



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

August 2025



THE SUMMER holidays are finally here! They come with mixed blessings, I think. What to do with the children for six weeks can be a daunting thought for many, while others just don't want the new term to begin.

I always loved the summer holidays. The pace of life slowed down, and there was more freedom to be out on the beach or New Forest. We were very fortunate to be near both and have access to transport too.

But as I have become older, and the children are all grown up, I still find myself loving the slower pace of August. I have less meetings in this month, and the children's club has broken up, and toddlers will meet less. So I find a space and a pace to reflect on the year gone by, and plan for the year ahead.

It's good to look back and remember what went well and what could have been handled better. I find it encouraging to reflect on where I have seen God at work and see what He has been up to in my own life and also in the lives of others, looking back on answered prayers and little miracles, and bigger miracles too, in the lives, both of the community and the church.

It's good for me to find a little more time to be with God while the busyness of life takes a gentle pause for a few weeks. Time with God for me is so restorative. He refreshes my soul and refills me with all I need for the year ahead.

Finding rest for many of us is difficult, but I pray that over the month of August you will find time to pause and take a breath, to look back and see what God is doing in your life and consider what possibilities may lie ahead as you walk this life with Him.

May you all find peace, and refreshment at this time. Revd. Linda Hayes

Welcome

to our **SERVICES 10.30am**

A new series from the New Testament

The first book of John

These will be led by Revd Linda Hayes unless otherwise stated

Sun 3rd Aug

Subject: **Living in the light**

Reading: 1 John 1 : 5-10

Sun 10th

Subject: **A new commandment**

Reading: 1 John 2 : 7-8
to include Communion

Sun 17th Living as children of God Les and
Family service Anita Pike

Reading: 1 John 2 : 28,29 and 3:1-10

Sun 24th Love one another Denise Ward and
Reading: 1 John 3 : 11-24 Caroline Villeneuve

Sun 31st

Subject: **Loving one another**

Reading: 1 John 4 : 7-17

**You are very welcome to join us any
Sunday morning during August.**

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



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


Now on their summer break.

Belong 7.00pm-9.00pm
Fortnightly discipleship group

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.
Back on 10th Sept



FRIDAYS

Flowerpots 10am - noon
8th and 15th Aug
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 . . .

Sat 2nd Aug
**Repair
Cafe**

10.30am-1.00pm

Sun 3rd
Prayer Breakfast

9.00am - 10.00am
Led by Les

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

After the Service

Sat 6th Sept
**Afternoon
Tea**

See page 8.

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



NEVER STOP PRAYING

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Thank You, Lord,



IF I were an elephant,
I'd thank You Lord
by raising my trunk.

And if I were a kangaroo,
You know I'd hop
right up to You.

And if I were an octopus,
I'd thank You Lord
for my fine looks.

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

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Eight Bible verses to Shape Your Meditations

1. Within Your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love. **Psalm 48:9**
2. "I will consider all Your works and meditate on all Your mighty deeds." Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? **Psalm 77:12-13**
3. I reach out for Your commands, which I love, that I may meditate on Your decrees. **Psalm 119:48**
4. Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **Romans 8:5**
5. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. **Romans 12:2**
6. Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. **Philippians 4:8**
7. Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **Colossians 3:1**
8. Holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus. **Hebrews 3:1**

TEACH us, dear Lord, to view our life here on earth as a pilgrim's path to heaven and give us grace to tread it courageously in the company of Your faithful people.

Help us to set our affections on things above, not on the passing vanities of this world, and grant that as we journey on in the way of holiness, we may bear a good witness to our Lord, and serve all who need our help along the way, for the glory of Your name.

Hereford Cathedral

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

JESUS is my **WAY**
JESUS is my **KING**
JESUS is my **LORD**
JESUS is my **TRUTH**
JESUS is my **SAVIOUR**
JESUS is my **HEALER**
JESUS is my **MASTER**
JESUS is my **TEACHER**
JESUS is my **DELIVERER**
JESUS is my **SHEPHERD**
JESUS is my **EVERYTHING**

JON FISHER came across this on Facebook (or did it come across him?!) and it really struck a chord.

