



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

November 2024



Never heard of him!

AT Foundry Lane School, aged 11, I was in a group of children who had to pick out a famous person from a hat, research and then write about him or her.

Before it was my turn, other pupils had picked out the likes of Lord Nelson and Florence Nightingale. I was secretly hoping the name Bobby Charlton, England's football star of the time, would come my way. I put my hand into the hat, picked out a piece of paper ... opened it up ... and it was ... William Wilberforce.

What horror! William Wilberforce!! Never heard of him!!!

I did knuckle down though and produced the piece of work and ended up actually being impressed with Wilberforce. Since then, I've read and seen documentaries and consider him now as one of the 'greats' who made such a valuable contribution during his life.

He was, of course, instrumental in abolishing the Slave Trade in the British Empire in 1807 and finally saw his bill pass into law as the Slavery Abolition Act three days before he died in 1838.

Fast forward into the 21st century and we have Modern Slavery, a scourge that has and continues to blight many people today. The Salvation Army website has an informative page on Modern Slavery which is worth looking at. There is a real issue with this problem here in the UK. However, into this darkness there is a light. Jesus said, *'I am the light of the world, whoever walks with Me will not walk in darkness.'* John 8:12

May His light shine into these areas of injustice, wrongdoing, and unholiness. And may He use us, in the power of His Spirit, to pray, to speak up, to act, or even all three! To help to bring the light and freedom of Christ into the lives of those caught up as modern day slaves.

Les Pike



Welcome

to our **SERVICES** 10.30am

We continue looking into the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians

Sunday 3rd November Denise and Ian Ward

Subject: **Living by the Spirit's power**

Reading: *Ephesians 5: 15-20*

Sunday 10th Remembrance Sunday

Rev. Linda Hayes

Subject: **Armour of God**

Reading: *Ephesians 6: 10-17*

Sunday 17th

Rev. Linda Hayes

Subject: **Prayer**

Reading: *Ephesians 6: 18-24 incl. Communion*

Sunday 24th

Trevor Stickland

Subject: **Creative Prayer**

Sunday 1st December

Rev. Linda Hayes

Subject: **First Sunday in Advent**

Whether this is your first visit or you have been a regular for years, we're PLEASSED TO SEE YOU!



Light refreshments are served after the Sunday Services

Previous sermons are on our Facebook page

Weekly Meetings

TUESDAYS

Turkish language school 5.00pm-6.30pm

in the church.

Belong 7.00pm-9.00pm

Fortnightly discipleship group exploring aspects of faith. See Linda for dates




WEDNESDAYS

Sunflower Café

12.30pm - 3.00pm

Livewires 3.30pm - 4.30pm

 For Key stage 1 children with parents +carers; older and younger siblings welcome.

FRIDAYS

Flowerpots 10am - noon

Baby and toddler group.



Impact Church

Youth Polish church 6.00pm

SATURDAYS

Impact Church 6.00pm

Polish church

SUNDAYS

Bethel Prayer House

(formerly CBF)

3.00pm



Mon to Fri



Tel: (023) 8078 4969

pp7@paintpotsnursery.co.uk

Coming up . . .

Sun 3rd

Prayer Breakfast

9am - 10am

Mon 4th

Leaders' Meeting

9.00am

Sun 10th

Church Lunch

Bring-and-share

Sat 30th

Quiet Morning

9.00am - 11.00am

Sun 1st Dec

Church Members' Meeting

After morning service
Please bring your own lunch

Contacts: Revd. LINDA HAYES 07963 803884 or linda@dizzyanddaisy.plus.com
Anita Pike Administrator and hall bookings 07814 445929 or calm.pike@ntlworld.com

Prayer Focus

NEVER STOP PRAYING

1 Thessalonians 5:17



LORD, Thank You that You offer us the opportunity to walk with You in the light.

Despite all we may have seen or done You invite us to step out of the darkness and start again. Show us where we are living in an artificial brightness that obscures our vision of You and bring us into Your true light.

Comfort all who find themselves in places of darkness through the actions of others, may that know Your peace. In the chaos of war and the rubble of destruction where darkness seems to reign on the earth, bring Your hope and justice.

