

FREE
OCT—DEC
2019



BLOOMSBURY NEWS

WELCOME BIENVENU

υποδοχή

CROESO WITAMY

歡迎 BENVENUTO



BIENVENIDOS

WILLKOMMEN

SALAAM MABUHAY

SHALOM

SUNDAY SERVICE at 11.00 am

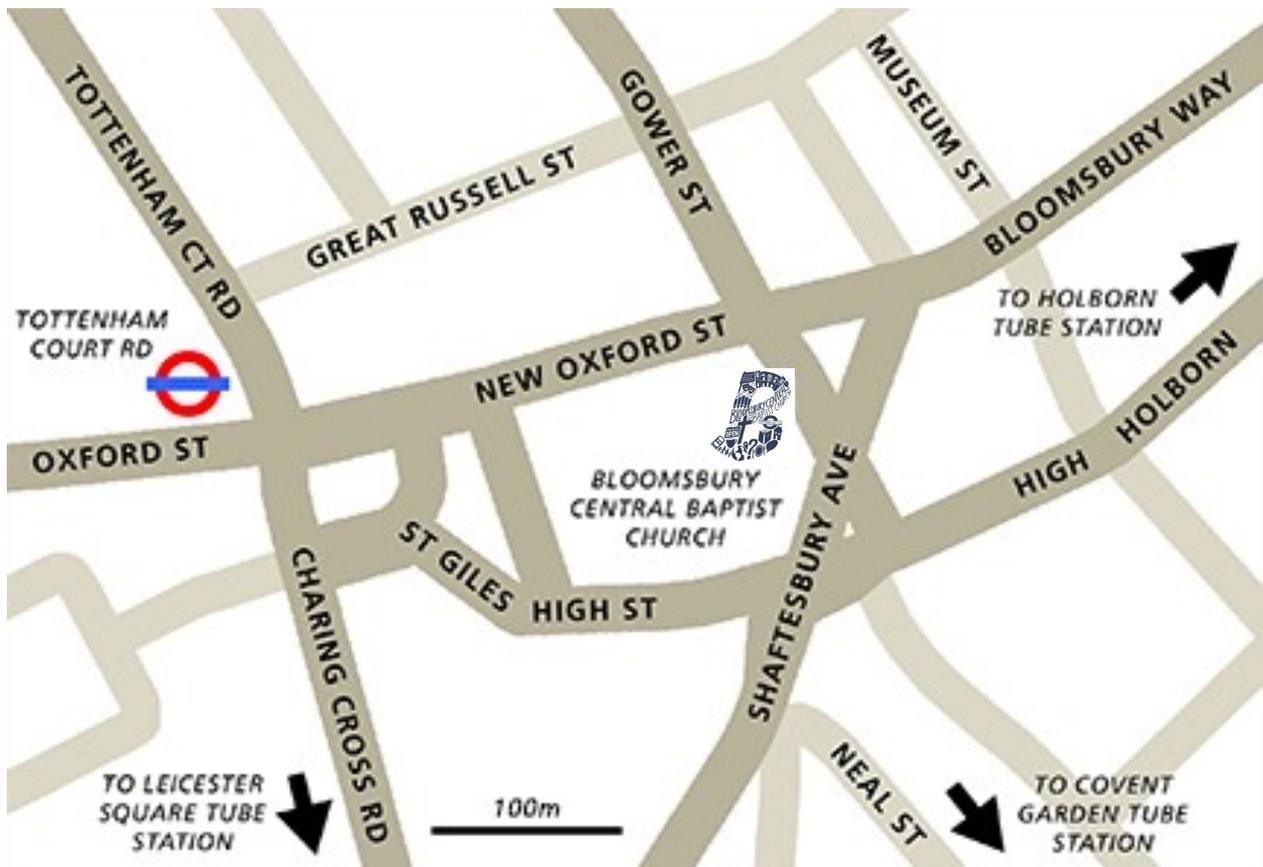
Followed by coffee and an affordable lunch at 12.30 pm

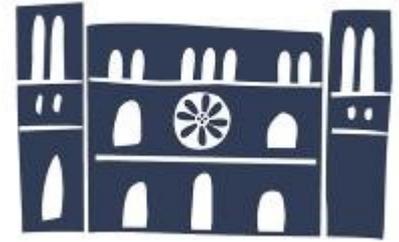
Minister

Revd Dr Simon Woodman

Communities Minister

Revd Dawn Cole-Savidge





Bloomsbury's Team:



Minister: The Revd Dr Simon Woodman.

