



Zion Baptist Church
In the heart of Tenterden

Newsletter

Spring 2025

**MAUNDY THURSDAY
COMMUNION SERVICE**
17TH APRIL, 7.30PM



Witness Service 2025



Churches Together
In Tenterden

Good Friday, 18th
April, 10am
outside Zion
Baptist Church

EASTER SUNDAY 20TH APRIL
10.30 am Online (Zoom) and Public
Worship and Communion Service

SUNDAY 27TH APRIL
10.30am Online (Zoom) and Public
Worship Service [Rhythm of Life Choir]
GUEST SPEAKER - WILLIAM CLARK

SUNDAY 27TH APRIL
6pm Online (Zoom) and Public
Churches Together in Tenterden - Joined Evening Praise &
Worship Service [At Zion Baptist Church]

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, 9am

Church Monthly Prayer Meeting

First Thursday of each month, 7.30pm

Church open for prayer

Every Friday, 10am-12noon



Maundy Thursday Communion

17th April, 7.30pm

Churches Together in Tenterden Witness Service 2025

Good Friday, 18th April, 10am
outside our church

Churches Together in Tenterden Joined Evening Praise & Worship Service

Sunday, 27th April 6pm at Zion

Coffee Morning

Every Thursday, 10am-12noon

Rainbow Tots

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

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

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 18th May, noon

Letter from our Pastor

It's Easter time! The appearance of the daffodil tells us that spring has sprung. The weather is changing, the sun is shining, schools are breaking for the Easter holidays. The shops are advertising Easter eggs, chocolates and bunny rabbits. This week I even received a personal invitation from a religious group to a Memorial of Jesus Death!



Perhaps there are many questions that could be asked related to Easter. What is Easter? Are there really blue bunny rabbits? How does a bunny lay eggs? Do chocolate eggs come from chocolate chickens? Should Christians celebrate Easter? Did the Lord Jesus Christ have a pet bunny? Are we supposed to have Memorials of Jesus' death?

Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. In Easter we celebrate **Jesus rising from the dead**, three days after He was crucified. The tomb of other religious leaders such as Mohamed, Confucious, Buddha to mention a few can be visited and their remains are there but we can visit the tomb where Jesus was buried, and it is empty.

Matthew 28:6 says, **"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay."** The words of the angel confirm Jesus' resurrection, a central belief of the Christian faith. Jesus Christ has won the victory in His death and resurrection. This is the power of the resurrection, the hope of the Christian faith.

Let's not be satisfied or distracted with an "Easter celebration" (chocolate eggs, bunnies, or holidays), but rather let us experience the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The theologian A. W. Tozer wrote: **"It is the devil's business to keep Christians mourning and weeping with pity beside the cross instead of demonstrating that Jesus Christ is risen, indeed."**

You are welcome to join our services this month to reflect and celebrate the fact that Jesus' resurrection makes it impossible for humankind's story to end in darkness, chaos or despair. In Jesus we can find light, purpose and hope because, He is risen; He is risen indeed!

Have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

Freddy



Weekend Away- High Leigh Conference Centre 24- 26 September 2025

Please join us for this year's weekend away. We have 40 spaces booked, we have rooms for all (excluding children, sorry) on the ground and first floor, all en suite. This year's event will be amazing, please commit to the weekend by filling the pledge form available from Simon Smith.

High Leigh Conference Centre

House groups

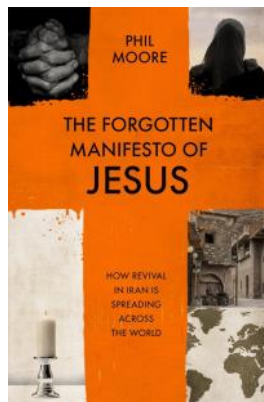
We are studying **Luke 10:1-24**.

We are using the book:

'The Forgotten Manifesto of Jesus'

In our house group we enjoy examining each Bible verse and the lively discussions that follow.

Do join one of our three House groups at Zion, the fellowship and encouragement we receive from each other is changing us...



In loving memory of **Rev David John Adkins**

We had the privilege to share with David's family and friends a celebration of his life

David's abounding love for people and his ability to encourage to the Lord shone through

We have been immensely blessed by having David in our congregation



Partners in Mission, by Polly



I just wanted to share a few thoughts on our recent Partners in Mission day, attended by several of our church membership.

As a Church we joined with fellow Baptists at the South East Baptist Association focus on becoming partners in Mission with other churches in the group.

