



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

April 2025



SPRING is such a positive and exciting time of year. The trees are in bud and many are in full flower too. The insects are waking up, ready for another year, the birds are singing and the sun, when it shines, is warm on our faces.



Spring flowers from this year's church front garden

After the darkness and cold of winter, spring bursts forth. And I think we appreciate the spring more, because we have just been through winter. In a few weeks we will celebrate Easter, with the emphasis being of new life. Jesus goes through the darkness of the tomb, then, bursts forth to new life on Easter Sunday.

As Christians we remember together the old and familiar story of Jesus' death and resurrection. It can sometimes feel so far away and fairytale like, and it can be hard to connect with. But as we see nature pause over winter and come back to glorious life in the spring, we can connect these yearly events in nature with the events of 2000 years ago.

Each year we experience winter followed by spring. With Jesus we can experience new life that lasts forever. Because Jesus lives, we never need experience spiritual winter again. With Jesus, new life begins the day we choose to believe in Him, and it lasts forever, in this life and the next, not just for the season.



Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and because of Easter, we can truly know Him and live a new life with Him. Hallelujah!!

Revd. Linda Hayes

The Easter weekend is the most significant and pivotal weekend in history and is worthy of great reverence and celebration every year. Anon

Welcome

to our **SERVICES** 10.30am

These will be led by Revd Linda Hayes unless otherwise stated

Sunday 6th April

Subject: **I am the true vine**

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

HOLY WEEK

Sun 13th

Subject: **PALM SUNDAY**

Team Belong

Reading: *John 12: 12-19*

Thurs 17th MAUNDY THURSDAY

See page 6

Fri 18th GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

9.30am-11.30am

Sat 19th EASTER SATURDAY REFLECTIONS

9.30am-11.00am

Sun 20th EASTER SUNDAY

Subject: **I am the Resurrection and the Life**

Reading: *John 11:25-26 and John 20:1-18*

Sun 27th

Les and Anita Pike

Subject: **Doubting Thomas**

Reading: *John 20: 24-29*

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

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.

8th and 22nd April

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 3.00pm



Mon to Fri



Tel: (023) 8078 4969

pp7@paintpotsnurseries.co.uk

Coming up . . .

Sat 5th April

Repair Café

10.30am-1pm

Sun 6th

Prayer Breakfast

9.00am - 10.00am

Mon 7th

Leaders' Meeting

9.00am

Sun 13th

Bring-and-share Lunch

Approx 12.30pm

Wed 16th

Easter Party

3.30 - 5.00pm
Family friendly
See page 6

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Anita Pike Administrator and hall bookings 07814 445929 or calm.pike82@gmail.com



A p r i l P r a y e r s

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us such good gifts: for our families who love us, for good food and tasty drink.

Thank You for so many different beautiful animals, for parks with tall trees and soft grass, for birds that fly among the clouds, for seas and streams that are fun to paddle in.

And thank You for Your Son Jesus. We love to read about Him in the Bible and how He taught His disciples about You.

He healed people who were sick, He walked on water and even died and came back to life!

Help us to rejoice in all the things He did and to celebrate with joy this Easter.

Amen

WHEN the winds of chaos howl and the storm of trouble rages, Resurrected Jesus, be our anchor of truth and courage.

In a time when the downpour of fear and despair beats relentlessly upon weary hearts, Resurrected Jesus, be our shelter of hope and grace.

In a time when many are tossed by the gales of confusion and doubt, Resurrected Jesus, be our rock of integrity and authenticity.

When leaders shift like drifting clouds and words change like the restless tide, Resurrected Jesus, steady us with Your unchanging truth.

Though the storm may rage, the winds may howl and the flood waters rise, Resurrected Jesus, hold us firm in the calm of Your presence. Amen

Source: BBC Daily Service

Please pray for:

Linda Hayes and other church ministers in Shirley and Freemantle, as they prepare to lead services during Holy Week, that they will receive inspiration in their study, and speak with clarity, sensitivity and boldness at all the gatherings assembled over this very special Easter season.

. . . THE EASTER JOURNEY . . . THE EASTER JOURNEY . . . THE EASTER JOURNEY . . .

FOR MANY centuries Christians have followed Jesus' journey to the cross on Good Friday. Some will travel to Jerusalem and walk the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrows, the traditional route through the ancient streets, to Golgotha where Jesus was crucified. Very many more will walk a circuit round their own churches, following the Stations of the Cross in the form of a series of simple pictures or carvings, stopping at each one to reflect and pray.

In recent years the Stations of the Resurrection have grown in popularity, which complement the Way of the Cross, as they bring the Easter story to its victorious climax!

