



FREEMANTLE BAPTIST CHURCH
Testwood Road, Southampton

In focus

July 2026



WHETHER you take a keen interest in the World Cup football or not, there is no denying that globally it has created a lot of interest!

Apparently, viewership for the tournament is projected to exceed five billion.

The competition that started with forty eight teams will be whittled down to the final two on 19th July. Overall, there are a total of 1050 players who can be used to play if needed. So the ratio between spectators and participants is approximately one player for every 4,700,000 spectators!

If figures are rather mind-boggling to you, then to put it simply, there are an enormous number of spectators compared to those actually taking part in the game.

Similarly, in churches, there sadly tends to be more spectators in the life of a church than there are 'battling on the playing field'. This is a tragedy really because everyone has been blessed with God-given talents and they're not always being used to their full potential. This begs the question, is everyone in our church exercising their gifts for the good of others and the glory of God?

The apostle Peter says 'Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms'. (1 Peter 4:10).

So, to spectate or participate, that is the question. Let those who are able, be stirred to seek and serve our Lord, with sincere devotion, to take an active part in the life of the church.

Les Pike

Welcome

to our **JUNE SERVICES** 10.30am

Our **Sunday mornings** start with **prayer**
in the church **between 9.45am and 10.15am.**
You are very welcome to join us.

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

Sun 5th July

Subject:

**Fruit of the Spirit:
Patience**

Will Rosie

Reading: Gal 6:9; Psalm 37:7; Isaiah 40:28-31

Sun 12th

Subject: **Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness/kindness**

Reading: Luke 6:27-36 Ian Thomson

Sun 19th

Subject: **Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness**

Reading: Psalm 37: 1-6

Sun 26th

Subject: **Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness** *Belong*

Reading: Proverbs 3:3-6



**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.



A BIBLE VERSE
FOR JULY

*He is able
to aid those
who are
tempted.*

Hebrews 2:18

Singer Cliff Richard says

*What other people think
of me is becoming less
and less important; what
they think of Jesus
because of me, is critical.*

GOOD FRIDAY
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

*Previous sermons are on our
Facebook page*

Contacts:

Revd. LINDA HAYES
Mob: 07963 803884
pastorlinda103@gmail.com

ANITA PIKE
Administrator and
hall bookings
07814 445929
calm.pike82@gmail.com



A prayer for people serving our Lord

WE pray for those people who serve our Lord, whether it's in this church, in the Shirley and Freemantle area, or in our city We ask especially for those who face difficult issues, who need a lot of encouragement.

We pray that they may be faithful in what they do, enthusiastic in their work and that Your kingdom may be extended and the needs and the welfare of Your people met.

We pray that the church will always be a place of welcome and warmth where people are accepted and valued irrespective of who they are. Equip each Christian follower to be filled with the gifts and fruits of the Spirit in their witness for you.

Amen.

Source: BBC Daily Service

J
u
l
y

P
r
a
y
e
r
s

A prayer for sporting events

Gracious God, thank You for the thrill of big sporting events, whether its football, tennis, or cricket, during July, and the opportunities for people to gather together or watch on television.

As we cheer on our team or player, help us to be respectful of the opponents and supportive of the players.

Guard our hearts against frustration and help us to keep the outcome of the game in a healthy perspective. Amen

LORD, we lift to You Jean Hulse and her two daughters, Evelyn and Becky and their loved ones as they come to terms with the loss of Tony.

In the coming days leading up to his Thanksgiving Service and in the weeks and months that lie ahead, we ask that You will be their peace, comfort, strength and encouragement.

We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen

CHRIST, our Teacher and Lord, we give thanks for all the teachers, teaching assistants, and school staff who have nurtured young hearts and minds this past year.

We pray that You will grant them the rest and deep refreshment they need over the summer holidays.

Clear their minds of weariness and bless them and their families with relaxation and fun. In Jesus' name, Amen.



TONY HULSE

OUR dear friend and brother in the Lord has passed away at Southampton General Hospital. He died peacefully after a short illness on 17th June.

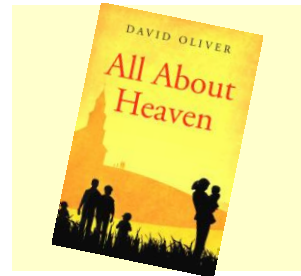
Tony's deep faith was kindled as a boy when he looked at the night sky and knew God must have created such a wonder. Then his Boy's Brigade captain had a profound influence during his teenage years in London and he was baptised.

He first started coming to Freemantle Baptist soon after he moved into the area over 50 years ago but didn't actually become a member until 2009; he attended regularly and took an active part in church life ever since. There were often lively discussions at the Home Group when Tony was around. Even after he was so frail he liked nothing better than to be in church on a Sunday.

Tony's keen interest in photography meant he often had a camera in one pocket and a wadge of prints to show everyone in the other. Many church events over the years were recorded by Tony. He also put his artistic talents to excellent use and supplied a painting for In Focus every month for eleven years, illustrating Bible stories and characters.

There was a period when we would act out events from the Bible and Tony was always keen to be involved. His performance as the High Priest was memorable and also as one of the angels announcing the resurrection.

We are so grateful to God for Tony's life and faith, his love and his care. As much as we miss him we rejoice that now, as he put it himself, he has embarked, 'on the next big adventure'. Anita Pike



... is a 2019 Christian autobiography and spiritual book by David Oliver.

The book explores the concept of the afterlife, detailing personal faith journeys, biblical promises, and the nature of paradise.

The key themes of the book are eternal life, Biblical evidence, and personal faith.

Price: from £3.70 online for a used copy.



IT was great to have Heather and Yutang worship with us here over the last six months while working in Southampton and travelling around Britain. Now they return to Canada with our love and prayers.

