



Zion Baptist Church  
In the heart of Tenterden

# Newsletter

Summer 2023

## **Our Church Reflection Weekend 23rd-24th September**

*On Saturday:*



**WALK  
THROUGH<sup>THE</sup>  
BIBLE**

- ◇ **An interactive teaching event that puts the people, places and events in the Old Testament in chronological order**
- ◇ **An encouraging way to consolidate prior Bible knowledge and help fill in gaps**
- ◇ **Five 1hr sessions led by an experienced presenter**
- ◇ **Biblical geography explained; workbook and devotional material included**
- ◇ **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included on Saturday**

*On Sunday:*

**Breakfast together  
"Marks of a Healthy Church - Reflection"  
Communion 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**

2nd and 4th Saturday, 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

### **Church Members Meeting**

Sunday, 10th September, 12noon

### **Ladies and Men's Breakfast**

Saturday, 16th September, 8.30am

### **Church Reflection Weekend**

23rd -24th September

Our **Home Groups** run fortnightly.

Mondays 10am-12noon  
and Wednesdays 8pm-10pm

### **Rainbow Tots**

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

## *Rest*

This time of the year, it is nice to see children, young people and families looking forward for a summer break. It's wonderful, that feeling of having time off to rest and be refreshed. However, there is a challenging context - with strikes, a rising cost of living with high food prices impacting people's mental and physical health, war in Ukraine, migrant's crisis, alarming food crises in places like SubSaharan Africa and heatwaves affecting different parts of the world. Yes! We need to rest...



Perhaps the simple answer for families who are looking for a summer break is to find a good place for a holiday, a place where they can enjoy the weather, food and time with their loved ones. But what about others, those who are struggling to make ends meet, those who are experiencing the horrors of war or the agonising feeling of not having anything to eat. Perhaps they are waiting for peace that would be achieved when good leaders made the right decisions, or better politicians or political parties to make decision on behalf of everyone.

We all experience tiredness - maybe physical or spiritual weariness in different ways, and for different reasons. There is a unique invitation from Jesus in Matthew 11:28, "*Come to Me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" This is a simple and unique call. Jesus doesn't offer us peace or rest based on meditation like yoga or enlightenment, as practiced in Buddhism, for example. Nor a peace that is the result of following strict rules. He offers rest to everyone, not only from physical burdens, struggles and distresses but rest for the soul.

His offer is not based on a creed, a particular church, ritual, pastor, priest, or any other human means or religious institution. Jesus' unique offer is Himself as the only (see John 14:6) solution to all our burdens; for He said, **Come to Me**. One Bible scholar wrote, 'The person who humbly receives God's revelation of Himself and His way of salvation, who turns the unbearable burden of his/her sin and self-effort, and who comes to Christ empty-handed is the only person God will save' and will receive His rest.

As we prepare to enjoy this summer, I encourage you to consider Jesus' invitation for when we rest it is because we trust Him. Whether we are struggling with what's going on in the world, an illness, a relationship, finances or perhaps with our faith, the Lord Jesus is calling us with these beautiful and simple words "**Come to Me.**" What will be your answer?

Have a blessed and restful summer!

*Freddy*

## *Sam and Simon's baptism*

*A fantastic witness by the sea at Dungeness*



## *Bond's baptism*

*God working - Zoom ministry bearing fruit.*

*Bond, who lives in Hertfordshire, has been joining our Sunday services on Zoom and obeyed the call to be baptised.*



## **GUIDELINES FOR PRAYER PARTNERING (Triplets)**

The following guidelines have been put together from people who have shared their successes in maintaining prayer partnerships for years:

**Try to meet on a regular basis** ie weekly/fortnightly if possible or some other appropriate timescale. If you can't meet in person, try another way to get together, ie video call or telephone. Where eg grandparenting duties or holidays stop you meeting/connecting, schedule a new meeting date asap so that you don't get out of the habit of meeting together.

**Be Time Conscious.** We are all busy people. Agree upon a *start time*. Being late cuts into your prayer time together and it can retard or destroy the growth of trust. Also agree upon a *stop time*. Consistently going past this time can stress out your partner. It can make it hard for her/him to concentrate on the here-and-now, if s/he keeps looking at their watch. Maybe take turns being the time-keeper.

**Practice Gratitude.** If you are praying, God is answering your prayers. Accept His answers (the yeses and the no's). Accept His timing. Accept His right to be God. Be on the lookout for His intervention and involvement. Say thanks, often.

**Share yourself.** Agree with each other that whatever is said between you stays between you. Share your heart, struggles and growth. But don't share more deeply about yourself until you are sure of the integrity and safety of the prayer relationship. It's okay to take your time in developing trust in this relationship.

