



Zion Baptist Church
In the heart of Tenterden

Newsletter

Spring 2023

Church Members Meeting
12th February
After the Sunday Service

Rainbow Tots in January



So far this term, we have been realising something of just how much God loves us. Our collage of Tots helped us know that we are all welcome here. Making a sparrow, taught us that God knows each of us by name (we're not just two a penny like the bible sparrows)! Our tool box reminded us that God has made us all different, with different jobs to do in life. Finally, we have been learning that we all need each other to

make up the whole 'body' of Rainbow Tots. Francesca has joined our willing team of helpers too, and our prayer is that the families who come may come to realise the reality of Jesus and His love in each of their lives. SM



'WEALD HAMLET FC' - CHURCH FOOTBALL.....more on p10

Church Diary:

Sunday Worship Service

10.30am, in church and online/Zoom
The Lord's Supper is celebrated on
the first and third Sunday each month

Saturday Prayer Meeting

2nd and 4th Saturday, 8.30am

Church Monthly Prayer Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7.30pm

Coffee Morning

Every Thursday, 10am-12noon

Church open for prayer

Every Friday, 10am-12noon

Church Members Meeting

Sunday, 12th February, 12noon

Café Church

Sunday, 26th February + 19th March

CTiT Lent Lunches

every Friday, 24th February to 31st March

Maundy Thursday Communion

Thursday, 6th April, 8pm

Our **Home Groups** run fortnightly.

Mondays 10am-12noon
and Thursdays 8pm-10pm

Rainbow Tots

Parent and toddler group
Wednesday, term time,
9.30am-11.30am

Letter from our Pastor:

As I am writing these lines, I read in one of the newspapers; "*UK braced for biggest day of strikes this winter.*" Sadly, this type of news is becoming more common as we hear about teachers strikes, rail workers, university staff, NHS workers, and civil servants strikes. On top of this we constantly hear about unrest in the middle east, the war in Ukraine, earthquakes, natural disasters, and global recession. It looks as if the world is sailing in turbulent waters, with strong winds beating us with uncertainty and fear.



What should be our attitude as Christians because, lately, even our faith has been constantly challenged by voices that are asking us to change or re-interpret what the Bible says in order to be relevant in today's society. Otherwise, Christianity would be irrelevant as it is.

Our Lord Jesus warned us about wars and rumours of wars, famines, and earthquakes in various places and that His followers would be hated by all nations because of Him. But He encourages His believers not to be alarmed (Read Matthew 24:7-13).

Yes! As we start this New Year, perhaps we are facing many challenges in our personal lives, finances, at work or business, health, or a crisis of faith. And the picture of a ship sailing in turbulent waters would resemble our lives at this particular moment. Sometimes we could feel that we have been beaten by strong winds and we are about to sink.

When I was in the Navy we often had to sail in turbulent waters. Usually it was dark, cold, and windy but there was a device that gave us assurance, "The anchor". The sea anchor, for example, is a device that streamed from a boat/ship in extreme weather to stabilize the ship. And when we reached port, or we were near the coast we would use the ship anchor to hold the ship firmly to one place. So, even when we had to endure strong winds of bad weather, we knew that we were not completely at the mercy of the elements.

'An anchor is the accepted symbol of hope.' In Hebrews 6:19 we read "*We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*" Whatever our circumstances we need to remember that the Word of God never changes, heaven and earth pass away but God's Word will never pass away. As Christians we have our hope in Jesus Christ, our Rock. Therefore, when we are facing challenging times. Let's remember that we have an anchor, our faith in Jesus. This hope holds us secure through all

the tempests of life. Here are the words of this old hymn to reminds us:

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.



Truly we can trust God and our Saviour Jesus
Christ, with our souls.

Freddy

BMS Birthdays:



13th Feb. Mrs. Pat Adkins
19th Feb. Miss Jackie Goodsell
2nd March, Mrs. Carolyn Bottrill
7th March, Mrs. Christine Black
7th March, Mrs. Polly Stevens
18th March, Mrs. Suzanne Martin
28th March, Rev. Freddy Farias Palacios
31st March, Mrs. Cecilia Arias Olvera
14th April, Mrs. Wendy Lyons
26th April, Mrs. Fran Sangar
26th April, Rev. David Adkins

BMS birthday scheme secretary: Miss Jackie Goodsell

First Fruits Sunday Club

We have prayerfully made the decision to hold First Fruits just once per month, still seeking God's directing in reaching out to the children and young people. First Fruits helpers ensure that a creche is available (in the back room) for Archie each week, and he has been joined by Suzanne's grandchildren too on one occasion! We have also welcomed Tots' families to our all-age service this month. Amber and Kirsty continue to participate well in First Fruits, and we have been learning about Jesus' baptism, and His temptations in the wilderness, as He prepared to start His earthly ministry. Please hold all those who have been touched by our children's ministry, in your prayers.