Satvir comes to FBC



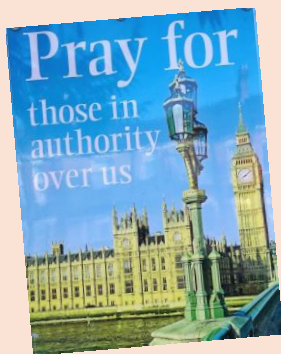
Satvir Kaur MP

IT was a great pleasure to be able to host the

Big Southampton Test Community Conversation

on Saturday 27th June.

Our local MP, Satvir Kaur, held her first coffee and conversations morning here in the church and one is planned for each ward in the constituency.



1 Tim 2:1,2



Our Livewire's families

together with Anita and Barry, have planted out the sunflowers and bedding plants in the church front garden.

So a big thank you to all our 'green fingered' friends for adding such a lovely splash of colour.



HERE is Jo showing her completed framed picture of a sunflower made up of tiny individually placed crystals for display on the church wall.

She had a well-deserved round of applause from the congregation on the 14th June for this labour of love.

Coming up . . .

Sun 5th July
Prayer Breakfast

Prayer: 9.00
Breakfast: at 9.30am
Led by Anita

Tues 7th
National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast

Livestream - 7.45am-9.00am

Sun 12th
Church Lunch

Bring-and-Share
Approx 12.30pm

Fri 24th
Thanksgiving Service
for Tony Hulse
Further details later

Sun 26th
- tbc - Church AGM

12.15 approx

From SOHODEV

WE'VE recently had another letter from Sohodev, the seven-year-old boy we sponsor through Compassion.

In it he says that during the school break/holiday he goes to his maternal grandmother's house and enjoys spending time with his younger brother and friends.

He enjoys eating meat and rice. For future breaks he would like to go back to his grandmother and also to visit his aunt.

A note from his tutor says, 'First of all, take greetings and love on behalf of Sohodev's family. Sohodev and everyone in his family are doing well. His family wants to know how you are doing.

'He thanks you immensely for helping him financially.

'Sohodev comes to the project regularly and participates in all kinds of activities. He requests prayers for his family.'



Thank you!

... **for your financial giving** towards the work and witness of this church during June which came to £1,655, a weekly average of £413.80

... **to all those** who came on 7th May for our summer clean in the church. Those dusty areas are no more and a good tidy up round has added a sparkle to our place of worship.

... **for everybody's** contributions to church lunches. Lunch on the second Sunday of the month is always something to look forward to!

A note from Pearl Miller on receiving her gift in appreciation for all the years being the second signatory for our finances:

A BIG thank you for the wonderful pot of flowers for the garden presented to me recently.

A wonderful surprise and I'm happy to report that is flourishing beautifully.

Love Pearl.

Sunflower Baptist

NOTICE BOARD

With the football World Cup finals coming up on the big screen at church, it has been discovered that Cinderella has been dropped from the team. This is because she keeps running away from the ball.



12-year-old Catherine Pickles' (nee Pike's)
report on the

JUNIOR CHURCH PICNIC

June 1998

THERE WERE 15 adults and 11 children and one dog that came on the picnic. We set off to Weston Shore after a quick cup of tea at the church.

We had lunch and talked, and then the more energetic ones went to play in the park. The park is made totally of wood, except the aerial slide. This is what I spent all of the time on. We queued up and took it in turns to sit on the seat and swing along the wire.

My dad and Mr Hendy [lay pastor] gave everyone a push off and it was great fun! After a while, we persuaded them to go on it too, but as it is not really meant for adults, they weighed it down, so it went slower.

Also my mum had a turn. This was very funny as [my brother] Matthew pulled her sandals off and she refused to move until she had them back. This meant that she had three turns in a row. Ha! Ha!

Soon it started to pour down with rain so we had to take cover under some play equipment. When it stopped, Jacqueline Holt had a go on the aerial slide and loved it, so we all had lots more goes.

We were called together to go on a walk but before that had ice creams which Mrs Hill brought. The walk was through the woods, over a little stream and out into the open.

Just as we got to the fields, the heavens opened and it rained harder than the first time. Only three people had raincoats and most other people had only shorts, tee-shirts and perhaps a jacket.

We were drenched by the end and this caused us to come straight home, finishing our picnic early. Humph!

Apart from this it was extremely enjoyable.



Centre: A soggy Catherine
Left: Her mum, Anita
Right: Malcolm Green



2026's favourite butterfly

IN A recent national poll, more than 20,000 votes were cast to determine the UK's favourite butterfly. And it was the colourful peacock who fluttered to the top spot.

In close second came the orange-tip butterfly, followed by red admirals. Fourth place were the holly blues and the bright yellow brimstone butterfly came fifth.

Peacocks come in striking colours and are often bright red with a spectacular pattern of eyespots, which evolved to confuse predators.

The peacock beat 59 other British species in the vote, which was organised by the Butterfly Conservation charity.



Orange tip



Red admiral



Holly blue



Brimstone

THERE is a **BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT** coming up to see how many of the UK's 60 butterfly species people can spot. This will take place from Friday 17th July to Sunday 9th August.

Last year the charity declared a "butterfly emergency" as numbers recorded in its annual count fell to a record low.

Butterflies play a very important role in our ecosystems, helping pollinate flowers and plants, controlling pests and providing food for other animals, like birds and bats.

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small.
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*



The *Friends of Freemantle Lake Park* are hosting a local [Big Butterfly Count](#) event on

Sunday 19th July

from **1:00pm to 3:00pm**
at Freemantle Lake Park

Meet the Friends group in the park, Lakelands Drive.

This is an opportunity to be involved in a UK wide project, whilst having a family fun afternoon.

There will be lots of identifying and counting, including day moths, with Freemantle Baptist running the craft area.