



Koinonia

Evangelical Church

- Sunday mornings: 10.30am
- Sunday evenings: 6.30pm

NEWSLETTER

February 2023



Bless The Lord, all His works in all places of His dominions; bless the Lord, O my soul.
Psalm 103 v 22 KJV

We welcome you to our services today. If this is your first visit, please make yourself known to us.

May you know God's blessing, as we worship our awesome God.

Pastor: Don Olden

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Any items for inclusion in the newsletter should be passed to Laurence 1 week prior to the last day of the month ✉ laurencechetwood@icloud.com

THE TRUTH ABOUT BAPTISM

This month, on the 12th, we have a Baptismal service, where several of the Fellowship will be baptised by full immersion. So, what is baptism all about? Is it the same as a christening of a baby? Is it something that all followers of Jesus should do? Does it make you a better person?

Let's start at the beginning, Christian baptism was instituted by Jesus in the Great Commission "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*" Matthew 28:19. Of course, there were plenty of baptisms around prior to this. In the OT there were different sorts of washings required by the law (Leviticus 11-15) which show the importance of ritual cleansing and of course baptism itself is a symbolic cleansing from sin. If a Gentile wanted to take on the Jewish faith (proselyte) he had to be adopted into the family of Israel. In order to do this, he was required, along with circumcision, to be baptised as a means of ritual cleansing. As we come into the NT we come across John the Baptist; so-called because of his work in baptising hundreds if not thousands of people. His was a baptism of repentance which Jesus Himself went through. All of these baptisms signified a cleansing of one sort or another. For Christians baptism symbolises cleansing from sin, but it is much more than that. It also symbolises the death to our old way of life, our burial with Christ and then resurrection to a new life; this is how Paul sees baptism in Romans 6:1-14. In short, it is, identifying ourselves with Christ and is an outward demonstration of new birth.

This is something that Jesus said was for **all His disciples** and this was reinforced on the Day of Pentecost when Peter told the crowd "*Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" Acts 2:38. So, this is commanded for all believers, those who repent and profess to trust in Christ. Therefore, it is not something that you can do on behalf of someone else. Infant baptism does not fulfil the criteria for Christian baptism, and it is not found in the Scriptures.

Baptism doesn't save you, change you or make you a better person. It is simply the outward expression of what has already taken place when you repent and put your faith in Jesus. It should be done in obedience to God's clear command and is expected of all those who profess faith in Jesus. It's the first step on the Christian walk.

Maybe you've never thought of baptism in this way or maybe you'd like to know more. Feel free to talk to Don and he will happily explain more.

February Diary

February 5 th	10.30 am	Dennis & Shelia Eaton <i>Update on Malawi</i>
	5.30 pm	Prayer Meeting
	6.30 pm	Don Olden
February 12 th	10:30am	Steve Wicks
	5.30 pm	Prayer Meeting
	4.00 pm	Baptismal Service at ABC followed by a tea
February 19 th	10:30am	Chris Hughes
	5.30 pm	Prayer Meeting
	6.30 pm	Don Olden – Communion
February 26 th	10:00am	David Pickard
	5.30 pm	Prayer Meeting
	6.30 pm	Don Olden

MEET UP WITH DON AT COSTA IN ANDOVER @ 11 am

This month Don will be available on the 7th & 21st

HOUSEGROUP MEETINGS THIS MONTH on
1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd

At 1.30 pm 2pm and 7.30 pm.

We will be beginning our studies in the book of Acts

Safeguarding Training

Thursday 16th 7:30pm at BSPF

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 25th 9:00am at Toby Carvery

PRAYER REQUESTS

- *Heavenly Father we humbly pray that you watch over our Church, and bring peace, tranquility and strength, to each and every one of us. We ask in the precious name, of Your Son, Our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.*
- *We continue to pray for Paul and Carmina back at home in the USA.*
- *MAF desires to see isolated people changed by the love of Christ by serving together to bring help, hope, and healing through aviation. Please pray for and support this ministry, including that of Ben and Esther's in Australia.*
- *We pray that Open Doors' World Watch List, a document showing those countries where the persecution of Christians is taking place, will find its way to our own MP's, and especially Cabinet Ministers, and that they will act to represent a stance to the countries concerned, against the said persecution.*
- *Pray for the work in Malawi. Pray for Syford & Elizabeth as they seek to bring Gospel love into very poor and difficult situations.*
- *Pray for the Youth Work at Koinonia.*
- *Pray for Andy and Jacqui after the death of Jacqui's father recently.*
- *Pray for Endeavour school and continued good relations.*

