



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Testwood Road, Southampton

## In focus

March 2025



### What's in a Name?

MY AUNTIE EDIE was a little, short lady; her grey hair was kept back from her soft face with old fashioned combs and pinned into a loose bun just above her collar at the back. She hobbled round her tiny bungalow and made delicious jam sponges.

Imagine my shock, my consternation, to meet, when I worked in school, a five year old called Edie. It just wasn't . . . right!

But very quickly this new little Edie, with her sunny disposition and her brown plaits bouncing on her shoulders as she laughed and played with her friends, was just as much 'Edie' to me as my Auntie had been, because a name takes on the character of the person it belongs to.

The Bible has many names for God. One is not enough to express His attributes which are so rich and deep. Bible characters, over the centuries, out of their experiences, have called God different names and this has been the subject of our recent sermon series.

*Moses* proclaimed, '**God is my banner!**' (Jehovah Nissi) - we are on God's winning team! *Hagar* called Him, '**the God who sees me**' (El Roi) - God knows us inside out and loves us just the same!

*King David* knew **God as His rock** (Yahweh Tsur), constant, strong and powerful, and also **his refuge** (Jehovah Maakhsi), God protects us, **He** is in control, not the storms that rage around and within us.

Then *Gideon* powerfully came to know God as Jehovah Shalom, **God my Peace**. In His presence Gideon's fears melted away.

It's true to say, these names, and there are many more, are so much more than nicknames for God. No, He completely embodies them, they are His essence, His very being. So put your trust in the God who sees and loves you and you will find Him to be your rock, your refuge, your banner and your deep peace.

Anita Pike

# Welcome

to our **SERVICES** 10.30am

We conclude the series **The Names of God** on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and move on to the **I AM** sayings of Jesus.

These will be led by Revd Linda Hayes unless otherwise stated

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

Subject: **The Lord is peace**

Reading: *Psalm 122:6-8 and Phil 4:6-7*

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>

Subject: **I am the bread of life**

Reading: *John 6:1-14, 25-40*

## Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>

Ian and Denise Ward

Subject: **I am the light of the world**

Reading: *John 9:1-7, 8:12 incl. Communion*

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Ian Thomson

Subject: **I am the gate for the sheep**

Reading: *John 5:1-9, 10:1-10*

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Mothering Sunday

Subject: **I am the way, the truth and the life**

Reading: *John 4:46-54, 14:1-7*

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April

Subject: **I am the true vine**

Reading: *John 2:1-12, 15:1-2,5*

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

Coming up . . .

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> March**  
**Prayer Breakfast**

9.00am - 10.00am

**Sun 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Church Meeting**

After our service.

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Pancake Party**

4.00-5.30pm

**Sun 9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Bring and share Lunch**

Approx 12.30pm

**Mon 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Leaders' Meeting**

9.00am

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

## 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.



### SATURDAYS

**Impact Church**

6.00pm

Polish church

### SUNDAYS

**Bethel Prayer House**

(formerly CBF)

3.00pm



Mon to Fri



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FATHER, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, who faced the kind of temptations that come to us all. Help us to look to Him for strength when we too are tempted.

We remember that when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness He resisted the devil and remained faithful to His calling. We praise You for those who today remain faithful to what they know to be true even at the cost of losing the support of family and friends.

We pray for those who face all kinds of pressure and persecution for their faith and for those who refuse to deny Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

In His name we pray. Amen

## M a r c h P r a y e r s

### ***Faith to believe for the impossible***

Mark 11:20-25, Ephesians 3:14-21

FATHER God, help us to understand that You are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine and to understand how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is!

Give us the gift of more faith, so that we might ask for what seems impossible and see it realised in answer to our prayers.

Lord, help us dream big dreams for our street, local community and church family, that can only be accomplished according to Your will and power. Amen

## **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

*has become a worldwide ecumenical movement of Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action* organised by women in a different country each year.

It takes place on the first Friday in Lent which this year is 7<sup>th</sup> March this year.

The theme for 2025 is 'I made you wonderful' and the country preparing it is the Cook Islands.

For more details: [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

### **Please remember our brothers and sisters in your prayers:**

*Paul Watson*, both his parents have passed away in the last month.

*Karen Eaves*, following the death of her father.

*Denis Wyles*, as he comes to terms to life without Pat.

*Angie Marchant*, who lost her brother recently.

# *Terrific response to our*



## *Gift Day*



WE set aside a date for a Gift Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. As most of our readers are aware, the church roof is in its season of old age after over 100 years and the long term solution is to have a new one and not to keep patching it up as we have been doing in recent times.

We knew having a new roof would not come cheaply and after carefully considering the quotes given to us, the sum we knew we were aiming for was £28,000.

From our funds, we were able to allocate £10,000, leaving a gap of £18,000 to find. Hence, the first step was to ask folk if they would be willing to make a donation on a Gift Day.

We prayed about it, knowing that the Lord has always met our needs in the past and so we stepped out in faith that He would provide again this time.

2<sup>nd</sup> February came. Donations were made in the offertory box and money arrived in our account via bank transfers. And to date a staggering £12,080 has been received. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has given in any way and a special thank you to those who have given unsparingly and sacrificially. We are also indebted to Paintpots and the Impact Church for their generous donations.

So, the gap narrowed to £6,000. A number of our folk who give regularly pay tax on their earnings. This means we are able to make a claim to HMRC under the Gift Aid scheme. A claim has recently been sent in for the last fifteen months and the amount expected will be for over £6,000!

$£10,000 + £12,080 + £6,000 = £28,080!$  God is very, very good!

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Page 5 takes a dip into the archives which reveals how our church hall came into being back in the 1960s and what marvellous occasion it was . . .