We began with worship. Being with about 180 other Christian folk the singing was amazing and the speaker, Anne Calver, spoke very well about whether we are a cruise ship or a little rowing boat (a big church or small) we all have a part to play in Mission. I would like to add that within the church this also works for Groups or individuals – we all have our commission. "Go and make disciples of all nations!"

We followed in the morning with a workshop regarding the tools for partnering with other churches - Partners in Mission.

The afternoon session, for me, was Alpha. Most of us know how Alpha works but it has been a good reminder for me that its something I have not been involved in for many years,

The whole day was a challenge, for me personally, and I think I could say for us as a fellowship. "The Harvest is ready but the workers are few!"

We need to all think about our church and the mission field but also as individuals be challenged with our own harvest field. Family & Friends.

I pray that as we go forward we will all be challenged to become "workers in the field"!

If anyone missed this day there is another planned in May at

Millmead, Guildford Baptist Church 10:00 to 15:30 on Saturday 10 May 2025

Speak to me for details.

*"Inspiring" "Challenging" "Great day with lots of new ideas"
"Time to go home and put this into practice"*

Weald Hamlet FC – our church football teams

Men's team

The football team, Weald Hamlet FC, has forty-three active players, and has been involved in the Kent FA Recreational Cup, playing teams from right across the county (Maidstone, Sittingbourne, Ashford, Canterbury). This was our first season in an FA accredited competition and we were delighted to pitch ourselves against experienced players across Kent. We pushed many teams very close throughout the competition, not helped by losing our goalkeeper to a dislocated shoulder after three matches. We finished the qualifiers with the second-best goal difference, but not the results needed to qualify for the final – an equalising penalty by the University of Kent with the last kick in our final game rubbed salt into

the wounds! However, the lads loved the competition, and we will be back again next year! The men's team have five more East Kent churches games this spring, plus our invitational cup fixture, the Affiliates Cup. The veteran men have the Wealden Masters Trophy against current champions Tonbridge FTBYZ.



The men in white playing at Maidstone Grammar School against Athletic Melrose

The men in stripes in Kent FA Recreational Cup against the University of Kent.



Walking football

Our walkers is a group of 20 participants who regularly meet to train and have a fun, but energetic kickabout every fortnight under the floodlights at Homewood School.

The group are preparing hard for the London Churches Walking Football Tournament on June 7th in Barn Elms, having reached the final in 2022. We hope to host a Weald Walker Cup match this summer.

Women's football

We are nurturing our women's team, including a few new young players and look forward to the London Churches Tournament which they won last year. We encourage Christian women's footballers through the Ambassador's Football women's network and continue to seek opportunities for grass roots women's football with the Kent FA.

Participation football across the generations

Weald Hamlet delights in offering a cross generational football community and delight having youngsters, young parents, their parents and in-laws, and uncles and aunts involved from right across our community in Tenterden and surrounding villages and towns. At the summer 7-a-side in London we will expect to have around forty of our players involved, aged 16-70 – and hopefully a bunch of supporters along for the day!

London Churches 7-a-side football tournament – Saturday 7th June 2025, Barn Elms.

Contact for football or walking football is Simon Black: **weald-hamlet@gmail.com**



Women in action in London



Men & Walking Award winners



BMS Birthdays:

14th April **Mrs. Wendy Lyons**
26th April **Mrs. Fran Sangan**
13th May **Mrs. Joan Elmer**
3rd June **Mr. Tim Stevens**
23rd June **Mr. Iain Bottrill**
27th June **Mr. Mike Parks**

God Loves You London 21 June 6pm London Excel

This should be an amazing event and it is free !

Speaker Franklin Graham with music by the CeCe Winans and Michael W Smith

<https://godlovesyoutour.org.uk/>

Group Booking Available

S. Smith

Rainbow Tots



God blesses us at Rainbow Tots with many families. They contribute food for snack time and enjoy Bible story and singing time, helping at craft time. I cherish the quietness during snack time and the attentiveness during story time when Suzanne brings to life a Bible story. Even the difficult Easter story was explained gently at our end-of-term Easter party, little ears and big ears listening.....

We pray God shines His light into the hearts of the children and their carers this Easter.

CH



Interview with Kevin

What are your hobbies?

