THE BOYS' BRIGADE
> the adventure begins here

1st Saffron Walden Boys' Brigade Company

Year Book

2026 – 2027



Welcome!

Welcome to the start of a new Boys' Brigade session!

We hope everyone had a good summer, and we look forward to spending some time on Tuesday evenings with you over the coming months. This book has been written in order to provide you with some basic information regarding who we are, what we do and how we do it. It won't provide you with all you need to know for the year ahead (see the paragraph on 'Communication' below), but it hopefully gives a sense of how we're organised and the way we go about things. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach out to me directly. Otherwise, the 'Officer in Charge' of your young person's particular age group is normally a good first point of contact. This information can be found in the 'Staff' section. We hope all the young people in our care have a fantastic year at Boys' Brigade.

Andrew Turner

Captain

What is the Boys' Brigade all about?

We provide opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith. Over 20,000 children and young people get involved every week. There's something for every young person whether it's camping or kayaking, first aid or five a side, music or crafts. Our programme is always varied and is age specific.

When did the Boys' Brigade start?

The Boys' Brigade (BB) started in Glasgow in 1883. This makes us the oldest (voluntary) uniformed youth organisation in the world. Each individual Boys' Brigade group is referred to as a 'Company'. The 1st Saffron Walden Company was founded in 1980 and has been running continuously ever since. This means this is our 47th session (year).

Where can I find more details?

There is some basic information and a few photos on our own Company website which can be found at 1saffronwalden.boys-brigade.org.uk. The main global website has a lot more information, including a section specifically for parents/carers. In the about us section you can also read about our Vision, Mission and Values. You can find that website at boys-brigade.org.uk. Our safeguarding policy and supporting documents can also be found there.

Conduct

Our Vision is that children and young people experience 'Life to the full'. (This is a direct quote from the Bible; John 10:10). To help facilitate that, we believe it's helpful to have clear boundaries and a framework of discipline, respect for others and willing co-operation. All members, parents, carers and staff share the responsibility to ensure that our young people:

- Respect fellow members and leaders
- Attend regularly, except when ill. This includes Parade Services which are an important part of our programme – see later
- Engage properly with all activities, even when it's not our 'favourite'
- Comply with instructions from leaders
- Wear uniform as intended.
- Treat all equipment with respect, including when taking part in activities away from the Church halls e.g. camping and expeditions.

Mobile phones: We permit members to bring phones to BB, but if they are being used when we've asked for them not to be, we reserve the right to confiscate them until the end of the evening.



Meeting Times/Places

Tuesday meetings normally take place in the Baptist Church halls, Audley Road.

Anchors (school years1-3):

6:30PM – 7:45PM (usually starting and finishing in the lower hall)

Juniors (school years 4 -6):

6:30PM – 7:45PM (usually starting and finishing in the upper hall)

Company and Seniors (school years 7 -13):

7:55PM – 9:30PM (usually starting and finishing in the upper hall).

You will be notified of specific events or if the time/place changes for a certain evening.

Our Church and Sunday Parade Services

We share a distinct relationship with our host Church; a foundational partnership common to both the Boys' and Girls' Brigades, but entirely unique compared to other youth groups. We are very much 'part of' Saffron Walden Baptist Church; not just 'affiliated' or 'associated' with it. We receive a lot of help and support from our Church, including financial support, practical support and prayer support. Parade services are one way in which we can engage with not just our Church, but with other youth groups in the town. There is normally a time during these services where we share news and there is a real sense of community. We sometimes present badges and other awards during these services. It is also a time in which our young people can experience Christian worship. All parents and carers are very welcome to join our family friendly parade services, and the best news of all… we normally serve coffee and pastries to parents and carers while we're waiting for the young people to parade! Special Note: Whilst our members should be at Church Parades wherever possible, we are always happy to provide exceptions for those attending other Churches at the same time, particularly if they are taking an active part in that service (e.g. choir).

Communication

Our primary communication tool these days is email, and it's important we have an email address for parents that is working and checked regularly. We will send communications quite frequently as different activities and events occur during the year. If we're not sending emails to the most convenient email address, please let us know. We also have a website (see back cover), and we also have a Facebook page. We would encourage you to follow us on Facebook please! We try to post as regularly as we can.