SM

By Christopher Teesdale:

I suspect that there are very few of us who find the command of Jesus to go into the World to tell people about what He means to us are not daunted by the prospect of doing just that. We are generally happy to give an account of our Faith when someone asks us about it, but to approach someone 'cold' as it were, and tell them the Good News, well, that is something altogether different! We expect most people will be hostile if not aggressive or abusive for invading their space; or alternatively they will probably think we are fanatics or simple minded and politely say "No thanks".

But if we all make that excuse and don't make the first move so many, *who might have*, will never have the chance of ever hearing the Gospel. Very few these days feel a **need** to ask Christians why they believe. We tend to hope they will get the urge to **come** into Church and ask questions but how many do you know who have done that? I feel we must take Jesus' command seriously to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into his vineyard (Matt. 9:38) and please Lord let it be me!

Can I share a method of evangelism that I have recently come across and have used very successfully? Developed by *Australia for Jesus* (AFJ) this non-confrontational approach invites people to give their opinion on a short presentation, which has been previously loaded on one's phone. It starts by asking whether people think there is any point or purpose to life and whether they believe that there is an entrance requirement for Heaven. If they let you get this far, they generally allow you to complete the presentation, as most have an empty space in their spiritual lives, even if they don't acknowledge it, and want to give their opinion since you asked for it!

Even if they express no interest in exploring the Christian message further after the 5 - 10 minute chat, they will have had the seeds of Faith sown in their minds and we have carried out the task Jesus asked of us. It now depends on the work of the Holy Spirit and our prayer that they will think more deeply and seek further enlightenment if the message has opened their hearts.

We aim to go out in teams of 2, after meeting for prayer beforehand and have supplies of tracts to leave with people as reminders of what they have heard. This approach has had incredible results in Australia. Earlier this month in a town called Tamworth in Northern NSW, 493 were willing to listen to the full presentation of the *Way of Life* and 241 prayed the 'sinners prayer'

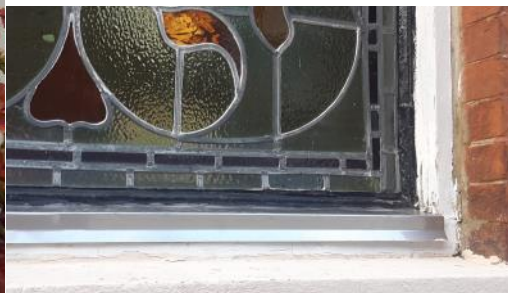
at the end in acknowledgement that they wanted Jesus to enter their lives. Praise God, there is now a huge army of Christians across the whole country bringing hundreds to Faith. AFJ provide training on the internet and are happy to help us develop a similar approach to evangelism here. There are currently only three of us going out into Tenterden every week. We would love to have others join in this important mission work for Jesus. Please give it your prayer and deep consideration that you are not being called to join us.

Can you hear Jesus calling you, personally, in His words: "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men"?(Mark 1:17)

Christopher



James has been busy with improvements to the church, adding insulation to the front door and strengthening the window sills outside with metal strips. He's also made a beautiful cross over the altar we all can face towards during the Sunday service! Thank you, James



Throughout January, I'm sure you have heard the words "January blues" being said frequently.

I've been reflecting on what I can do to help friends avoid falling into this mood.

I've had the opportunity to reach out to old friends, who I didn't know were struggling. In one particular conversation I spoke to my friend who's a Muslim and we started talking about seasons in our lives. As she shared her story, I mentioned "joy is formed in the midst of the difficult seasons of life". She went yes! And she went on to share what she was grateful for.

After our conversation I reflected on these words.

Soon after I watched a sermon where it explained that there are three types of doors in our lives that God has set out for us that we need to encounter to make us stronger.

1. The Manual door- it requires effort from us as we pull and push through life opening and trying different doors which can bring pain, happiness and frustration.

2. The Revolving door- it doesn't require effort but it requires timing because if we miss the opportunity we just carry on going in circles. It's God's timing, not ours.

3. The Automatic door- does not require effort or timing. Just show up! And the door that God is asking us to go through will open.

I was particularly drawn to the third door, are we showing up for the Lord? Are we bringing everything to him? Our weaknesses, our wrongs, our pain?