May Your light shine brightly today and everyday drawing more towards a hopeful future, in Jesus Name. Amen

Source: URC, Romsey

Source: BBC Daily Service

A Prayer for Kids (& grown-ups too)

Dear God,

Thank You for late autumn and the cool and crispy breeze, and for running, skipping, jumping in golden piles of leaves!

Amen



A verse from the Psalms to meditate on.

Take your time as you say the sentence.

Repeat a number of times.

Ask the Lord's Spirit to open up your heart and mind as you kneel, sit or stand in your quiet space.

The Lord is my Light and my salvation. Psalm 27 : 1

LOOKING after our planet is now high on political agendas, which is a good thing, because if the people living on it continue to use and abuse it, we will surely eventually lose it!



Denise Ward

If everyone, from big business to the humble individual, make good choices in doing their part to look after this lovely world that our God has created for us to live in, the results will be a cleaner, healthier and more enjoyable experience for us all.

The *Keep Britain Tidy* charity has issued a challenge during November. They say:

'Our research reveals that 70% of UK adults agree that Black Friday promotes the excessive consumption of goods. And it's easy to see why.'

According to research by Leeds University, Black Friday alone is responsible for the release of around 400,000 tonnes of CO² into the atmosphere. Meanwhile, 80% of impulse purchases end up in landfill.

That's why, this November, we're calling on our supporters to boycott Black Friday and join Buy Nothing New Month.

Buy Nothing New Month is a chance to reduce waste and make the most of what we have. We'll be sharing expert tips on everything from gifting sustainably, to how to repair and reuse everyday items.

When we surveyed those who took part in the last Buy Nothing New Month, an incredible 73% managed to buy nothing new throughout the month, with an additional 26% buying less stuff than they usually would.'



More information and how to get involved is available on the *Keep Britain Tidy* website.

THOSE of a certain age will remember the WOMBLES.

These delightful fictional characters with pointy noses live in burrows on Wimbledon Common. Their aim is to help to keep the environment tidy by collecting and recycling rubbish in creative ways.

Great

Do you know the name of this character?

Answer page 8

PROGRESS

In longing to be civilised
the human race has realised
that living must be organised
with thought and labour minimised
be modernised and mechanised
and finally computerised.

Today - or so I am advised -
computers have economised.
have memorised and analysed,
have scrutinised and synchronised,
and soon will have unauthorised,
our life and work monopolised.

Beware, lest they, uncriticised,
by foolish men are idolised.
until we are all mesmerised,
and hypnotised and terrorised,
and find that we are organised,
devitalised, dehumanised.

Thus, longing to be civilised.
we'll end up . . . fossilised. Anon.

*No need to worry though, even in
the unlikely event of us ending up
as fossils, God will still love us and
want the best for us!*

First ever dyslexia friendly Bible

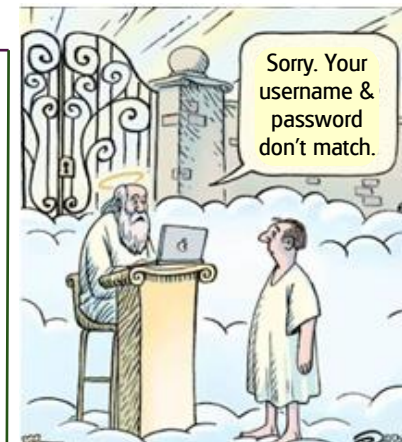
THE BIBLE Society has recently announced that the whole Bible has now been made available in a dyslexia-friendly format.

The larger sans serif typeface with more space between the lines helps to reduce visual clutter. Around six million people in the UK are thought to have the condition, so this is good news.

Christmas present idea maybe?



Craft activities made by the children during a recent Sunday morning service. Well done to Edie and Ivy Stala.





This prayer was found on the body of a soldier, killed in action during World War I.

LOOK GOD, I've never spoken to You before, but now I just want to say 'Hello.' They told me You didn't exist, and, like a fool I believed them.

Last night, I looked up at the sky from a shell-hole. When I saw the beauty of the stars and thought how big the universe is, I knew that they were telling me a lie.

I wonder if You will shake hands with me when we meet? Somehow, I feel You will understand all my failures. Strange how I had to come to this horrible place to get to know You. What on earth was I doing before this? There isn't much more to say, but I am glad I got to know You today. I feel the zero hour will soon be here. This is going to be a horrible fight. Who knows, but I may come to your house tonight.