It's easy to read through in a few seconds but slow down, pause for a while, spend time with each one. Think:

- † Is this true for me?
- † Can I say how?
- † Do I know a Bible passage or verse to go with it, or if not, can I find one?
- † What is God saying to me as I quietly dwell on this truth?

Creation Concert

SIR JOHN RUTTER CBE, the English composer and conductor, associated mainly with choral music and founder of the Cambridge Singers, was conducting a workshop and concert at Salisbury Cathedral on 16th July. I joined the large choir and sat amongst the thirty basses. Yes thirty!

From 1pm to 4pm we rehearsed two of Sir John's pieces and then tackled Part 1 of Haydn's *Creation*.

In addition, the cathedral's youth choirs sang Sir John's popular tunes to the hymns *All things bright and beautiful* and *For the beauty of the earth* and professional singers sang solo parts.

After a break, when I took the photo opportunity, it was back for more practice before the concert began at 7.00pm.

The sound of hundreds of voices all together was terrific and it was a truly great experience.

Les Pike



Les with John Rutter

YOU'RE INVITED TO AN AFTERNOON TEA!

A Traditional Afternoon Tea with an Indian twist

Wednesday 13th August 2025
4.00pm to 6.00pm

Freemantle Baptist Church
Testwood Road SO15 8RL

Contact Satti 07933 439997
Cash donations

breastcancernow.org/afternoontea

Did you see this event on the BBC News last month?

IT WAS really good to see some good news of a Christian event that took place on Bournemouth beach. If it passed you by, below is the report; if you did see it, you surely won't mind being reminded. It's worth reading!



Hundreds gather for mass baptism in the sea

HUNDREDS of people have taken part in an outdoor service which saw 92 people baptised in the sea.

Congregations from five churches across Bournemouth gathered next to Boscombe Pier for the event.

Peter Baker, senior minister at Lansdowne Church, led the ceremony described as a celebration of faith.

He said the public display was to "bring together Christians who believe in Jesus Christ and want to tell the world that".

Mr Baker said the church was "alive and kicking" in Bournemouth and it had seen a "quiet revival" post Covid. He said it felt like a festival and the churches were planning to do similar events in the future for people who were "unashamed" of their faith.

Liam Brownen, (right), who



was baptised at the event in Bournemouth said the church had helped him to overcome his struggles with drug and alcohol addiction.

"The second I gave my life to Christ I was instantly relieved of the bondage of addiction," he said.

He added that the baptism "means everything to me. I owe my life to Christ so to be baptised in His name is unbelievable".

Source: BBC

THE SPAR convenience store in Foundry Lane closed down on 25th June and, with the signage gone, the original pub sign from the *Anchor & Hope* has been revealed.

There is something reassuring, seeing it swinging in the breeze above our neighbourhood, symbolising as it does, the certainty of our Christian faith.

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure, says the book of Hebrews in the Bible. The writer is speaking of Jesus. Jesus is our hope, our firm solid hope, a certain hope, and if our trust is in Him, He is the anchor that keeps us secure in the storms of life until we arrive safely on heaven's shore.



Anita Pike



Plenty of pleasures at the Pirate Party

The Pirate Party on Wednesday 30th July for the young at heart was a-buzz with piratical capers - innocent ones of course!

Around 30 shipmates and land lubbers enjoyed crafts, colouring, food, and a treasure hunt. And the world's greatest treasure?

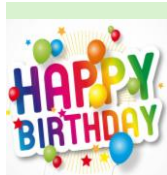
It's JESUS!



Queuing up to get their fish fingers, mash and beans.



Our Pirate Pastor calling everyone to order to give thanks for our food.



Jacqueline Holt
on 19th
Les Pike
on 20th

Come and join us on our
CHURCH PICNIC
at **Romsey Memorial Park**
10th August 2025 after the service.
The Southampton Concert Wind Band will be playing in the bandstand



Thank you!

