

FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Testwood Road, Southampton

We are a  
Fairtrade  
Church

# In focus

July 2025



I LOVE THE SUMMER! I know many people really struggle in the heat, but when it gets hot I love to get to the beach for a cooling swim in the sea. As I bob about enjoying the cold water I often find myself thinking about the vastness of the sea, and the enormity of God.

As I float weightlessly in the water and allow myself to drift with the current a little, I think of the size of the ocean. I can only see a tiny bit, only as far as the Isle of Wight. I know it goes on beyond that and is seemingly infinite. The ocean can be powerful and it can be calm and peaceful.

All of these thoughts take me to a God who is immeasurable. He is infinite. He is powerful and He is calm. I am aware that even though I have known Him many years, I cannot possibly know all of Him, but I trust He goes beyond my knowledge and understanding.

I pray that I will know Him more and trust Him more, and I pray the same for you too.

May you know Him for yourself, and may He bring you joy and refreshment in your life.

Rev. Linda Hayes



# Welcome

to our **SERVICES** 10.30am

We continue with the series on  
**Old Testament Prophets**

**Sun 6th July**

Subject: **Jonah**

Belong

**Sun 13th**

Subject: **Micah** Reading: Micah 6:8

Revd. Linda Hayes

**Sun 20th Haggai**

to include Communion

Simon Grey

**Sun 27th Hosea**

Denise and Ian Ward

**You are very welcome to join us on a  
Sunday morning during July and August.**

*All ages welcome. Activities  
available for the young at heart.*



Why not put it in your diary over the summer weeks? We're here every Sunday. Come for one week, two, or even more!

If you're a regular it's always nice to see you and we miss you if ever your chair is vacant!



*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.

### 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@paintpotsnursery.co.uk

## Coming up . . .

**5th July  
Community  
Afternoon**

2.00pm-4.00pm

**Sun 6th July  
Prayer  
Breakfast**

9.00am - 10.00am

**Mon 7th  
Leaders'  
Meeting**

7.30pm

**Sun 13th  
Bring-and-  
share Lunch**

Approx 12.30pm

**Sun 10th Aug  
Picnic at  
Romsey Park**

After the Service

**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)



HEAVENLY FATHER, we pray for the flourishing of our community, spiritually, socially, and economically.

May we work together to create a place where all are valued, where justice and righteousness prevail, and where the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

For those in positions of leadership within our community, grant them wisdom, discernment, and humility as they serve the needs of the people. May they be guided by Your truth and by Your love.

Finally, Lord, thank You for the gift of community and for the bonds of love and fellowship that unite us. Help us to be instruments of Your peace, shining Your light and spreading your love wherever we go. Amen.

Source: [commongoodmag.com/prayers-for-your-community](http://commongoodmag.com/prayers-for-your-community)

LORD, as GCSEs and A-levels have now passed and the long wait begins, we ask that whether joy or disappointment comes their way, You will be a guiding light to all those students.

And may the light and love of Christ dwell in their hearts. Amen

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# Thank You, Lord,



IF I were a butterfly,  
I'd thank You, Lord,  
for giving me wings.

And if I were a robin in a tree,  
I'd thank You, Lord,  
that I could sing.

And if I were a fish in the sea,  
I'd wiggle my tail,  
and I'd giggle with glee,

But I just thank You, Father,  
for making me 'me'

*For You gave me a heart  
and You gave me a smile,  
You gave me Jesus  
and You made me Your child.  
And I just thank You, Father,  
for making me 'me'.*

Brian Howard

LORD, as schools break up for the summer, grant Your blessing for the children during this holiday period. May it be a happy time whether staying at home or going away.

Also for their mums and dads, that they will enjoy this time. Be their strength, peace and joy in their special and challenging role as parents. We pray this through Jesus our Lord. Amen

**NEEDED:**



**clear skies for 10<sup>th</sup> July**

MANY of us marvel at our closest neighbour in space, the moon, and I'm often taken by surprise when I see it. 'Oh there's the moon! Wonderful!' Always that sense of wonder.

