



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

October 2024



I'M SURE we have all noticed that the nights are drawing in and the days are getting shorter and cooler.

So many of us dread this dark time of year, and I am often one of them. But I have recently felt God challenge me to find delight in every season. So, I have been reflecting on what I like about autumn.

The changing colours of the trees is an obvious one. They are spectacular to see. All those beautiful oranges and reds, and if the sun catches them just right, then there is a little more wonder; walking in the new Forest or the local parks can be a time to enjoy this beauty.

Then as the nights draw in, I find myself reaching for the scented candles. Not only do they make the whole room smell lovely, they also give off a gentle light which is quite beautiful.

I return to my favourite boots and cosy jumpers - there's nothing like curling up in a cosy woolly to make you feel all snuggly. And don't get me started on how I love to skip in leaves and jump in puddles, trusting my boots will keep me dry, yes even at my age!

Although this time of year is often tricky, remember there is beauty to be found in every season, because God created every season and what He created is good.

So try to enjoy the changing colours, the little lights, cosy jumpers and remember you're never too old to jump in a puddle!

May God bless you all this autumn.

Revd. Linda Hayes

Welcome

to our **SERVICES** 10.30am

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

Sunday 6th October Revd. Linda Hayes

Subject: **God's plan**
Reading: *Ephesians 3:6-12*

Sunday 13th Les and Anita Pike

Subject: **Unity in the body**
Reading: *Ephesians 4: 1-16*

Sunday 20th Revd. Linda Hayes

Subject: **Children of light**
Reading: *Ephesians 4:17-32 incl. Communion*

Sunday 27th Revd. Linda Hayes

Subject: **Living in light**
Reading: *Ephesians 5:1-14*

Sunday 3rd November Ian and Denise Ward

Subject: **Living by the Spirit's power**
Reading: *Ephesians 5: 15-20*

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

Sunflowers 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

Coming up . . .

Sat 5th
Repair Café
10am-1pm

Sun 6th
Prayer Breakfast
9am - 10am

Sun 13th
Church Lunch
Bring-and-share
Approx 12.30pm

Mon 14th
Leaders' Morning
9.00am

Sun 20th
Church Members' Meeting
After morning service
Please bring your own lunch

Thurs 31st
Light Party
See page 8

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HEAVENLY Father, You have created a world of riches and wonder, blessed us with Your precious gift of life and come to share that life with us in Jesus Your Son.

We thank You for all that Jesus shows us about how life may be lived to the full and for His willingness to lay down His life for the sake of this world He came to save.

We ask for Your forgiveness when we turn away from Your truth in times of trouble, when we choose not to live each day to the full and fail to make the most of the time You have given us.

Open our eyes to the wideness of Your mercy and our hearts to the depth of Your grace so that as we respond to the call to faith, we may discover the richness of our life together in Christ. We ask all this in Jesus name. Amen.

Source: BBC Daily Service



God our Saviour,
help us to follow the
light and live the truth.
In You, we have been
born again as sons and
daughters of light.

May we be Your
witnesses before all the
world. Grant this
through our Lord Jesus
Christ, Your Son, who
lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and
ever. Amen

Our Light Party

LORD, we pray for our Light Party on 31st. We ask that folk of all ages will come along.

We especially pray for the children, many dressed up in colourful costumes and make up. We ask it will be a happy time, a place where everyone can feel relaxed and safe.

And we pray that Your Spirit will move and shine in the heart of each person revealing that *Jesus* really is *the Light of the World*.

Please pray for the Churches in this area, that each community of believers will be a true and shining light to Jesus our Lord.

- ❖ Freemantle Baptist
- ❖ Christchurch, Freemantle
- ❖ Freemantle Evangelical
- ❖ Elim Christian Centre
- ❖ Shirley Baptist
- ❖ The Salvation Army
- ❖ St James by the Park
- ❖ Emmanuel Church
- ❖ St Boniface

The Making of our Mosaic

AFTER many deliberations with the design, the production of our commissioned mosaic, under the guidance of master mosaic maker Will Rosie, got under way back in the middle of May this year.

Those who came to Sunflowers Café made their valuable contributions in its making for a month before Will Rosie took it away to his workshop to complete in time for the Unveiling Ceremony on 28th September.



15th May: First piece



12th June: Angie



16th June: All four sections



26th Sept: Up went the finished article. Will Rosie and his assistant carrying on despite battling against blustery winds and squally showers.



28th Sept: And the finishing touches as Steve Haves attaches the plaque to the wall.



THE GRAND FINALE with the Mayor at the unveiling ceremony to rapturous applause!



The words 'Love, Grow, Serve', on the mosaic are taken from the church's strapline, 'Growing in faith, Serving in love'.

We hope that the cheerful sunflowers will brighten the day of passers-by and reflect the welcome the church offers to everybody.

Following the ceremony, Linda invited everyone to come into the hall for a delicious cream tea and cakes - and many did!

The event made it onto the pages of the Daily Echo on 30th Sept and 3rd Oct and also on-line.

The mosaic was funded by a generous legacy left by Malcolm Green.

