



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

March 2026



ON 1st MARCH we, in the northern hemisphere, will enter meteorological spring, and by the end of the month the clocks will spring forward and it won't be dark before almost 8.00pm.

We have blossom on a tree in our garden already, and even the tortoise has woken up from his winter sleep. The birds are singing and frog spawn is in some ponds. Life is springing into action again after the winter.

The changing seasons are a big feature for us in Britain, who love to talk about the weather. Being in touch with the rhythms of the year and the changing seasons, and nature, has for many on this island we live on, been reflected in their spiritual journey and practice, and has been something I have been valuing more and more.

Being in nature is, for many, a way of connecting with their spiritual sense, or even a form of worship. The ancient celts found great spiritual wealth in nature, and so can we. So, whether it be the great outdoors, a local park, a back garden, or even a houseplant, let me encourage you to connect with nature and the God who made it!

Revd. Linda Hayes



Welcome

to our **SERVICES** 10.30am

We commence our **Sunday mornings with prayer in the church between 9.45am and 10.15am.**

You are very welcome to join us.

We continue our sermon series as we approach Easter in the company of the apostle Peter.

The services will be led by Revd Linda Hayes unless otherwise stated.

Sun 1st March Lent 2

Subject: **Declaration**

Reading: *Mark 8 : 27-30*

Sun 8th Lent 3

Subject: **Transfiguration**

Reading: *Matthew 17 : 1-11* Denise and Ian Ward

Sun 15th Lent 4 - MOTHERING SUNDAY

Subject: **Walking on water**

Reading: *Matthew 14: 22-36*

Sun 22nd Lent 5

Subject: **Peter fears Jesus' death** Ian Thomson

Reading: *Matt 16 : 21-28*

Sun 29th Lent 6

Subject: **PALM SUNDAY**

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 Service.



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 1st

Prayer Breakfast

9.00am - 10.00am

Prayer led by Caroline

Mon 2nd

Leaders' Meeting

2.00pm

Sun 8th

Church Lunch

Bring-and-share

12.30pm approx

Wed 1st April

Easter Party

3.30pm-5.00pm

For families and everyone else!

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



The Lord's Prayer It is all too easy to rush through the Lord's prayer - here is a way to help expand the ideas in each section.

Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name.

- Picture Calvary and thank God you can call Him Father by virtue of the blood of Jesus
- Hallow the names of God and make your faith declarations
Jehovah-rohi - The Lord is my Shepherd
Jehovah-nissi - The Lord is my Banner

Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

- Yourself
- Your family - husband, wife, parents, children, brothers, sisters
- Your church family - leadership, mission, fellowship
- Nation - local and national political and spiritual leaders

Give us today our daily bread

- Believe it is God's will to provide for you
- To be in the will of God - with our prayer, work, our giving
- Be specific

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us

- Ask God to forgive you
- Forgive those who upset you - their words and deeds
- Forgive as Christ did

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

- Put on the whole armour of God:
 - The belt of truth - the breastplate of righteousness
 - shield of faith - helmet of salvation
 - the feet equipped with the readiness of the gospel
 - sword of the spirit which is the word of God
 - praying always in the spirit.
- Pray for protection:
 - because you have made the Lord your dwelling
 - because you have set your love upon Him
 - because you acknowledge His name.

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever!

- Conclude with praise



THE EASTER JOURNEY . . . THE EASTER JOURNEY . .

HOLY WEEK starts with

PALM SUNDAY

29th March, 10.30am

It is the first day of Holy Week and celebrates Jesus' arrival in **Jerusalem** riding on a donkey.

People came out of the city to greet Him, throwing down their cloaks and **palm branches** on the road.

But Jesus' popularity did not last long and it was a different story for Him by Friday.

We gather to hail Jesus as King.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

2nd April, 6.30pm

Today we remember when Jesus ate the **Passover meal** with His disciples, breaking bread and drinking wine. We refer to this as the **Last Supper**.

We meet for a simple meal and then share Communion together.

Our wider Baptist family from across the city area have been invited to join us.

We gather together and remember.

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTIONS

3rd April, 9.30am-11.30am

Good Friday is called 'good' because it commemorates the positive, ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, dying for the sins of humanity, securing forgiveness and salvation.

