

Fareham Methodist Church

Newsletter July/August 2017

Minister: Rev Claire Simpson Tel: 01329 828706 Eail:revclaire72@btinternet.com

Dear friends,

It has been difficult to keep up with the news and current affairs over the last few weeks. The build-up, the result and subsequent fallout from the general election has brought uncertainty. The terrorist attacks in Manchester, central London and at Finsbury Park have brought death and destruction to the streets of our country. The appalling fire at Grenfell Towers has brought harrowing pictures and scenes into our homes. Not to mention that there is much else in the wider world that is also fraught with turmoil and violence.

We live in trying and testing times and we might ask 'Where is God in all of this?' As we see such suffering and grief expressed by so many affected in different places and at different times we have no words that are fitting enough to articulate the horror or the sadness that is so evident and some of us have personal challenges to face too.

However, if we are to try and find comfort and consolation in such circumstances then the words in the book of Psalms might be a good place to start. Not looking for platitudes or niceties that we might be tempted to use at such times but more that we cling on with the Psalmists to what we still believe about God when we, and others, face challenges that are hard to endure. One such example is the heartrending opening to Psalm 22 that cries out 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest'. It can be consoling to discover that in the Bible there is a voice like this, a bewildering voice that wonders where God is in times of great stress and calamity. The Psalmist's opening line is also blurted out by Jesus from the cross. He too cries out in his pain and asks the same question of God. A God who seems absent when God is most needed!

But God *isn't* absent in the face of suffering. God is *right there* amongst it all. One of the messages of the cross is that God knows what it is to suffer and so He reaches out to us in our most anguished moments and, in some cases, He can use desperate situations to reveal His presence and His love.

With love,

Claire

Are you interested in a Fourth Friday Get Together?

If you, your family or friends might prefer to go out on the fourth Friday of the month, a new opportunity will be starting in September. From 6.30 - 8.30 we invite you to come along to church to mix in and play table tennis, badminton, pool etc, and/or relax with light refreshments, try a board game or just have a catch up chat. The first FFGT will be from 6.30 on Friday 22nd September. You will be most welcome! Kevin and Linda Foster

Sunday 9th July is Action for Children Sunday and the service will be themed around this. I will be selling a few cakes in aid of AfC and if anyone wants to bring along cakes to sell they will be very welcome. Catherine Stevenson

Messy Church details for July & August

Wednesday, July 12th 2017

John the Baptist



Join us for games, craft, worship and a meal.

**Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road, Fareham , PO16 0NU
3.30pm – 6.00pm**

Wednesday, August 23rd 2017

Messy Church at Carron Row, 15.00 – 19.00

**Another chance to ride on the trains and sail the boats at
the Railway Field, Segensworth Rd, Titchfield PO15 5DY**

Please sign the sheet in the Welcome Area if you are coming to this event.

The next meeting of the Worship Consultation will be on Monday 16th October at 7.30pm, at the Manse. Everyone is invited to come to this meeting.

I am pleased to say that after four long years I have passed the final interview as a Local Preacher. Thank you all for your support and prayers. Tracy Cooper

I would like to say a big thank you for the flowers delivered to me after my recent operation. They were very much appreciated. David Bashforth

Thank you for the beautiful church flowers that were given to me on the 28th May by Mary Bailey on our 35th Wedding Anniversary. Liz and Graham Avison.

Issue Dates

The September/October Newsletter will cover up to the middle of November with the next one coming out on the 3rd Sunday of November and covering up to the end of January. This is to avoid having to produce one at a very busy time of year.

Linda Press.

Items for the September/October Newsletter should be emailed to vicandlinda.press@btinternet.com or put in the box in the welcome area by noon on 20th August