



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

November 2025



Give us a smile!

IT WAS back in October 2006, I went to hear Professor Stuart Burgess lecture on '*Is Evolution True? Is there a Creator?*' I was so taken with what he said that I bought signed copies of two of his books. Ever since then I have periodically dipped in and still find it a fascinating read.

In *The origin of man - the image of an ape or the image of God?* I recently returned to the chapter on facial expressions. In it Burgess says,

'Humans have an amazing and unique ability to make many types of intricate facial expressions. About half of our 50 facial muscles are needed for essential tasks like eating but the other half of the muscles of the face have the sole purpose of making facial expressions.

In contrast, apes do not have these facial muscles. The ability to make facial expressions show that man has been created to be an emotional being with a need to communicate feelings to other people.'

Our faces express smiles, laughter, disapproval, confusion, grief, anger, pain, surprise and boredom.

Smiling plays an important part in our communication. In fact, any expressions show that we have been created to be emotional spiritual beings.

Proverbs 15:13 says, *A happy heart makes the face cheerful* so in these darker November days with their greyer skies let's use our God created gift to smile! It could make all the difference to someone's day!

Les Pike



Welcome

to our **SERVICES** 10.30am

We continue with the **Parables of Jesus** until 23rd before we enter the **Advent season**

Services will be led by Revd Linda Hayes unless otherwise stated

Sun 2nd November

Subject: **The great feast**

Reading: **Luke 14 : 15-24**

Sun 9th

Subject: **Remembrance**



Sun 16th

Subject: **The persistent widow** Les and Anita Pike

Reading: **Luke 18:1-8**
to include Communion

Sun 23rd

Subject: **The Pharisee and the tax collector**

Reading: **Luke 18: 9-14** Duncan House, Soton City Mission

Sun 30th Advent 1

Subject: **The angel's announcement to Mary**

Reading: **Luke 1: 26-38**

Sun 7th Advent 2

Subject: **The angel's announcement to Joseph**

Reading: **Matthew 1: 18-25**

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
pp7@paintpotsnursery.co.uk

Coming up . . .

Sun 2nd

Prayer Breakfast

9.00am - 10.00am

Prayer led by Anita

Mon 3rd

Leaders' Meeting

7.30pm

Sun 9th

Church Lunch

Bring-and-share

12.30pm approx.

Sat 29th

Reflections for Advent

9.30am-11.30am

Sun 30th

Members' Meeting

After the service

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

BLESSED are You,
Sovereign God,
ruler and judge of all,
to You be praise and glory
for ever.

In the darkness of this age
that is passing away
may the light of Your presence
which the saints enjoy
surround our steps as we
journey on.

May we reflect Your glory this
day and so be made ready to
see Your face in the heavenly
city where night shall be no
more.

Blessed be God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever!

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Thank You, Lord,



... for making so many different
animals, in such a variety of
colours and for those who have
spots or stripes or claws or paws.

Help us to learn to treat them well
so that we may all enjoy sharing
this beautiful world.

