



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

May 2025



EASTER is always such a joyous time, and this year was no different. We had a wonderful time welcoming people in for our party and enjoyed the celebration of Easter Day and all that it means to us as Christian's. But as Easter was later this year, as soon as the festivities were over we were back to work, and school as usual.

Life can be like that, I think, full of highs, followed by routine and busyness. Life was often like that for Jesus too, so we are in good company.

Jesus one time, decided to go up a mountain to be alone and have some time out, as He often did, and three of His disciples went with Him. As they watched Jesus, His appearance was transformed so His face shone like the sun and His clothes were as white as light. As He was there, Elijah and Moses, prophets from days gone by, joined in. Then God spoke, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy, listen to Him.'

It was an amazing experience for all who were there. A real highlight for everyone as God was truly with them. But as soon as they came down from the mountain, the crowds gathered once more, and Jesus carried straight on with His work of healing and teaching.

Life can be busy for us all and trying to have a balance is important, so we don't wear ourselves out. Even Jesus needed time away to rest and recharge, and so do we.

I pray that in the busyness of life, you find regular quiet moments to rest, recharge and spend time with God, you never know what could happen!!

Revd. Linda Hayes

You can read this story of Jesus transfiguration in Matthew's gospel, chapter 17, verses 1-13

Welcome

to our **SERVICES** 10.30am

A new series begins on the 11th May on **PRAYER**

This will be led by Revd Linda Hayes unless otherwise stated

Sun 4th May

Subject: **The road to Emmaus**

Will Rosie

Reading: *Luke 24: 13-35*

Sun 11th

Subject: **What is prayer, how do we do it?**

Reading: *Matt 6: 5-13*

Sun 18th

Subject: **Praying** – to include Communion

Reading: *1 Cor. 11 : 23-26*

Sun 25th

Subject: **Praying in Song – Songs of Praise**

Sun 1st June

Les and Anita Pike

Subject: **Prayer being practical**

Reading: *Jeremiah 29:12*

Sun 8th June - Pentecost

Subject: **Prayer - Anointing with oil**

Reading: *Acts 12 : 13*

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.

13th and 27th May

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 . . .

Sun 4th May

**Prayer
Breakfast**

9.00am - 10.00am

Sun 11th

**Bring-and-
share Lunch**

Approx 12.30pm

Mon 12th

**Leaders'
Meeting**

7.30pm

Sun 18th

**Annual General
Meeting**

After refreshments
Bring a bite-to-eat for lunch

Sun 1st June

Prayer Breakfast
9.00am - 10.00am

Sun 7th June
Repair Cafe

10.30am - 1.00pm

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



FATHER God, we remember all those who served in the Armed Forces during World War II. We honour their sacrifices.

We also remember and give thanks for all who worked hard on the home front: to feed the nation, to care for evacuees, to provide medical care.

We pray for all who work for peace today, especially in those parts of the world which are experiencing conflicts at the moment:

Sudan – Gaza – Ukraine – Syria – Lebanon – Myanmar (Burma) – Nigeria – DRC, Cameroon – Mexico.

Help us to do all we can to work for peace in our own communities and relationships.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen

Source: BRF Ministries and Acled

May Prayers

Thank You, Lord,



for putting

the colours in the rainbow,
the salt into the sea,
the cold into the snowflake
and for making me.

For putting

the hump on the camel,
the neck on the giraffe,
the tail on the monkey,
and making the hyena laugh.

And for making

whales and snails and quails,
and hogs and dogs and frogs,
and bats and rats and cats.

*Yes, thank you Lord
for all of these!*

IF I HAVE ...

- ❖ A roof over my head
- ❖ Hot water in the tap
- ❖ A choice of fruit and vegetables and the money to pay for them
- ❖ Clean sheets on my bed
- ❖ Family and friends who love me
- ❖ And can enjoy good health today

how truly blessed I am Lord. Thank You.

. . . OUR EASTER JOURNEY . . . OUR EASTER

ONCE AGAIN it was good to journey through Easter week. There were many special in different ways. We hope yours was special too. It was great to see everyone, then God willing and if Jesus hasn't returned, next Easter Day will be 5th April.

*Easter Reflections from **Revd Linda***

WHAT a wonderful time we had!

Easter is always a very special time for Christians as we mark the sad death, but glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

And this year was no exception. We began on the Sunday before with our Palm Sunday service and focused on Jesus the Superhero! And what a hero He is.

By Wednesday we were in party mood and welcomed over 14 families with their children into our church for crafts and games, telling of the Easter story and Easter egg hunt. Part of the egg hunt was to find some Jesus figures that were also hidden. The children had a great time hearing the Good News of Jesus coming back from the dead and finding Jesus among the eggs in the garden.

The Easter weekend was a time of quiet reflection and great celebration. In our Easter Sunday service, we joined together in party spirit to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. It was a joyous day, and a wonderful finale to our Easter week.

We do love to mark each festival at church and this Easter week marked all that Jesus did and all He is to us in great style.

We do have a very good God, and what a joy to celebrate His love.



We made palm branches by drawing and cutting out paper, which were then attached to sticks.

Mond



Our tired looking tomb about to get a make-over.



New wallpaper being glued to the street.



Family Easter Party: Linda telling the Easter story to a young audience in front of the Garden.

