

The Mag in November

2023

The monthly magazine from Adeyfield Free Church.

PROMISED PROMISES



From the Editor.....

I can remember the advice given by my mum many years ago that we should never promise anything to a child that we are not sure we can fulfil. It was such good advice and I have always tried to carry it out.

I would try to get my dad to promise to take me swimming in the sea when we were on holiday. He would hedge around it because he knew how freezing the water would be but once he caved in, he knew he would have to do it and then we'd see him bracing himself as he danced about in the water shouting 'cold, cold, cold'.



My mum was a different challenge. With her it was asking permission to go to the swings while she was shopping in the Queen's Square. She was nervous at first in case I had an accident while she was not with me but eventually, she gave in and I was able to show that I could be sensible on my own. After that she always allowed me to do it because she had originally said 'Yes'.

I knew where I was with this kind of upbringing. It made me feel secure. So, when I became a Christian, I expected God to fulfil His promises. But all of us can realise that no matter what our earthly experiences are of promises, God is the ultimate in keeping His. There are the general ones, the ones He directs to a particular church and ones personally to each of us. And on the whole I am seeing Him do just that although some promises are still on their way towards me. And, of course, like the rest of us I have my favourites.

So, I wondered what your favourite promises are. Which ones have been completed and what are you still waiting for? Do you have any peculiar promises coming your way either from a friend or loved one or from God? What promises have you made?



God never forgets His promises

This is my favourite promise, God will always protect us. We still go through the storms but He stands firm with us. My boat has been battered the most in the last few years, I have been on my knees before our Lord feeling broken, that's when I've felt the closest to Him. He holds me and I carry on.

Sue Grimsdale



Ephesians 6:10-18

The Armour of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but

against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Sometimes we make promises to ourselves. The most favourite one for me is that I promise to lose weight and stick to the diet until I reach my target. I need to be careful not to let myself get too heavy because I have arthritis and being too heavy puts extra strain on my joints.

Recently Pastor Paul spoke to us about creating good habits that will help us keep to our resolutions to adapt and create changes in our lives. I do tend to do that and have a bottle of water next to the chair where I sit when I'm working on the computer, my medication is beside my bed so I don't forget to take it before I go to sleep, my Bible and my notebook and pen are on the table where I sit at breakfast so that I don't forget to spend time reading and praying in the morning. All these things work well for me but the promise I occasionally make to lose weight goes off again. Even when I give myself some inspiration to keep going towards my target. Take a look at this poem. I wrote it after frustrating myself with another 'failure'.

Target Trousers

I've got some 'target' trousers
They're just a bit too tight
They're cut downs for the summer
And very, very white
And they'll look great with my navy T shirt with the stripes when I can do them up.

I had some once before when
I was a bigger size
And now they fall right off me
Since my diet won me the prize
I was dieter of the month three times at Slimming World!

I'll just eat fruit and veggies
It's for a week or two
And then I'll weigh myself again
And see if that will do.
After all I've only got a couple of pounds to shed. Well three or four!!

I've got some bigger trousers
To wear while I reduce
They're very nice; one blue, one green
And one a gentle puce
I'm wondering if they will do just as well!!!

I like to watch the Bake Off
I think they're very good
They make those cakes and biscuits
And chocolate sweets and puds.
I can always feel my mouth watering and almost taste the icing!!!!

I sometimes get a craving
And want to have a cake
I must be strong and not give in
My target trousers call to me from the wardrobe and I think I shouldn't be
watching things like Great British Menu, Yes Chef and Hairy Bikers go
mad in the Kitchen but it's the only way I can get near to the things I
really want to eat all the time I'm stuck on these rotten cauliflower florets
and green beans and I just get to thinking if I eat another carrot I shall
start to look like one!!!!!!!!!!!! AAgghhhhhh!

I've got some 'target' trousers
They're just a bit too tight
They're cut downs for the summer
And very, very white
And they'll look great with my navy T shirt
with the stripes
when I can do them up.

