small village gatherings, passionately sharing the message of God's grace.

Joining The Salvation Army, Smith's early efforts caught the attention

of William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army. Booth recognised the young man's potential and invited him to join the movement. Later he pursued an independent ministry following his own calling.

A Global Evangelist - Gypsy Smith's evangelistic career spanned over 70 years. He conducted revivals across the United Kingdom, United States, South Africa, Australia and beyond. He had the unique ability to bridge cultural and social divides, speaking to the wealthy and influential as effectively as to the poor and downtrodden. Over his lifetime, he crossed the Atlantic over 40 times, preaching in prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York.

He often referred to his Romani heritage in his sermons. He would proudly say, "I'm only a gypsy boy, but the King's son has made me His brother."

These stories resonated with his audiences, many of whom saw in him a living example of God's power to transform lives.

Core Message: Hope and Transformation - At the heart of Gypsy Smith's ministry was a simple but profound message: no one is beyond the reach of God's love. "**God loves you as you are,**" he would often say, "**but He loves you too much to leave you that way.**"

Impact and Legacy - Gypsy Smith's ministry had a far-reaching impact. His revivals were often standing-room-only events, drawing thousands of attendees.

Besides his preaching, Smith was a prolific author. He wrote several books and hymn collections, which extended his influence beyond the pulpit. His writings often reflected his core themes of hope, grace, and the universality of God's love.

Despite his widespread acclaim, Smith remained humble and grounded. He never forgot his roots and often used his platform to advocate for the marginalised. He encouraged his audiences to embrace people from all backgrounds, emphasising that God's kingdom is open to everyone.

Challenges and Criticism - Like many public figures, Gypsy Smith faced his share of challenges and criticism. Smith's response was characteristically humble: "I'm just telling people what Jesus did for me.

If that's too simple, then maybe we're making the gospel too complicated." By sharing his personal experiences, Smith made the gospel accessible and relatable to his audiences.

A Lifelong Commitment - He often said, "I'd rather burn out than rust out," a sentiment that reflected his tireless commitment to spreading the gospel. His life's work is a testament to the transformative power of God's grace and the impact of a single life dedicated to serving others.

5 Lessons from Gypsy Smith's Life

1. Conversion as a Personal Experience: "Jesus did not come to save us by educating us, but by regenerating us." He rejected the idea that mere church attendance or good behaviour could save a person—one needed to be **born again**.

2. The Power of Prayer and Humility: "Go home, lock yourself in your room, kneel down in the middle of the floor, and with a piece of chalk, draw a circle around yourself. There, on your knees, pray fervently and with a broken heart that God would start a revival inside that circle." This illustrated his belief that revival starts **within individuals, not institutions**

3. A Changed Life as Evidence of True Faith: "There are five Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and the me. Most people will never read the first four." He believed that a true conversion resulted in a **radically transformed life**, visible to others. "Do people see Jesus in me" – His popular hymn on YouTube.

4. Joy and Passion in Evangelism: "Don't preach a sermon; be the sermon." Unlike many preachers of his time, Gypsy Smith had an **infectious enthusiasm** for sharing the Gospel.

5. Revival Comes from Within: "Revival is not getting the people into the church; it is getting the church into the people." His message was that **each believer must seek renewal in their own heart first** before expecting change in their community.

Keep well and stay blessed,

David Howarth



BMS NEWS

Young People are Mobilising for Mission

In 2024 young people from 22 countries met in Malacca, Indonesia to worship and dream about the future of world mission.

BMS World Mission-supported worker Ardi Wiriadinata spoke at the conference about how we understand the context in which we do God's mission. He was very encouraged by how open and hungry the young people were when talking about mission. "Missions are on their minds, and they want to learn more about how they can be involved", he said. He also said, "We believe that with God's help, we can inspire and equip these young people to become effective disciples and leaders in their communities and beyond".

Ardi asks you to pray that the young people will be receptive to God's call to mission, and that the people of Mongolia - and people across the Asian-Pacific region - will come to know the love of God in Christ through their discipleship training?

Doreen Hunter

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Many Happy Returns of the Day to:-

Jessila Balaji 8th March



VOLUNTEERS POEM

Valuable is the work you do

Outstanding is how you always come through

Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer

Untiring in your efforts throughout the year

Notable are the contributions you make

Trustworthy in every project you take

Eager to reach your every goal

Effective in the way you fulfil your role

Ready with a smile like a shining star

Special and wonderful, that's what you are.

