



Zion Baptist Church
In the heart of Tenterden

Newsletter

Autumn 2022

CAROL SERVICE

SATURDAY, 17TH DEC. 4PM

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE, 11.30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

FAMILY SERVICE

SUNDAY, 25TH DEC. 10AM

THANKSGIVING AND WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, 1ST JAN. 6PM

Friday 25th November
3PM - 8PM
ZION BAPTIST CHURCH
TENTERDEN (HIGH STREET)
welcomes you to experience
PEACE AT CHRISTMAS

JOIN US FOR
CAROLS,
EIGHT REFRESHMENTS,
LIVE MUSIC,
CHOIR PERFORMANCES,
AND MUCH MORE!

Tree of Peace



There will be a Tree of Peace, for anyone to write a message and hang on a branch.
This Christmas all our donations are going to
EC30's Foodbank and The Old School Larder in Tenterden

*You are invited
To our
Christingle Service*



*Wednesday,
14th December
At 10am*

*Meet and celebrate with our Rainbow
Tots parents and children.
Refreshments after the Service.*

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

Every fortnight, 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

Peace at Christmas

Friday, 25th November, 3 - 8pm

Christingle Service

Wednesday, 14th December, 10am

Carol Service by Candlelight

Saturday, 17th December, 4pm

All-Age-Worship Service and Nativity

Sunday, 18th December, 10.30am

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

Saturday, 24th December, 11.30pm

Christmas Day Family Service

Sunday, 25th December, 10am

Thanksgiving and Worship Service

Sunday, 1st January, 6pm

Letter from our Pastor:

"Christmas Is Here!" is a song written by Geron Davis. The first verse says;

*I see the candles, glow in the windows
I hear the church bells starting to chime...*



Yes! It's Christmas and we can tell because we see the shops' windows dressed for the occasion and we hear and read adverts announcing what is on offer. People are getting ready to spend time with family, fellow workers, neighbours, friends. There will be Church services and Carol services (Don't forget that our Carol service this year will be on Saturday, 17th December at 4pm).

But also, we are aware that we are living in unprecedented times with many challenges including the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, the NHS crisis, economies sliding into recession, Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Challenges that have taken away the peace in many places such as Ukraine, or Myanmar that we don't hear so much on the news now. Also, millions of people in the UK are wondering how to pay their bills, mortgages, and may be troubled, anxious and their peace has been affected.

One of the Bible verses that would be read in Churches is from Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth **peace** to those on whom His favour rests."

Peace is precious, for when we don't have peace, we cannot function properly. People in Ukraine and Myanmar for example need peace to do the ordinary things that people in countries who have peace can do. Right now, communities across East Africa are facing the worst food crisis in decades. Millions of people in the UK would be troubled as a result of the challenging circumstances we are living in. We need peace in our world!

What is this peace that the Bible is talking about?
"Peace to those on whom His favour rests."

Is peace the absence of wars and conflicts? Or is it to reach a place of 'peacefulness' by meditation? Or when we are able to control our thoughts by shutting down negative things or feelings in our lives?

The Bible tells us that if we surrender our lives to Jesus, we could have a peace that surpasses all understanding. However, if we are believers, if we have surrendered our life to Jesus, it doesn't mean we are exempt from problems and hardships. Perhaps you have been in pain for a long time because you are struggling with a serious illness. Or life at work is challenging, family life has been difficult, and when you turn the TV on and the only thing you hear is wars, conflicts, and people in need. And maybe you wonder, 'where and how I can get peace'.

The peace that the angels proclaimed is the peace we can have with God that results from salvation. Not because we have worked to attain it by religion or by personal works or efforts. No, this peace is a gift from God to those who are willing to accept it. He sent His only begotten Son the first Christmas to reconcile His creation. Therefore, through faith in the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, we can have a personal relation with the living God.

