



Fairtrade Fortnight

FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

October 2025



JESUS:
The Word, the life and the light



IN THE BEGINNING, God said, 'Let there be light.' As He said those words, light and order replaced darkness and chaos.

But today as I look at the world, somehow darkness and chaos seem to be everywhere and light and order often seem to be in short supply. As the nights draw in and the clocks change at the end of the month, we will be even more aware of the dark. So at this time of year it's good to remind ourselves that Jesus is the Light of the World, and that means He still is bringing light and order into the chaos. The light reveals His love, and His beauty and His joy.

At the end of the month many people will celebrate Halloween, which symbolises the dark and the scary. But at Freemantle we will celebrate the light, the love and the joy of Jesus with our annual Light Party.

So why not come and join us to celebrate the light that Jesus brings us. Come and meet the angels and enjoy some crafts and food.

Everyone is most welcome!

May you know the light, love and joy of Jesus this month.

Rev. Linda Hayes



Welcome

to our **SERVICES** 10.30am

We continue with our **Breaking Ground** series.

On Sunday 19th we start on **Parables of Jesus**

These will be led by Revd Linda Hayes unless otherwise stated

Sun 5th October

Subject: **Be a blessing**

Reading: *Jeremiah 4 : 1-2*

Sun 12th

Subject: **Remain faithful**

Reading: *Hebrews 6 : 7-12*

Will Rosie

Sun 19th

Subject: **Parable of the lamp**

Reading: *Mark 4 : 21-23* to include Communion

Sun 26th

Subject: **The prodigal son**

Denise and Ian Ward

Reading: *Luke 15: 11-31*

Sun 2nd November

Subject: **The great feast**

Reading: *Luke 14 : 15-24*

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

*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

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

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Coming up . . .

**Sat 4th
Repair
Café**

10.30am - 1.00pm

**Sun 5th
Prayer Breakfast**

9.00am - 10.00am

Prayer led by Denise

**Mon 6th
Leaders'
Meeting**

7.00pm

**Sun 12th
Church Lunch**

Bring-and-share

12.30pm approx

**Fri 31st
Light
Party**

See page 8

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NEVER STOP PRAYING

1 Thessalonians 5:17

For the autumn months

GOD of autumn, as the trees shed their leaves, help us to let go of what no longer serves us, to embrace change with courage and grace.

May we find strength in the cycles of life, trusting that even in endings, there is new growth and a promise of eternal life.

And Lord, as the days grow shorter, draw us closer to You for spiritual renewal.

Search our hearts and minds, reveal any hidden ways we need your guidance, and help us to grow in Your everlasting way. In Jesus name. Amen

O c t o b e r P r a y e r s

Thank You, Lord,



*For food, glorious food
and those who provide it.*

We praise God for . . .

potatoes and pasta, crumbly
cheese and juicy tomatoes.

. . . for the smell of freshly baked
bread, for butter and honey, jam
and cream.

. . . for colourful carrots and
bendy bananas, peppers and
peanuts and pears.

. . . for sizzling sausages and
bacon butties, for crunchy
apples and seedless grapes.

. . . for refreshing milk, for juice
and sparkling water, for
smoothies, for tea and coffee.

. . . for fish and for chips, for
pizza and for Chinese and
Indian take-aways.

. . . for cereals and toast , for
chocolate and for biscuits, for
Victoria sponges and walnut
cake.

We praise our God for . . .

food, glorious food, magical
food, wonderful food, marvellous
food, fabulous food. AMEN

Based on a prayer from the Farming Community Network

Our Light Party

LORD, we pray for our Light Party on 31st. We ask that the word will spread around and folk of all ages will come along.

We especially pray for the children, many dressed up in colourful costumes and make up.

We ask it will be a happy time, a place where everyone can feel relaxed and safe.

And we pray that Your Spirit will move and shine in the heart of each person revealing that *Jesus really is the Light of the World.*

And we pray that they will want to come back soon to discover first hand more about our loving God and His dear Son, Jesus. Amen

Thank you Lord for the Harvest



27th and 28th
September

On the
Saturday we
spent a couple
of hours
together quietly
reflecting,
whether
reading or in
doing some
craft
activities.



Vegepals

Vegepals

All the
donations of
fruit, vegetables,
packets, tins
and flowers on
display.



Plus vegepals
created during the
morning service.



Preparing
the displays
around the
window
sills..

How do we know Peter was a successful fisherman?

By his net income



Harvest Wordsearch

Can you find the Harvest themed words hidden in the grid?



Harvest
Festival
Wheatsheaf
Corn dolly
Lammas-tide
Michaelmas
Combine
Harvester
Farmer
Home
Moon
Crop
Mow
Tractor

Source: eParenting.co.uk



Why not have a go at making a scarecrow out of lolly sticks or something similar?

A scarecrow is a figure traditionally used in the fields to deter birds and other animals from consuming crops.