THE MANY WONDERS OF GOD'S CREATION

EACH MONTH WE'LL BE HIGHLIGHTING SOME FEATURES FROM THE NATURAL WORLD, WHICH DEMONSTRATE THE OMNISCIENCE OF OUR AWESOME CREATOR.

THE MIRACLE OF WATER

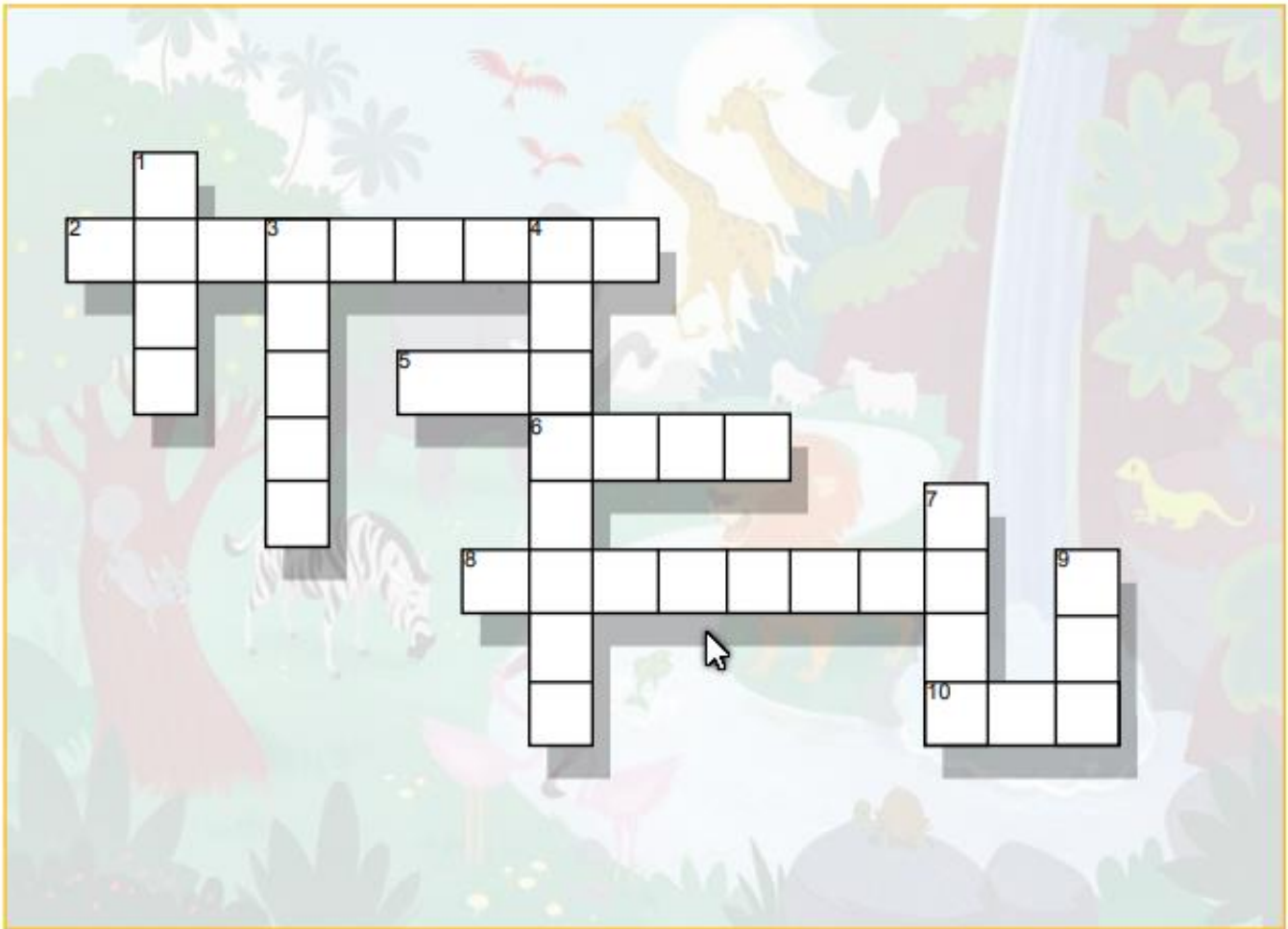
Water, a simple molecule comprising two atoms of hydrogen, combined with one atom of oxygen, has such complex and anomalous properties, but without which life on Earth, just would not exist as we know it. It is estimated that >70% of the earth's surface is water and that the human body is approximately 60% water. Water is commonly referred to as the matrix of life. Its versatility and peculiar properties make it uniquely suitable for life; it is unrivaled by any other liquid. For this purpose, almost all biochemical reactions take place in water. It is a bent molecule, not linear as some may suppose. This bent structure is due to repulsion between two "lone pairs" (electrons not involved in a bond) of electrons and those bonding electrons shared by the oxygen and hydrogens. This structure and the higher electronegativity of oxygen compared to hydrogen creates a dipole (i.e., water is a polar molecule. One part of the molecule, the oxygen, is partially negative, and the hydrogen portion is partially positive). It is this polarity that gives water some of its unique properties that are essential to life, in that polar compounds will dissolve in it. The polarity of water is thus responsible for the dissolution of a myriad of compounds. It is no wonder, then, that blood, interstitial fluid, urine, and intracellular fluids are all mostly water. In order for nutrients to be delivered to the cells, they must be soluble in blood. Likewise, for the body to rid itself of waste products, these products must be soluble in urine. The polar nature of the water molecule is what permits both delivery of nutrients and the ridding of waste. Water molecules themselves are bonded together, by hydrogen bonding, which imparts a very adhesive property. The polar nature of water permits it to adhere to other polar substances like glass. Interplay between the cohesive forces and adhesive forces of water is responsible for capillary action of water. Capillary action plays a major role in carrying dissolved nutrients and water to plant roots in the soil, as well as carrying them up into the plants. The