



BRIXTON SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH

Newsletter

Issue No. 1 | Spring 2022



We are a community church aiming to build and maintain relationships with our community, supporting wherever and whenever we can.

Our newsletter is only a part of the work started in keeping our community, church members, and visiting friends updated on all things Brixton SDA. Produce quarterly, we will introduce you to members of our church with 5 questions. We will connect with community leaders and members to update our readers on local, regional and international events that impact us all.

Brixton Communication Team

Featured Article

Seeking Peace: You just don't know what's around the corner of life," she said staring intently into my eyes as she shook my hand and filed out of the church. I had just laid to rest a teenager who had died from a motorbike accident, her words were simple but so relevant.

The only certain thing in life is its uncertainty and the only predictable thing in life is its unpredictability. To many, this is the real challenge of life especially when we like to have some form of control or stability in life.

As I write this article, we can see the effects of living with uncertainty. The scene in Ukraine is reaching a crescendo with constant issues in the Middle East and within the UK.

We wonder what the future holds, but we also think about 'how life will be for me'. 'What about my health?' 'Shall I be left alone?' 'How about my children and their welfare?' Such concerns cause anxiety and worry when we think about how unpredictable life can be.

However, despite the unseen future and unexpected eventualities, we can still maintain a sense of stability, assurance and hope for the future. It was for this very reason that Christ came to this earth. He declared, "I have come that you may have life, and life more abundantly" (John 10:10). Christ's mission as well as saving the lost was to enable us to live peaceful and joyful lives. This peace is a deep-rooted assurance that stems from a firm relationship with Him.

In a recent survey carried out interviewing 100 people, 89% when asked what would be their desire for the world today choose world peace. It's a reality amongst most people that above all things that at least some semblance of world peace prevails. Yet when we look through history there has not been a single period where that has happened. There's always some form of political or sociological issue that prevails.

In the last five years alone we have seen the tensions over Brexit followed by the pandemic of the coronavirus and today the conflict in Ukraine by the invasion of Russia. Tomorrow it's almost certain some other issues will follow.

I remember whilst spending some time in the Caribbean in the 1990s. The accommodation I stayed in at that time was nothing desirable, in fact, it looked like a brick grey and dismal building with metal louvre windows. The first few days I despised staying there for there was nothing attractive about the place, but then the hurricane came ripping through the island at 129 mph. Whilst all the other houses in the vicinity were losing their roofs and the winds causing major damage, where I was in that large square building that looked so unappealing suddenly became the refuge of my life. It was a strong firm building that protected me from the fierce winds. I felt safe and secure. And that's what Peace is all about. When everything around you is in turmoil, within your heart there is a stillness and calm. Christ says that in this world you will face trouble but be of good cheer I have overcome the world (John 16:33). Yes, we live in an unpredictable world, but one thing that is predictable is that God will always be with us and He will be our refuge in times of trouble.

Peace is the desire of all our hearts yet very few experiences it. If it's not world issues, it's the everyday personal challenges of life that can take its toll - financial concerns, work issues, relationships problems or just the personal trials of life.

It's in the midst of this that the word of God speaks to us directly through Jesus when he says: peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you, I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. "John 14:27

This promise is unconditional i.e it's open and available for anyone without having to do anything other than to ask for it. However to gain a fuller understanding of peace we first have to be at peace with God.

Sin has caused a gulf between us and God, a separation that was to be bridged by Jesus Christ through his death on the cross. We also need to seek to be at peace with others. "As much as it is possible live peaceably with all men". This means being willing to make amends where needed and seek restoration where possible. Third we have to seek to be at peace with ourselves. Sometimes we can be our own worse enemy.

Maybe there were wrong things you did in the past or times you made poor decisions that had a negative impact. Don't hold yourself perpetually accountable. Learn to forgive yourself and move on. Be at peace with yourself by not harboring resentment, hatred or malice toward anyone. Treat yourself also with respect and dignity knowing that you are truly valued by God.

Peace is available to everyone, claim your peace today and live your life free from the burdens that life that try so often to come upon us.

Beacon of Hope Award 2021

December 2021 seems so long ago, nonetheless, before the end of his leadership at Brixton SDA, former Pastor, Keith Boldeau was out in the community with the sabbath school department, launching the Beacon of Hope award.