Simon grew up in Sevenoaks in Kent, and has degrees in Biblical Studies from Sheffield, Bristol and Cardiff Universities. He has previously been a market stall-holder on Camden Market, a Baptist Minister in Bristol, and a Tutor at the South Wales Baptist College in Cardiff.

Communities Minister: The Revd Dawn Cole-Savidge.

Dawn is pioneering new relationships and projects in the local area and developing the ones we already have. She oversees and develops work with those affected by homelessness.



Church Manager: James Fisher.

James is responsible for everything to do with the building, including the letting of rooms, up keep of our beautiful grade 2 listed church, and supporting the ministry that takes place here.

Duty Lettings Officer: Solvita Šmulytė.

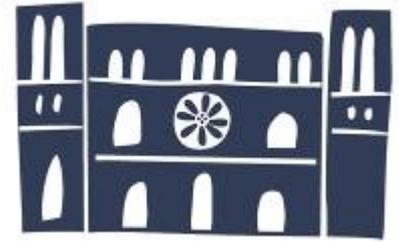
Solvita will often be found on the front desk giving a warm welcome to visitors to the building.



Designated Person for Safeguarding: Libby Brown.

Libby leads our safeguarding team which also includes: Safeguarding Trustee Luke Dowding; Deputy Safeguarding Trustee; Nyaueth Riam, and Deputy Designated Person; Dermott Davison.

Who are we at Bloomsbury?



The term **Baptist** is used to describe a broad variety of churches and people, and will mean different things in different parts of the world.



Perhaps one common belief is that, rather than being 'Christened' into the faith as an infant, Baptists hold that people should commit to Christ by their own conscious decision.

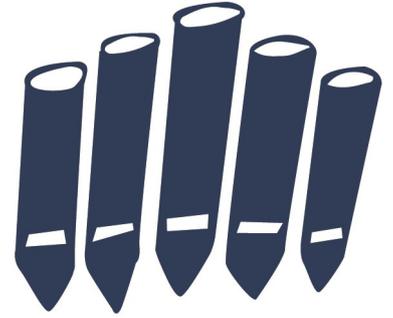
Whilst recognising that people come to Christ in a variety of ways, here at Bloomsbury, "baptism" emphasises above all else, the importance of personal commitment to Christ.

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church was built on this Central London site in 1848, to bring together the wealthy and literary classes of Bloomsbury with the slum dwellings and poverty of St Giles in the name of Christ.

This says something of what the church still aims to be: a place where the use of gifts and resources benefits all; the coming together of those with the hunger for justice, the celebration of diversity, the hope of worshipping Christ amidst poverty and wealth.

Most who attend on Sundays travel in from different parts of London and beyond, believing strongly in the importance of maintaining a Baptist Christian presence here in the centre of London.