adhesiveness of water allows it to penetrate small cracks and crevasses in rock, and the cohesiveness draws more water in. When the water later freezes, it expands causing the rocks to fracture. This process repeated year after year leads to the eventual breakdown of the rock, releasing trapped minerals and metals. Water in streams, rivers, and oceans distributes these materials worldwide, making them available for life. Hydrogen bonding between water molecules is also responsible for the very high surface tension of water. The surface tension of water is the highest of any common liquid, save that of mercury. It is the high surface tension that causes raindrops to adopt a spherical shape, dewdrops to form on spider webs, and various insects to be able to glide on the surface of a body of water. The sinking of denser, 4°C water and the rising of colder, <4°C, less dense water creates a vertical circulation, or upwelling, whereby oxygen-rich surface water is carried to lower depths and nutrient-rich bottom water is brought closer to the surface, benefiting all aquatic organisms.

The body is mostly composed of water, (~60–65% for the average adult human), thus the high specific heat is instrumental in maintaining proper body temperature, ~37°C in humans. This is particularly true when undergoing strenuous exercise whereby the body core could easily overheat if water did not have as high a specific heat, able to absorb much of the heat produced, and then transport it to the body surface where it can be dissipated through radiation and evaporation. Evaporative cooling is a major means for keeping the body temperature in check. Due to the high latent heat of vaporization, as water evaporates from the skin's surface, a significant amount of heat is removed, resulting in cooling.

Above is only a summary of some of the features of water, which can rightly be called God's miracle compound.

THIS MONTH'S BIBLE CROSSWORD

Answers Are Below, In No Particular Order.



ACROSS

2. Animals on a farm
5. Name of first woman
6. Name of first man
8. Name for animals that are not tame
10. Clouds are found here.

DOWN

1. These swim under water.
3. Name of our planet
4. What we call something that is made.
7. Another name for oceans
9. Birds do this.

Livestock, Wildlife, Fish, Fly, Seas, Earth, Eve,
Creation, Adam, Sky