I'm crying! Fancy me crying! I never thought this could happen to me. I have to go now. Strange since I met You, I'm no longer afraid to die. Anon.

This prayer was given to Sue Ryder by the Prior of Clare Priory in November 1995



SCOTLAND will look forward to their bank holiday on 30th November for St Andrew's Day.

Andrew was the one who introduced his brother Peter to Jesus.

Like most of Jesus' disciples Andrew was martyred for the love our Lord.

Christmas gifts

WE WILL again be supporting the *Reverse Advent Calendar* scheme where instead of getting treats for ourselves, we give something away.

So on the first three Sundays in December, 1st, 8th and 15th, there will be a hamper at the back of the church to receive items for Christmas gifts for Patrick House.

The items we are concentrating on are woolly hats, gloves, socks and Christmas goodies. Leaflets will be included saying *With love from Freemantle Baptist Church*.

If you would like to make any donations, your contributions will be greatly appreciated.



THE LIVING BY THE BOOK



THE stand in the hall foyer has leaflets covering a wide range of subjects. These include, heaven, hell holiness, God, giving, greed, self-esteem, stress, wisdom and worry, plus many more... They are there for anyone to help themselves.

It's good to see they are taken and that the stand needs topping up on a regular basis.

Please do have a browse, if you haven't done so already, and if you have any questions on any of the subjects, *please do ask*.



Linda Hayes on 5th
Gary Greaves on 19th
Jann Sexton on 20th
Denis Wyles on 29th

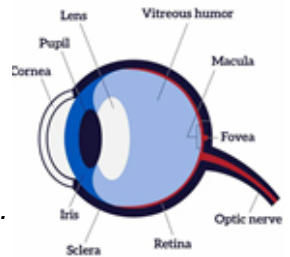
Happy first birthday
 to Sunflower Café
 1st Nov.



The EYE is a masterpiece of engineering design. It is complex and efficient without a single flaw.

And it could never evolve step by step; it must be complete at once to work at all.

*How precious eyes are.
 Thank you, Lord.*



Thank you!

... for your **financial giving** towards the work and witness

Of this church during October. The average weekly offering came to £346.02.

- ... **to everyone** who stayed to the church members' meeting last month.
- ... **to Steve Hayes** who has extended the church wi-fi into the hall
- ... **to Ian Ward** for looking after the website and **Haley Stala** for her continued work in updating the Facebook page
- ... **to the** angelic host who worked hard at our Light Party.

Sunflower Baptist

NOTICE BOARD

In the church magazine this month, our editor explains how he originally hoped to become a firework designer in his earlier years but was told he lacked the spark required for the job.

Light Party '24

FOLK came in from the highways and byways, in twos, threes, fours and in some cases more. Some with costumes that ranged from Superman, Batman, Spiderman and Harry Potter to more scarier appearances in the form of skeletons and blood effect make-up. Some of the mums also entered into the spirit of the occasion with their dark hairdos and mascara.



All lit up – inside and out

What a busy ninety minutes we had! Some popped in briefly, some stayed a while whilst others remained much longer. There were crafts in the church and decorating biscuits in the hall along with refreshments, sausage baps and angel cake.



Youngsters queueing up for their sausage baps

There was quite a mixture of different nationalities giving an international touch. It was a great family atmosphere with chatter and laughter. Upon leaving, each child was given a party bag which was gratefully received. Parents made sure they said thank you for them!

Outside, the church and grounds were lit up and it may be a little exaggerated to say it rivalled a Disney theme park, but it certainly was an impressive splash of multi-coloured light. But then, being a Light Party, our focus was on light - our ultimate light source being Jesus, the Light of the World.

With Halloween becoming a popular part of the UK calendar, it is enjoyed by children and adults alike, with dressing up and trick-and-treating, decorating the house and garden, and generally seeing who can be the scariest.

We take the view that there is nothing scary whatsoever about Jesus; we embrace His character, His warmth, and His life which we wish to share with anybody and everybody - from the cradle to the grave.



Biscuit decorating

Our Light Party was a happy time, and everyone was very welcome. Our next community event is our Lantern Parade on 18th Dec. *See you there?*

What do church ministers say to get rid of insects in the church?

Let us spray.

Answer to question on page 4: Great Uncle Bulgaria