Awards were presented to Brixton police station, West Indian Continental, Sainsbury's Tulse Hill, and Brixton Tesco's. Recipients of the award were recognised for serving the community during the height of the pandemic.

Thank you to all the frontline workers for putting the needs of others first.



Our New Pastor



An extended Welcome to our new pastor, Richard Daly, his wife Maxine, and their 3 sons. Pastor Daly is an experienced minister, training at Newbold, Bracknell where he graduated with a BA in Theology and a MA in Religion.

During his ministry, spanning over 27 years, Pastor Daly has volunteered as a chaplain, supporting many - including athletes at the Olympics Games, hospital patients and prisoners.

Vision for Brixton SDA

I believe that a church exists not just for those who attend each week but more so for those who don't. Ie those who within our community, those seeking to know more about God and those who have various needs to which the church can assist. It is for this reason that I have put together my vision for the Brixton Seventh-day Adventist Church:

I have a dream of Brixton being a biblical church

A church that has the Bible as the centre of all truth.

Where we use the scripture to encourage and uplift one another.

Where the three angels messages of Revelation 14 are broken down so that everyone can understand the urgency of the time in which we live today and that whatever comes from the pulpit has its foundation in the Word of God.

I have a dream Brixton being a worshipping church

Where all of God's people, brothers and sisters, our youth and children can come together in harmony giving glory to God.

That Brixton becomes a place where through our worship, people will experience the presence of God.

That Jesus Christ becomes the centre and focus of what we do.

Where each person can say for themselves that - the reason why I worship is that God has been good to me and if it were not for the Lord on my side where would I be?

I have a dream of Brixton being a caring church

Where each one takes a genuine interest in one another, reaching out in love through prayer or practical support or through a listening ear.

Where the stranger who enters the church will feel accepted and made to feel welcomed.

Where visitors are not judged by how they look, talk or how they dress, but we recognise they too are children of God.

That we become an inclusive, friendly church because people won't care how much we know until they know how much we care.

I have a dream of Brixton being a serving church

Where each member recognises that they can do something for God to help this church grow.

That the name Brixton Seventh-day Adventist Church becomes a buzzword in our community.

That our young people are empowered and valued and made to believe this is their church and they have just an important role to play than anyone else.

That our children are given ample opportunities to develop their skills and shine for Jesus.

That our church business meetings are not spent debating trivial issues for hours, but time is spent on how we can be a Church of influence in our community for Jesus Christ.

I have a dream of Brixton being an expectant church

That despite what we see around us, we don't get discouraged because we have a blessed hope of something better to come.

We live up to our church mission in believing the second coming of Christ is imminent.

That there are lost souls to be saved, lapsed members to return home and even active members who need to be revived.

By Gods grace when Jesus returns we all will be saved in God's Kingdom.

May the members as a whole catch this vision too and see themselves not as a receiver of what the church does and offers, but an active participant willing to do and be used by God for His service.

Global Youth Day



This year's emphasis, '**Loving the Unforgotten**'. Youth around the world united on March 19 2022.

Brixton SDA Youth department, in conjunction with Brixton Jays-Pathfinders and Adventurers club, organised a walk. Over 50 members of the club, including parents and church members, walked from Santley Street to Evolve Housing +Support, Stockwell Road.

Evolve Housing +Support is a housing charity, offering 16-25 year-olds 'tailored programmes of support to meet individual needs that includes housing, employment and skills training, mentoring and counselling'.

Members of the community were treated to a large sing-a-long as the walk concluded, solidarity was shown as drivers blew their horns. Gift bags with essential items were given to the residents of Evolve Housing. Forming a large choir outside the building more uplifting songs were belted out for residents and those walking by to hear.



