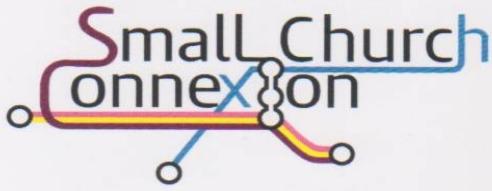


SMALL CHURCHES NEWSLETTER Winter 2026



Welcome to our Winter newsletter.

It has truly felt like winter in early January with most of the country, including some parts of London, receiving stormy weather with heavy snow. It is amazing how very fragile looking, tiny flowers like snowdrops and primroses aren't destroyed by the cold. We thank God for the health of our small churches and His sustenance, despite the fragility and vulnerability of our appearance.

Prayer is a major force in our survival. Please note the date of the January SCC prayer meeting and all the other ways to strengthen through prayer. And note too the Spring retreat which is designed to reinforce us individually and as churches as we take time to come closer to God

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A Season of Prayer

At Crayford Baptist Church, we have an interim minister with us for 2 years, and we are already into the second year. Martyn has said this to the church:



"As a Church we want to look to the future and expect great things. Doing this, the deacons and I are asking for a focused season of prayer in the first few months of the year. In every opportunity that we have: in groups, as individuals, in prayer twins and triplets and, of course, in our services, let's make prayer for God's will for us as a Church a real priority. In particular we want to pray that God will lead us to the future minister that He will call..."

Valerie Winchester

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11
THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE
ANOTHER AND BUILD UP ONE
ANOTHER JUST AS IN FACT YOU
ARE DOING

ONLINE PRAYER
JOIN US EVERY TWO MONTHS
AS WE PRAY FOR OUR SMALL
CHURCHES IN LONDON

ZOOM MEETING ID:
843 7181 7451
PASSCODE: LONDON

FOR MORE INFO:
EMAIL:
SMALLCHURCHES@LONDONBAPTIST.ORG.UK
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Small Church Connexion B London Baptists

Probably every church leader reading that, shares a similar view for their church, and for the whole year. Let's also join together in prayer and support the needs of other small churches in London—details in the poster sent with this newsletter.

Try Praying are running a webinar on how to get your church engaged with Try Praying. There are many amazing stories of how God has worked, through the booklet on the website.
<https://do.trypraying.org/articles/get-engaged/>

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Eight Day Prayer and Fasting Guide for 2026 Hope1513.com

In January we will be dedicating time to prayer and fasting for our personal spiritual walks, our family and friends, and the ministry of our local fellowship and the global church.

Feel free to download and adapt. Blessings

Manoj Raithatha

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Kensal Rise Baptist Tabernacle

Over the past couple of years, the Lord has enabled us to clarify and commit to the core vision of our Church (KRBT). After prayerful deliberation, the Leadership settled on this vision statement, which comprises three components:

**Glorifying God
Growing in Christian Community
Engaging in the Mission of Christ**

Through sermons, midweek-Bible Studies, Outreach and Fellowship Meals, we have sought to flesh out each of these components. Thankfully, the Lord has blessed our efforts, enabling four individuals to come to faith, leading to their baptisms on Sunday, 22 December 2025.

We have enclosed a picture for your encouragement and request that you pray for us as we seek to glorify God by utilising his means of grace to grow together whilst continuing to share the gospel locally and beyond.

Pastor Manis



Cricklewood Baptist Church

was approached by the NHS and London Ambulance to see if we would be willing to have a defibrillator outside the church. We jumped at the opportunity and one was fitted, free of charge, soon afterwards.

This has raised a lot of interest in the local community with residents and different groups interested in some training on how to use it.

We hope to arrange this fairly soon with the London Ambulance coming to give the training.

Stephen Maclean



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SCC Spring Retreat

Saturday 18th April 2026

Westbourne Park Baptist Church

This will probably be from 10.30am (but open for registration for half an hour in advance) until 3.30pm, with breaks for refreshments—details to be announced.

It is not yet known who will be leading this event, but previous experience gives us confidence in advertising it so that you can reserve the date and place. Watch out for details.

If you plan to bring your leadership team for this Retreat, please book early.

Westbourne Park BC has been the location of the London Baptists AGM in recent years and is in walking distance of Paddington stations.

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World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March 2026



Each year the first Friday in March is the World Day of Prayer. The programme is prepared by Christians from a different country each year, and this year it is by Christian women from Nigeria. Most of the songs are familiar but there are also songs written specially for the occasion.

The first services of the day will be held in Samoa and then the wave of prayer encircles the globe, with 146 more countries taking part. This year the theme is "I will give you rest, come" and is based on Matthew 11 verses 28-30.

In most parts of this country, churches work together to share the hosting so the venue varies from year to year. The UK organisers and producers of the programme for this country usually provide some recipes so that refreshments after the service are very varied from year to year. We can look forward to some African flavour this year!

If yours is a host church this year, please tell us about the preparations and the experience of meeting with other local Christians to pray together and share fellowship with different denominations. And please pray for the Christians in Nigeria where a life of faith can be more challenging than we can, perhaps, imagine.

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Lent

The majority of UK citizens will know "pancake day" on 17th February, but far fewer will know much about Lent beginning next day. It is an opportunity to encourage our preparation for Easter.

Christian Publishing Organisation (cpo.org.uk) have various new publications on sale. Traditionally many Christians have abstained from luxuries during Lent and kept to a frugal lifestyle in preparation for Easter. CPO have two publications entitled "Draw Near" which develop the idea of doing things differently during Lent. One gives 40 daily reflections. The second gives a challenge for families and children with 40 acts to undertake. The third publication gives reflections for Lent and Holy Week from various Christian authors. "Lentwise" is the 4th on their website. It is a five session course based on passages from John's gospel, by Paula Gooder. CPO describe it as "an inspiring and practical choice for ... groups". It sounds like an ideal resource for a Bible study group during this period; and as someone who has read other of her publications, I would happily recommend it.

Do let us know if you use it in your church, and how it works for you.

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The next SCC newsletter will be in April. Please let us know what is happening in your church. Also we value your feedback. Please contact me at valeriewinchester@btinternet.com or telephone 07764 817246

Contact Stephen Maclean (SCC team leader) at smallchurches@londonbaptist.org.uk