I like being out with nature, I like gardening, it takes the stress away. I have to be careful because of my Parkinsons, I have to watch my balance in the garden. I enjoy growing plants from seeds. I've sown sunflower seeds that we brought back from Japan and also a tray of English sunflowers, they're just beginning to show. And I've sown marigolds, large tomatoes and hanging basket tomatoes, they're still hiding.

I also enjoy art, I did GCSE and A level photography at night school. I like photographing landscapes, and I like black and white photography because it has more tones.

And I would like to get back to doing water colours again, the equipment is ready...



Kevin in his garden

What is/was your occupation?

I am retired now but volunteer at Benenden Hospital to 'meet & greet' people at the entrance. I like meeting people and I feel I am doing something worthwhile.



I do the cooking and housework because my wife Kiyo works night shifts.

Before I retired I worked at the hospital, first as a domestic, then portering and delivering the internal mail (there were more wards then). When I was made redundant, I came back to work on security for 13 years, doing mostly nights and weekends.

What makes you come to Zion?

Kiyo went before me and liked it, eventually I had the courage to come. I like Freddy and Simon's preaching and the people are nice and helpful. House group is good. I am learning all the time. The church has become like a family to me.

Young Kevin smashing 10 roof tiles with his forearm for charity

From Mick's Album

*20 years ago
and still going
strong!*



*....and who was on
the Manse roof 40
years ago?*



“Singing, Tea and Cake”

Everyone is welcome to come to church on Saturday, 17th May, between 10.30am and 12noon. The Rhythm of Life Choir, who have good links with Zion, are inviting us to enjoy cake and a cuppa, whilst listening to them sing.

The event is free, but donations are encouraged, to go towards “The Dementia Experience”, a local charity working in the community and in local care homes, supporting those living with dementia, and their loved ones. You could even bake a cake and bring it as a contribution, if you like!! It promises to be friendly and fun.

SM



Together We Thrive

Since last September, Together We Thrive has been meeting in the church upstairs room on a Monday afternoon. It is a jolly little group, run by a lively lady called

Donna. It provides activities, music, and a place to meet, for people living with dementia, plus their carers (whether family or paid professionals). Activities include painting, jigsaws, board games and quizzes, enjoyed over a cuppa and cake. Each week there is ‘pom-pom exercise time’ to music – very lively!! One of the members always plays imaginary drums at this point! The group has enjoyed birthday celebrations, and a visit from a “patting dog”. Times to reminisce, or to stimulate and encourage. Highly recommended.

SM

Reflections on a Visit to St Vincent. March 2025

By Christopher Teesdale

Reason for Visit

Elizabeth, My aunt by marriage to my Uncle Peter, was brought up in St Vincent from early childhood and decided spontaneously to return to the family home last August.

Her grandfather had acquired a large house on the west coast of the Island, with a good deal of land and this was passed to Elizabeth's father. So there was a long attachment to the place and Elizabeth decided she wanted to end her days there at the age of 94.

Initially she was accompanied by her daughter, Juanita, who travelled out and stayed with her. However when Juanita needed to travel to South Africa for a family wedding, E asked that June and I would come and stay. E is in pretty good shape considering her age but the risks of falling (especially out of bed at night) meant that it was prudent to arrange to have someone else in the house with her.

Juanita was not due to leave for South Africa until two days after we arrived, so there was a very convenient overlap which allowed us to "learn the ropes" and "find our feet". I needed to obtain a local driver's license to use the vehicle that E has purchased (a Toyota Hillux truck). We were introduced to the staff and immediately had our memories tested as there were 10 or more good souls employed in various roles. **Celia**, the housekeeper and cook looks after the house, she has given 20 years of devoted service. The garden was managed by **2 men**, however, both failed to show during the second week and Christopher (me) became head gardener! There was no way that I was going to cope with the fierce heat of the day, and frankly I wondered how anyone could work productively! I ended up watering the vegetable garden either early in the morning or just before dusk and eventually decided to try to mulch some of the beds. We sowed some lettuce, zucchini, cucumber and tomato. To our amazement they started to show only 2 days after sowing and grew rapidly. I was able to pot on several of these before we left just after a week! I left instructions that they should be watered daily after we left but will not be too surprised if I am told they withered away!

This Newsletter is only printed to page 12 (this page).
However, online you can read the rest of Christopher's article in the appendix.



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Appendix

Christopher's reflections continued...



