



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

February 2025



Kind words are like honey



EVERY Wednesday after school, during term time, we hold a group for primary age children and their parents/carers. As part of the club we get together and make crafts, have some time to play and enjoy a snack.

Recently our craft was to make a bee, because bees make honey which is sweet. We also baked some jam buns that were delicious. This got us thinking that the Bible tells us kind words are like honey - sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

This little verse from Proverbs 16:24 has stuck with me this week. The world is not always a kind place and kind words too often seem to be in short supply. Social media is often taken up with anger, and cruel words. But a kind word really does go a long way and really does lift the soul.

I was the grateful recipient of some encouraging words recently. The words really did feel sweet as honey to me and made me feel valued and cared for. My mood lightened and my confidence grew.

Jesus often spoke kind words to the lost, the lonely and those who seemed to be hurting and broken. His words were like honey to those who heard them, and his kind words were followed by goodness too. His words of love showed people that they were valued by Him. What was true then, is true today. He wants to speak kindness into your life even today.

He wants you to know that you are loved and valued, just as you are, just where you are. So today if you feel lost, or a bit broken, remember that Jesus wants to reach out to you and that he cares for you. Why not allow His sweet words into your life?

For more information about our children's group, or about Jesus' love, then please feel able to contact us via our facebook page.

Rev. Linda Hayes

Welcome

to our **SERVICES 10.30am**

We continue with our theme
looking at **the names of God**

which will be led by Revd Linda Hayes
unless otherwise stated

Sunday 2nd February

Subject: **He sees me**
Reading: *Genesis 16:13-14*

Sunday 9th

Subject: **God most high**
Reading: *Daniel 4:34 and Psalm 97:9*

Sunday 16th

Subject: **The Lord is there**
Reading: *Isaiah 43:2 incl. Communion*

Sunday 23rd

Subject: **Refuge** Les and Anita Pike
Reading: *Psalm 9:9-10*

Sunday 2nd March

Subject: **The Lord is peace**
Reading: *Psalm 122:6-8 and Phil 4:6-7*

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



Light refreshments
are served after the
Sunday Services

Previous sermons
are on our
Facebook page



Mon to
Fri



Tel: (023) 8078 4969
pp7@paintpotsnursery.co.uk

Coming up . . .

Sat 1st Feb
**Repair
Café**

10.30am – 1.00pm

Sun 2nd
**Prayer
Breakfast**

9.00am-10.00pm

Sun 2nd
Gift Day

All Day

Mon 3rd
**Leaders'
Meeting**

8.30am

Sun 9th
**Church
Lunch**

Approx 12.30pm

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
10.00am - midday
Baby and toddler group. 

SATURDAYS

Impact Church 6.00pm
Polish church

SUNDAYS

Bethel Prayer House
(formerly CBF) 3.00pm

Contacts: Revd. LINDA HAYES Mob:07963 803884 or linda@dizzyanddaisy.plus.com
Anita Pike Administrator and hall bookings 07814 445929 or calm.pike82@gmail.com



BMS World Mission Day of Prayer 2nd February

Three areas to pray for are :

From Pastor J in Cambodia

- ❖ Pray for God to provide the land or a building for a mission centre in Cambodia. This will be a multi-purpose building, which can be used as a training centre, a place of worship for Horaios Baptist Church and as a guest house.

From Wissam in Lebanon

- ❖ Pray for strength and resilience for BMS supported teams in Lebanon as they serve and support refugees who have fled their homes.

From Laura Lee in Puru

- ❖ For greater empathy and action from the UK Church. Many of our brothers and sisters around the world are already suffering the consequences of poor creation stewardship – often due to the actions of other nations.

For the full BMS resources go to:
<https://bmsworldmission.org/day-of-prayer-resources-2025>

F e b r u a r y P r a y e r s



Eternal and loving God,

Empower me today, as one created in Your image, to be a person of deeper love, encompassing heart, soul, mind, and strength, both for You and for those around me.

Open my heart to a greater sense of Your love for me, a love that is tenacious, patient, and unconditional.

Grant me deeper friendships with those who can help me be the best version of myself.

May they help me be accountable for my actions, offer me godly advice, and speak the truth to me without judgment. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we pray for Christian teenagers, for great wisdom and courage as they live out their faith.

May they find in You and in their local churches and Christian fellowships the firm foundation they need to build lives of true Christian character and conduct, able to withstand the temptations of the world around them.