Lord, help me to remember that
even the scary ones are part of
Your creation and should be
treated with respect.

~~~~~

IF I had my way I'd pray  
to have fine weather every day.

But farmers need refreshing rain  
and then warm sun to ripen grain.

So, dear God, I pray tonight  
You'll send the weather  
You think right.

*My Book of Prayers*



Loving Father,

Thank You for all who work to  
keep us safe and secure and main-  
tain peace in our land.

We especially think of our armed  
forces and the emergency services  
throughout the UK and Ireland.

We give thanks for all those whose  
desire it is to protect us and who  
work tirelessly for us to live in  
peace.

*Salvation Army*

### *Morning Meditation*

|                 |                               |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Sun rises       | <i>Day follows night</i>      |
| Light surprises | <i>Promise follows plight</i> |
| Mist dispels    | <i>Life follows death</i>     |
| Lark tells.     | <i>Breath follows breath</i>  |

World twists, God exists  
Earth spins, God wins.



IN THE YEAR 325AD Christianity was in crisis and it all centred on one question, *Who was Jesus?* Different people preached different answers and it was threatening to tear Christianity apart.

A popular preacher called Arius was proclaiming that Jesus was not God and, with his followers gathering in numbers and the church's foundations shaking, hundreds of bishops from across the world were called to an emergency council in Nicaea, now the city of Iznik in Turkey.

There they formulated the Nicene Creed to unite the church. It laid out the core beliefs of Christianity and crucially reaffirmed what they believed, as the Bible declares, that Jesus is divine. Down the years it's been developed and adapted, but essentially it has remained the same; 1700 years later it is still proclaimed by countless Christians as the fundamental nature of what we believe.

Source: BBC Songs of Praise

## THE NICENE CREED

WE believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, He became incarnate of the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen



One of our pumpkins in the brightly lit car park

## *The cross of Christ shines brightly*

IN FOLK came to our Light Party, but not so many this year, possibly due to the hard downpours between 5.00pm and 6.30pm and the large amount of smoke coming from the Western Docks due to a fire in a scrap metal yard. We eventually had to close the front doors as the smoke was so bad.

However, the youngsters, mums, dads and grandparents were still able to come in through the hall and enjoyed craft activities, icing biscuits, hot dogs, fruit, cakes and drinks.

Once again, there was a happy atmosphere: the children were relaxed, many in their ghoulish make-up and costumes. In contrast, we were happy to don our Angels of Light attire to balance up our scarier counterparts.

On leaving they were given a party bag with a miscellany of goodies and a gospel tract. It was nice that a number of parents made appreciative comments as they went on their way.

Our next community event is our Lantern Parade on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 5pm-7pm. See you there?



Shirley Warren Action Church

# Christmas

## Fayre

November 22nd  
10AM - 2PM

to  
include  
homemade  
crafts,  
Christmas  
gifts,  
games,  
refreshments  
and  
more!

MAKE A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE



Reflections on Peace  
by Conchord Singers

Sat 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 3.00-4.00pm

Avenue St. Andrew's URC,  
The Avenue, Southampton, SO17 1XQ

Entry is free, but there will be a collection in aid of  
Yellow Door. A charity preventing and responding to  
domestic and sexual abuse.



## Psalm 102

*A prayer of one overwhelmed  
with trouble, pouring problems  
before the LORD.*



<sup>6</sup> I am like an owl in the desert, like  
a lonely owl in a far-off wilderness.

<sup>7</sup> I lie awake, lonely as a solitary  
bird on the roof.

No matter how dark and  
hopeless a situation might seem,  
never stop praying.

Billy Graham

GOD of balance and equilibrium,  
God of divine balance, God of the  
falling leaves and fading light, God  
of detachment and season changes.

In You everything has its right  
time, perfect timing in the perfectly  
unfolding divine plan.

I release to you my whole being,  
my whole life, my whole heart, my  
whole mind, my whole soul.

May I follow your rhythms and live  
life in all its fullness.

The first ever cordless phone  
was created by God. He named it  
*Prayer*. It never loses its signal  
and you never have to recharge it.  
Use it anywhere!

## DAVID PEARCE

DAVID's Service  
of Thanksgiving  
was held on 27<sup>th</sup>  
October in our  
church when fam-  
ily and friends gave  
thanks to God for his life.



His daughter-in-law, Debbie,  
led the eulogy followed by  
memories of him from Above  
Bar Church, David Wall-  
Clarke, Freemantle's Les Pike  
and long-time friend Rona  
White.

In Linda's talk she said, 'David  
was a loyal man. He was loyal  
to his family and friends and of  
course he was loyal to God,  
whom He loved so much.  
David was also a gentle man.  
He had a gentle soul.

'People have described him as  
a true gentleman. He was kind,  
considerate, faithful with a  
