aldwickbaptistchurch

Vision: Loving God, Loving Each Other, Loving Lost People

ABC NEWS

Aldwick Baptist Church



Sunday 1st February 2026

Our Monthly family service

Growing seed

Mark 4:26-29

Simon Downing & Rio Bivens

TODAY'S FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE– Simon's band will be leading worship before Simon and Rio bring 'Growing Seed' to life in an interactive format that we think you will enjoy.

Of course, we do hope you can join us for the service in the church but if you can't actually join us, you will be able to access the service at any time by going to -

https://www.aldwickbaptist.co.uk/category/current-sermons

NEXT WEEKEND'S WORSHIP SERVICE – 8th February 2026. Do join us for our as Simon and his band lead us in inspiring worship! Simon will then return to our series 'The Magnificence of the Messiah! As we reach part 4. His talk is entitled, 'Messiah – Authority to forgive.

SOME REALLY GOOD NEWS – Sheila Sargent has a new great grand daughter born on 20th January and weighing in at 6lb 14oz. As many of you will remember we have been praying for Sheila's granddaughter, Lara, for some time; and God has certainly answered our prayers. Everything went well with the birth and both mother and baby – Harley Elizabeth – are doing fine. Please praise the Lord for His kindness.

MISSION NEWS – Every quarter we will be including news from some of the missions we support as a church. Today we feature African Adventures, Samaritan's Purse, OneLife and Sat-7.

THINKING ABOUT BAPTISM – We're holding a baptismal service in May — a joyful celebration of lives made new in Christ! If you're a believer and haven't yet been baptised, why not take time to pray and ask: **"Is now the moment to take this step?"** Baptism is a beautiful declaration of faith — a public "yes" to Jesus, and a powerful picture of new life. If you'd like to explore this further, we'd love to chat with you. Simon and Derek.

BY THE WAY – If you are worried about the steps into the baptistry – fear not – for now have **NEW HAND RAILS.**

FOODBANK - We are very grateful to all those who donate items for the Bognor Foodbank. Current urgently needed items are: Tinned meat, Tinned fruit, Toilet rolls, Rice pudding, Long life semi skimmed milk. Please place them in the donation point on the left-hand side of the church foyer. Thank you very much.

HOMEGROUPS – We will shortly be starting two new homegroups as the current groups are bursting at the seams. So if you not a member of a homegroup yet then this would be a good time to join. They are great places to dig into God's word, to really get to know people and share your prayer requests. If you want to know more, just talk to me. Derek.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ARTHUR MAGEE – Who was in a car accident this week. His car is a write but thank God that Arthur was not injured.

This week's poem

"Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how." — *Mark 4:27 (NIV.)*

Jesus often used stories from nature to help us understand deep spiritual truths. In this week's passage, He reminds us that the Kingdom of God grows like a seed — quietly, steadily, and often beyond our understanding.

Even when we can't see it, God is always at work — in hearts, in lives, and in our church. The poem below reflects on the miracle of growing things and the greater miracle of God's hidden work in us and through us.

The Wonder in the Soil

A seed is small, a whisper thin,
Yet holds a world of life within.
No eye can see what God has planned,
But roots stretch deep beneath the land.

The sun comes out, the rain falls down,
While seed lies still beneath the ground.
We go to sleep, we rise once more —
And life begins from hidden store.

A tender shoot breaks through the clay,
Then stalk and leaf rise day by day.
And none can say just how it grows —
But God is there; He always knows.

From seed to sprout to golden grain,
The harvest comes through sun and rain.
And just like this, God's Kingdom grows —
In unseen ways, His mercy shows.

So sow with faith, and wait with care —
For God is working everywhere.
And when the time for harvest's near,
Rejoice — the Lord of growth is here.

TAB (The Aldwick bard)

A MESSAGE FROM RIO- Thank you so much for making me so welcome and to everyone who has already filled in a questionnaire! If you haven't yet got one, please grab one from the desk today or during the week! I would love to hear from as many of you as possible, both in and not in homegroups. Also, if you are willing to be interviewed about your experience of pastoral care please come and find me after the service, or email me at 2023004@moorlands.ac.uk. I could do with a bit more input in this area.

Prayer Wall

... and finally

Please pray for:

- Simon as he prepare for the funeral of Roy Edwards on Tuesday. Please pray too for the family at this emotional time.
- Frank Yorkston who is still in a lot of pain from his right hip - this means Frank is really struggling at present. Please pray for urgent action by the medical staff and healing.
- Mo Howland who is having a lot of trouble with her hearing and for others wh are unable to worship with us such as Jakki Burns, Pam Brown and Marjorie Flynn.
- Margaret Beckett is in good spirits after her operation and is steadily improving. Do thank God for his healing hand and pray that Margaret continues to get stronger day by day.
- Marie as she adjusts to life in a wheel chair but that the Lord that she is at home and still very cheerful.
- Helen, David, Hayley and Daniel as they face up to life without Ernie. Pray for peace of mind and recall of the happy times they had together.
- Ray and Sian as their move to Bognor Regis gets nearer. Pray for a smooth transition and for a home full of the goodness of God.

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AFRICAN ADVENTURES UPDATE

Dear Simon,

Following your feedback requesting more updates on donations, we wanted to take a moment to extend our heartfelt thanks for your continued generosity. Here is an update on how your donation was used and the impact it has made.

Your donation of £500 in February 2025 and regular gifts from your church has helped sustain our Food Security Programme across five partner schools in Nakuru, one of Kenya's most disadvantaged urban communities and the impact of your ongoing support is truly felt every day.