Help them to grow in love for You and Your Word. Help them to be bold in sharing their faith through what they do and say.

Lord, hear our prayer, in Jesus' name. Amen

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE



THERE was a man with a wonderful telescope, and he looked for all the planets. He counted them off as he saw them but there was always one missing. He looked again and again but there was one he could not find in the sky. Which one was that? It was earth.

He could not see it in space because he was actually on it.

THERE were two goldfish swimming around in a bowl. One of them said, "My mum told me once that we will always be happy if we live in water. I can't see it, have you spotted it anywhere?"



THE absent-minded professor set out to look for his glasses when they were actually on his head. He searched his laboratory for them until someone pointed out that he was wearing them!

THE air we breathe is always there even though it is invisible. Similarly, God is there even though we can't see him. God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is always there.



PRAYER God you are always there at every beginning and every end. You are ever with me. Help me to know you and to love you.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God. By him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth visible and invisible.

Col: 1:15

I FIND *Thought for the Day* on Radio 4 each weekday morning can be a bit hit and miss. Some, I think, are enough to put people off and others can be inspiring. I recently heard Revd Dr Giles Fraser and he was a good'n!

For three fascinating minutes he explored the idea of God as not being a thing, alongside and separate from other things, but, of God being existence itself. Mind-boggly stuff!

But Giles gave this analogy of a book and its author to help show the difference:

‘The author is not there in the book, in the actual narrative the author doesn’t exist, but nevertheless the author is responsible for every comma, every character, every plot line.

In the book the author is everywhere, yet nowhere.’ And he concluded, ‘God is absolutely everything or nothing at all.’

Think on these things!

Anita Pike



WE started the New Year with a covenant Service and it was good to renew our commitment to God and each other.

The following Sunday we had our New Year lunch.

A big thank you to all our cooks who contributed to our yummy feast; and, of course, to the washer and wiper uppers and those who cleared everything away!

PAT WYLES



We were saddened to lose our friend Pat on 13th January.

Her funeral will be on Monday 10th February at West Chapel, Southampton Crematorium, Basset at 2.00pm.

Refreshments will follow at church, 3.00pm, and everyone is very welcome.



JEFF EAVES

Karen’s dad Jeff passed away on 12th January in a local care home in Rutland where he lived.

It was good to get to know him when he came to worship with us during his visits to Karen.

The picture above is when Jeff (far left) joined a group of us to sing at the Bethel Prayer House Christmas event in December ‘23.

We send Denis and Karen our love, thoughts and prayers. We pray that they and their families will find in God their peace and strength.



Bestseller



THE Bible is the bestselling book of all time. Every year it sells over 25 million copies. Its popularity is not debated but its relevance is. It is an ancient library made up of 66 books, each with different genres, styles and tone.

It was written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek two to three millennia ago in the Middle East and Africa. It makes sense that people question how relevant it is in the modern world because it was written so long ago.

Christians believe in its simplest form the Bible is a story about God and how people relate to God.

They believe the Holy Spirit inspired all the different genres,

styles, authors, and context into a unified but diverse book of books that explains the story of God, the world He created, and humanity's place in it.

A story which culminates in Jesus and what life is like lived with Him.

It can be read alone, at home, within a small group and with everybody at church. Sometimes it speaks to us directly, other times we need help to understand some of the treasures contained within its pages.

If you own a Bible, don't let it gather dust upon the bookshelf. Let it be read and re-read on a regular basis and expect the Lord to speak!

WARNING: Reading the Bible could radically change your life . . . for the better!

Source: BBC Bitesize

Thank you!

. . . for your financial giving towards the work and witness of this church during Jan. The total amount came to £1381.05

. . . to the Belong Group - **Caroline, Angie and Jon** - for all their preparations and leading in our worship on Sun. 26th Jan.

