



life **ink** kerith



kerith
www.kerith.church



“ welcome

to our Kerith Community Church Link magazine. Kerith is a diverse community of people of all ages, from all sorts of backgrounds and from many different nations.

What unites us is our love for Jesus and our desire to express his love to those around us through both what we say and what we do. In this magazine you will get to meet some of the people who make up our community and hear about some of the things they get up to. If you find any of this interesting then I'd really encourage you to either take a look at one of our online meetings, or come and meet us in person at one of our sites on a Sunday. Who knows, we might even be reading your story in a future magazine. – Simon Benham, Senior Pastor



sundays



Our 4 Kerith sites:

Bracknell Our site in the heart of Bracknell town centre is a vibrant, multicultural and intergenerational community, so there's something for everyone! Come along on a Sunday morning to get a sense of our culture and mission and look on the website for all our groups and events - we'd love to help you connect with God.



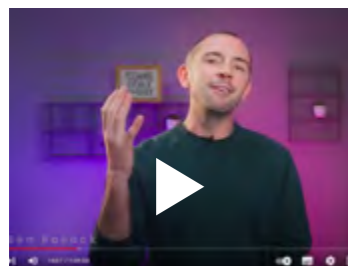
Farnborough We have been a church family since establishing in 2013 and have a lively family feel, where people of all ages and backgrounds are welcome in our community. Our building was once a soft play centre where families would come and have fun, and we want our church gatherings to be places full of joy, and full of the love of God.



West Wight We're a small site made up of people of all ages across the island who love serving, to encounter Jesus together on Sundays as well as hanging out socially at the beach or the park. We love spending time together in community! Anyone is welcome on Sundays or in the week, just come as you are!



Windsor We have been gathering together since 2018 and are a diverse community where you can explore the Christian faith or grow as a Christian. Our desire is to create a community where young and old from every walk of life, even those who've never set foot in a Church before, can come with all their questions and doubts to explore more about Jesus.



Online Kerith Online is a space for people to connect with the life of the church, with other people and with God. Similar to our in-person sites, Kerith Online is more than merely a weekly Sunday meeting and we have small groups, 'one church' gatherings and prayer meetings that also take place online. We hear many stories of people finding a sense of belonging and community, and finding their way to God through accessing Kerith Online.



next steps 

To find out more about your local site, events, groups and latest site news see **Sites** on www.kerith.church

small groups



“ I learnt that I need to pay more attention to what God is saying, instead of rushing through life. ”

Joining a small group is a great way of getting to know people and exploring faith. We love seeing people who come to church on a Sunday, meet up during the week with others to share their lives and learn together.

We have a huge range of small groups available for people to join across all of our sites, as well as online. Some groups are interest-based, bringing together people who share a love of running, books or coffee. Other groups meet together to discuss the Sunday preach or work through a course.

Saskia and Andrew are part of a small group which recently completed the Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Course, which looks at topics including your family traditions, processing grief and loss, and establishing healthy daily rhythms.



“ Each week we’d meet together, and after prayer and a quick catchup we’d watch a video for about 20 minutes, then discuss some of that week’s topic. Then everyone had a daily devotional guide to build on the weekly discussion. This led to learning that I need to pay more attention to what God is saying, instead of rushing through life. - Andrew ”

“ We were at a stressful time in our lives. We’d just moved over from South Africa, and this course really brought up a whole load of things we didn’t even realise were there. At home, we’d continue discussing things more deeply every day, so it was actually really cool because it would just open more of a conversation between Andrew and I as husband and wife. - Saskia ”

“ I enjoyed being able to mingle and meet new people and build relationships. Building relationships, having the consistency of a weekly meet-up was just excellent. - Andrew ”



next steps ▶▶▶

See which small groups are running, and find one that’s right for you at www.kerith.church/small-groups

courses

At Kerith we are passionate about applying Biblical truth to our everyday lives, living out our faith and making a difference in our community. We have created 3 course TRACKS to help you. As you travel along a track, your Biblical knowledge deepens and you'll learn more about yourself and others.

To find a course for what you need to learn in this season of life, head to our website. We run courses termly starting in September, January and April.



Growth Track

The Growth Track is a set of courses that take you from exploring faith to spiritual maturity. You'll explore what it looks like to 'Know God', 'Connect to Church', 'Discover the Story', 'Find Freedom from fears and failure's', 'Pray Effectively' and 'Go Deeper' in your relationship with Jesus.



