

The Mag



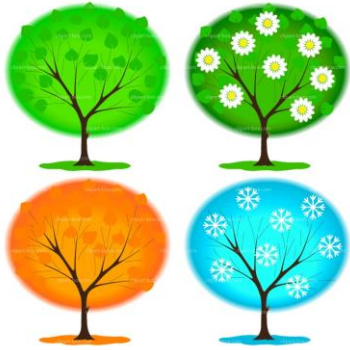
in September

The monthly magazine from Adeyfield Free Church.
2023

Time

From the Editor.....

As I get older and older [and older] I realise more and more that time is a very precious gift. It is something that we measure with extremely precise regularity tick tock tick tock but in reality, it seems to go faster the older I get. I can remember at the age of five



that Christmas never came round for at least five or even six years every time, whereas these days it is only a matter of months before I'm decorating the tree again.

Here we are approaching, nay dipping our toes into Autumn before we realise that Summer has passed away. The last four years have been very odd. Have you had trouble remembering which of the covid

years something significant occurred? Do you say 'Yes that was before covid' realising that it didn't happen last year but at least four years ago? Where did that time go?

I was at a family funeral recently when we buried that last member of the generation above me on my mother's side of the family. To my horror I realised that now I'm the eldest cousin in the family. How strange. I watched my younger cousins arriving at the crem looking as though they had aged incredibly since 2019 when I saw them last. Miraculously I had not. I couldn't get my head around that.



The time we have spent already is precious but the time we have ahead is even more so. How do we make the most of the time we have ahead of us? Do you plan annually or monthly or take each day as it comes? There is a scripture that says 'This is the day the Lord has made. We shall rejoice and be glad in it.' It sounds like a good way to make the most of every day no matter where we are in our lives and what we have to do in the future.



So, let's enjoy the Autumn of 2023, maybe we'll have an Indian summer, or cosy evenings as the nights draw in, there might be soupy suppers and there will be the start of another Alpha to enjoy. I'm also

hoping there will be some interesting articles from some of our readers. So, thanks in anticipation of a good time.

Pat G. is expert at managing her time between serving others and enjoying the life God has given her. Here she writes about her latest trip.

Celtic Connection

My Whistle stop 8-day tour to Scotland, Ireland and Wales –



We started off in Scotland, Stranraer, after a stop off for lunch in a very wet Lake District, so weather wise it did not look to promising, but by the time we got to Bonny Scotland the sun was out.

We had a visit to the Logan Botanic Gardens with wonderful plants from all over the world. That part of Scotland has a sub-tropical climate on the Mull of Galloway.

From there we went onto see the ‘Coos and Ewes’ at a Highland farm where we had a Highland Cow Safari, a guided tour of the family-owned farm looking at the very expensive Highland Cattle. One had sold for £68,000! ending with the most delicious cream tea.



Next day off by ferry to Northern Ireland, stopping in the centre of Belfast, with time to explore the city. We had a guided tour of Belfast, seeing the Queen’s University, Waterfront Hall and a visit to see the troubled areas in the past. I must say I was not really looking forward to this, but our guide made it very interesting and moving as he took us to the church where the Peace Movement started and we also signed the Peace Wall.

The next day was a visit to the Titanic Experience, which I very much enjoyed all the history and a very well laid out exhibition.



Then on to the Giant's Causeway, which for me was a bit underwhelming, but then the most beautiful coastal ride along the Antrim Coast. Down then to Southern Ireland, mainly to catch the Dublin Swift Ferry, but managed to squeeze in the Malahide Castle and Gardens and Butterfly House.

Next, Wales and a very scenic trip on the Llangollen steam railway, along by the Dee River and Valley. We were very fortunate to have the steam engine, and not the diesel. Off the train and our next mode of transport was a canal horse drawn barge, very tranquil.



This was a coach tour and we covered 1056,00 miles.

Oh yes and the sun followed us all the way.

Pat Gosling

5 Minutes to feel better

Feeling a bit stodgy or down or lethargic?

Try 5 minutes' weeding, deadheading, cutting back, or adding a plant to a garden, piece of empty ground, around a tree or lamp post or a communal space. It seems to work every time and it's very good for mental and physical wellbeing.

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

When you pray

- ✚ Spend some time quietening your mind and spirit.
- ✚ Spend some time recalling all the blessings and benefits God has showered on you over the last weeks.
- ✚ Spend some time giving thanks for God's love and presence.
- ✚ Spend some time saying the names of those you love and placing them in God's hands.
- ✚ Spend some time listening to what God has to say about them.
- ✚ Spend some time praying what God has said.
- ✚ Spend some time thanking Him that He has spoken and listened
- ✚ Spend some time appreciating the time you spent with Him.