5 questions with Veronica Fyffe Brixton SDA Church member



What is your job title? Clinical phlebotomist

How long have you been a Christian? 36 years

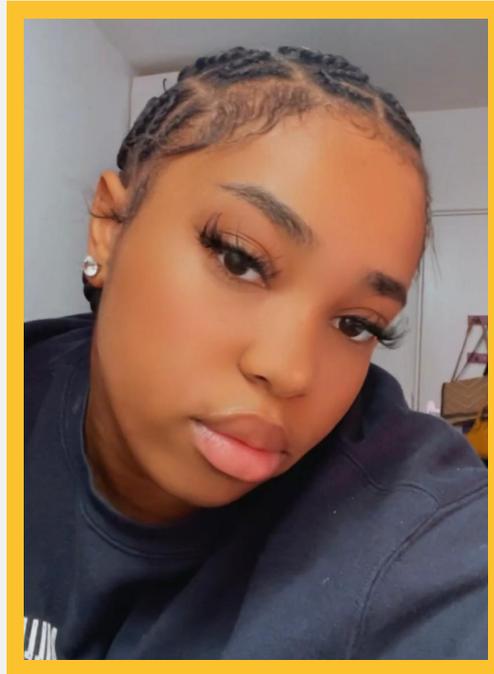
Why do you pray? Prayer is like a key that opens doors. Praying gives me comfort knowing I can speak to my heavenly Father directly.

Who motivates you? I tend to motivate myself with the help of God.

What text do you use for encouragement? I find **Philippians 4:13** gives me strength whenever things are not going as planned. I am reminded that I cannot do anything on my own, I need to rely on God. I have learned to lean on His understanding. This text helps me to exercise faith in Him, as He has promised not to give me more than I can manage, so I can be contented in all situations

From the community

Local community members gave their viewpoints on what they look for from their local church and what prayer means to them if anything.



Rhianna, SW9

I would like to see more transparency, having the ability to go to church and not feel judged for what I'm wearing, why I'm there or who you turn up with. Finding a church where you feel like you belong and be comfortable, is most important.

I would like to still have the stern organic teachings of the Bible but be open to hearing the younger generations' take and outlook on the same topics and teachings. I would like to reflect more on how these matters affect us now, not just as a community but as individuals living in these evolving times as young people.

It's a lack of understanding on why certain subjects are brought up in church and how it impacts younger people as times are changing drastically so it's easy to feel like we can't relate sometimes.

When I close my eyes and pray I generally visualise what I'm praying for. As if I can see it before me. I usually start my prayer with dear God and that usually allows all my thoughts to come to surface.

When praying I have thoughts of God sitting and listening to me. I think of how I'm about to structure my prayer and what and why I'm actually praying. I think of the things I'm thankful and grateful for.



Ashiakia, SE24

As a young Christian woman looking to start a professional career. I would love to have 1-to-1 mentorship with other women of God who are working in similar or the same fields.

Personal 1-to-1 guidance and prayer time is something else I would love to be a part of. It's difficult navigating the world as a woman. But even harder as a black Christian woman. I feel as though having a personal mentor or buddy scheme within the church would be extremely helpful and is definitely something I would like to see more of from my local church.

Prayer for me is not only a time to reflect on what God has done for me but also a time to show gratitude. Prayer is what calms me in my turbulent times. I think of where God has taken me from and how much he's helped and supported me. I think of all the amazing individuals he has placed within my life and all the things yet to come. I think of all that Jesus sacrificed for me and how much he loves me. I reflect on all that I can change and how I can become a better Christian woman.

Events and Activities

Organised by the Social Committee, the Mothering Sunday brunch, 27 March 2022, was a huge success. A gathering of such magnitude had not been seen in over two years. On hand; were Brixton Jays-Pathfinders, ensuring all those in attendance were well looked after, from cooking to providing table service. Assisting with the décor - Women's Ministry department. Childcare was not an issue as many Dads of Brixton SDA staffed the onsite crèche. This was a joyous, inclusive event that was well executed.



Upcoming Events & Activities

The Best You Can Be every Friday starting at 7.00pm
<https://brixtonsdachurchcenter.com/registrations/events/1184538>

Keep Fit Tuesdays' every Tuesday starting at 7:00pm

Senior Citizens Club every Tuesday starting at 10:00am

Open Doors (*hot meal provisions*) - every Thursday at 6:30pm

Worship Experience 16 April starting at 6pm - Register
qrco.de/NewLifeExp

Health and Wellbeing Fest 1 May 2022 - Stanborough Park,
WD25 9JT 12-6pm

South England Conference Camp Meeting May 30 - 5 June 2022

Family Camp 31 July - 7 August 2022 call 01923-232728

Women's 40 day of prayer - register at www.croydonadventist.org

Department Feature

Brixton Jay's Adventurer and Pathfinders is a club specially designed for children and youth from 4 years old - 15 years old. The club focuses on, teaching transferable life skills, instilling self worth in an environment that thrives on care, safety and FUN.

For more information call 0207 2748283
Registration is still open.

Join in the conversation



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