

The Mag in November



Knowing Me And Knowing You

The beauty of close relationships

November 2024

The monthly magazine from Adeyfield Free Church

From the Editor

I'm an only child so I spent a lot of time on my own when school was not happening. There weren't many children of my age along our street and lots of my school friends didn't live near me. It was not the fashion in the 1950s and 60s to have sleepovers so I never grew up with a close relationship of my own generation. It wasn't until I was 30 that I met my closest friend. She was my daughter's teacher and not long after I became a Christian, she spotted me in a Christian meeting in The Pav. She had been asking the Lord for a Christian mum to help in the classroom to hear readers and she approached me. We soon struck up a friendly relationship and found we had lots of things in common.

I also got to know her husband and when my marriage failed and the vicar at St Barnabas moved on, I needed a Pastor. The Lord told me to come to AFC because this dear friend worshipped there. The rest is history. We became close friends, I and both Gill and Martin. We attended Faith Camp every year for 34 years together, we had days out and lunches and suppers together and with other friends. Some people who didn't know us even asked if we were sisters.

When Martin went to Cambridge to train as a minister Gill and I would supper together every week and when Martin came home at weekends, I was part of his prayer support team who prayed after Sunday services every week.

I started to train as a teacher after working as Welfare Assistant in the school and Martin and I graduated at the same time... he into the ministry and me into the classroom that Gill vacated when they moved to Basildon.

Now we are all retired we still meet up for lunches and have called each other regularly whenever we are both home on Sundays. What a blessing this close relationship has been for me. The Lord has given me a Sister and Brother that I otherwise would not have had. We have shared joys and sadnesses, stresses and laughter. We regularly pray for each other and trust each other with our deepest thoughts.

I was blessed with a Mum who was also a pal. We were very close especially after Dad died at the relatively young age of 67. We were almost inseparable for 34 years until she went to the Lord aged 94. These two close relationships in my life have been very different but such blessings and I praise God that He was so generous to me in them.

When you pray

Asked to write a couple of sentences in praise to God, one of our small groups put their sentences together and this Psalm of praise and thankfulness for a close relationship with our Father was the result.

From a close relationship with our Father can come praise and worship, faith and trust.

Faithful God thank you for your unconditional love.
Father, sustain us as we eat your bread of life

Support us as we bring our worries to the foot of the cross.
Lord, you always hear us, you are always close and you promise never to
leave us.

Thanks and praise be to you for ever.

Oh Lord, who knows everything, the beginning to the end, I pray for our
brief moment in time, in this place, that all people in the world
will know your peace.

Your will be done.

Heavenly Father, you know me inside out because you are
the Great I AM

Forgive me when I do not listen to you Heavenly Father.
There is only one I AM.

May I wake every morning with my heart full of your loving goodness.

Reach out your hand and place it in mine, where it is safe from harm, for
I am always with you, always near, always loving you.

Where He leads, I will follow.
He is a never-failing God.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

**AFC is once again packing shoeboxes:
Join in by:**

- Bringing in some items for our young people to pack - collection box in reception and hall
- Pack your own at home
- Pay for a packed shoebox online
- Donate money for the delivery (£5 per box)
- Help receive boxes during Collection week
Monday 11th - Monday 18th November
- Be part of our Blessing service - 17th November



Ideas to fill your shoeboxes:

- Cuddly toy
- Football and pump
- Toy truck/Doll
- Musical instrument
- Toy cars
- Animal figures
- Building blocks
- Skipping rope
- Tennis ball/Yo-yo
- Spinning top
- Mini frisbee
- Fidget spinner
- Finger puppets
- Slinky
- Travel games
- Small musical instruments
- Small puzzles etc.
- Pens
- Pencils & sharpeners
- Crayons/Felt tip pens
- Ruler & Eraser
- Writing pads or notebook/Solar calculator
- Geometry set
- Glue stick
- Pre-inked Stampers • Colouring books
- Watercolour paint set
- Safety scissors
- Craft kits
- Comb or Hairbrush • Toothbrush
- Flannel or sponge
- Bar soap
- Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils
- lip balm • Nail clippers and file • Stick deodorant
- Compact mirror
- Hat & Gloves/Sunglasses
- Cap
- T-shirt, Socks
- Flip-flops
- Small backpack, handbag or bag
- Hair bows or clips
- Friendship bracelets • Watch
- Wind-up Torch
- Necklace or bracelet
- Stickers
- A personal note and photo

Breakfast Worship

As we read through the Bible, we see many instances when eating together was a vital activity. Our major celebrations throughout the year are coupled with a shared meal. Jesus ministered, taught and enjoyed friends' company over meals and handed down a very special meal to all those who profess to love and follow Him. Eating together is a very good way to form closer relationships with those we sort of know so an idea to have a couple of Breakfast Services at our all age services began to grow. Pastor Paul wanted to be present at those meals so we moved our all-age services from the third to the fourth Sundays in the Autumn months. The September opportunity passed before we could make plans but October was a brilliant chance to try one.