Author unknown



Supplied by **Doreen Hunter**

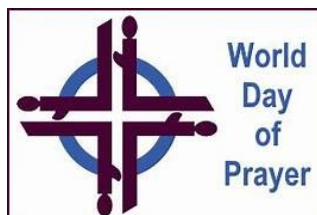
NIFOC - March Events

March is going to be a busy month for the North Ilford Fellowship of Churches.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 7th March - World Day of Prayer

Local meeting at 2.00pm at St Augustine's Church, Cranbrook Road IG6 1AU.



The World Day of Prayer programme is inspired by its motto: Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action. It is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer for peace and justice.

12th March - Lent Lunch

12Noon at Holy Trinity Church, Mossford Green, Barkingside IG6 2BX

19th March - Lent Lunch

12Noon at St Francis of Assisi Church, Fencepiece Road, Barkingside IG6 2LA

26th March - Lent Lunch

12Noon at Gants Hill Methodist Church, Gants Hill Crescent IG2 6TU

The idea of the Lent Lunches is to bring Christians (and others) together to share a light meal and fellowship. A voluntary collection is made for Christian Aid.

For more information please contact -

Tim Davies

The poster for International Women's Day Celebration at Ashurst Drive Baptist Church features a purple and pink floral border. It includes the church's logo (a cross with "ADBC" and "ASHURST DRIVE" inside a circle) and the text: "International Women's Day Celebration", "On Saturday 8th March 2025, 5:00PM @ Ashurst Drive Baptist Church IG2 6QH", "Welcoming all women (Secondary School onwards) to join", "Theme: Accelerate Action", "Speaker: Ms. Carolyn Mumford Broadmead Baptist Church", "Ticket £5", "3 Course Meal (Vegetarian options available)", "Doors open @4:30 PM until 7 PM", "Don't Miss it!", "Registration and Tickets: Petunia -07539620808 / Gill Davies-07749125595".

International Women's Day Celebration

**On Saturday 8th March 2025, 5:00PM
@ Ashurst Drive Baptist Church
IG2 6QH**

Welcoming all women (Secondary School onwards) to join

Theme: Accelerate Action

**Speaker: Ms. Carolyn Mumford
Broadmead Baptist Church**

Ticket £5

3 Course Meal (Vegetarian options available)

Doors open @4:30 PM until 7 PM


Don't Miss it!

**Registration and Tickets:
Petunia -07539620808 / Gill Davies-07749125595**



Praying through Psalms

Every
Monday Morning
@ 7 am
Via [Zoom](#)



606 233 4044
ADBC



Thursday

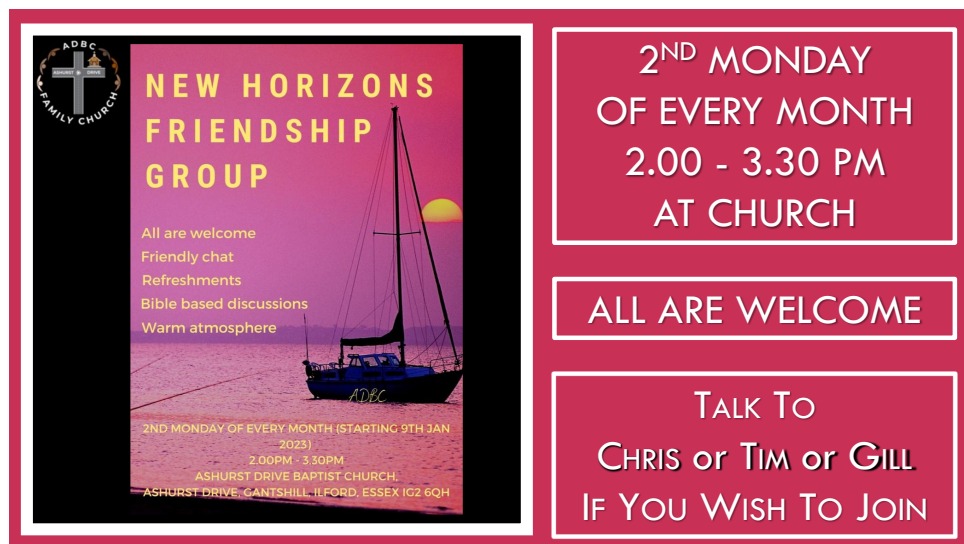
House **GROUPS**

ALTERNATE THURSDAYS
AT
8.00 PM VIA ZOOM

ALL ARE WELCOME

 883 2873 4780

TALK TO
DONI DANIEL
IF YOU WISH TO JOIN



**NEW HORIZONS
FRIENDSHIP
GROUP**

All are welcome
Friendly chat
Refreshments
Bible based discussions
Warm atmosphere

2ND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH (STARTING 9TH JAN 2023)
2.00PM - 3.30PM
ASHURST DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH,
ASHURST DRIVE, GANTSHILL, ILFORD, ESSEX IG2 6QH

2ND MONDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
2.00 - 3.30 PM
AT CHURCH

ALL ARE WELCOME

TALK TO
CHRIS or TIM or GILL
IF YOU WISH TO JOIN



LET US TALK
EVERY FRIDAY

@12:30 pm
@Minister's Office

All are welcome

TALK TO
AMUTHA
FOR FURTHER DETAILS



Prayer Meeting

21st March 2025
 @ 7.30 PM
 (every 3rd Friday)
 @
 Church
 All are welcome

To PRAY FOR

- THE CHURCH
- THE COMMUNITY
- THE NATION

Young Adults Group!

