

part of the finance for the necessary work through sale of another property. John has been called to serve as interim minister of the nearest SEBA church to the premises – Strood Gospel Mission Church – during phase 1 of the project. We are providing accommodation for John and Lorraine until they can move to the flat. This provides good opportunity to build relationships, gather prayer support and recruit volunteers in time for the commencement of trading. There are significant costs involved in this venture: for the building work, the fitting out of the bakery and cafe, to cover John's living costs until Bread of Life opens and then the start-up costs of the business (it is hoped to fund the start-up costs through donations and grants rather than saddle the project with a loan to repay).

Do please support John and the project in prayer - John will be sending out email updates with the latest news and prayer requests. To sign up for these, send your name and email address to john@breadoflifestrood.co.uk

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday	9.00am	Prayer Meeting
	10.00am	Little Treasures (pre-school)
	5.15pm	Kingsquad (Yrs 3-6)
Wednesday	9:00am - 12.00pm	Friendly Bean Community Café
Thursday	9:00am - 12.00pm	Friendly Bean Community Café
	3.00pm	Housegroup (Church) – <i>winter months</i>
	7.00pm	Housegroup (Church) – <i>summer months</i>
Friday	10.00am-11.30pm	Bible Study Group – <i>Alternate Fridays</i>
	7.30pm-9.30pm	Powerhouse (yrs 7-11) – <i>1st & 3rd Fridays in the month</i>

CONTACT US!

Minister:	(Vacant)
Elder/Treasurer:	Bryan Johnson ☎ 01634 842283
Elder/Secretary:	Suzanne Rogers ☎ 07809 433723
Deacons:	Karen Barnes Lynda Gilbert Fay Graham Jan Rogers
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Borstal Baptist Church

To know Christ and to make Him known



Welcome to our church. We pray that you will meet with God here. There is a loop system in use, just turn your hearing aid to the 'T' position. Children are welcome to stay in the service or go out to Sunday School. You are warmly invited to stay for coffee or tea after the morning service. If we can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to ask. Do please sign the visitors' book before you leave.

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:28

SEPTEMBER 2020

From the Elders and Deacons:

Thank you all for your openness and honesty during the phone calls about reopening the church. The diaconate will meet early in September and discuss what we can do – as soon as we know what is possible with the resources we have, we will let you know.

It is important to remember that there is no 'one size fits all' solution. Some people will want to come back into church as soon as they can, others will wish to wait a while longer. We all have different circumstances and we need to respect that. We will, of course, continue to make provision for those who do not feel able to rejoin us in the building – we are still a fellowship together, even when apart.

The words of this Celtic blessing rested with me (Suz) this week:-

Deep peace of the running wave to you
Deep peace of the flowing air to you
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you
Deep peace of the shining stars to you
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you

Whatever your situation, may God bless you with just such an all-encompassing peace, spoken by creation itself.

Bryan, Suz, Lynda, Jan, Fay, & Karen

BREAD OF LIFE PROJECT (STROOD) - THE REV JOHN WESTERN

Introducing a clear Vision...

Once in a while God provides an opportunity that is both incredibly exciting and challenging. Bread of Life, Strood, is one such example. In March 2019, a shop with accommodation above became the responsibility of SEBA (the South Eastern Baptist Association). Within months a clear vision emerged to transform it into a coffee shop/bakery/church – a place to serve the local community, in which disciples of Jesus would be made and grown, establishing a worshipping community.

The premises had originally been gifted to Strood Evangelical Church in the early 1950s. By the beginning of 2019, the remaining congregation had dwindled to such an extent that the difficult decision was taken to stop meeting. It made no sense to simply pour effort into restarting a

traditional model of church in the place, yet the location in a thriving parade of shops at the heart of a sprawling, mixed community, shouted that this was ideally situated for mission.

...and a pioneering project

SEBA appointed Rev John Western, an accredited minister of 20 years' experience and trustee of BMS World mission to head up a pioneering project commencing 1 April 2020.

Phase 1 of the project will involve transforming the ground floor to a coffee shop and bakery and renovating the flat above to become an integral manse.

Phase 2 will see the coffee shop and bakery commence trading, all being well in autumn 2020. The purpose is to see people who might be unlikely to walk into a traditional church, find faith in Jesus and grow in discipleship, forming a worshipping community within the coffee shop environment. Initially the plan is to operate as a coffee shop 4 days a week and a micro-bakery one day a week.

It is envisaged that various activities will take place within the cafe. Many of these will depend on who walks through the door and what their needs and desires are. John has written a breadmaking course entitled "the Bread of Life course", which he uses to open up conversations about faith in Jesus, the Bread of Life.

...introducing a means of outreach...

The idea is for this to be integral mission. Trading will cover the costs of John's stipend, but the baking is not merely a "tent-making activity" to provide sufficient funds for John to do church in his spare time. It will be the means of outreach. The project will be evangelistic, but is not intended to produce a flow of people to traditional congregations, but rather to become a congregation.

There are lots of challenges, for example obtaining the change of use and planning permission, dealing with the asbestos that has been discovered on site, accommodating John and his wife, Lorraine, whilst the work is being carried out and recruiting a team of volunteers when there is no existing congregation from which to start.

God's provision and leading...

However, God is going ahead and providing in wonderful ways. Not only has He provided an incredible resource in the first place but also a good