



Zion Baptist Church
In the heart of Tenterden

Newsletter

Autumn 2024

CAROL SERVICE
SATURDAY, 14TH DEC.
4.30PM

**MIDNIGHT COMMUNION
SERVICE**
CHRISTMAS EVE, 11.30PM

**CHRISTMAS MORNING
CELEBRATION**
SUNDAY, 25TH DEC. 10AM

Polly Stevens
Our new
church secretary



Christmas Tree Festival

"Nativity Journeys"

**Fri. 22th Nov.
4-8pm and
Sat. 23th Nov.
10am-5pm**

Please come to our

Christingle Service & Party

And meet our fantastic
Rainbow Tots family

Wednesday, 18th December, 10am

Refreshments provided

Let Go

Let go,
Disgorge
The muddy contents
Of your soul.
Empty
The dustbin
Of your mind

What is God?

He Is
One who doesn't
flinch.

By Francesca Evans

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

Coffee Morning

Every Thursday, 10am-12noon

Reflection Weekend Follow-up Workshop

Saturday, 16th November, 1.30pm

Church Members Meeting

Sunday, 8th December, noon

Christmas Tree Festival

22nd - 23rd November

Carol Service by Candlelight

Saturday, 14th December, 4.30pm

Christingle Service

Wednesday, 18th December, 10am

Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

Tuesday, 24th December, 11.30pm

Christmas Morning Celebration

Wednesday, 25th December, 10am

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

Letter from our Pastor

A few days ago we saw on the news and read on newspapers about the floods that killed over 200 people in Spain. We hear stories of lives changing in a matter of hours and the country now having to prepare for its biggest peacetime disaster recovery operation.



In other parts of the world conflicts and wars have caused disasters, displacement, and peace is elusive. Such as in Ukraine, Gaza and Lebanon to name just a few.

On many occasions we hear about protests in different parts of the world because people want peace in Ukraine, peace in Gaza, peace in Lebanon and we pray for peace in Valencia and Spain as the country recovers from this tragedy.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas one of the verses, we usually read is *Isaiah 9:6*:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace**"

Maybe in our personal lives peace has been elusive (a loss, an illness, an addiction, a broken relationship), and we try to find this peace. There is an invitation from Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, He wants to give us a peace that surpasses all understanding (See *Philippians 4:7*). This is not found in religion, entertainment or meditation. Peace is what Jesus gave to His disciples for He said, "Peace I leave with you; **My peace I give you**. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." *John 14:27*

Peace is found and received when we meet Jesus and allow Him to lead us. Because as Someone wrote "*Peace is not the absence of trouble. Peace is the presence of God.*"

You are welcome to join our Christmas Services, and I pray that you may find the peace that only Jesus can give this season. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed 2025!

Freddy

Reflection from James Heritage

We found the church weekend very beneficial for the following reasons:

1. Venue- excellent choice and you could feel God's presence. The food was as good as any hotel I have stayed in and I spend a lot of nights in hotels for work.

2. Facilities were first class and plenty of options to socialise or have a quiet moment with God.

3. Price was very reasonable and the staff very welcoming.

I would have no hesitation in returning especially when you bear in mind how difficult it is to find a Christian retreat that can cater for large numbers.



Reflection from Gio Spain

We were extremely blessed with the opportunity of joining the church for the weekend away. It was amazing to get to know people more, and to talk and share so much in communion. Everyone was willing to listen and contribute, which was lovely, but I also think a weekend away has a way of putting you in a different place, more vulnerable, where we can trust connect with the Lord and each other. The presence of God was real in that place. James and I are so happy to have joined the church and hopefully we will go again in the future!





Happy 90th Birthday Eileen

This was the home group's
celebration of
Eileen's birthday



Dear all,

We want to thank you all for the love shared with us on Saturday 12th October. It was a blessing to have our special day in Zion Baptist Church. We will be forever grateful for having the opportunity to have shared our wedding day and also spending quality time at the weekend away.

Lots of love,
Sam and Allison
Mr and Mrs Brown



Poem for Josephine

With love from Debbie



A photograph up in the hall,
Stands out from the others on the wall
She could turn a head its true
You don't need diamonds when you are a jewel

She really understood what it is like to have
worryes and fears
So she would listen patiently, quietly as you
poured them out through the tears
And then she'd say
"you know, I've found,

That when life gets very hard,
when you are run into the ground
When things are tough, When you are feeling rough
Don't think about the future or even next week,
Just keep on keeping on, the next half hour is really
Quite enough"

"I don't care for money" she'd often say
"But I've got something no trouble on earth can take away
Happiness is over rated, it's an illusive thing
Real happiness, real joy comes from within
Faith doesn't depend on anything
Life is good when you are young
But I believe the best is yet to come"

Much happiness did come in her seventies,
Good friendship, travel, peace, contentment, laughter, fun
And then with David she found more of this for
15 years, the happiest of all her ninety one

"Having money doesn't buy you happiness", she'd say,
"but I've got something that nothing in life can take away
Happiness is a fleeting thing
Faith comes from within, a joy that doesn't depend on anything
Life is good and difficult all in one
And when life is done
I believe, yes I truly believe the best is yet to come"

*Photo: Josephine Frances Iggulden, 'Jo'
1933 - 2024*

Rainbow Tots



The term started in September with us well aware that many longtime attendees wouldn't be coming back as they had started school or preschool. We needn't have worried though, the Lord has sent us many new people, including 3 babies. A mum has helped us find second hand toys online, now we have 'new' ride-ons, a cute trampoline and a 2nd baby gym. Two of the mums are busy helping with decorations for our Christmas tree for the festival.

Francesca, Kiyo, Simon and Freddy help us to shine Jesus' light at Rainbows. We always welcome visitors from our church on Wednesday morning, please come to our Christingle Service and party (see front page).

Feedback from one Mum: *'I can't tell you how much this group helped us settle in to living here and what it's brought all of us as a family. We're all truly grateful to you and the team. You've all made us feel so welcome and having a community has been invaluable, esp during/post covid times :) hope you're well and sending hugs' xxx*



CTiT Service at Zion in October was well attended. The next CTiT service is at the 'Church on the Weald', Tenterden Junior School, Sunday, 24th November 4pm.



*Remembrance Sunday
Photo: Shankly*

Tenterden Social Hub Fundraising Concert

Tenterden Social Hub is found at the end of Church Road. It provides Day Centre facilities and activities for various groups, plus prepares the Meals-on-Wheels food, for distribution to the housebound who need it.

Several of our church members have attended the Social Hub on a regular basis, including Margaret Forbes-Gower, Marina Harvey, Margaret Lucking and Kirsty Black. We have also supported it through fundraising at a previous Christmas Tree Festival.

The Hub is highly dependent upon volunteers to man it. More importantly, it is extremely dependent upon financial donations to keep this vital service going. Consequently, a big fundraising concert is planned, in:

Benenden Girls' School Hall, on Sunday, 15th December at 6pm,

Broadway style singing, dancing and entertaining, all freely performed by local groups. Tickets £25 each (includes a glass of wine). This money will help to keep the Tenterden Social Hub going.

If you would like more information, or to get a ticket, please see Suzanne Martin

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