Life Track

The Life Track includes relationship and life stage courses. Often in life we come across situations and family events that need the wisdom of others who have gone before us. This track has some incredible courses to help us live a FULFILLED LIFE - loving others and ourselves as well.



Theology Track

The Theology Track seeks to grow us in our knowledge of the Bible and Spiritual Disciplines. Do you have a hunger to know God more through the Bible? Perhaps you want to work through issues or passages or topics in more depth, or you'd like to work towards a recognised theology qualification with like-minded friends?

partnerships

At Kerith we want to play our part in making a difference in local, national and international communities. To do this we partner with a number of friends of Kerith who run charities across the globe and here at home.



Create Hope

“ Kerith have fully supported the vision and heart behind the play therapy that **Create Hope** provides in Bracknell Forest since we were founded in 2015. ”
- **Founder Catherine Hockley**



Tehila

“ The ongoing love and support from the church has been incredible. Without the generosity of Kerith and its people, **Tehila** in Zambia would simply not be where it is today! ”
- **Founders Sam and Hannah Fairs-Billam**



Renova

“ The funding **Renova Trust** received from Kerith has helped purchase our first and now second houses. Renova residents also benefit from courses run by Kerith giving them the skills and confidence to rebuild their lives. ”
- **Founders Tess and Lincoln Osunkoya**

“ Partnering with Kerith has blessed **Hope and Depression** with some wonderful and encouraging conversations, connecting me with others who have helped me continue to grow our charity. ”
- **Founder Lisa Owens**

“ Having the support of Kerith makes a big difference for our **Youth for Christ** projects – Kerith members are involved in volunteering, praying and financial support – all of which means we're able to run our groups. ”
- **West Wight Churches Youth Project**

next steps ▶▶▶

Keep an eye on our small groups page as we start term: www.kerith.church/groups-and-courses/courses

next steps ▶▶▶

Take a closer look at these amazing organisations via our partnership pages of the website www.kerith.church/transform-society

kids

“ I have seen God at work in my son because of the input he gets from his kids group ”



Kerith families gathering at the Wildfires Festival annual camp



For children aged 0-11 our Kerith Kids groups meet on Sundays in a fun and safe environment for them to learn about and meet with Jesus – and make loads of friends! Depending on the age group there is a mix of free play, worship, games, puzzles, a short age-relevant bible teach, prayer and ministry time.

We love to create spaces where children can really enjoy coming to church as they explore their own faith journey and have a dedicated team of safely recruited kids team volunteers.

We are passionate that all children feel welcomed at all our sites and are growing our Kids+ teams who focus on one-to-one support for children with additional needs.

We also love to run seasonal events for children and families, such as Easter fun days and Light Parties over Halloween – we'd love to see you to any of our gatherings sometime soon!

Meet Sasha

How did you get involved in working with kids at church?

“ We were encouraged to join a ministry team during a service a few years ago, I was drawn to both the Welcome and the Kids team. We've not been blessed with children of our own, so after much reflecting and prayer, I ticked the Kids Team box and got started! ”



What does a normal Sunday at Kerith Kids look like?

“ I serve in the group for children age five to nine. We arrive an hour before, set up the room and pray. We have a brilliant team! After the kids register, there's time for free play, we start the session with welcome and a game. During the worship we often do actions and sign language to get everyone involved – this is one of my favourite parts. We then do the teaching before going into small groups, have a snack, discuss the teaching, do a craft, and pray together. ”

What's your favourite thing about working with children at church?

“ When the children ask Jesus to be their 'forever friend' by saying their ABC prayer. Wow! Also, working with a fantastic team of volunteers, and getting involved in Kerith Kids TV, our online videos for kids of all ages. I loved being a part of that during the pandemic. ”

“ My favourite things about Kerith Kids are the toys, the slide and the teachers. ”
– Ezra, age 4

“ We get to do fun activities and play lots of games and learn about God at the same time. ”
– Toby, age 10

“ As a parent, Kerith Kids is a fun, safe space for them to learn about Jesus whilst we can enjoy church. ”
– Emily, parent

next steps ▶▶▶

Find out more at www.kerith.church/kerith-kids including details about our Kerith Kids groups at all of our sites, links to Kerith Kids TV, our parenting podcast and our safeguarding policy.

youth

Here at Kerith Youth we create spaces where young people enjoy church, hear the gospel and see their lives irreversibly transformed by the love of Christ.



Youth activities run across all of our Kerith sites. Kerith Youth is for ages 11-18 (school years 7-13). There is a lot for young people to be involved in both on Friday evenings in term time, and Sundays in our Unleashed groups.