**Structure Format and/or Topics.** This does not mean formally structure, but agree on the basics: Will one person pray and then another or just as the Spirit leads? Will you take turns praying on each topic? Will one, none or both (all) of you write down the requests? Will there be times of silence? When/how will you share answered prayer? Will you be praying for your children? Is the church or your country going to be the focus of your prayer? Will recovery issues dominate your requests? Perhaps you will both (all) share whatever is on your mind.

**Take Care of Yourself.** Do what you can to limit distractions. Wear comfortable clothes and pray in a comfortable room (not too hot or too cold.) Don't enter into your prayer time hungry or fatigued.

**Use the Time for Prayer:** Don't share personal information about others unless you have their permission. Don't use this time as a covert way to "gossip" about others. Don't use this as a time to counsel or be counselled. You've come together to take your requests to God. Make that the priority.

**What's Prayed Here, Stays Here.** Don't share your partner's requests with others unless s/he gives you permission. Don't share the answers either, unless you have permission. Many times prayer is personal and private. For many it requires trust in the other person in order to speak those requests. Be trustworthy enough to hear all requests with the intent and practice of talking only to God about them.

**Keep a Prayer Journal.** Make notes or a record of some sort after you have ended a prayer session so that you can refer back to it and see how God has answered. You may find that God has directly answered prayers that you forgot you even uttered. It will give you space to reflect on both your blessings and your struggles and provide opportunity to bring testimony to our wider church fellowship thus developing our church family culture.

**Modify to fit your situation.** Like all relationships, your "rules" will evolve according to your needs and comfort level with one another. Be prepared to modify whatever you have agreed upon as your relationship grows.

**Check Ups.** Periodically check in with one another to see how it's going. Are you getting equal time to share and pray? Do you feel safe? If not, is there something your prayer partner can/needs to do? Are you feeling frustrated or angry? If yes, discuss this. Praying is engaging in battle, spiritual battle. There are real enemy "forces" who will do what they can to destroy your unity and your prayer time. Don't let the demonic forces win. Talk about it until you resolve it. Or maybe it's time to stop with this particular prayer partner, if you find that you just don't click. It's ok to stop. Just like we can't be close friends with just anyone, we can't be a good prayer partner with just anyone either. But it is so worth the emotional effort and time to be part of a thriving prayer partnership. You will be blessed and be a blessing.

Carolyn



*We lost two valued members of our church family:*

*Margaret Forbes-Gower  
and  
Patrick Black*

## ***From Chris:***

Many Christians are dismayed at the perceived rate at which moral values in the Western World, including the UK, are being eroded.

We may think that there is not much we can do about it, except pray, but there are several organisations set up to speak up for Christian values and support Christians who have lost their jobs or been denied access to banks; or other services, because they are standing up for their Christian viewpoint and who want to act as salt and light in their communities.

As the prophet Amos warns us in (Amos 5:13) 'How sad when evil is so powerful that decent people are afraid to speak up.'

One of these organisations is the Christian Institute, [christian.org.uk](http://christian.org.uk) This keeps supporters apprised of current issues like controversial bills coming before Parliament, and provides information and draft letters to send to MPs and other representatives to lobby for a Christian viewpoint.

Among other topics, the Institute is currently making the case for traditional marriage. In addition it is raising concerns with the government's proposed "conversion therapy" ban, where activists are seeking a law to ban preaching 'repentance', which could affect communication of the Gospel.

The more that Christians keep aware of the details in these types of issues and stand up for promotion of Biblical principles, the less chance there is that insidious barriers to faith arise.

Of course, in all this we must keep praying that God's will be done.

## ***Cameo celebrating Wendy's 80th birthday at the Weald of Kent golf course, looking out over the course at lunch***



*Photo: Jackie Goodsell*



David and Carolyn's house group went out for afternoon tea to Tenderden garden centre to celebrate Christine Black's + Carolyn's 70th and Wendy's 80th birthdays which were earlier in the year. JG



### Rainbow Tots

At Rainbows this Summer term we heard about animals in the Bible, we sang nursery rhymes and learnt Christian songs. We went on 2 outings to the Recreation Ground, Suzanne even brought craft and singing along. Our end of term party included a short church service where Freddy showed his magic Bible and Simon talked about Mat 6:26 and brought along little turtles.

We presented the children leaving Rainbow Tots for school with a children's Bible. We had an excellent buffet lunch.

We are looking forward to the autumn term, when we plan to provide snacks again. Most of all we enjoy coming alongside the families, we are here to help.





