



Zion Baptist Church
In the heart of Tenterden

Newsletter

SUMMER 2022



Our music group in July 2022

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
next on **30th July**

Church Monthly Prayer Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7.30pm
next on **4th August**

Our **Home Groups** run fortnightly.
Mondays 10am-12noon and Thursdays 8pm-10pm

Wonder Zone

Children's holiday club
25th - 27th July, 10am - 12pm

Church Members Meeting

Sunday, **11th September**, 12noon

All Age Worship Service

Harvest Festival, Sunday, **18th September**
Café Church

Church Reflection Weekend

1st and 2nd October

Tenterden Christian Breakfast

Saturday, **17th September**, 8.30am
at Zion, speaker TBA, for women and men

Coffee Morning

Every Friday, 10am-12noon

Rainbow Tots

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

Letter from our Pastor:

As we reflect over the first months of 2022, we can see that we have many reasons to give thanks.

We give thanks for the life and testimony of our sister Jean Hillman who passed away.

We give thanks for the Life Exhibition and the hundreds of children from the local schools who visited our church and heard about Jesus.

We give thanks for those who join to play football and the opportunity they had to hear about Jesus when they attended the barbecue in the church garden, thanks to the football outreach.

We give thanks to the Lord that Rainbow Tots were able to meet every Wednesday and Thursday.

We give thanks to the Lord that our Friday coffee mornings give us the opportunity to connect with people in our community.

We give thanks for the four new members (Francesca, Joan, Polly and Tim) who joined our church last month, and **we give thanks** for Ian and Elaine Banks who have been members of our church for fifteen years and are now moving into a new area and church.

We give thanks for their testimonies, service, and commitment. We will miss them, but we know that the Lord will continue to use their lives.

As we face the second part of the year, we know that there are many challenges ahead of us because we plan to serve the Lord; and we are conscious that the harvest is plenty, but the workers are few. What are we to do?

Our Lord Jesus told His disciples, "The harvest is abundant [for there are many who need to hear the good news about salvation], but the workers [those available to proclaim the message of salvation] are few. Therefore, [prayerfully] ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest. (Luke 10:2 Amplified Bible)

At our last Leaders meeting we agreed that we need to pray for:

- Smarden fellowship
- Financial commitment to support Simon Black as MiT
- Work with children and young people: Football venture; Holiday Club; 'First Fruits' Sunday school
- Personal pledges to attend and donate towards the church Weekend of Reflection
- Co-ordinators to plan the Christmas Tree Festival
- Church fabric co-ordinator role



Our Lord Jesus set the example for us. In many parts of the New Testament, we read that "He often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."

Charles Spurgeon said, "To pray is to enter the treasure-house of God and to gather riches out of an inexhaustible storehouse."

Prayer makes a difference and, throughout the Bible, believers are called to pray. Are we willing to accept this invitation?

Years ago, these words helped me to find time for prayer:

The Difference

I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me, and heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered. He answered, "You didn't ask."
I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, gray and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, "But you didn't seek."
I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't knock."
I woke up early this morning, and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.
-Author unknown

As we prepare to have our summer break, let's remember to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest, and to reveal His purpose in our lives.

Have a blessed summer.
Freddy

Affirmation of Deacons

At the Annual General Meeting, **Suzanne Martin and Elsie Phipps** were re-elected for a further 3 years. The church family thanked them for their dedicated service.

Simon Black has been accepted by SEBA into Minister in training (MiT) with Zion as his training church, He will commence college this September.

First Fruits - the name of our new Sunday school will be starting in September. We have already children/young people who have indicated they would like to come along. Leaders and helpers are being prayerfully considered.

Church Reflection Weekend 1st and 2nd October

Our guest speaker on Saturday will be **DAVE GARLICK**

Dave is a brilliant teacher and will be looking with us at the challenges for the church in the 21st Century - using **2 Timothy** as a backdrop.

Looking at things like Discipleship, Role models, Teaching, Culture, Connecting with the Bible ..etc etc

Timothy was in Ephesus, Paul in a Roman Prison and us where are we ?

Please make every effort to come to the weekend.

Catering provided.

On the practical side, please let Iain Bottrill know that you are coming asap so numbers for catering can be calculated.

If you are able to, please make a monetary contribution towards the food (lunch and dinner)



RAINBOW TOTS PARTY

We had a brilliant time celebrating our God on the last day of term, singing and praying, chatting and enjoying a small buffet.

"First Bibles" were presented to the leavers, and the younger children received Bible based sticker books.

Elaine, Iain, Simon, Freddy and Kiyo helped with the music, presentation and catering.

Life Exhibition



Nearly 400 children with their teachers enjoyed learning about the life of Jesus through multi media.

Also visitors of the public dropped in in the afternoons, most of them came to the church for the very first time.

A big team of Zion church members were involved, with the support of the Methodist, United Reformed and Catholic Churches, we also had visits from St. Mildred's team and church members.

It was wonderful to have different people leading the exhibition sessions and also providing vital backup and support, refreshments and hospitality. There was a lot of work setting up and dismantling the exhibition. The Mayor of Tenterden visited and was most impressed by the professionalism of the exhibition and the team members.

Most importantly the feedback from the school teachers was positive and enthusiastic and the children went out smiling and pleased to have come along.

SB



Lord, here Ian and Elaine stand with a new horizon ahead of them.

