



# Newsletter

OCTOBER 2019

Zion Baptist Church  
In the heart of Tenterden



*"Behold , I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields,  
**For they are already white for harvest!"**  
John 4:35*

*We welcome you to our service this morning. We pray that you may be aware of Jesus' presence among us and that you will meet with Him in a new and special way. Please join us for refreshments after the service. There are always those willing to pray with or counsel, kindly indicate your need with the door steward or any deacon.*

## Church Diary

Thursday October 3rd

7pm **Cedar Court Harvest Festival**

Sunday October 6th

10.30am **Morning Service** led by Revd Freddy Farias-Palacios.  
Including Holy Communion.

Thursday October 10th

7.30pm **Church Prayer Evening**

Sunday October 13th

10.30am **Morning Service** led by Revd David Adkins.

Sunday October 20th

10.30am **Morning Service** led by Revd Freddy Farias-Palacios.  
Including Holy Communion.

Thursday October 24th

7.30pm **Church Members Meeting**

Sunday October 27th

10.30am **Morning Service** led by Revd Freddy Farias-Palacios.

### ***We meet for prayer:***

*Sundays: 9.45-10.00, before Sunday service*

*Tuesdays: 10-12noon, church open for prayer*

*First Thursday of the month: 7.30pm, Church prayer evening*

## Youth activities

**Juicy Grapes youth club:** 6.30-8.30pm, 1st and 2nd Friday of the month, term time only

**Rainbow Tots:** parent and toddler group, Wednesdays, 9.30-11.30 term time only

## Coffee Morning

Fridays, 10am-12noon  
Come and enjoy a cup of  
tea and a chat



## Cedar Court Harvest Festival Thursday 3rd October at 7pm



THE CHRISTIAN  
INSTITUTE

## Family, Gospel, Freedom and Ideology

A talk about  
concerns facing  
Christians today.

**Tuesday, 8th October 7.30pm**  
**Sandhurst Baptist Church**

## CAMEO



Some of us ladies went to  
Rolvenden Flower Festival  
on Bank holiday weekend.  
Photo: Jackie G.

## Church open for prayer

**Tuesday mornings**

**Time: 10am-12noon**

## **Zion Weekend Retreat at Northiam**

*"May God have the glory"*

*"Bring it on!"*



*"It was brilliant...the best one yet"*

*"Wonderful, powerful, thought provoking"*

*"Boldness in action"*



*"A time of uplift and joy"*

*"Just got to put it into practice now"*



*"Team Zion - pulling together"*

*"Thank you!"*

*"I loved every moment"*



*"It was so lovely to all share together"*

*"A real blessing for us all"*

*"Christ living in and working through us"*

*"Again, again"*

## **Congratulations, Tom!**



Tom has completed the London to Brighton off road race for The British Heart Foundation.

"Thanks" from us all for prayers and for those who gave to his Just Giving page for The British Heart Foundation.  
Val Wood

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tom-wood12bor19>

## Letter from our Pastor

It was a blessing to spend time together in worship, prayer and fellowship at our Church Weekend Away at Northiam. Thank you to all those who worked hard to make it happen.

We all sense that our Lord was at work amongst us.

Here some messages we had on our response chart:

"You are the God of second chances",

"When it hurts, keep praising",

"The opposite to fear is not courage, it is faith",

*"Follow Me and bear fruit".*

We have spent the last three months studying "Fruitfulness on the Frontline" in our home groups. We all have our 'Frontlines' which are our everyday context (home, school, workplace, neighbourhoods, etc...) full of people that matter to our God. Therefore, our theme was "Being Fruitful on our Frontlines".

During the last weeks of September or early October many churches will be having Harvest Services. It's an opportunity to give thanks to our God for His goodness. Harvest is the busiest time of the year for farmers. They need to get ready for the harvest by hiring more workers, preparing grain stores and arranging crop storage.

I am not a farmer; I cannot even look after my front garden properly! But I think we can learn some lessons from the farmers, from their work, their patience and perhaps their faith.

First of all, the farmer has a steadfast commitment to the harvest for he works hard preparing the soil, planting the seed, and investing in equipment. The farmer does all these things with the harvest in mind.

Second, something must happen before the fruit is ripe. The seed sown must die before it can bring forth fruit.

Finally, the farmer depends on God. The farmer spends money, works hard every day and waits patiently. However, there are no guarantees. Sometimes after a few months of hard work a hurricane or flooding can destroy everything; and all the hard labour, all the waiting, is for nothing.

The farmer must faithfully prepare and work the soil, the seed must die, but the farmer cannot force the harvest to happen because it can only happen through the Lord's providence.

In John 12:23-25 there is an invitation from our Lord Jesus to follow His example in order to be fruitful.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

<sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

<sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life".

Jesus' glorification is through death. He is a grain of wheat which must fall into the earth and die there before He can become fruitful and accomplish His Father's purpose. The fact that the glory of God is attained through death is true not only for Jesus but also for His disciples. As one scholar puts it, '**Faith** in Jesus involves dying to all the blandishments and attractions of this passing world order'.

This is a principle for our Christian lives. Fruitfulness is costly. In verse 25 Jesus saw life as a prologue to something better and more enduring. His disciples must follow His example to transform their lives and take part in His Kingdom and be fruitful to bring glory to the Father.

The Church weekend Away is over. As we walk daily with Jesus, individually and as a church, let's consider the work of the farmer as a metaphor for our spiritual journey.

There are steps we have to take to get to the harvest:  
From the moment we commit our lives to Jesus there will be challenges and things that will pop up in the growing season which are hard work. Sometimes we have rainy days when we don't want them, but we need to carry on. Nevertheless, let's not focus on fruitfulness because it would be a frustrating endeavour, what we need to do is work in **faith**.

Let us keep on working, let's learn to trust God despite what we can see today (our circumstances), because He is at work at all time. Through a combination of inward struggles, maybe trying circumstances, opposition from the enemies of the Gospel or our weaknesses, as Jesus said, we need to learn to 'die every day'. The apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20 about his own experience when he said;

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by **faith** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me".

The seed must perish for the harvest to be produced.

If we don't give up, one day we will enjoy the final harvest. The farmer does not have a guarantee of a harvest, but the harvest that Jesus invites us to have, the one that is cultivated by **faith**, is totally guaranteed.

Are we willing to serve the Lord of the harvest?  
*Freddy*

### **CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS:**

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