A CUP OF COFFEE,
A PAUSE TO PRAY,



THANK YOU GOD FOR THIS
BEAUTIFUL DAY.

AFC Summer Holiday Club



The Holiday Club at Adeyfield Free Church this year took place on the mornings of Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th and Friday 28th July. The theme of the club was '**Survival in the Wilderness**' and was planned by Daniella from Expressions Academy with Penny, Barbara and Brian from AFC.

Twenty-two children attended on Wednesday, **twenty-seven** on Thursday and **twenty** on Friday.

The club centred on the survival techniques of Bear Grylls and daily Bible stories.

On Wednesday, we looked at protection and **Elijah**. The children built mini twig shelters, tied knots and played a name that leaf game. The children were separated into three groups, each with their own tent and mascot. For the Bible story, we looked at how God protected Elijah.

On Thursday, we looked at rescue and **Jesus in the Wilderness**,

On Friday, water, food and **Moses** in the desert.

On Friday, the children made campfire bread twists under the watchful eye of John Blastock.

The adults leading the club were Daniella and David from Expressions, Penny, June, Shirley, Sue, Sheree, John, Barbara and Brian from AFC and Lizzie and Ken from St Barnabas.





We all agreed that the club was a great success, being well planned and **the children were all lovely.**

Just a little anecdote, when Barbara and Brian's son dropped off his children at the club on Thursday, one of the other mothers told him that her children thought the club was wonderful.

Brian Jackson, August 2023

Many thanks to all who gave their time to the holiday club.

Andrew in Schools

For many years Andrew Masters has been taking school assemblies and distributing Bibles in Primary Schools. He decided to give his time to the

Lord in this special way and there are hundreds of children and adults who have heard the gospel and been able to read it for themselves. Here is his timetable so far for September.

If you can take a few minutes to pray for this work, Andrew will be blessed and the children and staff will too.

September 5th.... 8.45.....Hobbs Hill Wood
2.30Potten End

September 6th ... 9.45.....Chaulden
1.15..... Holtsmere End Y3 Bibles
2.15.....Holtsmere End Y3Bibles

September 7th.....2.30.....St Paul's

September 8th.....1.15.....Holtsmere End Y6 Bibles
2.15.....Holtsmere End Y6 Bibles

ITEMS FOR PRAYER & PRAISE

BOOKING SCHOOL VISITS

It is really helpful if our regular schools' book for the year, to date 90% of them have, September to July 2024. Of these 50% have also booked Bible Presentations.

FINANCE FOR BIBLES

The amount we will need if all the schools welcome the Bibles
Is £13,140
We already have £4,487 including stock.
So we need £8,653.

SPECIAL PRAYER

Please pray for Broadfield & Hammond to welcome Bibles for the children in the new school year.

INFANT SCHOOL

We have also been asked for 'Beginner's Bibles' for an Infant School, a separate publication from the Children's Bibles we supply.

What a responsibility, and what an opportunity!
Here's to the King of Kings..... Amen. *Andrew*

Harvest Service at AFC

Our Harvest service this year will take place on Sunday 1st October
It will be an all-age service and we have invited the Cubs and Beavers who meet weekly in our building. Arky has made a specific request that they should be with us to celebrate harvest and the members of our pack will be preparing during the weeks before to give to a children's food charity. Keep your eyes open for further information nearer the time.



Friday Prayers

In 1999 The Lord spoke, individually, to two women who were members of Adeyfield Free Church. He told both of them that He wanted a prayer time established each week where all members of the church could come together to listen to what was on His heart and to pray those things that He intended to bring into being with the obedience of the church. They went to John Hardaker, who was the minister then, and told him. They went, not knowing that the other had also gone.



John got the two women together and told them what had happened. They immediately decided to meet each week on Monday evenings for an hour from 7pm to do just what The Lord had said. They were joined by another woman and the three of them got to business with God.

They began with repentance and worship each week.

Not only was He faithful in telling them what was on His heart, He also showed them how to pray in different ways for different situations.

Once the pattern of attendance was established the women informed the rest of the church and invited all who were free to take the time out with God to pray and learn how to pray in wider ways. They were joined, at first by a couple of people and then by some elders who would be meeting for the monthly elders' meeting at 8pm. Then by others from the congregation. The group grew to around 15.

