



Zion Baptist Church
In the heart of Tenterden

Newsletter

FEBRUARY/MARCH
2021



Rainbow Tots:

Within the confines of the pandemic restrictions, Zion managed to hold a Covid-safe Christingle Service for Rainbow Tots, one Wednesday in December. 20 mums and 28 children took part, and we enjoyed child-friendly worship together, singing songs, learning about our best friend, Jesus, who is the Light of the world. Each child was given a pack, and they made their own Christingles, to take home. One mum commented that she had been “dreading Christmas during Covid”, but that the service had made her realise more of what Christmas is really about, and able to look forward more to it. Thank you to Rachel and Simon Black, Iain and Carolyn Bottrill, and Christine Black and Kiyo Critchell for taking time out to come and help. Christine and Suzanne have maintained contact with Rainbow Tots throughout these challenging times, and we really pray that we will be able to resume meeting as a group before too long.

SM

Letter from our Pastor

It's been almost two years since my family and I arrived at Tenterden, to serve at Zion Baptist Church. We give thanks for the love and support we have received because it has been the fuel that has helped us to settle little by little and to minister here. Certainly, I would have never imagined to be serving under these challenging times (Lockdowns, Tier systems, Churches door closed, etc...). However, by the grace of God we have been able to continue to have fellowship, to worship, to encourage one another and to serve our local community.



Before we came, something that drew my attention was an article about "Tenterden History and Heritage". I learned that "Before the great storms of the 15th century silted up the River Rother, Tenterden was linked to the sea and became an important ship building centre and trading port." Tenterden was an affluent centre for the wool trade in the 13th Century and had the advantage of direct access to the sea. Much of what is now Romney Marsh was under water, and ships docked at Smallhythe. But these things have since changed. Tenterden has lost direct access to the sea, which is now some ten miles away. Tenterden has changed.

As we start a New Year, we know things have changed and will continue to change. Every day we hear about new government guidelines, more businesses and companies going into liquidation, more people losing their jobs. We read or watch the news about unrest and divisions in the USA. Suffering in different parts of the world due to the coronavirus but also corruption, and political and social unrest.

Let's be reminded that God's love never changes. Remember, God loves you and He has a plan for us in 2021.

Billy Graham once said:

"Don't let the newspapers headlines frighten you. God is still sovereign; He's still on the throne."

Perhaps you wonder how can I help? If I am not a doctor, a nurse, a carer or someone in a place of authority, how can I contribute to improve this situation? What can we do as Christians?

A sociology professor asked a pastor one day what the pastor could do for people who come to him for help in their marriages, work, or personal lives. The pastor replied, "We can give them hope."

The apostle Paul reaches the climax of his general exhortations to the church in Colossae in Colossians 3:17; "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."

Christ is the hope of every believer, Christ is the hope of the Christian family. Christ is the hope of His church. Christ is the hope of God's creation.

To be a Christian is to have access to this Hope (Jesus), who allows us to have hope in life, in our families and future.

As we start this New Year, perhaps there is an important question we should ask ourselves as part of the body of Christ.

What can we do to be more relevant as a church in Tenterden, during these challenging times?

Before we answer this question. Remember that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His word, mercy and love never changes. We have the hope of eternal lives because of our Lord Jesus and we are called to share this hope.

People need to see Jesus in our lives. Therefore, whatever we do in 2021 in word or deed in our workplaces, Schools, neighbourhoods, and homes. Let us do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Let us depend on Him under the guidance of the Holy Spirit so the outcome would bring praise to God the Father.

Freddy

Saturday Prayer Meeting:

Every fortnight, 8.30am
Zoom link via email

Church Monthly Prayer Meeting:

Thursday, **11th** February, 7.30pm
Zoom link via email

Our **Home Groups** run fortnightly.

They are currently on Zoom only.

Mondays 10am-12noon and Thursdays 8pm-10pm
Please join a Home Group

Fellowship Meeting

alternate Mondays, from 10am
join us for a chat and a time of fellowship
Zoom link via email

Churches Together Combined Service for Tenterden Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

This service was on Zoom last Sunday evening. Zion had recorded it's part beforehand. It was fitting to celebrate this service for Christian unity with people (60+ participants) from different Tenterden churches.

CH

We continue with our **"Forty Days of Prayer"**
(Churches Together in Tenterden).

Please look out for Freddy's email for the link to the daily reflection.
Zion did the first week of reflections to the theme of the 'Lord's Prayer'

As part of my study of The Life of a Jesus Follower, I came across this really helpful way of looking at what it means to "Abide in Christ" and thought it might be helpful to others:

Abiding in Christ = "To make Jesus Christ our permanent home"

- o Home is where your heart is; it is where you want to be.
- o Home is the place to which you return, the place to which you are eager to get back to (e.g., when you've been on holiday).
- o Home is where you feel comfortable and can really be yourself.
- o Home is a place of safety and security.
- o Home is where you bring your friends when you wish to have fellowship with them.
- o Home is our base of operations; it is at the centre of what we do.
- o Home is where you find your strength for life; it is where you eat and sleep.
- o Home is where the people and the things we love the most are found.

Carolyn



BMS Birthdays:

13th Feb Mrs Pat Adkins
19th Feb Miss Jackie Goodsell
14th Feb Rhys Hendry

2nd March Mrs Carolyn Bottrill
7th March Mrs Christine Black
18th March Mrs Suzanne Martin



The church is looking for a First Aider. Any volunteer, please contact Freddy. Training (online) will be provided.