H A R V E S T

ANOTHER year has come when God has been faithful in providing us with a vast array of fruit and vegetables so it was good and right that we expressed our gratitude for His provision.

We are indeed grateful that there is no shortage of supplies in our supermarkets.



Our Harvest table laden with tins, packets, jars and fresh produce



We coloured in leaves and wrote prayers for peace on the back to put up on the tree.

However, this is not so in other parts of the world, and we are very mindful that we need to reach out to those communities.

There are people on our doorsteps who are struggling to be able to afford basic food supplies. All our produce so generously given by church folk, members of the local community and Paintpots families has now been delivered to the Basics Bank at Southampton City Mission.

It was good to reflect at our Quiet morning and to be joyful and creative in our Harvest service.

The Great Get Together

at Freemantle Lake Park on 14th September



Our Fairtrade display and craft tent.



Salty Sea Dogs



The La-Di-Dahs



Chinese Association of Southampton

During Fairtrade Fortnight in September

the *Fairtrade Chocolate Fairy* glided into our morning service and, in her sweet dulcet tones, announced:



*Hello again! I'm back once more!
It's good to see you as before!
I come with chocolate, oh so sweet,
A special treat you love to eat!
And I will give them out to you
But there is one thing you must do:
Promise me that when you shop
You'll buy Fairtrade and never stop.*



So say these words now after me, altogether on a count of three, 'We promise you that when we shop, we'll buy Fairtrade and never stop.'

TOO OFTEN in poor countries, workers are exploited, operate in unsafe conditions and do not earn enough to meet their basic needs but Fairtrade really does make a difference.

Members of Fairtrade co-operatives receive a minimum price which gives them stability and means they can plan ahead but on top of that they get a top-up called the Fairtrade Premium which is used to improve their businesses and fund community projects.

Each co-operative decides for themselves how to use the premium and the change it brings is truly transformational.

Enrique Calderon, a Costa Rican coffee farmer, sums up and endorses Fairtrade like this: *Fairtrade as a certification is much more than merely an environmental certification, it is the **only and best ethical and social certification***



Chito Quintera, Coobana Co-operative, Panama



Eunice Bisiwasi, Kasinthula Sugar Co-operative, Malawi

that really ensures social and environmental, ethical and economic impact, and therefore human impact.

Don't these healthy, happy faces say it all?!

Dear Freemantle Baptist Church,

Thank you for your continued membership over the past 31 years.

We are immensely encouraged that last year we had over 5,000 new members join us. We've been blown away by your support and are thankful for each and every one of you.

Your membership makes all of our work possible. With your help, our advocacy team is engaging with MPs and policymakers, our One People Commission team is supporting churches in intercultural growth, our unity team is ensuring we are united throughout the UK, and our evangelism team is equipping Christians to share Jesus with others.

Thank you for your membership and prayers – we are excited for the year ahead.

Wishing you every blessing in Christ,

Gavin Calver

Gavin Calver
CEO



Who are these two gentlemen?



Answer on page 8



- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Tony Hulse | 15 th |
| David Pearce | 15 th |
| Jean Hulse | 20 th |
| Karen Eaves | 28 th |

Thank you!

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

of this church during September. The average weekly offering was £314.84

... to everyone who worked so hard for the Harvest Weekend: leafleting the area, tidying the garden, putting up pictures, making the church look beautiful, preparing the Quiet Morning and Harvest service, baking cakes, making tea, washing up and packing away.

... to 'Over-the-road Keith' for his kindness in giving us his lovely dahlias.

... to the Lord Mayor, Dave Shields for coming to unveil our mosaic, and

... to you all, for the generous donations of packets and tins for the Basics Bank.

Sunflower Baptist

NOTICE BOARD

Please note that due to a typographical error, the church will be holding a **LIGHT PARTY** and not a *Fight Party* as previously advertised.

We apologise for this unfortunate misprint.



Rachel at the very start in her role at Milford

Rachel's Induction

RACHEL WATSON was formerly inducted into her new church at Milford Baptist, Godalming on 7th September.

It was a special day for Rachel and those who made the 60-mile trip were glad to be there in person to witness it first hand.

And so a new chapter begins ...



Hurrah! Two of our sunflowers have made it!



OVER a number of years, our sunflowers in the church front garden have had varying degrees of success and this year has not been a good one at all!

Despite well prepared soil and being planted out at the correct time, only two have come to produce their glorious round sunshines of bee loving radiance, followed by circles of nutritious seeds.

The reason is simple. They have been eaten! We now look forward to a sunflower-filled 2025 ...

One day at a time
is all we should be
dealing with. We can't
go back to yesterday, and
we can't control tomorrow
so let's live for today, and
make it beautiful.



Answer to question on page 7

They are both *The Lord Mayor of Southampton, Counsellor for Freemantle ward, Dave Shields.*

The top one, in his Mayoral robes as we saw him at our Mosaic Unveiling.

The bottom one, at The Great Get Together at Freemantle Lake Park.



Trick or Treaters especially welcome

Drop in any time on
Thursday 31st October
between 5.00pm and 6.30pm

at **Freemantle Baptist Church**

- Games • Drinks
- Hot dogs • Craft activities

Come and meet the angels!