Most of the time they came with no agenda, being willing to receive God's focus.

God was faithful and began to give them instructions, encouragements and affirmations. They began to receive scriptures, pictures and individual words from the Lord and so as not to forget or miss anything, they wrote what they received on a flip chart so that they could refer back to that as they prayed.



Answers to their prayer times began to arrive. They saw that God would only give them new instructions and words once the last ones had been dealt with. He told them that they were to realise that those who prayed in this way were standing in the gap for the whole congregation and He would work in the congregation what He was telling them to pray. Some of the things they thought God might be saying seemed odd or puzzling so they tested them against scripture but because the messages



they received were coming to several of them at the same time they decided to persist and see what would happen. After all, there was nothing to lose if they were wrong, but what would be the benefits if they were right?

Occasionally issues arose in the church that needed specific prayer time so they would present those to God and ask for His help. Every so often they asked God if they should continue in the way they had been doing and they tried to make any changes or adjustments they thought He might be saying. They took things slowly and carefully wanting only to do what God wanted of them. He was faithful and loving.

A sense of trust and acceptance grew among the group as they learned together. They prayed for more people to join them and invited individuals and the church as a whole to come but the numbers never grew past around 15. It was pointed out that, at that time, this represented around a tithe of the congregation number.

They continued to meet in the church every Monday evening apart from Bank holidays and during August until we moved out of the old building. Then the meeting moved to the Manse. By now we had Pete Blackband as minister. Numbers fluctuated as the demographic of the congregation changed. But God never ceased to be faithful in speaking and acting on the prayers.



Then came lockdown. Once we had established how to use Zoom, Monday prayers were held on Zoom but the change, the stress of the covid times, and the changes in the membership of the congregation meant that the habit was broken and the numbers of those who still met to pray were greatly reduced.

God still was faithful. Miraculously we still saw answers to prayer.

God still continued to speak and teach and encourage. But those who still met had their hearts broken when they realised how many of their fellow worshippers were missing out on the blessing that the time with God on Monday evenings brought to them.

Lockdowns lifted and the time came to rethink the prayer times. One or two of the original group got together to ask God if He still wanted the special prayer time to happen. **They came to the conclusion that He did.**

A question went out asking who would be prepared to meet in this way to pray and when was the best time. For those responding,

Friday lunchtimes were best

and so the prayer time was re-established every Friday from 1pm. We meet, usually around 6-8 people come and God remains to be faithful. It was decided to sometimes come with no agenda but, because we are having to deal with so many new challenges within the way we are setting up our church life on the Plaza, there would be subjects to present to God so that He can focus us on His heart for those specific things.

**At the moment we are asking Him
about the Children and Youth work.**

He spent several weeks just focussing our attention on Him, His glory, His love, obedience to Him, His faithfulness and so on. But a couple of weeks ago there was a shift. It is so exciting when that happens because, over the years we have learned He is about to move when He does that.

Friday prayers will resume in September. The newsletter will tell you when. We wait with anticipation to see what God will do among our children and youth. We prayed for families and He brought them and now He has answered our prayers to that challenge in that a new Sunday group will be starting for 3-6-year-olds. A team of helpers will be forming so please answer that call if it comes to you.

If you are free on Fridays at 1pm don't miss out on the blessing. If you are not but you could meet with others at another time, get together and get going.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had groups all over the church meeting just to find out what is on God's heart then praying that into being?

Frederica Graham Brown

It was with sadness that we heard on 15th August of the death of Frederica Graham Brown at the end of a long illness. She and her husband, Rev. Francis Graham Brown, worshippers at St Barnabas Church, were active in ministry and outreach in Hemel for many years. You may have seen Francis in The Liberty Tea Rooms and at Pray Hemel.

Her funeral is to be held at St Barnabas on 9th September at 10.30. We send our condolences to Francis and the family.



The following information comes from a weekly newsletter from Synod. The newsletter usually contains news [obviously] of events that have happened and opportunities to attend future events. If you'd like to know what is going on, go to the website for Thames North Synod Weekly Newsletter.

Racial Justice - Reparations - With Eco Justice

On Saturday, 9th September 2023, 10.30 – 3.00pm there will be a gathering of URC-wide Racial Justice Advocates and Activists. However, this will be an open meeting for all those who have passion and concern for the above urgent challenges. The connection between Racism and Climate Change is becoming increasingly more obvious and there is clear need for joined-up thinking and action. You are welcome to attend but please let me know if you

can come (or indeed you are interested in further involvement) so we can pass on your name to Karen Campbell and the Global and Inter-Cultural Ministries Office who will send you more details and an agenda directly to you.