## Football Season Review 2022-23

This June saw the completion of our football season, although the walkers are continuing to meet every Friday night through the summer at Biddenden Rec 7pm-8pm. In the autumn we will meet at Homewood School most Fridays from 8pm-9pm for 'training'.

The summer 2023 London Churches football tournament was a highlight – as we attended for the third year running. It was a delight to welcome many old friends and family (especially those from the extended Farias, Black and Smith families) together with friends from Eastbourne, London and Tonbridge alongside our local contingent (Tenterden, High Halden, St Michaels, Biddenden, Headcorn). In all we had 50 players, plus a few supporters on a hot day by the Thames at Barn Elms.

Anyone interested in joining should get in touch with Simon Black, Simon Smith or any of the footballers or walking footballers, or email to: wealdhamlet@gmail.com

**Walking football (for over 40s)** saw the highlight of the year at the London tournament where we fielded two mixed teams of seven and eight players (so one team had no sub!). Despite this we competed well, even though across all the other teams there was only ONE other woman in the competition! Our women played really well and matched their competitors. We managed draws and wins but did not progress into the knock out phase (somehow). Next year it would be nice to field an all-women's team, since in training 'the ladies' have proven to be very competitive against the men week-in-week-out, and are developing into very decent footballers.

The whole walking group have gelled brilliantly and had a couple of competitive Tenterden v Biddenden games at Homewood, which also gave us all a chance to watch the mens-11 at home.

Our regulars in the church membership are: Christine Hendry, Val Wood, Rachel Black, Samantha Smith, Simon Smith, Simon Black, John Mather, and Jim Heritage, so feel free to ask them about it. We have ten or more others joining us for regular training and another five or six joining for matches.

As with everything within the 'Weald Hamlet' family we do it for **fun, fitness and friendship!**

### **Revival of the women's team at the London Churches Tournament**

The women's team had a fantastic tournament at Barn Elms, benefitting from four invited players who were each looking for a team and were warmly welcomed by our 'girls'. Together they did fantastically well to get to the FINAL and narrowly missed winning, losing just 1-0, largely

down to having to play the last three games with no rest between, on a very hot afternoon. It was fantastic to have Suzie, Lilia, Amelia, and Freya play the tournament again with Annie and Georgia joining for the first time. The team had excellent support from the sidelines through-



out the tournament and all the men and walking footballers were shouting and chanting for them in the semi-final and final! Quite a colourful spectacle as we all stood in our 'stripes' and 'white' shirts!

**A successful mens 11 season** was completed with an unbeaten streak in the last few matches of the seasons, beating Vineyard Church, St Mary Bredin and City Church. The match photo shows our team in



stripes hosting City Church (Canterbury) at Homewood. City won the league, but we beat them in a fantastic final cup match of the season at Homewood 7-2.

In our very last competitive match of the season, we had a truly excellent win away at

the University Kent, beating their staff team (who were last year's Kent FA Community Cup finalists). We now have a fantastic squad of committed players mostly in their twenties, but a few in their 30s, and we also welcomed a couple of vets for a run out. About half a dozen of our lads used to be members of the Church Juicy Grapes youth club when they were at school.

The men had 14 matches this year, and as we found our rhythm by the end of the season were regularly winning matches against all opposition. We had a few occasions when the squad was stretched enough to put Simon Black in goal (not much fun), but we were able to make amends later in the season, under the leadership of our captain James P to

develop a fast free-flowing, goal-scoring game. We look forward to another league year in 2023-2024.

At the London Churches tournament (see the men's teams photo) we had two teams of young men, both getting to the knock-out rounds. As 'luck' would have it they were drawn to play against each other (a fix surely!!); one getting as far as the quarter finals. All these men are keen to compete again next year, and as we develop our football with hopefully one or two matches in South London, we hope to continue to involve more of them more frequently.



*Our two men's teams at the London Churches Tournament*

This autumn we are hoping to have a couple of **Veterans Men's 11-a-side matches** – so we will keep the church updated. This is an extension of the involvement of the younger walking footballers and some of our existing vets who occasionally play in the open age men's 11. Ask **Simon Black or Jim Heritage** for further information.

A coach is booked to take us to hear  
**Franklin Graham** speak at the Excel in  
London on Saturday, 26th August,  
at 6pm

FRANKLIN GRAHAM  
**GOD Loves YOU**  
TOUR

Spaces are still available.  
Free of charge



### **BMS Birthdays:**

14th Aug. Miss Brenda Adams  
30th Aug. Mrs Eileen Parks

BMS birthday scheme secretary:  
Miss Jackie Goodsell



### **CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS:**

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