3rd Sunday after church every month

Games!

Food!

Bowling!

Worship night!

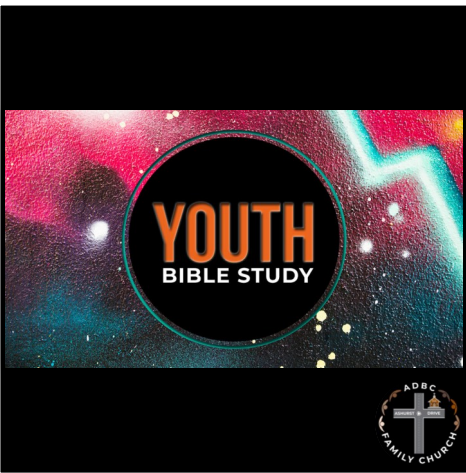
Bible studies!

Testimony sharing!

Every 2nd & 4th Friday
@
7.30 PM
Church hall

- Time of Worship
- Games
- Bible Study

Talk to Dinesh Or Johanna
For Further Details



Ashurst Drive Baptist Church

PRAYER WALK



Sat. 22nd March
@
4.30 pm
from the
church car park

REACH UP REACH IN REACH OUT





"You don't have to live in fear about debt – God has given support that can make a long-term difference called

Friends of Signpost

the first action to freedom is taking that first step"



To make a confidential appointment with Toks:
signpost@adbaptistchurch.org.uk

ASHURST DRIVE

Baptist Church

You ARE CONNECTED To ANOTHER PERSON(S)
AND
You CAN PRAY For EACH OTHER.




Prayer Partner Ministry

TALK TO
BRIAN WATERFIELD
 IF YOU WISH TO JOIN



Would you like to donate towards flowers on a Sunday?

Church Flowers

Perhaps on a special anniversary or to mark your birthday?

We have people who will display the flowers which will then be distributed after the church service.

Suggested donation - £20
 Please see Toks or Rachel




Ways to Support ADBC



- If you are a taxpayer, please use the blue envelopes 
- Setup a Standing Order 
- Write a cheque in favour of "ADBC"
- You can also raise free donations to ADBC when you shop online on [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/). This will make a BIG difference to our church.
- Sign up here:
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/
- contact:
treasurer@adbaptistchurch.org.uk

Ashurst Drive Baptist
Church

Food Bank donation
to
Redbridge Council

Last Sunday of every
month



Bring what you can
to support those in need



Ashurst Drive Baptist Church

Ashurst Drive, IG2 6QH



Every 3rd Saturday, 10:00 - 12:00

£3 / child (Ages 4 - 11)

Saturday 15th March

Cover photo - Oxleas Woods, Greenwich. By Bekki Stewart

What's Happening

... at a glance

PLEASE CHECK IF GROUPS ARE
RUNNING DURING THE SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS

SUNDAY

- 10.30 am Morning worship (also online)
Sunday School - (ages 3 - 18) Creche available
(All age service 1st Sunday of every month)
- 12.30pm Young adults group (2nd or 3rd Sunday of every month)

MONDAY

- 7.00 am Praying through Psalms (via Zoom)
- 2.00 pm New Horizons (2nd Monday of every month)
- 7.00 pm Keep fit club

TUESDAY

- 7.45 pm Badminton club

WEDNESDAY

- 8.00 pm House group Bible study (alternate weeks via Zoom)

THURSDAY

- 1.30 pm Tiddlywinks - a parent/carer & toddler group (during term time)
- 8.00 pm House group Bible study (alternate weeks via Zoom)

FRIDAY

- 12.30pm Around the table (Bible based discussion)
- 7.30 pm Youth Bible study (alternate weeks)
- 7.30 pm Prayer meeting (3rd Friday of every month)

SATURDAY

- 10.30am 60+ Coffee morning (last Saturday of every month)
- 4.30 pm Prayer walk (4th Saturday of every month)

PRESCHOOL

- 9am - 3pm Monday - Friday (during term time only)

Minister: Rev Dr Amutha Devaraj
email: amutha@adbaptistchurch.org.uk