*Did you spot where I'm going wrong? As Pastor Paul commented,
changing from the outside rarely works, we need to change from the
inside so we actually want to do what we are doing. No amount of
promising myself that I'll keep to my diet will work if I actually want a
cake!!!!!!!!!!!!*



If You Build It, They Will Come

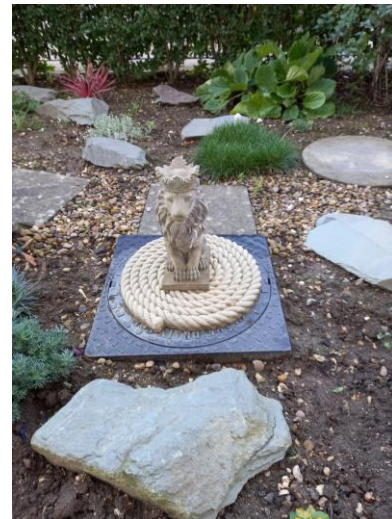
Have you seen that film, 'Field Of Dreams'? I'm not an ardent fan of Kevin Costner but I think he does a good job in that one. The story of a man convinced that he has heard a voice telling him to build a baseball field in his farm. He doesn't know who it is that will come but he is so convinced that he must do it that he believes the promise and goes ahead.

When we began to look at that wilderness of weeds that was growing alongside the church hall, we needed to be convinced that our efforts would be worth it if we were to convert it into a garden but we believed it was God's promise that if we cleared the weeds and planned the garden, He would cause it to grow and people would like to see it and use it. So, we began. We are at the stage now when we are constantly amazed at how well the plants are doing and how adaptable and flexible the plan has become so that we can add or change sections of the garden without much upheaval. God has certainly kept His side of the bargain.



Then I began to see the other part of the promise coming to fruition. We had hoped that we in the church could make more use of the garden than we do at present and we have plans in the ether for next year..... or the following one!

But I have been so pleased to see our children and youth going along the winding path or sitting on the bench with their friends this summer that I had no idea that other children were also enjoying the garden. The other week we were at Friday prayers on a lovely warm, sunny day with the door open when we heard laughter and squeals of delight coming from the garden. One of the children from Playskills was out there with a member of staff. She was coming along the winding path peering at the plants, laughing at the birdbath and touching leaves and stems with a huge smile on her face. The member of staff seemed anxious that she was disturbing us but we called out that it was fine. It looked as though the child had very poor sight and this was a journey of wonderful discovery for her. Then, on the morning of our prayer morning I was sitting in the Atrium as our members came to pray. We have a ballet



teacher in on Saturdays and classes came for half an hour while others went home all morning. While waiting for siblings or friends I saw some of the children skipping and walking along the winding path through the



garden, enjoying the plants and the garden furniture. It was so lovely to realise that God's promises were indeed coming to fruition.

I got to thinking about some of His other promises to us. A promise about our finances was

'You do the little things and I'll provide the big things.'

He spoke to us years ago about our mission. He said

'Don't' be afraid, nothing is impossible with me.

Your purpose is to birth the Saviour into the community.

I will be with you and show you what to do.'

I cannot see that He would fulfil one promise and not another. Each one includes something that needs to come from us. The 'if' is the confirmation of that. **'If you do this, I will do this.'**

I'm encouraged by that and I look forward to getting on with the little things and continuing to reach out to the community.



Little Clues



It's in November that we begin to see the little clues around us that remind us of the promises of God. In the Old Testament there are little clues to the promises of the coming Messiah. In the prophets there are tantalising phrases that tell us God has a plan in mind.... Watch out for the little clues..... it won't be what you think and it won't be just for a season.



The flower fund has benefitted from some generous donations which means we can add to the store of resources we can use for the different seasons in the church. I don't know if you noticed, last Christmas there was a theme of candles. This year it will be something else so see if you can notice what it is. By the end of November we will be enjoying our **Wreath Making Saturday on 25th**. It's always a lovely afternoon and really the start of the decorating season. **See JANIEL for information**. We'll be beginning to decorate the worship room and other areas of the building during the end of November ready for all our visitors and the special services that will soon be on us [take a look at the back page]. All this decorating and preparation are little clues to say that **we believe the promises of God**. We believe in the coming of Jesus and all that means to us who have recognised His love for us.



So, I don't moan or worry about the little clues in the shops or on the TV that seem to come earlier each year, that Christmas is on the horizon because, for me and for many it means we get to celebrate again that amazing thing God did in sending His Son to us in that extremely individual way.



We Need a Name

A group including elders and members have been investigating and planning to create a new eatery on the church premises. We would like it to be a place where local residents and families like to come to enjoy nutritious meals, snacks, drinks or takeaways at a reasonable price. But also, we'd like it to be somewhere that is friendly; somewhere people feel at home and relaxed. We want it to be a reflection of our desire to serve the community and show God's care and love for everyone and a place that can also be used by the church whenever we have a special occasion to mark.

