



Zion Baptist Church  
In the heart of Tenterden

# Newsletter

Spring 2024

## Witness Service 2024



Churches Together  
In Tenterden

Good Friday, 10am  
outside Town Hall

Church Weekend away  
4 - 6 October



Christian Conference Center  
High Leigh  
For more information see inside

Churches Together in Tenterden  
Service

Easter Sunday  
6pm

Zion Baptist Church



The Life Exhibition is coming  
to Zion!  
24 - 28 June



LONDON CHURCHES

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, 18th May,  
9.30am - 4.30pm  
All welcome!

## 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

### **Church open for prayer**

Every Friday, 10am-12noon

### **Maundy Thursday Communion Service**

28th March, 7.30pm

### **Churches Together in Tenterden Service**

Sunday, 31st March, 6pm, at Zion

### **Annual General Meeting**

Sunday, 14th April, 12noon

### **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

## ***Letter from our Pastor***

We just celebrated mothering Sunday and something that reminds us of this day is flowers and cards. When thinking about Christmas, cards, Christmas trees and lights are things that help us to see what season we are in. It's Easter and we see hot cross buns, Easter eggs and cards.



Nicodemus was a religious leader who recognised that Jesus had come from God. He wanted to know how to get closer to God. So, Jesus uses a picture of an event that took place 1400 years before His coming to explain to Nicodemus about eternal life. It was an event when the children of Israel were in the wilderness, as described in the book of Numbers, chapter 21.

The people of Israel were unhappy, they were tired of eating manna sent by God, they were complaining about everything. The Lord was angry at them, so, He sent venomous snakes among them. These serpents bit the people and many Israelites died. They realised their attitude towards God and Moses was wrong, therefore, they repented, and they asked Moses to pray. The Lord answered Moses' prayer and the Lord says, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then, when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Jesus uses this event and tells Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him." *John 3:14-15*

The people of Israel were dying because of their disobedience but God in His mercy provided a way out. They only have to look at the bronze serpent and they would be healed. Just to look would be taken by God as an act of faith and that person would be better. They didn't have to perform a religious ritual or take a medicine. Anybody who looked at that bronze snake would recover and would get well.

Christ uses this illustration/picture to help Nicodemus understand how to be born again, how to get closer to God, how a person can be converted. This was not about race, a particular religion or about deeds.

*"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up."*

For the people of Israel the bread of God, manna, was a rubbish bread. God's miracles were nothing. The amazing evidence of the power of God was insignificant. They rejected God's direction and despised His rule.

Perhaps it is the same with us in our time. Many people reject God's creation. For many, everything has happened by chance. Many reject the idea that there is a God who is not only the Creator God but a holy God. Therefore, they don't want His standards and commandments. In a way, we are in the same position of the people of Israel when they were in the desert, they were dying physically but we are dying spiritually because we don't allow God to be part of our lives. Nevertheless, there is mercy, and there is healing.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, let's consider the cross at Calvary where Jesus was lifted up to give us eternal life more than two thousand years ago.

The cross of Jesus teaches there is mercy with God for anyone who recognizes that we cannot earn salvation. The Lord knows we cannot do it.

The cross of Christ teaches that the forgiveness of God is for all who sincerely look to Him regardless, and it's by grace alone. Not by earning it. Nor because we deserve it.

Come to the cross of Jesus Christ, look to Him, and believe in Him. Issac Watts wrote:

*When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count by loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

Have a blessed Easter!  
*Freddy*

## BMS Birthdays:

28th March Revd. Freddy Farias Palacios  
31st March Mrs. Cecilia Arias Olvera  
14th April Mrs. Wendy Lyons  
26th April Mrs. Fran Sangan  
26th April Revd. David Adkins  
13th May Mrs. Joan Elmer  
3rd June Mr. Tim Stevens  
23rd June Mr. Iain Bottrill  
27th June Mr. Mike Parks



# Rainbow Tots



On Pancake Day, we heard how Jesus fed 5000 people!

The Prodigal Son ate pigs' food until he realised how much his father loved him.

Blind Bartimaeus was so happy that Jesus healed him!

We made Mother's Day cards. We love our Mums very much. Jesus loves us all, even more.

At the Easter Party we had 17 adults and 17 children hearing



the Easter story, singing, making Easter baskets and enjoying buffet food and each others company.

**Shankly**, Rainbow Tots mum, is interested in finding out 'who God is to us'. She is asking around at Rainbow Tots and on Sunday mornings. She has put some of her thoughts into writing:

*God isn't just a figure, it's a feeling of warmth, safety, someone you can yell or scream to, someone who doesn't judge but listens to your sorrows and weaknesses, someone you pray to, knowing you both share the same faith without judgement.*

*God is the center of all life, His love is greater than you or I or all of us.*

**SO WHO IS GOD TO YOU?**

## Church Weekend Away 4-6 October 2024



We have booked the amazing High Leigh for our weekend away. Starting Friday night and ending after lunch on Sunday.

Total cost is £250 per person this includes all meals, ensuite room and conference facilities. We have 30 places reserved for us .

If you would like to go please let Simon Smith or Elsie know. We will be looking for pledges to cover the cost of the trip so please let us have these soonest. Payments can be made weekly, monthly or lump sum. (Simon Smith is away until 5th April, Elsie has the pledge forms)

We have been given a very generous donation of £5,000 towards the cost so we will need to raise £2,530 which would equate to £84.33 per person if we fill our booking .

There will be car drivers with spare seats or we could consider a coach/ mini bus. Ideas for fundraising include social evening and charity lunch at the London Beach Hotel.

'For when they rise from  
the dead, they neither  
marry nor are given in  
marriage, but are like an-  
gels in heaven'

*Jesus*



Jackie's Funeral

Friday, 5th April,  
at 14.30  
Charing Crematorium

Followed by a wake  
at the  
Little Silver Hotel,  
St. Michaels

**If I write a poem today**

If I write a poem today

Will I be told off?

Thrown to the wolves

Set on fire

Dropped in a pond to see if I drown?

Or will I be let off?

What if they allow me to live -

If I give ear to others

Will they listen to me?

And sense the One

Who waits

In the wings.

*By Francesca Evans*

## Weald Hamlet FC - continue to pray for all our players



The Zion mens football team 'Weald Hamlet FC' met for an in-house friendly match at Homewood in February - after the opposing team had to cancel at short notice. Since we had a good collection of players on the day, it was a great opportunity for a team photo with 'The Hamlet' in stripes and 'The Bantams' in white (both being nicknames for the club chanted from the side-lines on matchdays!) and we also see Simon who was referee on the day.

Our past youth club members in this photo include Harry, Callum and Harvey on the back row and James, Sam, Dom and Archie on the front row. In this squad we have players from Tenterden, St Michaels, High Halden, Wittersham, Ashford and Maidstone, and we are regularly joined by other players from nearby villages further afield.

The men's players are in action or training most weeks through March, April and May, so keep praying as the community builds in friendship, fun and commitment - and hoping they can get close to winning the league this year!

*Simon B*

### **CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS:**

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