Help them to seize each sunrise and fully live each day. May they be guided by You and walk into this new landscape of their lives with hope and confidence, with You, our Lord Jesus at their side.

As they go, may they walk upon a bed of love, on which our prayers are softly falling every day as we hold them close in our hearts. They have been, and always will be, treasured by us all here at Zion, so Lord we ask your blessing and protection upon them.

We thank you, Lord, that you made Ian and Elaine salt and light to us, through their music, their sermons, their prayers, their practical application of the talents that You have given them. Lord bless Ian and Elaine in health as this new chapter of life is shared with those that the You will make known to them, as they walk forward into all they can be, all they can enjoy and all they can give in further service for You, Lord.

Dear friends, Ian and Elaine, our prayers are that our Lord will light your way, will show you the path and be your guide; that He will continue to engage you. May every waking moment of your future lives be full of promise because the Lord is with you.

In Jesus name we pray this,

Amen

CB



Cameo went out to an open garden in Rolvenden in June and enjoyed a cup of tea and cake.

JG

Children decorated bookmarks at our
'All Age Worship Service'
 in June.



We heard from people going through tough times: Moses and the Israelites; Nikita (Rainbow Tots mum); Simon Smith and the apostles Paul.

We learnt that the Lord is with us, even in tough times (Nikita: "I feel so broken") and our duty is to trust (Simon: "God was with me and comforting me.")

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12:9

Organ Recital and cream tea afternoon at Tenterden Methodist Chapel.

The chapel was full, including people sitting in the gallery, for the organ recital "A Prelude to the Jubilee", by local organist Ian Verran, on 29th May. Ian had chosen some well-known pieces, including Clarke's 'Trumpet Voluntary', Walton's 'Crown Imperial', and Handel's 'Zadok the Priest', all of which he obviously loved playing. The audience joined in to sing the National Anthem, and also the hymn 'Come Down O Love Divine' (to mark Pentecost), which delighted the local congregation in hearing a full church singing together. The atmosphere was friendly and welcoming, and members from all our local churches joined the Methodists in serving teas and helping to clear up too and a retiring collection raised much needed aid for Ukraine. Roger loved organ music, so it re-kindled special memories for me personally. A lovely afternoon.

Suzanne

We have a beautiful **new lectern**, donated to the Church by Ian and Elaine and made by Jamie Phipps

"I believe in the sun, even when it isn't shining.
I believe in love, even when I can't feel it.
I believe in God, even when He is silent."

Anonymous Holocaust poem
SM



Football Festival & Barbecue 16th July 2022

The Zion Football team 'Weald Hamlet' celebrated the end of the season with a half-day football festival at Homewood School attended by 30 people. Despite some absentees due to covid, the footballers included many of our walking men's and women's team, alongside some younger men and a several veterans from the men's team, plus some new younger women and men who mucked in for the first time. We had several church members, plus a few previous members of our youth club (now grown up). Players aged 17 to 70 (well, 57 perhaps!) came from Ashford, Tenterden, High Halden, St Michaels, Brighton and Tonbridge, plus a family visitor from Scotland! It was a real celebration of our club launch at last year's London Churches event since for many it was a first chance to see be together as a whole group since that event. We were pleased to have several spectators present to encourage the teams.



Players were put through their paces in a series of matches: a mixed 'town', v 'country' match, a 'men v women' match and a 'veterans v youngsters' match. An hour-and-a-half of football for everyone on a very hot day! Goal scorers included pastor Freddy, and hat-tricks from Simon Smith and Harry Newick. At one point a penalty was saved and happily no red cards were issued by the ref (Simon B)!

After careful management of breaks and refreshments everyone was able to go to church for the barbecue and were joined by a couple of players who had been unable to play due to work commitments. We were very pleased to welcome everyone into our church.

Awards were many and varied including Mens Player of the Season (Charlie Norman, goalkeeper), Walking Player of the Year (Samantha Smith), Best All-Round Player (Harry Newick), Top Scorer (Harvey Black) and Manager's Player of the Year (James Pryor, club captain).

Jim Heritage cooked a wonderful barbecue, assisted by Simon Smith. Players enjoyed time alongside a number of church members in the warmth of the Manse Garden. The fact that we were still there at 4pm is a measure of how welcome everyone felt. We look forward to continuing to build our football community in the autumn and into 2023.

WONDER ZONE Kids holiday club



Kids are learning about God's wonderful world in a fun way at our Bible - based holiday club (Scripture Union and The Faraday Institute).

We are holding the club together with the Catholic Church, the Methodist Church and the Anglican Church. It is held on 3 mornings with different churches taking the lead for one morning.

Kids were delighted to see creatures like a bearded dragon and water turtles and land turtles.

BMS Birthdays:



August:

14th Miss Brenda Adams
30th Mrs Eileen Parks

BMS birthday scheme secretary: Miss Jackie Goodsell

Celebration of Jean's life

Rev. Jerry Newson (Eulogy) spoke about how Jean supported every pastor. Jean had an excellent knowledge of the church constitution and was a very good organizer. She had been church secretary and editor of the newsletter.

Even when physically unable to attend church, Jean participated via Zoom (operating her iPad in her 90s) and was keenly interested in what was happening in church. Jean cared for people; I remember Jean ringing me every time when I missed Sunday service, concerned about my well-being.

It was lovely to spend this thanksgiving service with Jean's relatives and friends. We had a very good spread and fellowship time upstairs.



CH

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21

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