“ If you're thinking of coming to Kerith youth my advice is just do it! I have made friends that feel like family, have great leaders to look up to, lots of fun and learned a lot about God. ”

“ I really enjoy the worshipping with my friends at Kerith Youth, and growing our relationship with God together. ”

“ I really like the regional nights where friends from different Kerith sites get together to worship. Also, Summer Sanctuary is really fun. We learnt a lot and I feel closer to God than I ever was. ”



young adults



YA events are for those aged 18-30. We are all about having a laugh together, building strong friendships and exploring conversations that equip us to be salt and light in today's culture. THAT'S the mission! The aim is to be able to create a community where we have vulnerability and accountability whilst going deeper in our faith. Whether it be your first time at church or you're a Kerith regular there's a space for you.

Each site has a different vibe so check out our web page for the latest on what's going on and definitely come down and introduce yourself on a Sunday so we can connect you in. The Facebook feed is also a helpful space to keep in touch with what's going on.



next steps ▶▶▶

To learn more you can head to our Instagram:

📷 [kerith.youth](https://www.instagram.com/kerith.youth)

Check out the diary of events: www.kerith.church/youth

next steps ▶▶▶

Find out more at www.kerith.church/young-adults

👤 Young Adults @ Kerith

📷 [kerith.ya](https://www.instagram.com/kerith.ya)

transforming society



“ I now have hope which I didn't have before. ”
– CAP Debt Family



Revive is our social justice ministry, and is an integral part of Kerith. Our services focus on key needs including debt and money management, life skills, food poverty, befriending and mentoring and others. Our projects are varied, offering a range of services to support, encourage, and empower people across our sites in Bracknell Forest, Farnborough, Windsor and West Wight.

– Sarah Walker, Social Justice Lead

Liz worked in a housing project run by one of Kerith's partnerships Renova House. She bought along a number of the tenants to a CAP Money course run by the Revive team. Liz had wanted them to learn budgeting skills to prepare for independent living but hadn't expected to get a grip on her own finances. "I had my head in the sand, only just staying afloat" she says. Seeing her own budget in black and white helped her manage a plan and begin saving.

Ollie appreciated the common-sense ideas, and practical suggestions on how to cut back and make ends meet – good basics for the future. The friendly, non-judgmental atmosphere really helped and built trust in the group, as stress over money is often kept private.

“ It was interesting, the team took time to get to know us all and our situations. ”

Ollie has also enjoyed coming to church on Sundays and for Liz, the help the tenants get from Kerith has been massive, giving them opportunities to volunteer, no matter their faith background, helping them towards getting their lives on track.



“ By supporting Kerith Revive, you are extending a lifeline to those who desperately need to know there's a way out. Our tagline is 'Bringing Hope' for a reason. ”

next steps 

Find out how to access Revive services, and how you can get involved and support at www.kerith.church/help-and-support

volunteering

“ To give time serving makes me feel a much closer part of our community ”

Going behind the scenes at Kerith...

At Kerith we believe that God designed humanity with two powerful desires – to love God and to love people. Everyone gets to play their part in God’s plan for church community – sometimes it’s gathering together on a Sunday but it can also be people working to support someone in debt, or making coffee and chatting to tired parents at a toddler group. Where there’s God and people- that’s church!

The best way to get to know more about Kerith and be part of our adventure in bringing ‘church’ to our communities is to join a volunteer team that helps make things happen!



Traffic Team: Stuart

I’m part of our car parking team, so I get to be one of the first people to welcome first time visitors, returning friends and to assist anyone who needs to use an accessible parking space closer to the church building. It’s wonderful to see our church community grow and see so many new faces. Almost every week there are new people arriving for the first time, God is really doing something here.

“ To give our time serving just feels so right and makes me feel a much closer part of our community, I would encourage anyone to consider volunteering and being part of a wonderful team. ”

next steps ▶▶▶

Read more about the different volunteering roles at Kerith, and find the right role for you at kerith.church/join-our-team



Welcome Team: Maria

I would strongly recommend anyone to join the Welcome Team, there’s so much to do in a busy, friendly team. You will learn new skills, find a sense of purpose, help your faith grow, connect with others in your community and find enjoyment in your ability and calling.