We need to design a sign and create an atmosphere that reflects the identity of the place. We also need begin to advertise very soon. In order to advertise we need a name. It needs to be something short and catchy, not churchy and something that shows we are on the Plaza. We have already begun to collect some ideas but we need more. Send to Admin, speak to Penny or look for the list on Sundays and help us with this important project.

COOK/MANAGER

**Our church-based eatery, serving our local community on
Maylands Plaza, is looking for a cook - manger**

**We need a good, all-round cook capable of producing
home-made, fresh, nutritious, and varied meals
quickly and efficiently**

**You will be working alongside a team of volunteers
initially working Wednesday - Friday 8.30am - 3.30pm**

**For more information and a job description
please email admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk**

We will also need volunteers to work alongside the cook. It would be lovely to be up and running by Christmas, or failing that, in the New Year. Please think about how you can help with this project. We believe that God has promised us if we do the little things, He will provide the big things. This project is a vital part of our outreach into the community. One of the reasons God sent us here.



As many of you are aware, we are looking to employ a Youth and a Families' Worker. The adverts for both positions are below. Please pass these on to people or organisations which could help us find the right people to help us serve the Lord in our church and community. And most importantly, please continue to pray for those involved in the recruitment process and for those applying.

Penny

Adeyfield Free Church Hemel Hempstead

Youth Worker

To oversee our church ministry to young people

We are a church family that believes that church should not only be fun but also a place where lives are transformed by Jesus.

We are looking for an enthusiastic youth worker:

- For an initial 5 year, part-time position of 17 hours per week
- To build upon the existing work with our young people, enabling them to explore the Christian faith in creative ways
- To create opportunities to build a positive difference in the youth in our community

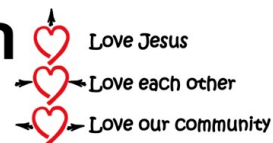
For a job description please email admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk - closing date 1st December



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www.adeyfieldfree.org.uk

01442 260175 admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk



Adeyfield Free Church Hemel Hempstead

Families' Worker

To oversee our church ministry to children and families

We are a church family that believes that church should not only be fun but also a place where lives are transformed by Jesus.

We need a families' worker:

- For an initial 5 year, part-time position of 20 hours per week
- To build upon the existing work with our children and families, enabling them to explore the Christian faith in creative ways
- To build relationships with groups meeting within the AFC Centre
- To expand our presence with families in the local community

For a job description please email admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk - closing date 1st December



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Mag Wordsearch

AFFIRMED-AGREE-ALLOW-AMEN-BELIEVE-CAN-CARRY-DOING-ENJOY-FULFILLED-GENEROUS-GIVEN-GIVING-MAY-OUT-PLEASING-PLEDGE-PROMISED-PROMISES-RECEIVE-SHALL-THANK YOU-TRUST-WILL-YES



**Join us for
Christmas Dinner**
Sunday 10th December 12.30pm
Adeyfield Free Church Hall
 Tickets available from either Church office
 £15 per adult
 £5 per child (5 - 11)
 under 5s free




Christmas at the Adeyfield Free Church Centre



November

Saturday 25th 3pm Wreath Recreation

December

Sunday 3rd 4pm Rag Wreath Making

Tuesday 5th 7.30pm Bible Journalling

Sunday 17th 10am Nativity

4.30pm Carols

Sunday 24th 10am Christingle

Christmas Day 10am Family service



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www.adeyfieldfree.org.uk

01442 260175 admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk

Wreath Recreation



Sat 25th November, 3-6pm

Adeyfield Free Church Centre

£20 from church office (£25 on the day) incl. cake & tea

Gifts on sale – Cash only

Age 12+

0793971 6691 / admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk



Helpers needed

- Cake donations
- Craft sale donations
- Collect holly and ivy
- Set up
- Refreshments
- Gift table
- Clear up

Please speak to
Janiel or Penny

The Mag's Back Page

Contacts

Editor ... pamramannison@gmail.com

Church Office admin@adeyfieldfree.org.uk

Special Sundays November and December

12th November..... Remembrance, communion

19th November..... Shoebox blessing, Safeguarding

3rd December..... Advent begins

10th December.....Communion

17th December..... 10am Nativity

4.30pm Carols around the manger

24th December..... Christingle

25th December..... Christmas Day service

[look for time nearer the day]

31st December..... Joint service at St George's