Francis Ackroyd

Ackroyds22@gmail.com

020 8558 5270

***A prayer for the situation in Ukraine from leaders of
London Methodists***

We pray for the people of the Ukraine and the people of Russia, for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn swords into ploughshares, and to seek peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

Above all, Lord, we today pray for peace in Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son. Lord, have mercy.

Amen

Ministry And Mission Fund - Annual Letter To Local Churches

**To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and
our Local Ecumenical Partnerships**

Dear Friends,

When will normal service be resumed?

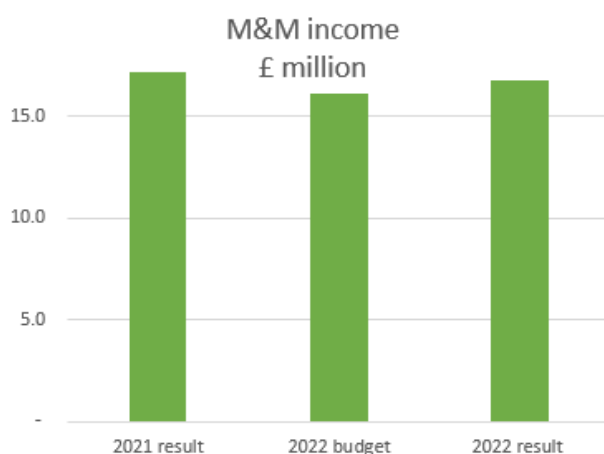
As we are writing this letter and closing off the URC's accounts for 2022, the country is still torn with industrial disputes, mostly notably with Health Service workers, rail industry workers, teachers etc. etc. Whatever your view as to the wisdom or justice of such action, we suspect all of us are affected by the disruption to some degree.

In church life too, are we back to "normal life"? Some churches no doubt have returned to something like their pre-Covid level of activity and attendance numbers. Quite a few have recommenced their activity but find their numbers have reduced. Some churches have found re-

opening too difficult and have decided to close.

Whatever the “new normal” was to be, we suggest its arrival has (like many trains) been disrupted, delayed, or cancelled all together.

The URC’s finance officers had concerns that the late arrival of the return to normality would impact very significantly on the giving to the M&M Fund in 2022. However, the churches responded magnificently and the giving to M&M was £600,000 ahead of budget. It was also only 2.5% down on 2021’s result.



So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2022 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With normal service not yet resumed, 2023 is not going to be an easy year either. We now have the added disruption of high inflation, pushing up wages and overhead costs. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Immediate Past Treasurer)

Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

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Mag Wordsearch

CALENDAR-CENTURY-CLOCK-CLOCKTOWER-
 COCKCROW-DAY-EARLY-ECCLESIASTES THREE-
 EVENING-FOB-FORTNIGHT-FUTURE-GRANDFATHER-
 HALF HUNTER-LATE-MINUTE-MONTH-NIGHT-PAST-
 PRESENT-SECOND-SUNDIAL-TICKTOCK-WATCH-
 WEEK-YEAR

Answers to test questions.....

Abraham begat Isaac and Isaac begat Jacob and Jacob begat 12 partridges.