That first breakfast and worship service was very recently enjoyed by everyone who arrived at Meet and Eat ready to meet and eat. Being the first Sunday in Autumn 2024 when we were in Greenwich Mean Time everyone was very ready for breakfast by 10 am.

Bacon rolls, veggie sausages in buns, toast, jam, tea and coffee were expertly prepared by John B, Penny, Sheree and June P. and the community space was bulging with people chatting, laughing, greeting each other and enjoying the company of those they had not seen for ages as well as those they see every week.

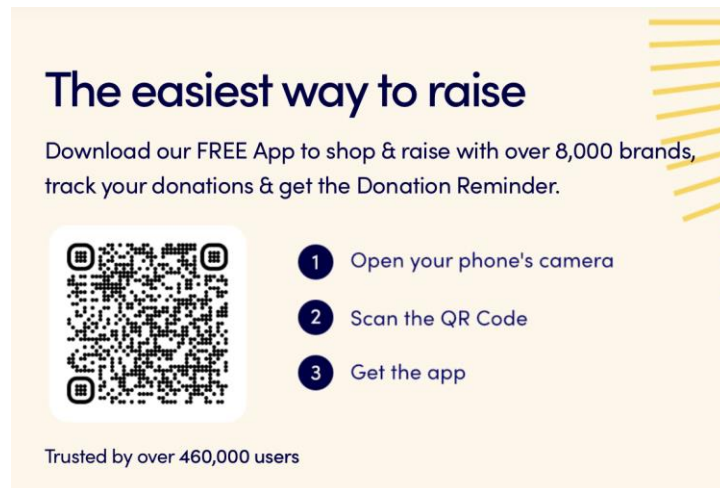
Once breakfast was done everyone went down into the worship room to praise, pray, read scripture, answer a quiz and enjoy some very dramatic presentations making the clear point that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and we need to get to know Him more and stick with Him as we follow Him through to glory.

How very important it is that we develop close relationships with those we join in worship. It helps us to serve God and each other more effectively and strengthens the work and witness of the church. What is more it's great for making new friends and cementing old ones. Jesus' main command to all believers is that we love each other as He loves us. How can we do that if we don't know one another? I'm really looking forward to the November Breakfast Worship Sunday. We will have learned from October and been able to apply what we have learned to finer plan the order of service.

Thank you so much Paul for suggesting this and the wonderful team who worked so well to serve us all. God bless you.


Raise money for AFC while Christmas shopping using 'Easy Fundraising'

Raise funds for AFC at no cost when you shop online use Easy Fundraising and choose 'Adeyfield Free Church' as your charity
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penpenstuart@gmail.com

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Mag Wordsearch

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BUDDY-CALL.CHAT-CLOSE-CONVERSATION-
 COOPERATE-FACE TO FACE-FAITHFUL-FRIENDSHIP-
 GIVING-HELPFUL-HELPING-INSPIRE-KINDNESS-
 KNOWING-LOVE-LOVING-MATE-NATTER-
 RELATIONSHIP-SMILE-SUPPORT-UNDERSTANDING-

Unscramble these pairs of characters who had close relationships.....

Answers on the back page.

aaabbd imnnort

aaabcdeilnn

adtejmnorry

aadehjmnoprsy

abbcdeeeimmnoorsw

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Contacts

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Sundays In November

3rd..... I am... the Good Shepherd

10th I am... Way, Truth & the Life [*Remembrance Sunday and Communion followed by special church meeting*]

17th... I am... Way, Truth & the Life [*shoebox blessing*]

24th....I am... the True Vine... [*All Age, followed by church meeting*]

Unscrambled Pairs

Batman and robin

Caine and Able

Tom and Jerry

Mary and Joseph

Morecombe and Wise

Carol singers needed in the Reception area between 4-6pm on 5th December. Contact Pam.

Do you love God? Do you love to play an instrument or love to sing? We need you in the music team. Please speak to Brian and help to encourage the congregation in sung worship.