## The Thompson Memorial Hall

FOLLOWING the untimely death of Revd. Jimmy Thompson in December 1962, after a motorcycle accident, the Southern Daily Echo's headline was 'No Minister, no Manse, no Money'.



Mrs Thompson, Alan Cooper (the builder) and John Ovey, the Pastor opening the hall

The following year the two existing halls on the site were considered unsafe by the council and were ordered to be demolished within two years. An estimated cost for a new purpose built hall was £7,000. *How much would a new hall cost today with the same amenities?*

Norman Savage, Anita Pike's uncle, was the Treasurer of the Thompson Memorial Hall Fund. He said, 'We had fayres and jumble sales, concerts, parties with an admission fee and a Gift Day.' He recalls that it was the concerts that he remembered most. The pastor at the time, John Ovey could sing and play the piano. There was also the Savage orchestra when Norman, his brother Tony and his wife Sue played their violins, and his dad played the viola.

There was a Turkish market which the Mayor came to open and Anita, who was four or five then, presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Anita learnt how to curtsy for the occasion.

With bursaries and loans as well and a generous gift from Mrs Thompson, the hall was able to be built and work started in 1967. When the hall was opened 200 people crowded inside for a dedication service. It was a very proud day for the church.

Malcolm Green commented 'The night before the opening I remember standing inside [the hall] and touching the walls thinking 'I can't believe it's actually happened. It was truly God answering our prayers.'

Source: Salt and Light by Catherine Pickles

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Without the need to fund raise in the same way, we are now in a position to give the go-ahead to our roofers and look forward to the work being done in the summer holidays!

*Praise the Lord!*

Thank you

... for your financial giving towards the work and witness of this church during February. The total amount came to £1,353

... to those who bring contributions to our Prayer Breakfast each month.

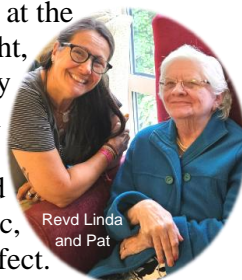
## Our friend Pat Wyles

IT WAS a damp, dismal day on Monday 10th February this year. A few of us from church gathered at Southampton Crematorium to say our goodbyes to our friend Pat. I can remember thinking Pat wouldn't care for this sort of weather.

As the service started, I was so pleased to learn it was going by live feed to the care home, shared by Denis and Pat. My heart broke for Denis, losing the love of his life and soul mate.

I treasure so many memories in better times. Meeting them for coffee in Portswood. Always a pleasure. After, we would often go food shopping together. Pat had a great sense of humour. Her eyes always sparkled, especially being prone to fits of laughter.

Linda Hayes led the service at the Crematorium. It was just right, an intimate affair with family and friends. An emotional time. The service ended on a very upbeat note. Pat and Denis were into folk music, and the final tune was perfect.



The word 'friend' especially applies to Pat. I remember a long time ago when we met for an Alpha session in Church. Linda asked us to sum up what Jesus meant to us in one word. Pat simply, but beautifully, said 'Friend'.

Absolutely perfect. Pat knew Jesus. I know Pat would be the first to encourage us in that endeavour too.

May your kind and gentle soul rest with the Lord now Pat. Amen

Jon Fisher

## Heaven

IN David Oliver's book *All About Heaven*, he says:

'For the Christian, death is different: it must be different, it has to be different, it really is different!

'Death is not a brick wall, it's not an unscalable rock face or a cul-de-sac at the end of life's road. It's a doorway to the greatest adventure of all time.

'It's the journey home after a long time away. It's a doorway to a new world, a better world, a world that we would choose now if we could.

'For those reading who are not followers of God, the truth is rather different.

'The choices made on earth are sealed at death, there is no second chance and no coming back!'

- *The book is available online at around £3 for used copies and £10 for new.*



# Jesus Calms the Storm

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the list at the bottom of the story.



That day when evening came, he said to his \_\_\_\_\_, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the \_\_\_\_\_ behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the \_\_\_\_\_. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the \_\_\_\_\_ broke over the boat, so that it was nearly \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus was in the stern, \_\_\_\_\_ on a cushion. The disciples \_\_\_\_\_ him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we \_\_\_\_\_?"

He got up, rebuked the \_\_\_\_\_ and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely \_\_\_\_\_.

Mark 4:35-39 (NIV)

boat  
calm

crowd  
disciples

drown  
sleeping

swamped  
waves

wind  
woke

## Sunflower Baptist

### NOTICE BOARD

Our Shrove Tuesday  
Comedy Night  
stand-up  
Jim Eggbeater has  
promised not to tell  
any pancake jokes  
this year as they  
always fall flat!



**Pearl Miller** on 9<sup>th</sup>

**Happy  
Wedding  
Anniversary**

**Linda and  
Steve Hayes**  
on 30<sup>th</sup> March - 34 years

*Don't Forget -  
CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD*



**on 30<sup>th</sup> March - 1am**

*Most important in order  
to get to church on time  
Sunday morning!* 😊

# Word Search Puzzle

**Hidden in the text below are thirty books of the Bible. Can you spot them?**

*Send your answers to Les, on paper or by email and receive a little prize! Answers in the next edition.*

THIS IS a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.

Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised, truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit, it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst.

Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record.

The local, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, the books are right there in plain view, hidden from sight. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown.

One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answer.

Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

This article was submitted for IN FOCUS by the late Jeff Eaves shortly before he was taken ill.

**Pancake Party**  
**Wed 5th March**  
**4.00pm - 5.30pm**  
*Join in with fun  
activities and crafts*  
**All ages welcome**