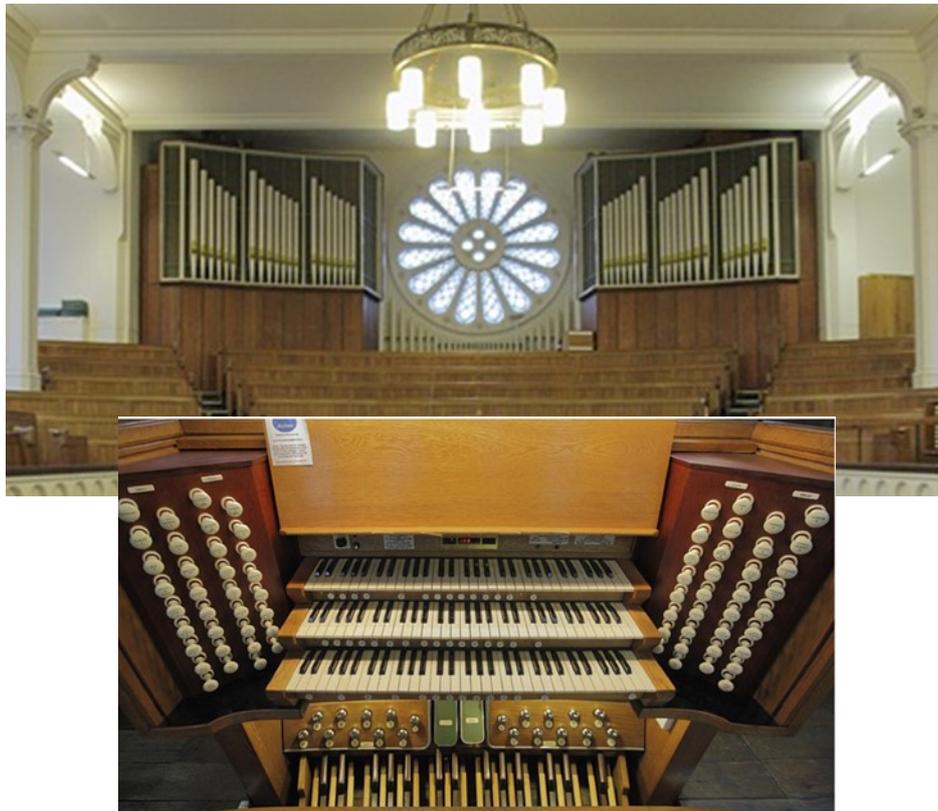
Organ Music at Bloomsbury

Since the installation of the JJ Binns / Shepherd Organ in 2008 and the launch of the Saturday Afternoon Buffet Concerts in 2009, organ-based activities have featured strongly in the musical life of the church.

Our Sunday morning worship regularly uses the 'Bloomsbury Beast' (as our organ has become known) to accompany worship, played by our organist and musical director Mr Philip Luke.

In addition to regular Saturday recitals, we have links with various organisations including: Philip Norman Music Services (through the Organ days and Small Choirs Festivals; the London Festival of Contemporary Church Music; the London Organ Improvisation Course; the inaugural concert by OCSO (The Organ Club Students' Organisation) and the RCO St Giles Summer Course for Organists.

Details of forthcoming concerts can be found on our website.



NEWS



Brushes and biscuits has started again on Tuesdays with our new teacher, Valerie. We have been learning about mark making, shading , limited palettes and tone. It is so popular we now have a waiting list.





DAWN'S RAMBLE

We have begun our new series at Exchange called "Answers Questioned" we are bringing together new faces and old and grappling with certainty and uncertainty trying to find ourselves within the discussions and share ideas, thoughts, questions and experiences with one another. So far we have discussed what we think faith is and what can we 'know' about Jesus. We have wrestled together, and keep coming out the other side not with answers but with a knowledge that we are not alone in our questioning.

I am reminded of Jacob, wrestling with God although he didn't know who he was wrestling with, it was through the wrestling that he learnt. It is through our wrestling that we are learning, constantly.

In Western culture and even in our churches, we often celebrate wealth and power, strength, confidence, prestige, and victory. We seem to despise and fear, weakness, failure, and doubt. Even though everyone knows that a measure of vulnerability, fear, discouragement and depression comes with life. We still tend to view these as signs of failure and for many of us both at Exchange and in Bloomsbury these things have been attributed to a lack of faith. The wider church and sometimes the world tells us that certainty is to be desired, striven for and the hallmark of faith and/or success.

Deep within all of us is a desire for security, for black and white answers, and

this is partly why I think we fear doubt. And it's why so much of the church is obsessed with conservative or liberal, left or right, charismatic or traditional, labelling who is in and who is out, Christian or non Christian, saved or unsaved. We see this in the New Testament too this is not a new problem, Jew or gentile? Jesus just said yes.

One way we often look at conversion is that you come to faith once you've overcome all your doubts, found answers and can believe without question...

We try to offer God as this cure-all that will answer the questions of life and fix your problems. It's like we are those old fashion sellers from westerns that sell the magical ointments that cure everything.

And I am certain, I am certain of my uncertainty, sure of my unsurety.