Next Church Members Meeting

Sunday, 9th May, after the morning service

Hardship Fund

Thank you to those from our fellowship who have donated towards the church's Hardship Fund. To date we have helped **8 families**, providing Tesco vouchers, given over a number of weeks, to enable them to buy essential items which they would have been very challenged to provide otherwise. By visiting them each week to deliver the vouchers, it has also enabled us to build deeper relationships, particularly with some Rainbow Tots families.

"This actually is Christian love in action!"

was the comment from one family. If you feel concern for a needy person (s), please contact Freddy, Iain, Iain, Christine Hendry or Suzanne. Complete privacy is assured within this group. Similarly, if you feel led to contribute to the hardship Fund, please see Iain. Pray that those who have received will want to increase their contact with us, and explore Jesus' love for them, in action.

SM

Tree of Hope

Our Tree of Hope for Tenterden stood beautifully upright in the church garden, a prominent place in the High Street. It occasioned much comment, and people regularly stopped to write their messages of hope and hang them on the tree, over 100 were collected. We were also blessed that St Michaels Primary School and Homewood school talked about the tree in school, and some classes provided messages. Two of the St Michaels children and their teacher, Mrs Pashin, recorded messages which were read out during the church's service of Hope on 13th December.

As with the display on the church doors, during the first 'lockdown' of 2020: **'Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow'**, we pray that this witness to the people of our town might encourage them in the challenging times of Covid, and inspire them to think of the Christian faith, and maybe to find out more.

SM

Please watch over my family and friends and keep us all safe and healthy. Please keep the world safe and well and help Covid to be eradicated. Please help there to be peace in the world.

Peace and the love of God throughout the world.

I hope my family won't get Covid

Thinking of Roger, who is having chemo. God bless

Equality

We always have love & hope, reminds us more at this time of year.

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Praying for a healthy 2021 and lots of new memories, such as getting our first home, marriage and be blessed with our own children.

Please heal the world and comfort us in difficult times

RIP grandad I love you

Bless you our loving son Benj 1975-2015

For Ania, please get well
For Alex pls stay well

Please God, our Father let our granddaughter Ella start getting better and a happier girl—let her mam, dad & sisters be happy again

Dearest Emma, our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Lots of love, AR



You O Lord are our only hope. Guide us through this

I wish I was in Wales in my own house.

Give us strength to get through the next few difficult months.

Wish for a safe and kind 2021 for everyone all around the world.

I pray for xx, that she will cease drinking and fall pregnant. Please.

We hope these difficult times won't harm us and our loved

We hope everyone can see all of their friends and family in 2021

I hope 2021 is a better year for everyone! I also pray for my son Myles to watch over him always

Father God, thank you for the hope we've got in Jesus!

Can not wait to meet our loved ones and friends again. We miss you all

Thank you, God for being alongside us in all of this. We **hope** to be more

LOCKDOWN RULES

WASH your heart with Christ's blood. (Psalm 73:1)

KEEP a social distance from evil. (Job 28:28)

AVOID the crowd of wickedness and wicked men. (Psalm 1:!))

COVER your mind from being infected from the sneeze of sin & hatred. (Lev. 19:17)

DO NOT shake hands with abomination (Deut. 25;16)

DO NOT hug heresy and false teachings. (2 Pet. 2:1)

BE SAFE so that you will be saved. (Jer. 17:14)

SANITIZE your life with the WORD of God. (Psalm.1:")

IN CASE you notice any symptom's of sin, call the helpline of Christ in **PRAYER.** (Jer.33:3)

ALWAYS remember to boost your spiritual immunity with **FAITH** and the **POWER** of the **HOLY SPIRIT.** (Jude1:20)

DC



A quote from Monty Don, in December 2020's "Gardeners' World" magazine:

"Hold all things dear, because this - here... now... - is life.

All of life, all of love, all dreams, are in this moment.

The everyday and the ordinary don't need any contrived transformation.

The possibility of delight is there, in the most humble and ordinary of moments."

SM

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)

Friday, 5th March

Women of the Republic of Vanuatu have prepared this service.

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS:

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The Answer to COVID
to the tune of 'Blowin' in the Wind'

How many waves of COVID will come
And how many freedoms be taken away
While we go on flouting God's laws?
And how many hospital beds filled with those
Who find that they just can't breathe in?
The answer, my friends, it lies in ourselves
In humble repentance for sin

Think of those children who can't go to school
Whose parents are struggling to cope
When all this is over, will you have a job?
The future looks bleak, without hope
And all those who suffer alone in their room
Deprived of a greeting and grin
The answer, my friends, it lies in ourselves
In humble repentance for sin

How many cases of COVID this week?
The numbers are rising so fast!
A vaccine is out there, but can it keep up?
Will NHS resources last
And how many deaths will it take till we own
Our reasons are sounding so thin?
The answer, my friends, it lies in ourselves
In humble repentance for sin

What will it take to change our hard hearts?
We've strayed far too long from Your Word
There's no fear of God in our nation today Your Name
It is blasphemed and slurred
O, show us the depth of our sin, Mighty God!
That we would be cleansed and restored
Whatever it takes to humble our hearts
We need Your correction, dear Lord!