heart full of love. In David we  
saw so much of God's beautiful  
character, especially the faithful  
love that David lived out'.

In Les's memories he said  
'There is now a David shape  
missing and an empty chair. He  
is very much missed and will  
continue to be, for those of us  
who had the privilege to know  
him, because he was part of this  
church family'.

# BIBLE BLOCKBUSTERS

1. What 'B' was the title of the John who preached in the desert? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. What 'L', when perfect, drives out fear? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. What 'H' of salvation are we urged to wear? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. What 'J' with love and peace is a fruit of the Spirit? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. What 'G' was a language written over the Cross of Jesus? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. What 'C' was the land explored by twelve men in the days of Moses? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
7. What 'A' was the brother of Cain? \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers at bottom of page.

## Christmas gifts

WE WILL once again be running a *Reverse Advent Calendar* in support of the residents at Patrick House.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November, 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December, there will be a hamper at the back of the church to receive our gifts.

If you are able to donate any woolly hats, gloves, socks, toiletries and Christmas goodies, they will be most welcome. Thank you.

ANSWERS to Bible Blockbusters  
1, Baptist; 2, Love; 3, Helmet; 4, Joy; 5, Greek;  
6, Canaan; 7, Abel.

## Sunflower Baptist

### NOTICE BOARD

Chloe from Kingdom Kids has mislaid her library book which she thinks she left in the church hall last Sunday.

*The book is:*  
**Swimming the English Channel**  
by **Francis Near**



|                     |    |                  |
|---------------------|----|------------------|
| <b>Linda Hayes</b>  | on | 5 <sup>th</sup>  |
| <b>Gary Greaves</b> | on | 19 <sup>th</sup> |
| <b>Jann Sexton</b>  | on | 20 <sup>th</sup> |
| <b>Denis Wyles</b>  | on | 29 <sup>th</sup> |

*Thank you!*

... **for your financial giving** towards the work and witness of this church during October which totalled £1,339.

... **to** those 'angelic' folk who made our Light Party run so smoothly:

- Linda, our craft organiser and party bags collator
- Anita serving up teas, coffees and round dogs
- Steve, our outdoor lighting supremo
- Phyllis, helping children to ice biscuits
- Denise for yummy cakes
- Jo who helped carve the pumpkins



Our Fairtrade Genie

## No Fairtrade Fairy this year BUT . . .



THERE WAS excitement in the air on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October because rumours were rife that the Fairtrade Fairy might make an appearance. But she is an elusive creature and also very busy during Fairtrade Fortnight. Nevertheless, the congregation all closed their eyes, thought Fairtrade thoughts, and waited in anticipation.

Anita had laid a table at the front, all ready to offer her a cream tea, but when everyone opened their eyes there was a sigh of disappointment, the magic hadn't worked. Anita lifted the teapot towards the congregation, 'I was so looking forward to pouring her a nice Fairtrade cuppa,' she began, but as she spoke, she inadvertently rubbed the pot . . . up rose a strange figure!

'I am the Genie of the Fairtrade Teapot,' he announced, 'My wish is your command!'

Could that be right? Genies normally say, 'Your wish is my command.' But, as we quickly learnt, this genie wasn't like other genies! He even said he would turn Anita into a teabag if she got things wrong and then she'd be in hot water! She thought she liked the Fairy much better!

But Anita bravely asked him what his command was and here it is:

*My wish is simple, have no fear,  
I'll say it loud, I'll say it clear,  
to one and all both far and near,  
especially **you**, who've gathered here.  
It's all about Fairtrade you see,  
and **when you make a cup of tea,**  
**it must be Fairtrade, naturally!**  
So . . . have a cup of tea on me!*

And he liberally threw everyone Fairtrade teabags out the teapot, before disappearing toward the back in a puff of smoke - actually, there was no smoke!

Anita Pike

## TEA - the elixir of life

OVER 100 million cups of tea are drunk every day in the UK and tea production supports 13 million people worldwide, but the people behind the tea we drink face low wages, poor health and living conditions, health and safety risks, gender discrimination and violence, and increasingly, also the impacts of climate change.

It doesn't have to be that way and the Fairtrade Foundation are proving it. They directly address the issues by setting up co-operatives that bring workers together and put their voices to the fore which achieves life changing effects.

The Fairtrade system gives communities the power to drive rural development, improve health and education, and support women to empower themselves.

**BE PART OF THE CHANGE**  
- **BUY FAIRTRADE**



This is Sunitha Kumari, a supervisor on an Indian Fairtrade tea plantation. Her life has improved beyond measure with a responsible job, access to schooling for her children and also medical care.