Jerusalem - not this year . . . a local church - possibly . . . in your favourite armchair - yes!

So take your Bible, along with the shortened version below, and walk with Jesus along the path of pain and death, and then, on to resurrection and ascension glory!



Jesus is
condemned
by the
Jewish
leaders
Mark 14:60 - 65



Jesus
brought
before
Pontius
Pilate
Mark 15:1 - 14

Jesus is
flogged,
mocked and
condemned
John 19: 1 - 16



Jesus is hung on the cross
Luke 23:32 - 43



Jesus dies and is buried - Luke 23:44 - 56



The empty tomb - Luke 24:1 - 12

Jesus
appears
to Mary
Magdalene
John 20:11 - 18



Jesus appears
to his disciples
John 20:19 - 30

Jesus
ascends
to heaven
Acts 1:1 - 11

The Great Commission
Matthew 28:16 - 20



HOLY WEEK

Easter Party

Wednesday 16th April
3.30pm - 5.00pm

Family fun for everyone

Easter egg hunt, crafts, games,
food. Come and hear the
Easter story

Maundy Thursday

Swaythling Baptist Church
7.00pm

Simple meal with Communion
See Anita if you would like to come.

GOOD FRIDAY

9.30-11.30am

A time of quiet reflection as we
remember Jesus' sacrificial death

Easter Saturday

9.30am - 11.00am

A quiet, in between, waiting time,
as we contemplate Jesus laid in
the tomb.

EASTER DAY

10.30am - A joyous service of
celebration - Jesus is alive!

Guildhall Event



Southampton churches are
gathering together on

Good Friday, 12 noon,
at **Guildhall Square**, Southampton.

The prayer is that many will hear
the Good News of the sacrifice and
resurrection of Jesus Christ on that
first Easter weekend.

There will be worship (singing),
collective prayer and the message
of the cross explained.

For Christians and non Christians
alike, the hope is that everyone will
hear this life-transforming Easter
message of hope, love and forgive-
ness through Jesus Christ.

*Do come and be part of
this special time!*



The Christian life is a
perpetual springtime.

St Clement of Alexandria

Thank you!

. . . for your financial giving
towards the work and witness of
this church during March. The total
amount came to £1,418.30

. . . to those who bring very
welcome comestibles to our Sun-
flower Café each week.

CONGRATULATIONS to

- ★ PEARL MILLER ★
- ★ JANN SEXTON ★
- ★ JON FISHER ★
- ★ IAN THOMSON ★
- ★ ELA ROBSON ★
- ★ ANTHONY ROBSON ★

on finding all thirty books of the Bible hidden in the Word Search puzzle last month.

Word Search Puzzle Answers

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 capitalized, **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.

Sunflower Baptist

NOTICE BOARD

Our beloved minister, the Revd Peter Rabbit, hopes everyone has an egg-ceptional Easter this year and a basket full of egg-citement.

Happy
Wedding
Anniversary

Les and Anita Pike
on 3rd - 43 years

"My most brilliant achievement was my ability to persuade my wife to marry me."
Winston Churchill

Life humbles you . . .

As you grow old, you stop chasing the big things and start valuing the little things.

Alone time, enough sleep, a good diet, long walks, and quality time with loved ones.

Simplicity becomes the ultimate goal.



Mother Theresa



Easter treats and toiletries wanted!

Can you help?

PATRICK HOUSE, in Millbrook Road West, is a sixty six bedded intensive support hostel located in our local community for people at risk of, or have been, rough sleeping. It caters for men and women between the ages of eighteen and sixty who often have past trauma, mental health challenges and substance misuse difficulties.

Residents can stay for up to two years with the aim of working towards more independent suitable accommodation. They are allocated a project worker who helps them to work towards their personal goals.

Residents often start their journey at Patrick House with very little money or possessions and even when they are on benefits, they still struggle to buy everything they need.

So we are having a collection leading up to Easter of toilet-ries and Easter treats. All our previous donations have been very gratefully received, and we are keen to show our continued support.

All donations need to be at church no later than Sunday 13th April please.

Thank you very much!

Church lunch ...

is every second Sunday of the month. The idea is simple: we all bring a contribution, savoury or sweet, home-made or bought.



It's pooled and hey presto we have a banquet - and then everyone tucks in! With friendly company, to enjoy, everyone's a winner!



Pancakes & Us

Our cooks in full production at our pancake party on 5th March. There were plenty of yummy fillings to choose from and our guests made the most of them!

Crafts were enjoyed by children and adults alike making the event a very pleasant time!