



Sunday 29th October

"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God to everyone who believes ..."

"... it is written: The righteous shall live by faith."

...Romans 1: 16 - 17 ESV

A word from the pastor ...

This coming Tuesday 31st October marks the 500th anniversary of *The Reformation*. What was the Reformation about and why does it matter to us today?

Burk Parsons of Ligonier Ministries describes it this way:

It is one thing to believe that the Bible is the Word of God, but it is another to believe, or trust, the Bible as the Word of God. ... Throughout history, the visible church has always professed her belief that the Bible is God's Word. Yet, a cursory study of church history reveals that many popes, priests, and parishioners neglected to read the Bible themselves, and many didn't believe, or trust, the Bible as the final, authoritative Word of God.

Such widespread unbelief didn't happen all at once, but gradually. As men gained political and ecclesiastical power throughout the medieval period, they established themselves as the only authoritative interpreters of God's Word and, eventually, albeit inevitably, as authoritative equals with God's Word. As a result, God's Word was deemed superfluous, chained to the pulpit, and recited solely in Latin, ensuring that common, uneducated (poor and powerless) Christians could never access God's Word for themselves and, therefore, never question the authority of the powerful elite. Nevertheless, men cannot silence God's Word, nor can they contain the Holy Spirit or extinguish the power of the gospel. God's truth will always shine, however dark the age.

The light of the sixteenth-century Reformation was the reflection of the light of the Word of God as our final, infallible authority. The great Reformation slogan, post tenebras, lux ("after darkness, light"), captured the heart of the Reformation—the light of God's Word and the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world.

The Reformation was about returning the church to the authority of Scripture and the empowerment of the common Christian to be able to study and feed on God's Word. This morning we will break off for a few weeks from our study of John's Gospel to embark on a short series considering essential Biblical truths that were restored to common understanding through God's great power in the Reformation 500 years ago.

What's on this week

Sunday 29th October.

Welcome to Hailsham Free Church.

A special welcome if you are visiting for the first time today.

Prayer – We meet in the church office every Sunday before each service, at 10:25 in the morning and 6:15 in the evening. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Morning Service **10:45am**

Pastor Tim is leading the service and will be preaching from 2 Timothy 3: 15-17. Sermon Title: *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture Alone).

Evening Service **6:30pm**

Pastor Tim is leading the service and will be preaching from 1 John 1: 1-4. Sermon Title: Live in Divine Communion.

Crèche: If you have young children, then please make use of our crèche room, where the service will be relayed.

Young people: We have a children's group that runs during the service.

Primary & Junior:

From age 3 - school year 6.

Theme verse 2017

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Home Fellowship Groups.

Monday

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| Prayer Meeting | 9.30am |
| Elders Meeting | 10.45am |
| Christars | 7:00pm |

Tuesday

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| Adventurers. | 6:15pm |
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Wednesday

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| Mums & Toddlers. | 10:00am |
| Followers. | 6:00pm |

Thursday

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| Faith in Acton. | 2-4pm |
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Friday

Saturday

Sunday next week. DV

Morning Service. **10:45am**

Pastor Tim will be leading the service and will be preaching. We will share in communion together

Evening Service. **6:30pm**

Pastor Tim will be leading the service and will be preaching.

All our services are recorded on CD. To get a copy please speak to someone on the sound desk at the back of the church; alternatively you can find them on the church website; www.hailshamfreechurch.org

Be Involved

Information ...

Pilgrims' Friend Society.

Annual Ploughman's Lunch and Sale. Saturday 4th November 11am - 2 pm. At Reid Hall Boreham Street Nr. Herstmonceux, BN27 4SD. Further details can be found in the foyer, or speak to Mary Hickman.

British Museum Conducted Tour.

Saturday 2nd December leaving the church at **7:45am** there are still 2 seats available for this trip, the coach has been booked, speak with Andrew Levell for further details.

Crafternoon.

Donations of ribbon required for the next meeting in November, speak to Priscilla if you have any questions.

An Evening with Noel & Tricia Richards.

A concert featuring songs and conversations about love, life, friendship and faith. Venue, The Civic Centre, Uckfield. Saturday 25th November, Doors open 7:30pm for 8:00pm. Tickets purchased in advance £6 on the door £8. Further details can be found in the foyer, Email: uckfieldconcert@noelandtricia.com

Christian Prison Resources.

CPR's passion is to see prisoners' lives transformed, their relationships restored and their communities rebuilt, as they understand the good news of Jesus Christ.

Offerings - We don't take up an offering during the services, but we have two offering boxes at the entrance to the church, so that you can give as you are led by the Lord. We would like to encourage you to give to His work, as He directs you. If you pay tax, then **Gift Aiding increases the amount you give by 25%.**

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