“ It is a privilege to serve others. ”

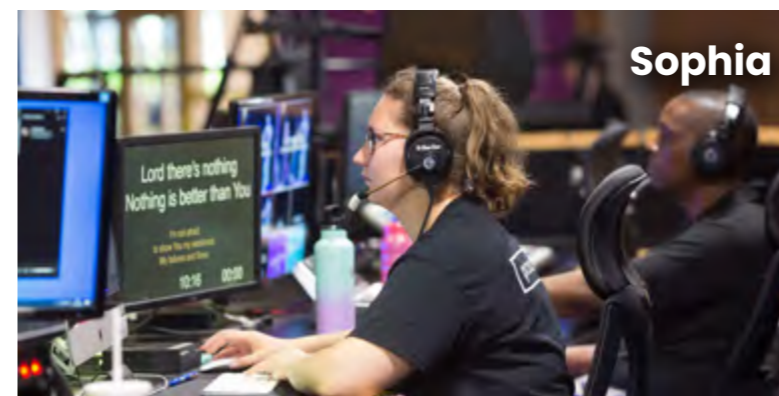
Production: Sophia

When I joined Kerith they were looking for more people to get involved with Production. I applied because I love feeling useful, and doing production is a great part of church life. On this team we all do different jobs – I’m one of the people who puts the song words and Bible passages on the screen.

“ I feel a great part of the Kerith community, it’s brought me into a closer relationship to God. ”

Kids Team: Millie

I love doing Farnborough kids church because I get to make church a fun environment for children to get to know God! I love being able to make a difference in the children’s life and love being able to share the love of Jesus.



Sophia



Small Group Leaders: Dave & Karen

We enjoy leading a group at Kerith West Wight because it is exciting and encouraging getting to know different people, hearing their stories and seeing friendships grow as we share our faith together.

Foodbank: Chris

Our Foodbank serves people in our local community that are going through tough times. There are a number of different roles within Foodbank, both behind the scenes and working with guests directly.

Sometimes when a new client first arrives, they can be defensive and anxious. Experiences from the past and how life has treated them so far might have led them to be like that.

“ But when they leave, we often see them smiling with a renewed hope that there are people who care, and with some dignity restored. ”

I’ve enjoyed working at Foodbank and know I have grown in confidence talking with and praying with clients and volunteers. I know God wants me being part of the team here at Foodbank.



Chris

explore LIFE FAITH JESUS



“Alpha has been a great introduction to Christianity and has given me a great basis to move forward in my search for and understanding of faith.”

At the core of Kerith is a passion to help people explore what it looks like to have faith. Although the statistics say a huge percentage of people think about spiritual matters, or even pray, it's often hard to find the right time and place to ask the questions you have.

Rich started exploring faith during lockdown

“I've always been a truth hunter and during lockdown there was nothing else to do but look into things more. The one thing that made me think the most was a guy on the internet that talked about how science and the Bible weren't necessarily in conflict. I was fascinated in how this could be.”

Rich knew a neighbour opposite was a Christian and he started wandering over to ask him questions.

“When I got stumped I'd go over and ask him, I was asking him all these technical questions! Finally he invited me to join him one Sunday at Kerith. Walking into church it was so surprisingly welcoming- not what I was expecting!”

I was invited to join in on the Alpha course to ask my questions, and each week the subject was so helpful in answering questions I hadn't even thought of asking! We ate and chatted together as a group each week and I met some great people.

At the end of the course I knew that I had found what I was looking for. Now I have a new perspective knowing that I have been set free from my past and I have a purpose for my future. That Jesus was who he said He was. I'm still learning loads as I keep walking out my new faith, Kerith is a great place to meet others who can help answer questions I still have.

Rich's advice for people anyone exploring faith is to find people to ask, don't go down crazy internet search dead ends- come and ask or join an Alpha course in his words:

“It will answer questions you hadn't even thought of asking.”

So - what's stopping you from going on this journey? Maybe it's scary - but if you're one of the thousands of people who think about spiritual things but haven't ever asked the questions out loud, maybe now it the time to start.

We recommend three great next steps:

- 1.** Talk to a friend who you know has faith. Be brave and ask them the big questions!
- 2.** Find an Alpha course - you can either come along to a Kerith course or look online for one that suits your life.
- 3.** Come along to a Kerith Sunday meeting online or at one of our sites - you can sit at the back and just observe - it's great to see what it looks like to have faith in Jesus.



“Although research for the Church of England* in 2022 found that nearly half of adults in the UK have prayed, it's often hard to find the right time and place to have a conversation about faith and God.”

*Research from Savanta: ComRes
www.comresglobal.com/polls/church-of-england-polling-on-prayer

next steps ▶▶▶

Explore questions of life, faith and meaning at Alpha at www.kerith.church/alpha



VISIT OUR SITES:

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The Kerith Centre,
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For meeting times see
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