And I try to hold this paradox of the certainty of doubt. I believe many of us can relate to this and I would be interested to know how you hold this paradox. Because I believe it is in living in the certain uncertainty is can be what teaches us how to be open and inclusive to all, because it leads us to places where the more we know, the more we know we don't know. And as you become aware of everything you don't know it becomes hard to 'know' who is in and who is out.

Dawn Cole Savidge

REGULAR INFO

PULL OUT PAGES TO KEEP FOR YOUR NOTICE BOARD!

Sunday Worship

Coffee available before the service
11am Morning Worship . Communion on
the third Sunday in the month.

Studio Church –Evening Service with
Difference

6-7pm First Sunday in the month

Children & Young People

During the morning service, young people
gather in the foyer for their own activities.

Sunday Lunch

You are welcome to join us for an
affordable hot meal in the Friendship
Centre at 12.30pm each Sunday.

Tuesdays @ Bloom

Social activities for the active retired. Hot
lunch (charged) Variety of talks, activities,
board games on offer. Free coffee and
opportunities to socialise.

Stay & Play

A drop in for carers and pre-school
children. 10.30am - 12.30pm alongside
Tuesdays@Bloom.

Brushes & Biscuits

A supported art group for any ability from
1.30pm - 3.30pm running alongside
Tues@ Bloom. Some materials provided.

Organ Concerts

Take place on the last Saturday in each
month. (except August).
For more info contact Ben Haden.

Small Groups

Meet around the city and at the Church.
Ask in the office for details.

The Evening Centre

Operates every Tuesday.

Social Events

Various events happen through the year.
See the next page for upcoming dates.

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday 10 November AGM for church members

2pm after Lunch

Sunday 24 November Vision Forum

2pm after Lunch

From 3pm International Gospel Choir

Friday 14 December Carol Celebration

7pm at Bloomsbury

Sunday 15 December Special Christmas themed lunch

12.30 in The Friendship Centre

Sunday 22 December Morning Nativity Service



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



John Dawson



Anne Webb writes some personal memories of John who died in September “One of the things that I remember about John was his commitment to the Winter Fair. Every year just before Christmas we had a tradition of running a fair with various stalls in order to raise money for Church funds .It was meant to include as many people as possible and we always welcomed many different people from the local community.

There were stalls selling food, some freshly prepared and some with jars of homemade jams and chutneys. Others had items of interest bought from various holidays and personal contributions. Much tea and cake was also available.

John would happily organise the stalls and the stallholders. He did this quietly and I’m sure that many of us were unaware of the work he did.

Another memory is of John’s friendship

with Harry Smith. They had diametrically opposite views on politics but always listened to each other. There was usually quite a bit of laughter during their discussions. Ruth and Val helped to keep the peace.

Another aspect to John and Val’s life was their continuing care for a severely disabled boy who lived in a home in Barnet. They looked after him in their home in Hemel Hempstead and brought him along to Bloomsbury for Morning Services.

When John and Val retired to the Isle of Wight we all missed them very much.”

We now send our love to Val, Sarah and Jo.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



Norah Shapton

Norah Shapton who died in September has been described by her family as 'determined, clever, and kind'. Always her own person: unsentimental, practical, and a non-conformist to her core. She lived a commitment to sustainability and the preservation of the environment, and was never one to be too worried about 'frivolities'. However, this certainly didn't mean that she didn't know how to enjoy herself, and when it came to fine wine, music, arts, ballet, and holidays, she was willing to make sure that she got the most out of life.

Norah met David in the mid '50s, when they both took the same adult education evening course at Chelsea College. David, in addition to also being a microbiologist, was already a member at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, and after their marriage they lived in London and both attended Bloomsbury. Norah got involved in flower arranging, the Overseas Women's Luncheon Club, helping manage room bookings, and sending out the Bloomsbury Magazine. Norah and David wrote their magnum

opus on the 'Principles and Practices for the Safe Processing of Foods', a book commissioned by Heinz, first published in 1991, and still available on Amazon to this day.

Retirement beckoned, and they moved to Dundee in 1991 where they had nearly twenty happy years of active retirement with many holidays. They moved to Cirencester in 2009, for the second part of their retirement. She loved the poetry of Kathleen Jamie and George Mackay Brown, and was also particularly partial to a bit of Lionel Blue.