... for your financial giving towards the work and witness of this church during July which totalled £1,335

... to everyone for your contributions in making the Community Afternoon such a happy time.

... to all those who entered into the spirit of our Pirates Party.

Sunflower Baptist

NOTICE BOARD

News has reached us that our Church Secretary, whilst on holiday, was aboard a plane carrying picnic baskets when it crashed in the jungle.

The latest is that everyone is safe but rescue attempts are being hampered.



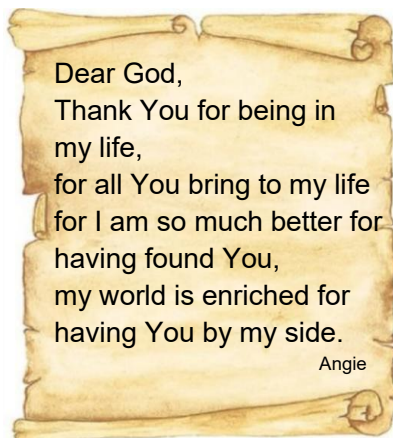
**HERE are three
love letters to
God from our
Belong Group,
Angie,
Caroline and
Jon.**

I thank You that you love me
unconditionally and wonder
at me – my very soul. You are
always forgiving and patient.

Through bouts of illness or
challenging circumstances
Your love reminds me that
You have me, my guide and
supporter always.

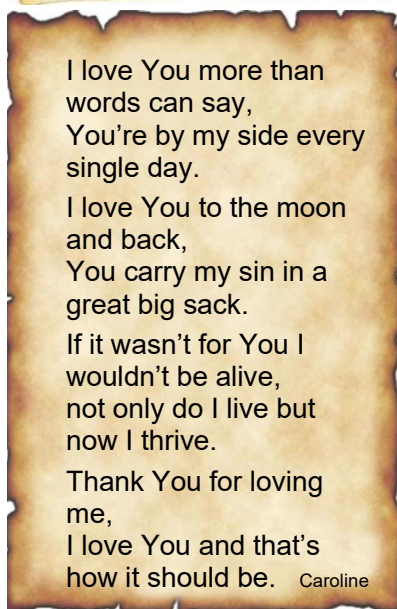
I am deep down thrilled that
You are in my life. I am blessed
indeed and during well times I
see and feel you everywhere.

Jon



Dear God,
Thank You for being in
my life,
for all You bring to my life
for I am so much better for
having found You,
my world is enriched for
having You by my side.

Angie



I love You more than
words can say,
You're by my side every
single day.

I love You to the moon
and back,
You carry my sin in a
great big sack.

If it wasn't for You I
wouldn't be alive,
not only do I live but
now I thrive.

Thank You for loving
me,
I love You and that's
how it should be.

Caroline



DURING August we are
looking at the first Letter of
John on Sunday mornings.

Leading up to the service,
it may be helpful to read
and meditate on the Bible
passage which you can find
on page 2.



THE NEW ROOF IS UNDERWAY



Scaffolding up . . . old slates coming off . . .



. . . progress is being made at the end of July . . .

. . . and by the end of August everything will be renewed, insulated and watertight and a bonus will be a cooler church in summer and warmer in the winter.

Please join us to celebrate the completion of the new roof with
AFTERNOON TEA at 2.30pm
on Saturday 6th SEPTEMBER.

Community Afternoon

A QUIET start to our Community Afternoon didn't last too long as there was soon a real buzz and it was great so many people of all ages come through the doors.



Youngsters were able to let off steam on the bouncy castle in the hall. For those who preferred quieter pursuits, there were crafts in the church with a swap shop of books, toys and clothes, plus the prayer corner.

Mathew Pike won first prize, a Fairtrade hamper, in the Treasure Hunt; all the answers were to be found in and around the church.



Delicious homemade cakes and scones were very much enjoyed.

With plenty of laughter, chatter and well behaved children, it was a very happy couple of hours.

Donations were gratefully received for the Southampton City Farm and Sunday Lunch Project.

Look how they've grown



From this ...



to this ...



Our planters out in all their beauty in the church front garden.