. . . for your gifts towards the Basics Bank



Angie on 1st Feb
Anita Pike on 15th

~~~~~  
Why do we put candles on the top of birthday cakes?  
Because it's too hard to put them on the bottom.

## Sunflower Baptist

### NOTICE BOARD

We hereby give notice that the church minister's dogs will not be making any serious Valentine's Day plans this year.

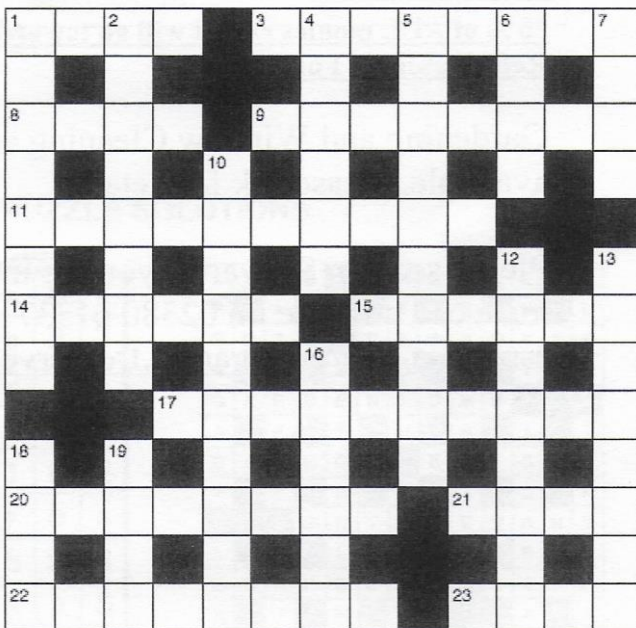
*This is due to the fact that their relationships are just puppy love.*



## Why not have a go at this crossword?

If you need help,  
a lot of the answers  
can be found by  
looking up the Bible  
verse with the clue.

Answers on page 8



### ACROSS

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine,  
symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind  
the city. Don't go very far from it. All  
of you be on \_\_\_ \_\_\_' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Sleep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of  
His betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's  
burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill \_\_\_ be hidden'  
(Mat 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle  
(2 Kings 2: 12-13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will but  
as You will (Matt 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in His home town and in His  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ is a prophet without honour'  
(Mat 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before His  
crucifixion (Mat 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

### DOWN

- 1 Can't grow (anag) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were  
with that \_\_, Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, \_\_\_ of God  
(10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful  
nature (Gal 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent  
and \_\_\_ to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 '\_\_\_ \_\_\_, the world will not see me  
anymore, but you will see me  
(John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas \_\_\_  
(Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: '\_\_\_ \_\_\_ of my sheep'  
(John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man  
was \_\_\_ \_\_\_ of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and  
power, be \_\_\_ Him' (Handel's Messiah)  
(4)

## ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME, LET ME HIDE MYSELF IN THEE.

Revd. A. M. Toplady

PART of our morning worship on 26<sup>th</sup> January was to be creative. The subject was one of the names given to God - God is our Rock.

We were asked to write a word or phrase plus any artistic flare to compliment it. Folk rose to the challenge and here are some of the finished results.

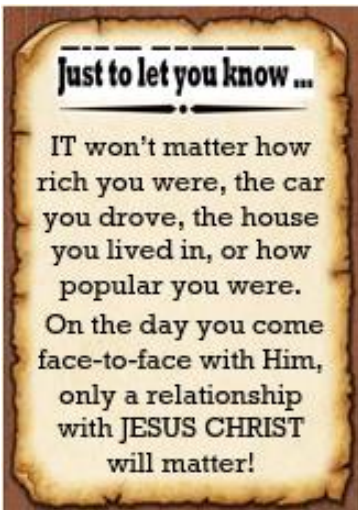


## FOOD FOR THOUGHT . . .

*THE chief danger of the 20th century will be religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell.*

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, wrote this on entering the 1900s.

Does it still ring true for the 21<sup>st</sup> century?  
*What do you think?*



## Pancake Party

Wed 5th March

4.00-5.30pm

Please come -  
everyone is welcome

Crossword solutions from page 7

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| W | I | N | E | T | H | E | A | L | E | R | T |   |   |
| R | A |   |   | E | S | S | N | U |   |   |   |   |   |
| O | O | Z | E | P | A | S | S | O | V | E | R |   |   |
| N | E | B |   | L | E | Y | N |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| G | A | R | D | E | N | T | O | M | B |   |   |   |   |
| A | E | F |   | H | B | I | T |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| C | A | N | N | O | T | E | L | I | S | H | A |   |   |
| T | E | R |   | T | I | C | K |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | G | E | T | H | S | E | M | A | N | E |
| L | U | L | E | S | R | C |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| O | W | N | H | O | U | S | E | L | I | S | A |   |   |
| A | T | N | O |   |   |   |   | A | R |   |   |   |   |
| F | L | O | G | G | I | N | G | S | T | Y | E |   |   |

## TONGUE TWISTER

Many mumbling  
mice are making  
merry music in  
the moonlight.