

# Happenings at Balham - August 2016

## Making a Difference in our Community



Men's hearts are failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:26,27 (KJV)

The news nowadays seems to highlight uncertainty and fear. Whether it be about Brexit, fears about a Donald Trump presidency, ISIS and the threat of terrorism, crime, the immigration crisis, or general political and economic uncertainty. There seems to be so much fear around and people not feeling sure what the future holds.

Some people, of course, are just getting on with their lives and saying "peace and safety" (1 Thessalonians 5:3), although danger of sudden destruction is on its way. The people during the time of Noah were warned of impending doom, but many just continued eating and drinking and getting on with life and did not heed the warning to turn to God and get into the Ark, and the rest is history. (Matthew 24:38)

You therefore see the two extremes; those who are overcome with fear, even though God has not given us the spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7) and those who just ignore the signs and God's warnings and end up being lost.

So how can we avoid both extremes? I would like to suggest a few thoughts:

First of all we need to be aware of what is happening in the political as well as spiritual world. Burying our heads in the sand is not an option! The Bible prophesies the attempts by earthly leaders to influence policy in a way that if unchecked would undermine spiritual progress. Examples such as in book of Daniel where the nations in Europe would attempt to cleave Daniel 2:43. We see this acting out where some have made moves to unite Europe. Elsewhere there are predictions to change God's times and laws. (Daniel 7:25) and we can see movements particularly in USA working towards laws on Sabbath keeping.

So we need to avoid being ignorant about what is happening around us. However we also need to avoid becoming so obsessed that we spend more time focusing on what's happening in the political world we read into that which isn't there or we spend little time building a relationship with God.

Secondly we need spiritual preparation. Time and time again throughout the Bible we are admonished to be 'ready' because we don't know when Jesus will come (Matthew 24:44). The parable tells of a parable of ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13, where five foolish in that they spent little time in spiritual preparation and lacked the Holy Spirit in their lives. We need to guard against this so we won't be found wanting when Jesus comes.

When Jesus comes we may be fully informed about prophetic teachings or we may think we are doing the right things, but this won't help if we don't know him and hear him say "I do not know you" (Matthew 7:21).

With all that is currently happening, now seems to be a real opportunity to share the hope that Jesus offers because people are asking the questions: What does all this turmoil mean? When will it end? People may not be seeking religious answers to the situation but we could use the opportunity to share those answers anyway to people around us, who need to know that this is an indication of the certainty of Christ's return

So let's tell them that Europe will never be united although there will be attempts to bring them together. Tell them that crime and terrorism will always be there as long as the love of many shall wax cold (Matthew 24:12). Tell them that the increase in immorality and the on-going political instability will always be evident as long as people and leaders reject God. However we need to give them hope and the Bible provides a lot of that. Tell them that God is going to bring it to an end one day and they can be a part of a better tomorrow if they align themselves with God. Tell them using your own words that a better day is coming!

## Looking Back at July 2016

**Day of Prayer and Fasting:** Our quarterly service gave us another chance as a Church to come together after Divine service for an inspirational time of prayer followed by fellowship as we broke our fast with a light meal.

**Soul Food:** Over 250 people attended and 40% of those who were surveyed were from a non-faith background. This included local residents who held a street party that we participated in. The music was lead by Quintessential, a gospel band and supported by other artistes. Socialising and food were a part of the package. Many left asking when the next one was going to be,

**Pathfinder & Adventurer Investiture:** The children lead out in the morning services including preaching in Divine Service and telling us what the club has been doing throughout the year. This was followed by the Award Ceremony where the children collected their Honour awards, including many in topics and subjects we didn't even know existed as awards!

**Community Health Fair:** The fair started slowly however it soon picked up, Both members and people from the community attended. They all enjoyed the event and

were informed on health matters from the various displays and stalls and the children enjoyed the fun activities provided for them, which kept them busy.

**Youth Day:** July ended on a high with Youth Day, with our young people leading out in Divine Service and a thought-provoking sermon and the young people from Lewisham SDA Church took the afternoon programme and presented an engaging play entitled 'Why Didn't You Tell Me?'