As followers of Christ, we are going to hear about rumours of wars, we have to endure hardships, rejection, and disappointments. Jesus said to His disciples (Luke 21:16-17) that sometimes we will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives, and friends. What a challenging warning from Jesus. So how can we experience peace?

The peace that the Bible tell us about is the Peace of God. And as someone quoted;
"Peace is not the absence of trouble. Peace is the presence of God."

The chorus of the song I mentioned in the beginning goes.

*Let us adore Him
Lift up your voices
Sing it out loud
Sing it out clear
Christmas is here*

As we celebrate Christmas, maybe we can invite Jesus into our lives to enjoy the presence of God and regardless our circumstances experience His Peace.

Happy Christmas and have a blessed 2023!
Freddy





Induction of Dr. Simon Black as Minister in Training

The Service was led by Rev. Joth Hunt, Regional Baptist Minister.

We welcomed Simon as our Minister in Training, and promised to honour and support him and to work together with him in our shared calling to witness to Christ.



Happy 90th Birthday Valerie

Cameo and friends celebrated Valerie's 90th Birthday after the Sunday service at the Italian restaurant next door which looked after us all. They had all the restaurant singing happy birthday to Valerie who was then clapped.

Jackie



CAMEO

went to Rolvenden and St John Small Hythe flower festivals on 28th of August. We had a lovely lunch in Rolvenden village hall, looked around the art then went across to the church. The theme was Jesus said. Afterwards four of us went on to St Johns Small Hythe where the displays were amazing for such a small church.

Jackie

CAMEO Our **Christmas lunch** is being held on Saturday 10th December at Sandhurst Tea Rooms at 1 p.m.

Please contact either Margaret or Valerie if you require transport.

Blankets: We are looking to have some blankets in the church ready to use if people are cold during the service. If you have a blanket you can donate, please bring it along.



BMS Birthdays:

21st Nov. Miss Kirsty Taylor-Black
26th Dec. Mr. Stephen Wood
14th Jan. Mrs. Gwen Griffiths
16th Jan. Mrs. Mandy Lewis
23rd Jan. Mrs. Christine Hendry

BMS birthday scheme secretary: Miss Jackie Goodsell



We are meeting Wednesday mornings and we enjoy providing a friendly space for parents to chat and children to play.

Rainbow Tots

At story time this term we have heard Bible stories about who Jesus is and that Jesus welcomes little children, also stories about Martha+Mary, Zacchaeus and the good Samaritan.

Now we are listening to the Christmas story and for crafts we are making 'doily angels' and 'peg camels'.

We are also preparing for our Christingle Service on 14th of December by learning 'Away in a Manger'. Everyone is welcome to celebrate the service with us.



First Fruits

We started 'First Fruits' in September and are enjoying time with Kristy, Amber and Archie.



We are praying that God will show us the way forward

Church Football 2022-23 (Weald Hamlet FC)

Our church football season has started with regular walking football and football sessions twice per month at Homewood School 3G floodlit pitch on Fridays. In the run up to Christmas we have two sessions:



Friday 2nd December 8pm-9pm
Friday 16th December 8pm - 9pm

The men's team play in the East Kent Churches Football League on most Saturday mornings. We welcome players even if they cannot play every match. The team is mixed ages (19 to 59 !!) and plays at a reasonable competitive standard (*aided by roll-on-roll-off substitutions for the oldies*). Home matches are at Homewood School 3G and away matches are usually in Canterbury, Folkestone, Dover or Aylesham. The team also plays friendlies with football clubs (sometimes vets teams) across the county, including the University of Kent.

The women's team is still forming, but we have plenty of women (6-7 players) who regularly attend on Friday evening sessions. The women's team will attend the London Churches Seven aside tournament for fun in July next year.



The Walking Football team is expanding. We are a member of the Walking Football Association with women over 40s and men over 50s. We reached the final of the London Churches Tournament in 2021, beaten 1-0 by Fulham.

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS:

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