

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship
Tuesday	9.00am	Prayer Meeting
	10.00am	Little Treasures (pre-school)
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>

Despite this, she is unafraid of the difficult bits of the Bible that can be stumbling block and invites the reader to face them head-on using the methods she describes.

The appendix contains instructions for reading the book as a group, and even if you read *How to Eat Bread* alone it would be worth taking time to chew over each chapter as you read it. Each section provides suggested scriptural texts to practice applying its method, so that the proof of the pudding can indeed be in the eating.

Some chapters may feel frustratingly simple to experienced Christians, but I nevertheless believe the book is worth reading. It invites the reader to reflect on those familiar methods, to ask whether they are still the best way to read the Bible, and to experiment with something new. I began the chapter on ecological reading feeling sceptical but was thoroughly persuaded by Threlfall-Holmes's artful exegesis of the familiar parable of the sower: she challenges our focus on the human sower, so that by asking new questions about the birds, the seed, and the soil of the land, we can appreciate new answers.

The message of *How to Eat Bread* is not to find a "right way" to read the Bible, but to learn how to experiment, how to question our assumptions, and how to experience the Bible as so much more than a book.

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Borstal Baptist Church

To know Christ and to make Him known



OCTOBER 2021

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 and 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

CONTACT US!

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Elder/Secretary:	Suzanne Rogers ☎ 07809 433723
Deacons:	Karen Barnes Lynda Gilbert Fay Graham Jan Rogers

www.borstalbaptistchurch.org.uk

From the Manse:

As I write this, it is just a few days since the induction and covenant service, which marked not only the beginning of my interim ministry at Borstal, but also the beginning of a new season of ministry for the church as a whole. It provided the opportunity to reflect, both on times past and to seek some godly imagination for the shape our new future might take.

As we look back, there is so much for which to give thanks. Despite real hardships and suffering brought about by the pandemic, God has brought us through. Although COVID has not disappeared yet, many day to day restrictions have been lifted. God has been faithful and there is real hope for the future.

On a personal level, Lorraine and I are incredibly grateful that the church has provided us with a lovely home as we wait for the Bread of Life building project at Darnley Road to happen. It has been a real blessing to us to have space, views and walks to enjoy during this strange time.

The pandemic delayed any opportunity for me to get to know the church and its members. As I begin to build relationships now, I'm discovering an amazing history of faithful service and dedication that deserves to be celebrated.

As we look forward, there is little of which we can be certain. One perhaps less helpful thing that is known - is that I will only be able to serve the church for a limited time. I am an interim minister.

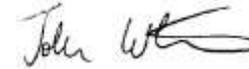
We don't know whether or not the church will have a "traditional" minister again. We can't predict the size of the congregation in 10, or even 5 years. We don't know whether some activities may have to come to an end, or whether any new things will take their place. When faced with such uncertainties, it is good to return to what we can be sure of - in a word, God.

We can be certain that God loves us. As Paul writes in Ephesians 1:4-5, "Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure." We know that as we live as God's beloved children, we will do good and produce fruit. A verse from the following chapter, Ephesians 2:10, assures us, "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

We can be sure that our future is with God for eternity. Jesus has promised in John 14:3, "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." Amazingly, God longs for our company, for relationship with us, that we might be with Him for ever.

These glorious certainties should encourage us and enable us confidently to face the uncertainties of today and tomorrow. Rejoicing in Him, let's enjoy this faith adventure together

Every Blessing



HOW TO EAT BREAD

Author - Miranda Threlfall-Holmes; Reviewer - Amanda Higgin

How do I read the Bible? It seems like a simple enough question but, as most of us will have discovered at one time or other, "pick it up and start reading" isn't a good enough answer. This 2000-year-old library of texts is so important to our faith, yet so often creates a stumbling block for Christians whether young or old, new or experienced. In *How to Eat Bread*, Miranda Threlfall-Holmes will not tell you how to read the Bible, but offers 21 diverse and meaningful methods by which it can enrich our faith.

Some readers may be sceptical about the book's premise. After all, isn't the best way to read the Bible simply to read it? If that's you, the first chapter of *How to Eat Bread* should be encouraging: a selection of ways to read the Bible drawn from the Bible itself. In this chapter, 'From the Larder', Threlfall-Holmes draws insights from the way characters in the Bible tell stories and how the New Testament cites the Old.

In her second chapter, 'Grandma's Recipe Book', she draws on Christian tradition to explain ways of reading like *lectio divina*, allegory, and Augustine's rule of love. Finally, she describes the fresh insights of modern theological studies in 'Molecular Gastronomy', offering tools not only to access academic commentaries but also to experiment in the ways we read the Bible together.

Threlfall-Holmes's book is short and accessible. Some of her chapters are only six pages long but, in those pages, she presents a thorough guide to a single approach to reading the Bible, using language anyone could understand.