Despite the sombre nature of the crucifixion, it is considered good

because it marks the victory over sin and death, paving the way for the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We gather to reflect and pray.

EASTER SUNDAY

5th April, 10.00am

A day of celebration.

After Jesus was crucified, His body was taken down from the cross and placed in a cave tomb.

The tomb was guarded by Roman soldiers and a heavy stone was put over the entrance.

Early on Sunday morning Mary Magdalene and some other women came to the tomb.

They found the stone had been moved and that Jesus' body was gone!

Soon after, Mary Magdalene met Jesus in the garden. He was alive! Risen from the dead!

And it wasn't long before all of the disciples, and many more people, were witnesses to the resurrection.

A special Easter breakfast will be served at 10.00am leading into a time of joyful worship at 10.30am.

We gather to rejoice!

Jesus Christ is risen today!

Alleluia!

You are warmly invited to all of these services



EASTER ON THE GREEN

Good Friday
from 2.00pm

ST JAMES by the Park are having *Easter on the Green* again this year.

It's a very popular event and great for families where they can have fun and explore the good news of Easter.

The Green is next door to the church in St James Road.



Who painted this masterpiece 'THE LAST SUPPER' in the Renaissance period? And when was it completed - (a) 1370 (b) 1498 or (c) 1525?

Answers page 6

The good news of Jesus will be presented in the city centre

Guildhall Square

Southampton

on **GOOD FRIDAY**
at **midday**



C.S. Lewis

YOU must make your choice: either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.

You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.

But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher.

He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

Lent Maze

Draw a path to show Jesus' journey into the desert. Making sure that you avoid the obstacles/temptations

Well done to the puzzlers and to Jon . . .



. . . at Sunflower Café for completing this 500 piece puzzle last month.

A lot of persistent patience was involved to get to the last piece!

Jon Fisher finished his humming bird engraving and plans to put in a frame.



Our MISSION Groups

MEET Sohodev! This little boy is the child the church sponsors through the Christian charity Compassion UK which is a new venture for us. He lives in a northern Bangladeshi village with his mum and dad in a basic house of mud construction with a leaf and grass thatched roof, typical of the region. Sohodev loves to jump and play ball games with his friends. He will be seven on 26th March.

Caroline Villeneuve is coordinating the link with Compassion and will keep in touch with Sohodev on our behalf. At a service back in February the congregation wrote messages to him which Caroline is collating into a letter from the church.

Compassion UK is a Christian charity whose aid is to empower children with the resources and relationships they need to address the spiritual, economic, social and physical challenges of poverty.

Please pray for Sohodev, and his family, that the support they receive will help him to thrive in all areas of his life.

Prayer requests from Compassion UK

- Staff and volunteers as they work to help children in need.
- God's protection over vulnerable children and families in Bangladesh.
- Wisdom for those in leadership as they care for their communities.

In full flow



HERE are our Pancake Makers, in full production, at the pancake party on 17th February. They were kept busy throughout and it was great to see so many people come along. Our washer uppers also did a sterling job in keeping up with the pace.

As well as tucking into the delicious pancakes with sumptuous toppings, there were paper crafts and colouring to occupy the lively minds in the hall, or folk could choose the quiet of the church.

ANSWERS TO PAINTING
Leonardo Da Vinci in 1498



Why does the Easter date change each year?

QUITE simply, Easter Sunday is deemed to be the first Sunday after the full Moon, following the March Equinox.

This year, the March Equinox is 20th March. The full Moon after this date is on 2nd April and therefore Easter Sunday is the following Sunday which is the 5th April!

The Apostle PETER

Our present sermon series, as we approach Easter, is based around the apostle Peter and who should pay us a visit, not once, but two weeks in a row, but Peter himself?! Aka Les Pike of course.



Peter reflects the position of all the disciples as they got to know Jesus and grappled with the question, 'Who is this?' But it was Peter who first declared, 'You are the Son of God'.

We look forward to hearing more about him in the coming weeks.

You can catch up with all our services on our Facebook page.

Sunflower Baptist

NOTICE BOARD

Our After Church Lunch speaker, Patricia Page, will this month talk about *World Book Day* and how she got completely lost in the book *The History of Amazing Mazes*.



... for your financial giving towards the work and witness of this church during February which came to £1,467 a weekly average being £367.