If the skies are clear and you have a view to the south-east horizon then Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July just after 10.00pm is the time to watch the full moon rise.

The moon always appears bigger when it comes up but because we are in the wake of major lunar standstill (ask Mr Google nicely to explain!) it will slowly creep up the sky at a shallow incline and will look huge for much longer.

Many will be in awe of this beautiful sight and I for one will be in awe of the God who set it in place as well.

Anita Pike

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*The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hands.* Psalm 19 v 1.

## Good news for Fairtrade



SO MANY farmers and workers are exploited in developing countries in the production of the food that we all take for granted.

However, be assured that if you see the Fairtrade label on a product you know that a fair price was paid at source to the co-operative of workers involved, plus a Fairtrade premium that is used locally for whatever the community decides is best for them.

For example it may be health care, education, a clean water supply or introducing new farming methods to combat climate change.

And here's the good news! Sainsbury's have announced that all their own label tea, branded *By Sainsbury's*, will in future be entirely Fairtrade.

£1,000,000 a year will now be paid as Fairtrade premiums and it will make a real difference to families in countries like Kenya and Malawi.

Help to make that difference

and buy Fairtrade wherever you shop, not just tea but look out for the logo on bananas, coffee, chocolate, sugar, nuts, wine, flowers and clothing too.





Tennis: Emma Raducanu –  
British No. 1



School Sports Day



Cricket: Ben Stokes,  
England's captain

# Sport

THE SUMMER sporting calendar is in full swing and on the national scene British fans have had something to celebrate after an exciting win against India in the first Test match. And tennis at Wimbledon got off to a good start when a number of British players got through the first round at the beginning of the tournament.

On the amateur scene, there will be much competitiveness in the school sports days coming up at the end of term. The question arises:

- **Does God care who wins and loses?**
- **Do you think He has a preference or influences who are the victors and who are the losers?**

We may really want, with all our heart, for our son, daughter, mum, dad or best friend to pick up the trophy, stand on the podium, receive rapturous applause from the audience, and before the event offer up a prayer for divine inspiration, strength, and determination to help get them over the line first!

There is great rejoicing when everything comes together and you might think God is smiling on you, but for the loser there are lessons to be learnt and you need to live for another day. Even champions have had many bad days and disappointments along the way. However, win or lose, it's the individual who matters to God and their relationship with Him.

For those with a faith, they know God loves them, win or lose. For those with no faith, it may make them realise that whether it's victory or defeat, God is greater and higher at all levels and stages of their life and that He brings a satisfaction greater than their sporting achievements.

**What do you think?** *Let Les know and he will share it in next month's edition.*



# Celebrations as we marked the church's birthday

SUNDAY  
8<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Denise Ward  
writes

IT IS always a joy to celebrate the birth of the church of our beautiful Lord Jesus Christ at Pentecost.

Imagine, He sent His very own Spirit so that He could be with all believers, everywhere, forever. His presence, comfort, wisdom and power are always freely available to us. Jesus made this possible through His life and death and resurrection so we can eternally be connected with Him and our heavenly Father through the sending of his Holy Spirit.



Our wonderful reverend Linda beautifully brought our attention again to Emmanuel, God with us by His Holy Spirit being with us and in all who believe in Jesus. She encouraged us to focus on the precious Holy Spirit, who He is and what He does in our lives, in the life of the church and in the world.

She gave us a special opportunity to anoint each other with oil and to ask the Holy Spirit to fill each other again.

We enjoyed the cakes and singing happy birthday to the church; the candles were brilliant! Colouring the flames on the wooden ornaments was a reminder of the literal tongues of fire which fell on the early believers' heads, a visual reminder of the Spirit's power, cleansing, and purity.

Linda encouraged us to breathe in His love and goodness. He helps us in our relationship of intimacy with Jesus, He cleans us from the inside out.