Annual Information Form

We do require for parents/carers to provide their consent for their child to attend BB on an annual basis, as well as letting us know anything that might help us keep them happy and safe. In the future, we're hoping to move this to an online based process, but for now we request for a form to be filled in and returned each year. A hard copy is probably best, but a scanned copy is also OK, provided it's legible. We do also require additional, separate forms to be filled in for special activities such as camp. Please return these as promptly as you can.

Subscriptions

We require to charge a subscription payment, in order to stay financially viable. This is normally paid once a term. You will receive a separate letter about this with all the information you need. Prices are different for each of the age groups. Good news: Subscription prices have been frozen for a few years now, and are frozen again this year! Should you be in a position where it is difficult to find the money needed to pay 'subs', please talk to us in complete confidence (either your age group leader or with Andrew Turner). We do not allow finances to get in the way of someone attending BB.

Gift Aiding

If you are a tax payer and willing to Gift Aid your boys' subscriptions, we can claim back the tax for company funds. As we are part of Saffron Walden Baptist Church, the gift aiding is made through the Church and consequently under the registered charity number for the Church. Periodically, the reclaimed tax is then transferred to our BB account. All the details you need will be on the subscriptions form you receive. Please gift aid if you can. It is worth several hundred pounds to us each year!

Uniform

Parents are expected to buy their young person's uniform, which we feel is reasonably priced. Once we have payment, or at least part payment, the uniform will be issued. We will accept payment in instalments if that's easier. We currently have a number of 'near new' uniforms which can be purchased at reduced prices. These are generally available throughout the year. As with subscriptions, if you anticipate difficulties paying, please speak to us. The same sentiment applies as for subscriptions.

Badges

We issue badges according to various achievements throughout a young person's Boys' Brigade career. We don't normally charge for badges, but we will sometimes charge for the armband/s that the badges attach to. We will normally charge for badges/armbands if they are lost and need replacing. They are surprisingly expensive so please keep them safe!

Safeguarding and Health and Safety

We adhere strictly to the Boys' Brigade's policy on safeguarding, which can be found here. We have Risk Assessments covering all the activities we undertake. These are reviewed regularly. Any questions on these topics should be directed to Andrew Turner. Please note the roads around the Church are dangerous. Parents dropping off or collecting boys should exercise extra care please with regards to everyone's safety. Parents or carers must come into the Church, or at least to the side door of the Church when collecting or dropping off boys from the Anchor or Junior Sections.

Staff

Please note that our staff are ALL voluntary and receive no payment at all for being a BB leader. We only recruit staff who we consider suitable, and who have gone through the necessary checks and training. Many of our staff hold additional qualifications to enable us to undertake activities such as camping and expeditions in accordance with BB policy. Please bear in mind that being a BB leader is a significant commitment, and without the people willing to commit their time and energy to this role, there would be no BB in Saffron Walden (or anywhere else for that matter!).

Captain
Andrew Turner
andyturner619@gmail.com
Tel: 07981 977770

Honorary Vice President
Gloria Archer

Chaplain
Rev. John Goddard
minister@sw-bc.org
07845 584779

Treasurer
Rosemary Timms
rosemary_timms@hotmail.com

Officer in Charge of Anchors
Helen Gardiner
helen.m.gardiner@btinternet.com
Tel: 07850 281982

Officer in Charge of Juniors
Mark Retter
aussieretter@gmail.com
Tel: 07763 864351

Officer in Charge of Company and Seniors
Rev. John Goddard (details above)

Dates List 2026/27

2026	
October 11th	Church Parade – Baptist Church
October 27th	No meeting – half term
November 8th	Remembrance Day Parade (not for Anchors)
December 8th	Last Tuesday of the year
2027	
January 12th	First night back of the new year
February 16th	No meeting – half term
March 23rd	Last meeting before Easter holidays
April 20th	First meeting back after Easter holidays
April 25th	Church Parade – Baptist Church
May 22nd/23rd	The Waltham Walk (not for Anchors)
June 1st	No meeting – half term
July 13th	Last meeting of the session
Aug 21st -28th	SUMMER CAMP (Year 6 and up only)

https://1saffronwalden.boys-brigade.org.uk/





Follow us on Facebook