A time to Thank God for Mums, past and present.
Sunday 15th March

MARCH'S BIBLE VERSE

Matthew 17:20

If you have faith . . .
Nothing will be impossible for you.



PEARL MILLER
on 9th
SOHODEV
on 26th

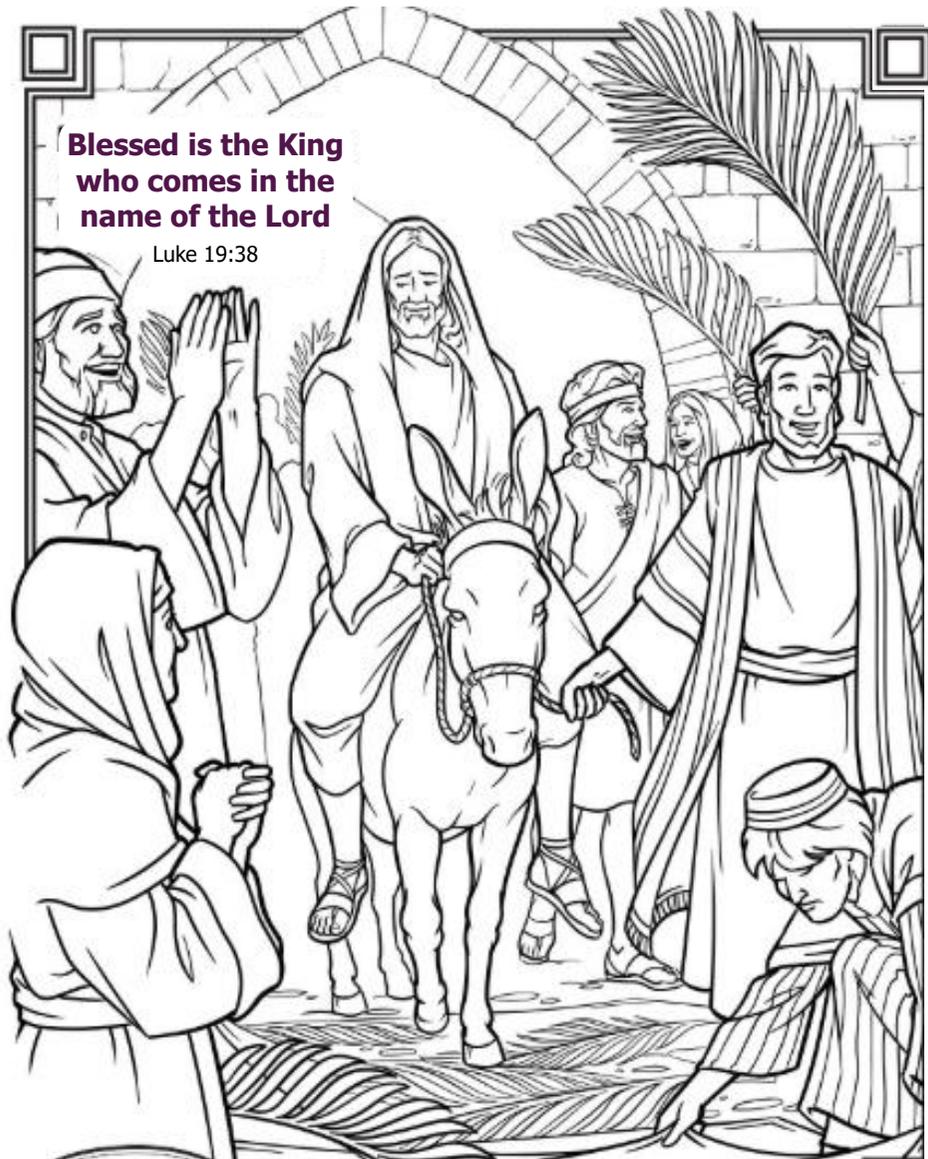


Happy
Wedding Anniversary

LINDA and STEVE HAYES
on 30th March - 35 years
LES and ANITA PIKE
on 3rd April - 44 years

**Blessed is the King
who comes in the
name of the Lord**

Luke 19:38



**Why not have a go at colouring this scene of
Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem?**

If you then take a photo and send it to Les on 07563 667445, he will print them all off to include in a *Palm Sunday Gallery* on 29th March.