Because of your Church's support, children who might otherwise arrive at school hungry are instead welcomed with two nutritious meals each school day. This simple but powerful support helps children stay healthy, concentrate in class, and attend school more regularly. For families facing extreme food insecurity, it also brings reassurance and relief, knowing their children are being cared for.

Over the course of 2025, the programme supported 1,280 children across our partner schools.

Thanks to supporters like you:

- Around 25,600 meals were provided each month
- Teachers reported clear improvements in attendance, focus, and engagement
- Families felt less pressure knowing their children were fed during the school day

Hear from a teacher at one of our partner schools: *"I have been teaching in this school for several years and used to wonder why the students were not curious when we are doing science experiments or asking questions with eagerness. Then I realized that this would happen mostly when they had not gotten breakfast from home and were not anticipating to get lunch either. It dawned to me that I would also not care about how plants are growing if I don't know where I will get my next meal. Now that the feeding program is here my students are more eager and curious to learn. They are always asking me questions because they don't have to worry about what they will eat for breakfast or lunch. I wish you would get a glimpse of the chats when queueing for lunch it's what every teacher would wish for her students. I wake up very motivated to come and teach because I am meeting happy faces. To our donors in UK, we are very grateful for the opportunity to have our children fed. They have never gone without getting food.*

Thank you again for supporting us and for caring so deeply about these children and their futures. Please know how grateful we are for your continued support.

With warmest thanks, Chin



We Are Grateful for You

Thank you so much for supporting the 2025 Operation Christmas Child Appeal. Long after Christmas Day has passed, your shoebox packing, processing, and prayers are still making a global impact as children experience joy, love, and hope through gift-filled shoeboxes.
Now, the moment many of you have been waiting for…

In 2025, the global Samaritan's Purse family packed over 12,205,900 shoebox gifts!
This includes an incredible 232,844 shoebox gifts from the UK alone!

That means over 12.2 million children experienced great joy and a heartfelt reminder that they are loved and not forgotten. And it all started with simple acts of kindness and generosity from people like you.

Each child who receives a shoebox is offered the opportunity to join ***The Greatest Journey***—12 fun and interactive Bible lessons where they get the chance to discover who Jesus is, begin their journey of faith, and receive a New Testament in their own language. Please join us in praying for all the children who embark on this journey.

Once again, thank you for all of your support! This transformational project wouldn't happen without the enthusiastic partnership of people like you. So enjoy knowing what you made possible—and all the young lives that are still being blessed because of it.
We pray that 2026 is filled with blessings, and we look forward to partnering with you again later this year.
Until then, keep packing those shoeboxes!

Your Samaritan's Purse UK Team

ONELIFE

Raising up young leaders to impact every sphere of society.

To the Aldwick Baptist Team,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Onelife. We are so grateful for your ongoing support. We hope you are all well and that you have been enjoying the sunshine! God bless.
Liz, Chris, Martin and Meg {Received 7th July 2025).

So, who are we and what do are our core principles?

At Onelife we believe that leadership is influence.

Whether that is over the dinner table with family or the board meeting with executives. From the classroom to the chat room, the House of Commons to the after-show party **we all have an opportunity to influence, to put our fingerprint on the world.** When we come into a relationship with Jesus we step out into every sphere of society in partnership with God and we can influence and shape our surroundings to leave His imprint on the world.

Imagine a day when the UK is populated with character-first Christian leaders, connected, supported and transforming society for the better in politics, education, the arts and entertainment, media, the church, business and in the family...

At Onelife we imagine that day, and celebrate every time we get to play our part in envisioning and raising up a generation of exceptional leaders distinguished by the very presence of God at work in and through their lives.

Our Values

Family

We value family because it's the way Jesus modelled leadership to us. We want our events, training and resources to be rooted in family—where people can be known, celebrated and belong to something bigger than themselves.

Character

We value character because it's the foundation of Christian leadership. Through all our events, training and resources we devote time to developing character and forming leaders who are pursuing Jesus' likeness in their lives.

Excellence

We value excellence because we believe the young people, youth workers, churches and supporters we work with don't deserve any less. We're committed to making our events, training and resources the best they can be.

We are SAT-7

We support the Christians of the Middle East and North Africa in their Christian witness and lives. We beam the Good News of the Kingdom of God straight into people's homes, into the centre of family life. We deliver Christian media for the Middle East and North Africa.

Dear Ambassadors

"Lord…are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you." 2 Chronicles 20:6

I hope you are well and enjoyed a good start to the year.

Ahead of my Ambassador newsletter I wanted to share an update on the situation in Iran and SAT-7's response. I have attached a document and slides with prayer points that can be shared with your church or friends. Please do join us in praying for the people of Iran at this time of uncertainty and turmoil following the violence caused by protests against the regime.

As you will be aware, it is reported that thousands of Iranians have been killed over the last week as many took to the streets across the country. As well as obscuring the true number of casualties, the government's internet shutdown has made it almost impossible for families to communicate with each other as well as viewers contacting SAT-7. This also impacts many of our SAT-7 PARS staff who have family and friends inside the country.

In the face of these challenges, SAT-7 teams have responded quickly to the crisis and today a special programme called *Freedom and Hope* on our Persian channel (SAT-7 PARS) will explore the role of Christians in this situation and offer counselling. Other topical weekly shows, such as *Insiders* which is filmed in our London studio, are helping viewers to navigate different practical and spiritual issues relating to the current situation e.g. an episode last week examined the role of media in shaping narratives and advised viewers how they can examine different news sources for truth and reliability.

Please do encourage your church or prayer group to pray into this ongoing situation. Do also thank those whose prayer and support are enabling SAT-7 to share hope in these very difficult circumstances.

Thank you as always for your faithful partnership. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or want to talk about engaging your church this year. You can reach me on 01249 765865.

Blessings, Bronwen