



Jan 2026 Newsletter  
**markyate**  
baptist church

I awoke with a vision on the Monday after setting up the church for Christmas. In the moments between being asleep and fully awake, I saw the new layout of the chairs in our church like a chamber orchestra. I wouldn't consider myself to be an expert in visions, dreams or the prophetic, but as what I had seen settled in my spirit and my visual mind, I wanted to share it as an encouragement to all.

Rewinding to that weekend at the start of Advent, a few of us had adjusted the chairs in preparation for the next few weeks with the aim of bringing people closer together. It was interesting to observe people coming in on the Sunday morning and cautiously picking out a place to sit, as if they might offend somebody by putting themselves into the wrong spot. It made me wonder if we truly feel at home in the house of God?

Then, early on Monday morning I saw the layout of people in church like a Chamber Orchestra, as I pondered the meaning I began to feel a bit more excited. Let's be under no illusion, an orchestra takes months of practise to arrange in order that everybody knows the part they play, and that the overall performance is a work of audible art. There are no shortcuts to this, practise makes perfect so that each person knows their instrument and what they uniquely contribute.

The coming together of these sounds to create sonic delight is of course the desired and anticipated outcome for an applauding audience. In a similar way, there is a spiritual beauty when God's

people act in unity and bring what they have together:

*“Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”*

*Romans 12:4 – 8 (NIV)*

For lots of us there will be a hope this year that we can progress with the appointment of a new minister, however in this stepping forward we must be assured that we all have a part to play in our church's healthy life, and that a minister cannot solely perform all of the above items single-handedly, this would be a recipe for burn-out. They may be gifted in certain specific ways, but there is much that God has anointed us all to contribute to our church that nobody else can bring. I recommend taking a few minutes to re-read the Romans passage above and pray about what your role is and what is needed in MBC.

This New Year and as we approach our service of covenant on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan, let us join together in praying & seeking God for a church growing in confidence, with each person committing what they uniquely bring to MBC, and who they are in Christ. Of course it will take practise, arrangement and time, like anything worthwhile.

I wish you all a happy & fruitful New Year. Jez

# What's On—January 2026

## Friday 2nd

MBC Café—open to all  
10am—12pm

## Sunday 4th

10.30am Morning Service  
With Graham Clarke

## Monday 5th

MBC Café—open to all  
10.30am—12pm

## Friday 9th

Jack & Jill's baby & toddler  
10am—11.30am

## Saturday 10th

Prayer meeting in Church  
9.30am—10.30am

## Sunday 11th

10.30am Covenant Service  
including Communion  
Leadership Team

## Monday 12th

MBC Café—open to all  
10.30am—12pm

## Thursday 15th

Leadership Team Meeting  
7.45pm

## Friday 16th

MBC Café—open to all  
10.30am—12pm

## Sunday 18th

10.30am Morning Service  
followed by Members Meeting

With Maureen Hider

## Monday 19th

MBC Café—open to all  
10.30am—12pm

## Faith, Family & Fellowship

19 Bartholomew Green 7.30pm—  
9.30pm

## Friday 23rd

Jack & Jill's baby & toddler  
10am—11.30am

## Sunday 25th

10.30am Unity Service with  
Fellowship lunch  
With Jeremy Bottrill & Jo Burke

## Monday 26th

MBC Café—open to all

**Minister: VACANT**

**Administrator:** Tracy Cripps  
e: [admin@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:admin@markyatebaptist.org)  
t: 07419 846982

**Working days—Tues and Thur.**

**Deacons:**

Jeremy Bottrill,  
Ruth Kieran  
Chris & Heidi Trew  
Mark Buckley  
Rob Wills

Contact leaders email:  
[firstname@markyatebaptist.org](mailto:firstname@markyatebaptist.org)

**Moderator**

Mary Moody  
[mary.moody@centralba.org.uk](mailto:mary.moody@centralba.org.uk)

Our Vision Statment:

Growing Together by loving God, loving others & serving our community