The house is reputed to be the oldest on the Island, built in the mid eighteenth century, and although modernisation has taken place (some air conditioning in the bedrooms), the place is in a very poor state of repair. General weathering of windows and ledges etc. has gone so far that all need to be replaced. The house is known to the locals as 'the house with the windows' so there are a good number of them. In addition termites have been in residence for years and much of the internal and more of the external woodwork has crumbled away or had to be re-

moved. So there are several staff engaged in the restoration work. The building itself is perched on a promontory above the 'town' of Arnos Vale from which the house takes its name. The family owned a cigarette factory which has also been sold as a going concern. No tobacco is grown on the Island. E told us that as a child she used to ride her pony down to the village on an old dirt track. This is now the main coast road which winds up the hill and around the estate before plunging into the next valley. Unfortunately all the traffic uses this road including heavy lorries which delight in blasting their horns as they climb (and descend) to warn oncoming cars to leave them room to pass on the many sharp corners. Add to this the numerous minibuses, (the road would not cope with 'normal' buses) which delight in serenading their passengers at full volume and the bass control set at maximum. So, one can understand why E suggested that we didn't forget to bring our ear muffs! The noise does not end with the setting of the sun sadly. St Vincentians, as they like to call themselves, like to party with the best of them.

A full-size stadium has been built. This can accommodate international cricket and football matches and is a favourite site to throw parties. The location acts as a natural amphitheatre helping to channel the "music" and announcements into the surrounding hills. Forget trying to sleep if one of these is in full swing as partying to 3:00 am seems to be the norm.

Owing to the fact that we did not want to leave E on her own for very long and that she was not up to travelling in the car without some discomfort we were not able to spend much time exploring the island. We did make three trips into the Capital to sample what the markets had to offer and visit the 'oldest botanical garden in the western world' just the other side of town. The latter had an air of decay. There were several very impressive trees and shrubs but one had the sense that new planting was scarce and when some of the older giants die they do not appear to be replaced as fast as they should be.

The fierceness of the sunshine meant that we avoided going near the beach until the sun was about to set. Access to this was via an hotel which provided us with cold drinks and showers to wash the salt off when we had had enough swimming. Evenings were the best time of the day when we would sit sipping our 'sundowners' in the relatively cool evening breeze and listen to the crickets and waves lapping on the shore. Unfortunately it was also the preferred time the mosquitoes and sandflies decided to seek their dinners and they found that June and I offered an irresistible menu. Insect repellent and anti itching lotions seemed to have little effect and towards the end we had to resort to covering up as much skin as possible despite the discomfort of being fully clothed in such temperatures.

We were able to sample some of the local food, as Celia did most of the cooking and she likes using spices. We tried all the favourites including Breadfruit and the numerous kinds of root vegetables. E was particularly keen on pigtaails, but we found it hard to share her enthusiasm! One expected fruit like pineapples and mangoes to be abundant and fairly cheap. However the former seem to be imported at great expense and the latter were decimated by a recent hurricane which striped the trees of their fruit. We did manage to find guavas, which we grew to love when in Malawi, and pawpaw, bananas and plantains were available everywhere. We could not find any local citrus apparently because they can't cope with a local virus so have to be imported.

We attended E's church with her on both Sundays we were on the island. There was a really good Gospel based message and hymns were traditional methodist favourites sung to the accompaniment of the bongo drums, organ and tambourine. We were the only whites in a congregation that must have been over 60 and were made to feel very welcome. There were several other churches very close to each other and one could clearly hear some of the others singing hymns during quiet moments in our own!

So, after 16 days trying to avoid the full sunshine and trying not to scratch the hundreds of bites with which we had been afflicted, what were the lasting impressions of St Vincent? The people are extremely friendly but the accent was difficult to decipher and by the end of our stay we did not improve in our understanding of most of what was said to us. But we smiled and nodded and hopefully gave the impression that we concurred with whatever was being said.

The roads are almost entirely one bend after another and some of those very sharp as they mostly follow the coastline and there seem to be far too many vehicles trying to use them. There are no speed cameras and very few speed restrictions as it is difficult to get into top gear on most journeys. Each morning everyone crawls along in an endless queue to work and returns in the same way in the evening. The journey of a few miles can take up to 90 minutes and we were surprised that everyone remained so calm and made space willingly for you to enter the queue and add to the congestion! Parking in town is a nightmare : so many cars just stop in the street doubled parked while they do their business. The traffic light system has been abandoned as it apparently made traffic congestion worse and now traffic policemen man some of the worst congestion junctions, trying to bring a little order out of the free for all.

Will we be returning soon? Well no! Our next planned visit is to the Isle of Man. We like variety!