## **Dates for your diary (August 2016)**

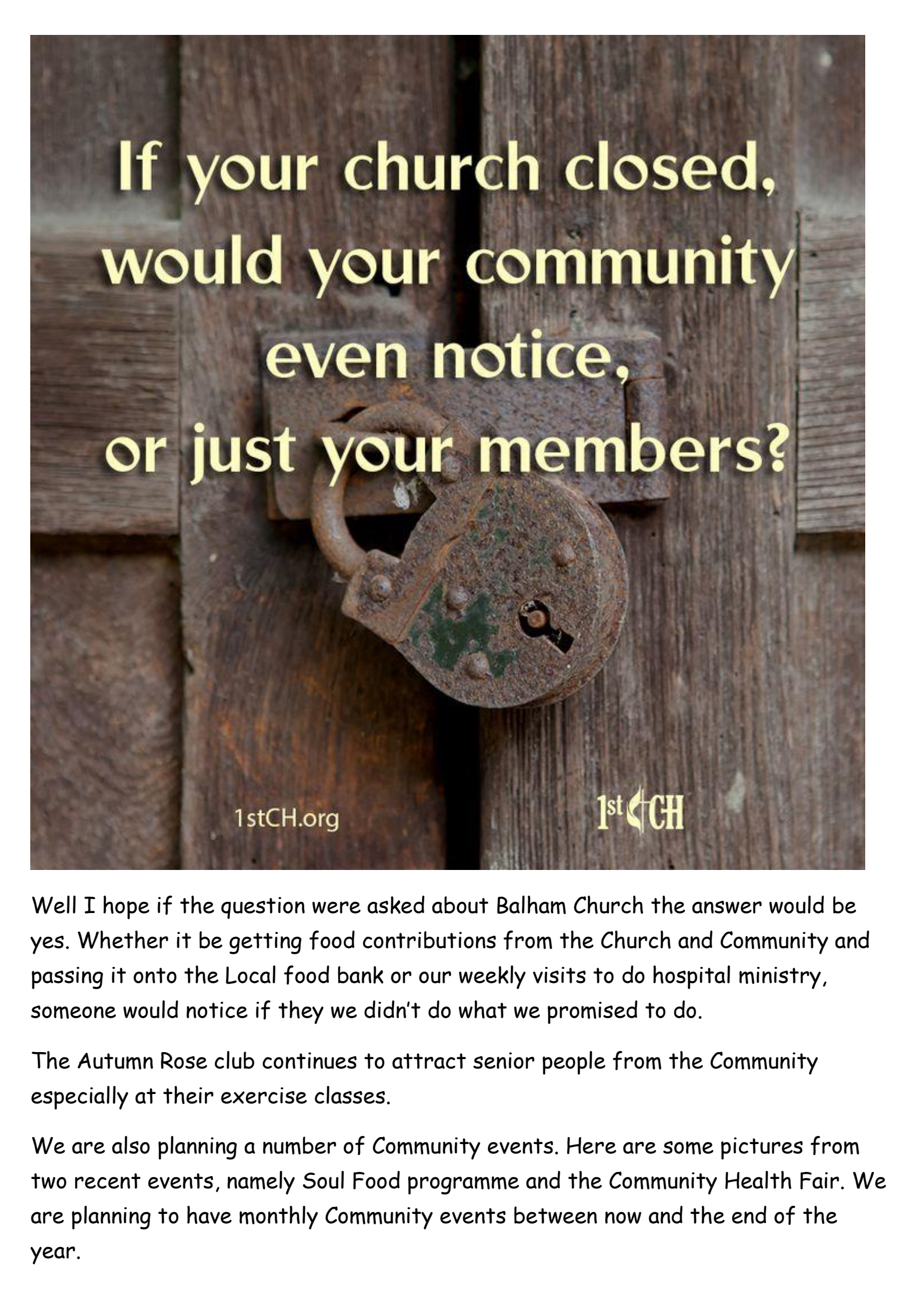
**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August: Music School for Children:** 10am-3pm, Cost: £10 per child, per day. Children to bring packed lunches

**Sabbath 6<sup>th</sup> August: Solofest.** A Conference-wide Day of Fellowship aimed at the singles in the church, but all are invited to attend.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August: Summer Fun School.** Activities for children aged 6-14. 10am -3pm, (Mon -Fri), Cost: £10 per child, per day. Children to bring packed lunches

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August: Business Meeting @ 10am.** Come and hear and share what is going on in your Church.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August: Church Day Trip to Margate.** Cost:£15

A close-up photograph of a weathered wooden door. A large, rusty, circular padlock is attached to the door, partially obscuring the text. The wood is dark and textured, with visible grain and some moss or lichen growth.

If your church closed,  
would your community  
even notice,  
or just your members?

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Well I hope if the question were asked about Balham Church the answer would be yes. Whether it be getting food contributions from the Church and Community and passing it onto the Local food bank or our weekly visits to do hospital ministry, someone would notice if they we didn't do what we promised to do.

The Autumn Rose club continues to attract senior people from the Community especially at their exercise classes.

We are also planning a number of Community events. Here are some pictures from two recent events, namely Soul Food programme and the Community Health Fair. We are planning to have monthly Community events between now and the end of the year.



Leader of Soul Food and Quintessential band: Sammy Massiah



Drumming away at Soul Food



A part of the Quintessential band at Soul Food event



One of the singing guests at the Soul Food event with a backing group



Some of the guests at Soul Food working on the icebreaker



Another group of guests at the Soul Food event during the icebreaker



A head massage at the Community Health Fair



Enlightening the kids about Health at the Fair



Kids just wanna have fun on the bouncy castle at the Health Fair



One of the stands at the Health Fair



Health numbers being discussed at the Health Fair



Some of the Health Fair staff: They just had to get into my picture