SCARECROWS in the Bible?!

A scarecrow is metaphorically mentioned in the Bible in the book of Jeremiah where the prophet compares lifeless, powerless idols to scarecrows in a field, highlighting their inability to speak, walk, or have any effect at all.

This comparison underscores the futility of worshipping idols instead of the living God.

Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm, nor can they do any good.

Jeremiah 10:5

Surge of young people, 18-24 year olds, coming to faith and church



HEAR THE SOUND of hearts returning to You - These words come from a worship song and I have often wondered, as we sing, what those returning hearts actually sound like! Because surely, a heart doesn't make any sound at all, does it?

Yet on reflection I realise that what is happening inwardly will be seen and heard outwardly.

I look at the statistics* highlighted by CVM (*Christian Vision for Men*) that show belief in God among eighteen to twenty four olds has almost tripled in just three and a half years, rising from 16% in August 2021 to 45% in January 2025, with 16% now attending church regularly.

Christian belief has also risen among older adults and the total number of monthly church goers has risen in six years from 3.7 million to 5.8 million.

And then I think of the sound of returning hearts: feet at the door, warm greetings, hearty singing, murmured prayers, alleluias, amens, attentive listening, laughter, tears, chatter, deep conversations.

And then back, back into the world with desires stirring in love for God and neighbour; back home, to work, to college, to uni, back to love, back to care, back to pray, back to gossip the gospel, and listen . . . for the sound of more returning hearts.

Anita Pike

* Results from YouGov's bi-annual tracker



**DAVID
PEARCE**

DAVID who attended our church for many years up until last autumn passed away on 20th September.

He was a gentleman in every sense with a deep, living faith and a true heart for the gospel.

Before coming to us he was a member of Above Bar Church. Then after his mini stroke last year he reduced his amount of driving and stayed local, attending Chandler's Ford Methodist.

David loved singing and greatly enjoyed the old hymns; he enthused about the time he sang with a massed choir for Mission Solent back in 1985 before West Quay was built.

His Service of Thanksgiving will be held here at Freemantle on Monday 26th October at 2.00pm.



A good hymn is a sermon in song

ISAAC WATTS once said this. This simple yet profound truth reminds us that hymns are not just melodies to enjoy, they are vehicles of truth, teaching, and transformation.

Just like a sermon, a well written hymn speaks to the soul, instructs the mind, and stirs the heart towards God.

When we sing hymns rooted in Scripture, we are preaching to ourselves and to one another. The theology in a hymn can comfort the weary, convict the wandering, and call us to worship.

Whether it's *Amazing Grace* reminding us of redemption or *It is well* teaching us trust in suffering, hymns echo God's Word in a powerful, memorable way.

So next time you sing, remember, you're not just singing, you're proclaiming truth. Let your heart engage fully and let each hymn become a sermon your soul won't forget.

Source: World Churches Choir Festival

*We are proud to be a
Fairtrade Church*



**Fairtrade
Fortnight**

22nd September to 5th October



Tony Hulse
Jean Hulse
Karen Eaves

15th
20th
28th

Sunflower Baptist

NOTICE BOARD

NEXT SUNDAY

The sermon will be given
by Revd Rosemary
Hawthorne entitled

WHAT IS HELL?

~~~~~

*Come and hear our choir*

*Thank you!*

... **for your financial giving** towards the work and witness of this church during September which totalled £1,427.00

... **to** everyone who attended the church meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

... **to** those who delivered leaflets in the neighbourhood advertising our Sunflower Café and future events.

... **to** those who made the church look beautiful for Harvest.



*Trick or Treaters especially welcome*

Drop in any time on

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October**  
**between 5.00pm and 6.30pm**

at **Freemantle Baptist Church**

- Games • Drinks
- Hot dogs • Craft activities

### *'Little Church'*

*Donovan Leitch gives some advice for small churches:*

If you want your dream to be,  
 Take your time, go slowly.

Do few things but do them well,  
 Heartfelt work grows purely.

If you want to live life free,  
 Take your time, go slowly.

Do few things but do them well,  
 Heartfelt work grows purely.

Day by day, stone by stone  
 Build your secret slowly.

Day by day, you'll grow too,  
 You'll know heaven's glory.

If you want to live life free,  
 Take your time, go slowly.

If you want your dream to be,  
 Take your time, go slowly.

## **We Celebrated Our**



YES, on 6th September, we celebrated well with a cream tea, cakes and savouries to mark the completion of our new roof.

Of course, it was great to see our own folk gather together, but also good to welcome others who regularly use our premises from Bethel Prayer House and the Lighthouse Chapel.

Linda gave a short address explaining how God had so graciously provided the money and that the new roof represents the future of the church. She concluded with a prayer of thanks and asking God's blessing on the church and the neighbourhood.

Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian.

D. L. Moody