R JOURNEY . . . OUR EASTER JOURNEY . . .

different aspects from Palm Sunday through to the Resurrection that made it everyone who came along to any of our meetings and if you couldn't make it this April 2026. But we're here every Sunday and there's always a warm welcome!

Palm Sunday



awing round our hands in the Morning Service
artistically displayed for all to see.



*Easter Reflections from
Jon Fisher*

The Greatest Man in History **JESUS**

Had no servants,
yet they called Him Master.

Had no degree,
yet they called Him Teacher.

Had no medicines,
yet they called Him Healer.

He had no army,
yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles,
yet He conquered the world.

He did not live in a castle,
yet they called Him Lord,

He ruled no nations,
yet they called Him King,

He committed no crime,
yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb,
yet He lives today.

Lyle C Rollings III, 2008

y and Tuesday



being
ucture.

The stone also
gets a face-lift.

The garden
taking shape.

Wednesday



Plus crafts and games
in the church, and of
course . . . food!

story to a
n.

Our Easter Journey continues next page.

OUR EASTER JOURNEY

continued

Maundy Thursday

This year we joined with other churches at Swaythling Baptist for a simple meal together to remember Jesus' last supper.



Good Friday



The focal point of our Reflections



Activities that helped our meditations: colouring, finger labyrinth, candles, writing prayers on a cross.



Our time included Communion



Easter Saturday

With the stone rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb, we had a time of quiet reflection for an hour and a half on this 'in between' day.

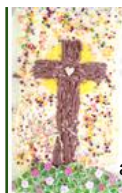
Easter Day



... and then
back to life!

**HE'S ALIVE!
HE'S ALIVE!
HE IS RISEN!**

ALLELUIA!



Our Easter cake

Our celebrations continued with Easter comestibles afterwards ...



... and Jann giving us a tune on her affectionally known 'instrument of torture'!



Worship at our Easter Sunday Celebration both inside and out of the church.

OUR EASTER JOURNEY ...

Easter Reflections from **Anita Pike**

Maundy Thursday: as I stepped through the door at the back of the church early in the morning, there, silent and still before me lay the Easter garden; the tomb was open and inside it was black, so black, pitch black, black as death itself, waiting.

Good Friday: we came together for communion at the end of our reflections; a single candle burned brightly next to the bread and wine; we ate, we drank, recalling Jesus' suffering, His broken body, His open wounds. Then the stone was rolled across the entrance, the candle blown out, the Light of the world extinguished, Death had devoured his prey and I brushed away the tears.

Easter Day: from the place of deepest darkness and utter despair, from the hopeless depths of that place, streams forth Light, Life, Resurrection! Death is shattered, Darkness flees, the garden fills with colour, the trees blossom, the butterflies dance, the tomb floods with light for the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! We rejoice! Alleluia!



Easter Reflections from
Les Pike

For me Easter is about the whole journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day.

It is packed with all the drama and meaning and is central to our faith.

It's difficult to pick highlights but something I did realise when, on *Good Friday*, colouring in the cross and using all the colours of the light spectrum, was that Jesus went to the cross for everyone in the human spectrum.

And *Easter Sunday:* going to the sunrise service at Lakeside Country Park, Eastleigh at 7.00am and decorating our cross in the service with 'new life', in the form of vibrant flowers.

Sunflower Baptist

NOTICE BOARD

The talk at our May Men's Breakfast Club will be given by our talented organist entitled

*The older I get,
the better I was.*

All welcome



Michaela Dowse

on 19th

Caroline Villeneuve

on 19th

Joanne McNeil

on 22nd

Denise Ward

on 25th

Thank you!

this church during April. The total amount came to £1,470.

... **to those who** contributed towards our Holy Week activities in any way. It was very much appreciated.

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



ACROSS the country, churches and cathedrals are being encouraged to ring their church bells in celebration at 6.30pm on 8th May.

This day is VE Day which marks the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe commemorating the end of WWII in Europe when Nazi Germany surrendered to Allied Forces.

Tony Savage, who visited us on Easter Day and grew up in Freemantle, said that he was 11 years old on VE day and remembers gathering round the wireless for the announcement. Street parties quickly followed plus the luxury of having streetlights on again.

A national two minute silence will be held on 8th May at 12 noon to remember those who fought for our freedom.

VE Day 80th Anniversary Party

Sunday 11th May
12 noon – 5.00pm

in Carlton Place

FREE EVENT

Food and drink will be available at a charge

- ❖ Family entertainment
- ❖ Live music
- ❖ Dancing
- ❖ Military vehicles and personnel
- ❖ Market stalls

supported by Southampton City Council



IN A new report, *The Quiet Revival*, a survey from the Bible Society and YouGov, shows that church attendance is on the rise and particularly among young people. In 2018 just 4% of 18 - 24 years olds said they went to church at least monthly, and now that figure is 12% for women and 21% for men. Isn't that amazing?!

One of the report's authors says, 'These are striking findings that completely reverse the widely held assumption that the church in England and Wales is in terminal decline. We've seen significant, broad-based growth among most expressions of the church. There are now over two million more people attending church than there were six years ago.'

How exciting! How encouraging! It shows that in the years when attendance was falling the church wasn't stagnating but remained alive and relevant. Now people are searching for answers in our unsettling and unstable world, the church is ready and waiting to share God's love and the seekers are finding forgiveness, acceptance and purpose for their lives.

Anita Pike

*Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person.
The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

2 Corinthians 5:17