Ruth Johnson describes Norah as 'A serious, quiet woman, who had deep thoughts but didn't bombast you with them'. Others have described her as an exceptionally kind person, but without any sentimentality. From her support of a variety of charities, to her involvement in the Iona Community, Norah lived her life with determination, intelligence, and kindness.

We remember David, Rachel and Alison at this time. Simon Woodman

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



Baptism:

Martyn Watson was baptised in the the morning service on October 6th. Martyn's family and friends shared in Martyn's joy. We celebrated harvest on the same day with a special harvest lunch.



New Member: Nigel Williams was received into membership of the church in September.

NEWS



A Passion for Football

Ali came to us through C4WS last winter and has been a regular worshipper on Sundays.

This summer he took part in the “Homeless World Cup” football tournament and had a fantastic time playing for England! Well done Ali!!





Inclusion Series Summer 2019

This summer the Sunday morning services on the first Sunday of the month have been exploring “The Inclusive Church”. Some Home Group and Exchange sessions have also been reflecting on this theme.

We have been extremely fortunate to have invited preachers who have spoken passionately and personally about their experience of various aspects of inclusion. They have come from both a variety of Christian traditions.

On June 2 Rosemarie Davidson-Gotobed tackled Ethnicity. Rosemarie is the National Minority Ethnic Vocations Officer, Archbishop’s Council of the Church of England. She was formerly the first Racial Justice Co-ordinator for the London Baptist Association.

“The subtlety of bias is often so slight as to be unnoticed by those perpetrating it, which makes it all the more important that we are able to identify our own unconscious bias. This applies to each one of us. Bias must be overcome if the Church is to fulfill its mission to be a light to all people. None of us are immune from bias. It doesn’t make you a bad person, but it is something you should reflect on. A good test then to overcome it is to take a step back and ask oneself, would I have thought the same if this person looked or sounded like me? By asking this question we move towards inclusion. Inclusion is different to diversity. Diversity is the mix, inclusion is how we make it work. Diversity is a given, inclusion is a choice.”

On July 7 the topic was sexuality members of the congregation spoke movingly about their journey exploring their sexuality, and how they had found a home at Bloomsbury. We were also challenged to keep learning. Our thanks to **Udoka, Martyn, Luke and Dawn**.

On August 4 Revd Glen Graham minister of Cullompton Baptist Church Devon and member of the BU Disability Justice Group brought us his wisdom about disability in the church with the title of his sermon being “ A Church for All”.

“We must include everybody, there is no opt out clause... because we are being shaped into the likeness of Christ’s body”



Inclusion Series Summer 2019 cont.

On September 8 Beth Allison Glenny used her participation in the work of JPIT (The Joint Public Issues Team) to address the broader theme of Gender.

“Redemption is not about going back to before the fallen world began. It is about realizing that we are invited to share in the re-patterning of our world. When we talk about inclusivity of gender, we always have to be aware of our own power in how we formulate models of male and female”

On October 6 Lynne Cullen Lynne’s personal story is punctuated by experience of Poverty. She is Rector of Stockport & Brinnington and a member of the CofE’s Selection Oversight Group, Estates Evangelism Task Group and the Archbishop of Canterbury’s Commission on Housing, Church and Local Community.

"It is in amplifying and advocating for the voiceless in our community that our part in being transformational good news for the poor really lies." -

October 13 Revd Karen Stallard will be exploring ways the church can better include those who suffer from poor mental health. Karen is the former minister of Union Chapel in Highbury and Islington, and practices as an Integrative Arts Psychotherapist specialising in severe and enduring mental health issues.

All these services can be found on the Bloomsbury website in the blog dropdown menu.

The question remains for the church at Bloomsbury to reflect and pray on ways of incorporating the messages into the life of the church in this place.

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown, in you and you in me?*



**BLOOMSBURY CENTRAL
BAPTIST CHURCH**

235 Shaftesbury Avenue
LONDON WC2H 8EP

+44 (0) 20 7240 0544
church@bloomsbury.org.uk
www.bloomsbury.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter -@bloomcentral and
Facebook –www.facebook.com/BloomsburyBaptist

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