Zechariah was burning insects when he saw and angel

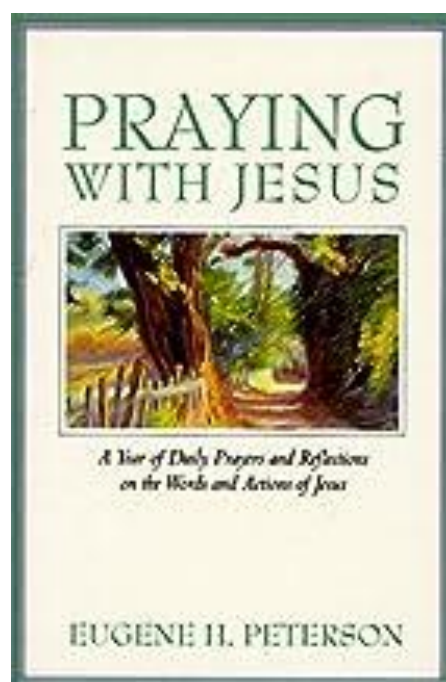
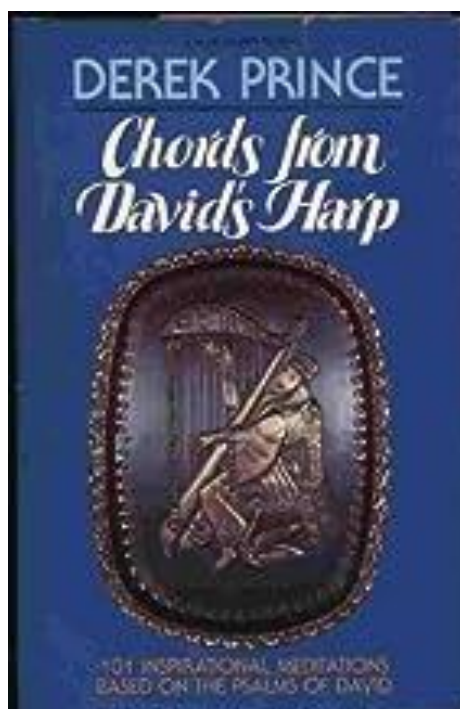
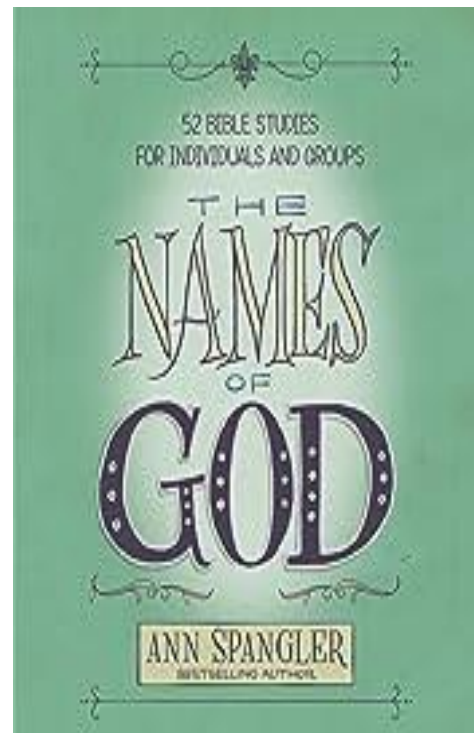
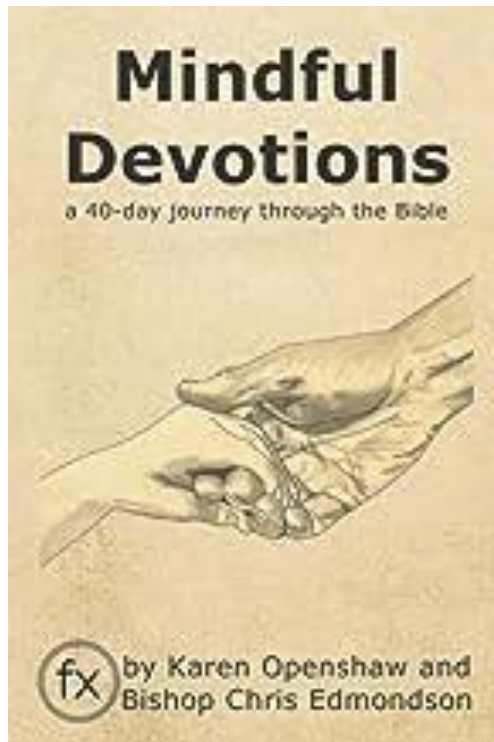
Samson slayed the Philistines by puling down the pillows of the temple.

The people who followed the Lord were called the twelve decibels.

Submitted by Pam Lay

Spending time each day with God.....

Many of us take a timeslot each day to step out of the daily tasks and just concentrate on God. Books like 'Every Day With Jesus' and 'Daily Bread' have been such a help and a focus for us through the years. Each year there are new publications that help us to daily meditate, pray, learn and listen to God. Here are a few suggestions.



The Mag's Back Page

Contacts

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Our Sunday services begin at 10 am

Everyone is welcome.

We have provision for children and youth from the age of 3 until 18. We also have a creche for babies and toddlers to take their adults. There is contact with the worship room so the service is broadcast into the creche. One Sunday each month will be an all-age service where everyone is present for the whole service.

When there are five Sundays in the month one of them will be a joint service with St George's URC, either at Adeyfield Free church or at St George's. Details are published in our weekly newsletter. We usually celebrate communion on one Sunday each month.

God is always eager to welcome us all into His presence as we worship, pray, read scripture, hear a message of faith and encouragement and enjoy each other's company over refreshments.

10.am
Sundays