

Fareham Methodist Church

Newsletter September/October 2017

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Dear friends, I do hope you have managed to enjoy the summer months with some opportunity for rest and relaxation. I'm writing this just a few days after our family summer holiday ended with a memorable trip to the Olympic park for the opening night of the World Athletics Championships where we were privileged to see Sir Mo Farah win his final track 10,000m in a thrilling race cheered on by around 60,000 of us. It was a fantastic experience to witness somebody at the end of their track career again achieving their full potential. Before the championships began there had also been a lot of publicity surrounding Usain Bolt as it was his swansong as a sprinting champion. The championships didn't quite work out so successfully for Bolt this time but reflecting on his athletics career as a whole he has said 'God put me on this planet to run and to run fast'. Eric Liddell, whose story is well documented in the film Chariots of Fire, said something very similar.

As we reflect on our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ I wonder if we, like an athlete, have that same sense of purpose and dedication running throughout our being? God has a potential for each one of us; a fullness of life for each one of us to embrace, to live and to run with. The anonymous writer to the Hebrews uses the analogy of life being like a 'race that is set before us' and as we run through life we are to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus who is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. The apostle Paul tells the people at Corinth that for the sake of the gospel, the prize, they are to 'run in such a way that you may win it'. At times this may feel like hard work. At times we will need to persevere. At other times we might experience the joy of the winning feeling. But only by running our lives of faith will we reach the potential and the fullness that God has in store for us. The final verse of the traditional hymn 'May the mind of Christ my Saviour' says, 'May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe, looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.'

With love, Claire

Vestry Jottings Dear Friends,

I was reminded how lucky we are at Fareham Methodist church when one of the parents of a new family commented on how good it was that we have a variety of things for our young people, whereas in their Birmingham church, where they had lived before they moved south, there was nothing. They are delighted that we have a Sunday School and Brownies which caters for their daughters. Perhaps we take our groups too much for granted, but we need to give thanks to and support Kevin, Alison and their teams who make such activities possible. In the same way Garry and her team provide outreach through Messy Church, which is a great asset to us. But at present most of us wish to give thanks to all of those people who have given time and effort to run the holiday Club for a week. We have attracted more people than ever before, and pray that spiritual seeds will have been planted in the lives of all who attended.

Andrew

From the Circuit The accreditation service for Tracy Cooper as a Local Preacher will take place at Fareham on Sunday 1st October at 3pm.

Autumn Weeks on Iona: Walking into Winter (21st – 28th October); Stillness, Silence and Song (28th October – 4th November) and Cycles of Grace: Exploring the Ten Beatitudes. Full details can be found on the Iona Community Website.

Safeguarding: Saturday November 4th, 9.30 to 13.00 Safe Space Foundation Module training. Tea and coffee will be available from 9am. Maggie

Christians together in Fareham:

A Monk's Tale: Relics, Revolt and Reformation This performance celebrates the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther & 95 Theses (with Jokes) from the creators of The God Particle. Friday 22nd September at 7.30pm at Fareham Community Church. Tickets £5 Adults £2 Children can be obtained from Imbizo Café.

Barn Dance: Fareham Methodist Church, Friday 29th September at 7 00 pm. Adults £8 Children £2. Ploughman's Supper included. Tickets are available from Penny Garrett or Jill Race. All profits will go to supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

Christian Aid Quiz and Ploughman's Supper on Saturday 28th October 2017 at 6.30pm at St John's Church Hall. Spaces are limited so please buy tickets in advance. Either gather your own team together (up to eight people) or just buy a ticket, come along and join in with others.
Linda Foster

Coffee Centre Helpers are needed to go on a rota for coffee centre Thursdays 9.30 - 11.30. we are not hugely busy normally, but two people are needed each week for the smooth running of the centre. If you like part work and part socialising please see Penny Garrett who would be grateful for your help.

The Elastic Band We wish to say a huge thank you to Megan Simpson, who has played so brilliantly in the Band for the last six years. Megan is leaving in September to go to London University to study Nursing. Many congratulations! We thought we were going to have to call it a day, but Rae Shepherd has offered to join us, so we are hoping to continue as before and play for All – Age Services. Jill Race

From the Treasurer: From 1st September items for the newsletter should be sent directly to Linda Press or placed in the pigeonhole in the side corridor of the church building. The locked post box currently by the coffee bar will be re-located to the pigeonhole area and will be used for the Church Treasurer. Mike Petter

Red House: We are in need of people to help with these monthly Services. We especially need people who are prepared to lead one of these services 2 or 3 times a year. If you feel you can help in this way, please speak to Joan Padley. Also if you would like to come along and help with the singing, you would be most welcome. Linda Press

Shoe Boxes: We shall again be supporting the shoe box appeal through Fareham Rotary. The age groups are 1-3, 4-7, 8-11 and 12-15 years. Boxes should be no larger than 13x8x6 inches and should be completed by 5th November. Leaflets will be available from 24th September. L.Press

Church Flowers: The Flower Providers Calendar for 2018 will soon be put on the corridor notice board. Thank you to all who have donated flowers/money during 2017. (There are still a few spaces for December). We would also be grateful for a few more volunteers to arrange Sunday flowers. Mary & Irene Thanks for flowers have been received from Lynda Thomas.

Church & Community Group: The next meeting will be held at Church on Wednesday 4th October 2017 at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Apologies for absence to Lynda Young, 01329 505466 or 07771 964314.

Items for the next Newsletter (19th November to end January 2018) should be sent to vicandlinda.press@btinternet.com or placed in the Newsletter Pigeonhole by 12 noon on Sunday 5th November.