

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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

## THE FRIENDLY BEAN IS BACK

The doors will be open once again for the Friendly Bean Community Coffee Shop from Wednesday 19 May.

Drop in for a cuppa on Wednesday or Thursday mornings (or both!) between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon.

### **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

[www.borstalbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.borstalbaptistchurch.org.uk)

# 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.

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

*Joshua 1:9*

**MAY 2021**

### **From the Elders and Deacons:**

It has been good to see so many of you returning to church on a Sunday morning. The bible urges us to meet together as community, to encourage one another and to work beside each other.

Of course, we're not out of the woods yet with the pandemic, and we do understand that some may still be nervous of meeting in a larger group than we have been used to for over 12 months now. We look forward to the day when you feel able to join us again but, until then, we continue to uphold you in our prayers and hope that these monthly mailings are offering you some sense of still being an important part of the fellowship.

As things move closer to whatever normality will look like, we as a leadership team are beginning to think about the church's activities and what we can safely begin again, what might stop (it's always good to take stock of what you're doing and why, and whether it is right), and what might start.

Be assured that the members will be involved in decisions made that might affect our worshipping life and our community life, and of course those surrounding the pastorate and future ministry of our church here in Borstal.

Please hold us in your prayers as we seek the way forward.

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

### **MEMBERS' MEETING**

We will be holding a Members' Meeting on Sunday 18 July 2021, following the morning service. We do hope that as many of you as possible feel able to be with us, as we will be exploring the future ministry of the church once again.

### **'COURAGE' BY STUART TOWNEND**

Townend's new album goes beyond the usual subjects and he continues to be one of our most gifted worship songwriters, writes Andy Goodliff (minister of Belle Vue Baptist Church, Southend).

This is a new album from Stuart Townend. It follows, earlier in the year, a new album — Keep the Banner Flying High — from Graham Kendrick. Both albums demonstrate that these two remain our most gifted worship songwriters. What makes them stand out are good melodies, great lyrics and arrangements that the average local congregation band can play. What I have found increasingly disappointing from the younger generation, like Matt Redman, Tim Hughes et al is that they are generally failing in these three areas where Townend and Kendrick excel.

Townend's Courage album emerges following the death of his brother Phil, and he explores the impact of his death in two songs at the centre of the album – Courage and Keep you Here. The honesty of these songs is powerful. The latter features Phil on the vocals, recorded when his diagnosis of terminal cancer was known. Sandwiched between these two songs is a version of the Apostle's Creed — a statement of belief in the face of pain and grief.

The album begins with a series of praise songs, which shadow later themes. The first song speaks of 'the saints who lived and died in grace' and the third song, based on Psalm 145, of God as the one who 'binds the wounds of those who mourn.' Track five, I am Here for You, shifts the tone. It is co-written with Stuart's daughter Emma and is about living with depression and anxiety. Emma co-wrote three of the songs with her father on this album and demonstrates that the Townend gene may continue beyond Stuart.

This is a good album that goes beyond the usual subjects for worship songs and speaks to our mental and spiritual health. I don't always agree with Townend's theology, especially that of the atonement, but this is a album full of grace, truth and beauty.