January may be seen as a month full of anxiety, depression, full of worry but the Lord is saying we just need to show up.

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.' " — Jeremiah 29:11.

I'm excited for the new year, especially starting 2023 with a unique service thank you to Simon. Please keep praying that our hearts are softened and we are ready to welcome all the new families that God will lead to Zion Baptist church. Let's show up for the Lord!

Allison

Share with others

Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person." [Colossians 4:5-6](#)

I have been hearing God a lot recently telling me I should share more about him with every person I meet. I find the above verse sums up nicely what God wants each of us to do. I am very aware the end times are near, and it is our responsibility as Christians to share the good news to those who do not know the grace and love of Jesus.

In the past I wondered why I was working in a bank in a strictly commercial environment whose aim is to generate money. How does this reconcile with Christian values? God clearly told me he wants me in these surroundings because he has appointed me to do this work for him in the location, he has chosen for me and It's my responsibility to use the time and opportunities to share about him. This is one frontline I have; each of us will have our own all different, but the principal will be the same

I am not a preacher nor an evangelist, but I can share of my personal experience and faith when called to do so. Often, we find opportunities to share a word or action which will cause people to think.

Within our church we have several opportunities for outreach which I feel are perfect for inviting folks who may find church intimidating. I have been encouraged for example by the response when I have invited people to football. I feel it's important for us to reflect on our own frontlines. We are there for many reasons one of these being to share more of him

Simon Smith



World Day of Prayer

Friday, 3rd March, 2pm, Methodist Church

God speaks to us.

“When Jesus was dragged from the Garden of Gethsemane, after a night of agonised prayer and terrible, lonely fear; when He was put on trial for simply being Himself, and beaten, and kicked, and jeered at, did I insist that you solve, for Me, the problem of pain and suffering?

No. I let you hurt and abuse My Son – My Baby.

When He hauled Himself, bruised and bleeding, along the road to His own death, knowing that a single word from Him would be enough to make Me release Him from His burden, did I let you down?

No. I let you crush Him under the weight of your cross. My Son – My Baby.

When the first nail smashed into the palm of His hand, and everything in a Father’s heart wanted to say to those weeping legions of angels ‘Go! Fight your way through and rescue Him! Bring Him back where He belongs!’, did I abandon you, to judgement?

No. I let you kill My Son – My Baby.

And when He had been up upon that accursed tree for three long hours, and when, with every ounce of strength left in His poor, suffering body, He screamed at Me ‘Why have You forsaken Me!?!?’, did I scream back ‘I haven’t! I haven’t! It’s all just a nightmare! Come back – they aren’t worth it.’?

No. I love you too much – far too much to do that. I let your sin cut Me off from My Son – My Baby.

And that death, dismal, depressing and horribly unjust, as it was; the death of My innocent Son, has brought peace and hope to many.

The death of My Son shows you just where I am in your suffering: right there alongside you.”

from Adrian Plass’ ‘Clearing out the Rubbish’.

SM

CHURCH FOOTBALL – ‘WEALD HAMLET FC’

Church football continues to grow and develop. We are now building a thriving walking football programme (40+ age group) which has attracted interest from outside the town through our church facebook page and through the Walking Football Association website. We have welcomed a number of new players and also have a regular group from Biddenden who join us on Friday nights.



The men’s 11-a-side team is bedding into a programme of fixtures as part of the East Kent Churches League, playing on Saturday mornings. There are over twenty young men now playing regularly, including half a dozen former ‘Juicy Grapes’ youth club members. We also have a few veteran players joining them. The men’s team has started 2023 winning its first ever league game and we are hopeful of competing well, and enjoying our football in the run up to the spring. We will be having a few friendly matches midweek for anyone interested – any level – for enjoyment and exercise.

We plan to send several teams (men’s football, women’s football and walking football) to the London Churches Football Festival in the summer (we sent a men’s team in 2022, and previously men, women and walkers in 2021). The date and venue of this tournament have not yet been announced, but it is a fun day out for our large mixed group of players of all ages, alongside hundreds of other players from dozens of churches – watch this space for details.

Friday night training at Homewood School 3G (all weather pitch under floodlights) is on:

Friday 3 rd February	8pm – 9pm	Friday 14 th April	8pm – 9pm
Friday 24 th February	8pm – 9pm	Friday 28 th April	8pm – 9pm
Friday 10 th March	8pm – 9pm	Friday 12 th May	8pm – 9pm
Friday 24 th March	8pm – 9pm	Friday 28 th May	8pm – 9pm

If interested, see Simon Black or Simon Smith or email:
wealdhamlet@gmail.com



Walking Footballers

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