May we continue to turn our attention to what the Holy Spirit might be showing us as we seek to encourage each other and to serve the church and our community.



# The Serving Africa Mission



*Here is the latest newsletter from Rev Jim and Mary from their base in Ghana. Our church supports them in prayer and financially.*

HELLO everyone from a wet Ghana in late June. This Sunday was loud and the dancing was fast. One mummy had her tiny baby on her back and the baby was bouncing around as mum danced and praised. The child was learning how his Christian family praise the Lord and in due time he will do the same. Why do Ghanaians dance so well in worship? Because they've learned it on their mummy's backs!

One little two year old wasn't quite sure. He was standing at the front watching the dancing, but at the same time he was holding onto his elder sister's dress. In that security he was happy to watch but not quite ready to dance. I thought, 'This is how I live with the Lord. I don't mind doing things, even risky things but I like to keep my hand on Him just to be sure.'

The young pastors ordained at Easter are beginning to grow into their work and take their responsibilities. I am thinking how to develop them and what futures they may have with us.

The two new churches, Glory and Hope, are getting under way. I was at Glory this week and there was a sense of purpose in the church. Daniel has begun Hope church and I've yet to meet with him. I think he has the hardest job meeting in a secular environment, but that also can be the most fruitful.

We had a bit of a fracas in school assembly this week! The children were singing the national anthem but some of the boys were singing rather loudly. The girls were not amused! So they decided to sort it out and assembly stopped while the teachers separated them! All part of our life here.

The computer lab is now functioning and when I'm in the chapel I see the classes coming and going into the computer suite. The pupils are very excited and they should be. Few of them have ever sat at their own personal computer before. We have one interactive monitor for the teacher to use and eventually I want these in every class. We're pushing hard to be a 21st century school.

Graduation is near and so there are lots of practices going on all around the school, often when the school day is finished. As we did for ordination, when over 600 people viewed the video on Facebook, so we're going to do for the graduation. Our first Home group is going really well and now we are planning for the second one.

Exciting times - watch this space! Blessings, Rev Jim and Mary

Thank you!

... for your financial giving towards the work and witness of this church during June which totalled £1,328



WE would love more people to join us at 'Sunflowers', our café on a Wednesday afternoon which is run as a Renew Wellbeing Space.

To that end we thought it would be a good idea to re-run the training for anyone who is interested.

It will be a way of reminding ourselves of the ethos behind the initiative and to think again about the three P's – being present, being prayerful and being in partnership.

We will meet from 11.00am to midday on Wednesdays 30<sup>th</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August.

Please let Anita know if you plan to come.



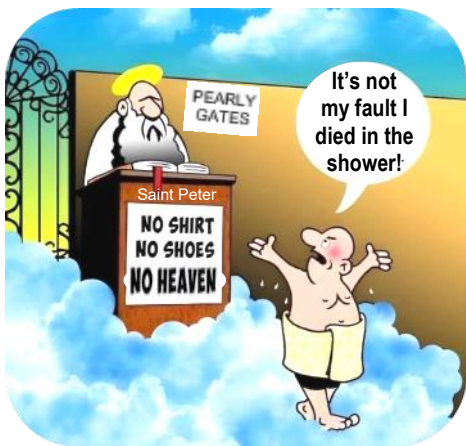
Coming up:  
**A NEW ROOF!**



WE ARE delighted that work will commence on our new church roof on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July. Scaffolding will go up on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

The £28,000 needed was raised earlier this year by generous donations from church members, Paintpots and The Impact Church. The remainder of the money came from church funds and tax relief from the government's Gift Aid scheme.

We are truly thankful to God for His provision and we look forward to dispensing with bowls, buckets, and mops when the rain returns!



## Christ Church

Freemantle with Millbrook  
Waterloo Road, SO15 3BS

**OPEN DAY**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

10am-4pm.

Includes an art and craft display, music from Consorte d'Amici and the Morris Trio, local history exhibition and join in with art activities. Tea and cake.

*Celebrating their 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary*