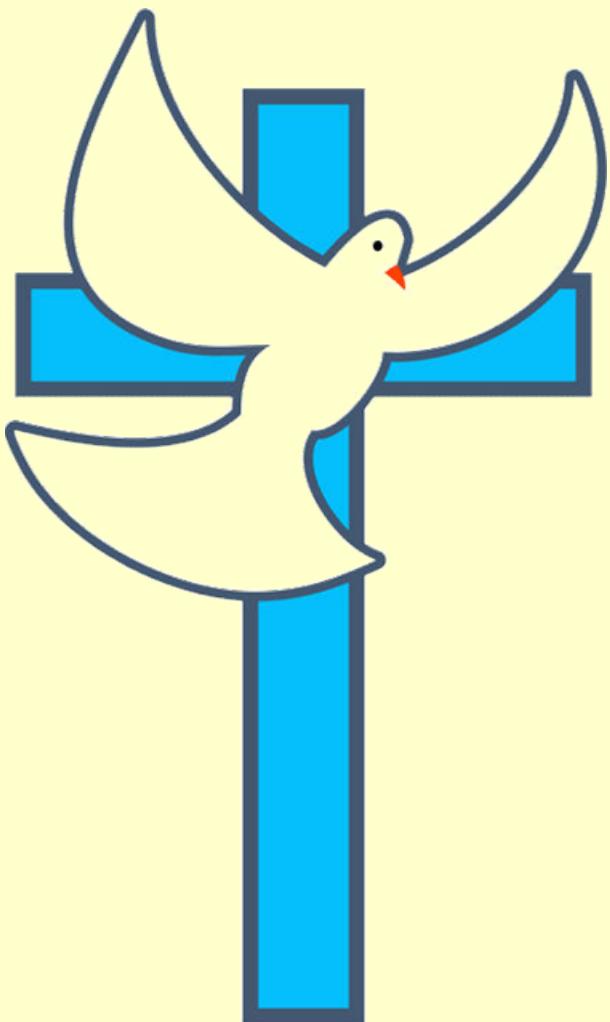


FAREHAM

O C U S

February 2019



Fareham Methodist Church Magazine

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Services For the Month

3rd February: Revd. Claire Simpson - HC
10th February: Mrs. Milly Aquilina - Gray
17th February: Mrs. Barbara Noakes
24th February: Mrs. Christine Hargrave
6 p.m. Revd. Stephen Wright - Iona HC

Dear friends,

As I write this letter I am in the middle of The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and I'm also trying to hang on to the coat tails of Epiphany before the beginning of February arrives and 40 days after Christmas we move on past Candlemas and into ordinary time before Lent begins in March!

This year the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity's theme was 'Only Justice' taken from a verse in the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy, 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue' (Ch.16, verse 11). The service in Fareham to mark the occasion was at Holy Trinity and it focussed on the issue of homelessness in our town. The service itself was a mixture of testimony; congregational hymns; other musical items and prayers. The Singing Group took part in the worship and it was so good to see the church full for the service on a chilly Sunday afternoon! The most moving testimonies were those from folk who had experienced homelessness and eventually, through their own determination and with the support of agencies in Fareham, they had managed to turn their lives around and be reconciled with their families and friends regaining a hope for the future. All of them witnessed to how other people had been willing to come alongside and build relationships with them so enabling them to have the courage and will to encounter change for the better.

We see many injustices in our society of which homelessness is just one example. How might we be moved to work for justice? Who are we called to be alongside in our communities to bring a message of love and hope that will truly make a difference to them? Who else might we work with to bring life in all its fullness to others? These are challenging questions that we ask ourselves as we see the needs in our society today.

As part of Christians Together in Fareham we have a voice and a part to play and our unity with other Christians in our town often means that we can do more together than we can do individually. We may feel that the only thing that we can do is pray! That is just as important too as everything that we seek to do in God's name needs to be supported by the prayers of the people.

We live in challenging times and there are many needs on our doorsteps. May we have the courage and will to show God's love in action in the places where he calls us to be.

With love

Claire

A Quick Note From the Editor

I hope that you all had a wonderful festive break and are getting back into the “normal” routine without too much trouble. We found it very difficult getting back into the school routine in our house.

I just wanted to remind everyone about the new release dates. The Focus will now come out on the last Sunday of every month. Can also please remind everyone to use the **fareham.focus@gmail.com** email address and not my personal one as if it isn't sent to the Focus address it will not be added into the Focus.

Can you please also ensure that it is in either **WORD, PUBLISHER or EXCEL** format as I can't use PDFs or transfer from some emails which entails a lot of re-typing on my part which involves trying to read from a ‘phone or tablet and type onto the computer which is not always easy to do.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you enjoy the first issue of 2019.

Thank you

Rox Garrett

Vestry Jottings

As stewards we wish to thank all who have helped over the Christmas season, starting with a very successful Christmas Tree Festival up to the Christmas morning service.

We are approaching Easter and we as a church are in charge of the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Please can everyone support the team arranging this, through Claire or Edith, as we are sure that any help will be very welcome.

We are also coming to the time of year when we need to elect church stewards. If you have any ideas of who to ask or if anyone is interested please speak to a steward and we can assure you that you don't have to sign up for 6 years. It can be done on a yearly basis.

Kitchen Ovens

Could I please remind ALL users of the kitchen ovens that it is their responsibility to wipe them out after EACH use; top, bottom and sides, as they have, on occasion, been found left uncleansed.

Your cooperation in this matter will be much appreciated.

CTiF Annual General Meeting

This will be held at St John's church in Upper St Michaels Grove, on Monday 4th February at 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.

We are pleased to confirm that an Alpha Course will be running from Wednesday 6th February 2019 for 12 consecutive weeks, taking place in Café Imbizo, 171 West Street, Fareham PO16 0EF. The meetings will start at 7 p.m. with food.

Anyone is welcome to come along or bring a friend. Please contact us either by email at alpha@farehamcommunitychurch.com, by 'phoning the office on 01329 829121, or by popping into Café Imbizo to pick up an invitation.

While Fareham Community Church (FCC) is hosting the course, we are wanting to serve other churches within the Borough of Fareham. If you do have contacts you would like to invite to an Alpha course, but your church is not able to host a course at this time, please feel free to make use of this one. Let's see God's kingdom grow, as we work together in Fareham! Whether or not you are able to be involved, we will appreciate your prayers for the team and for God to be at work in people's lives through the course.

Church with Choices Services in 2019:

As last year, these services will be on the fifth Sunday of a month. This year these are:

31st March - Mothering Sunday

30th June - Focus on Refugees as suggested at Worship Consultation

29th September - theme to be decided

29th December - Christmas theme

If you have any ideas for or would like to be involved in an activity for our services this year please talk to any of the stewards or myself.

Flowers Reminder

This is a reminder that there is a calendar on the board in the corridor from which to choose a date for donating flowers for Sundays. Thank you to all who have already signed up. Remember, if you would like to donate but cannot arrange them yourself, we can do them for you. (We do need more volunteers for this!). There are still lots of places left at this early part of the year, so choose a date that is special to you.

I really appreciate the lovely flowers both Dennis and I have received.

They are a lovely reminder of all the care that surrounds us.

Louie Clement and her daughter Mary Rogers would like to thank all those who have delivered flowers and visited during the last year.

Thank you for the flowers given to me in memory of Barry.

After nine years it is lovely to know that he is not forgotten.

Lynda Young.

We were very pleased to receive the lovely Church flowers recently. Thank you for thinking about us and for Margaret and Bob's cheering visit to bring them. We look forward to getting back to worship soon. Best wishes to all from us both. Pat & Tony.

The Mothers' Day Runaways Service

This offers a safe space for those who find Mothering Sunday difficult. Whatever your story, whether you're grieving the loss of a mother, the loss of a child, or a baby through miscarriage, whether you're struggling with infertility or childlessness, singleness or a difficult relationship, whether you never even knew your mother or any other reason why you might find Mothering Sunday painful, this quiet, reflective service has been designed with you in mind.

It will be an informal gathering, where you will be guided through an hour long service including liturgy, poetry, music and stories acknowledging the bittersweet emotions surrounding Mothering Sunday, offering the space to grieve, teaching us how to lament and inviting the God who loves us into our stories of struggle.

The Mothers' Day Runaways Service will be held on:

Sunday 31st March 2019 at 4 p.m.
St Johns The Evangelist Church

World Day of Prayer

(formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)

Friday 1st March 2019

This year's service has been prepared by Christian women in Slovenia. The theme is 'Everything is ready'. As usual, there will be two services: 2.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. at St John's Church.

If you would like to take part in the service or need transport please let Linda Foster know.



Trip to Shop Equality, Eastleigh

Thursday 14th March 2019

(approx. 9.45 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.)

£5 per person

In the lead up to Easter, the Fareham Fairtrade Borough Group is organising a trip to Shop Equality. We are hiring the Community First minibus with 16 places available on a first come first served basis. We plan to pick up from 2 or 3 places before leaving the Fareham area. Come and buy your Easter eggs and cards.



There will be time to visit the other excellent shops in Eastleigh and have a snack.



If you have never been before you are in for a treat! The shop is full of lovely Fairtrade gifts and food for you to see and buy.



To reserve a place please contact Maggie Francis on 01329 289853 or

maggiefrancis195@btinternet.com

(Maggie will need your contact details, so that she can provide you with more information about timings and pick up points)

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CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

The Christmas Tree Festival was held again last year and most people seemed to enjoy their visit. There was a total of 21 trees and the hall looked beautiful when the trees were lit. Each entrant received £53 for their chosen charity with one prize payment of £50 and two of £25 added to the winners' totals.

The Judges' Choice overall winner was “ While Shepherds watched their flocks by night” by Ladies' Night.

People's Choice awards were

“On the Street where you live “ by Fareham WI

“30 Years Young “ by Fareham Stroke Club

A letter of appreciation was received from the Mayor.

The Team would like to thank anyone who helped in any way in the success of the Festival.

Christmas Tree Festival Team

Grateful Thanks

Thank you to everyone who helped to give members of the Fareham Stroke Club such a warm welcome on their visit to the Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you to Sheila Dyer for providing such a superb tea and to all helping with the setting up of tables etc. The members are very grateful for the on going support given to our club by the Fareham Church Family!

Lynda Young

You are invited to Afternoon



Come along to help the First Sunday team celebrate its
First Year of Sunday services!

Where?At Church

When?.....Sunday 3rd March at 5.15 p.m.

Then please do stay for the First Sunday service of
2019 at 6 p.m.



**'Fourth Friday Games Night' could
be just for you!**



Meeting from 6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.
this relaxed evening is for everyone of
any age.

We usually have between 20 and 30 people of all ages. Many come on their own, some families come. There is always a warm welcome for all!

The Welcome Area is set up with a variety of table games and refreshments. There is pool, table-tennis and table football in the Church Hall with badminton, volleyball, basketball and other games in the Large Hall. Table games have included Scrabble, Pictionary, Monopoly, chess, draughts, cribbage, canasta and many more.

If you would like to share in lots of relaxed chat, laughter and fun while joining in or just watching whatever appeals to you while enjoying, tea, coffee, squash and biscuits, then do give this a try.

You will be most welcome to join us!

We look forward to seeing you if you
can make the next FFGN on
22nd February.



Kevin and Linda Foster and Rox Garrett

Thursday Prayer Circle

7 February	Tracy
7 March	Claire
4 April	Bob
2 May	Tracy
6 June	Claire
4 July	Bob
11 July	Wash Up session 10.00 a.m.

"Everyone is welcome and can drop in for five minutes or stay longer. Bring your concerns and we will pray for and with you. Or just pop in and sit and listen.
You do not have to take part if you do not want to. Just come."

Many thanks, Bobby.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019

Fed up with all the chaos and uncertainty in our poor world today?
Feel that your voice isn't being heard?
Feel that you can't make a difference?



Discover how you can make a real difference to people's lives.

Come and find us at Fareham Shopping Centre
Saturday 2nd March between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Coffee Centre will be closed for all school holidays this coming year. These dates are:

THURS 21 FEBRUARY

THURS 11 APRIL

THURS 18 APRIL

THURS 30 MAY

THURS 25 JULY

Messy Church - Celebration - Our 7th Birthday!

It is hard to believe that Messy Church has been running for seven years. Our numbers have fluctuated and families have disappeared as their children grow older. We have a number of 'regulars' and we will be sad this month to bid 'farewell' to one of these families. They are amazed that we have never repeated a theme - quite an achievement! The boys will still be coming to the Fourth Friday Games evening and supporting First Sunday.

Everyone is cordially invited to come along on February 13th and see what goes on at Messy Church. We are always looking for extra pairs of hands or even a greater commitment if you are interested. You could be part of the welcoming team, leading games, craft activities and maybe getting really messy, helping the kitchen team, assisting in the worship or just being there to talk to people and to listen.

I would like to thank the team, who come up trumps every month, with the food, the worship, the activities and the games.

Garry Bagshaw

**Families, Friendship, Fun,
Food and Faith in Fareham**



Celebration!



Wednesday 13th February 2019

3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Fareham Methodist Church,
Kings Road, Fareham, PO16 0NU

There is no charge for Messy Church, which is supported by Fareham Methodist Church, although donations are always gratefully received.

For more details about this once a month event for the whole family, find us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/farehammessychurch/>

Messy Church logo © The Bible Reading Fellowship 2018

SUNDAY LUNCH

17th February at 12.15 p.m. approximately

This is open to all members of the congregation and all family and friends. There is no set charge for the meal we just ask for donations for charity.

If you would like to make a pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very good - thank you.

The Menu

Starter: Soup or Greek Salad

Main Course: Roast Pork, Sausages, Roast Potatoes,
Vegetables

Puddings: Variety

There will be a list in the vestibule for you to sign.
Please come along and enjoy a Sunday Roast!

Story Corner

MY FAIRY STORY by LEONARD REEVE

Once upon a time, in a far off country called Very Happy Land, there lived a very kind, old King. His name was King Richard, and he had been King for a very long time. Everybody loved him, because he only had to hear of someone with a problem, and he would arrange for his servants to put matters right. Sometimes, he would even go himself, if it was a very serious problem.

Now this King had a beautiful daughter, called Princess Daphne. When she was small, Princess Daphne used to play with all the other boys and girls of her age. All the children of Very Happy Land knew and loved Princess Daphne. The princess was also very kind and thoughtful towards all the King's subjects

When the Princess was very small, her mother, Queen Charlotte, became very ill and died. A very bad tempered, wicked witch, called Coranda, came to live in Very Happy Land; she was jealous of all the King's happy subjects, and in particular Princess Daphne because she was so beautiful. This wicked witch wanted to cast a spell on everybody, to make them miserable, and to make Princess Daphne ugly.

When Queen Charlotte heard about this wicked witch, she called a very powerful kind witch, called Josephine, to help her. "There is a very bad-tempered wicked witch who is going to cast a spell over all the Kings subjects." The Queen said. "Josephine, I want you to cast a spell that will stop the wicked witch's spell, it doesn't matter what it costs."

"I will go away and look into the book of my most powerful spells," said the kind witch Josephine, "then I will come back to see you."

"Please don't be long," said the Queen. "It's very urgent. Soon the kind witch, Josephine, came back to see Queen Charlotte, and said to her. "I can only find one spell that is powerful enough to do what you want."

"Wonderful, let's get on with it," cried the Queen.

"I am very sorry your majesty, but this spell requires a sacrifice," said the witch.

"What sort of sacrifice?" asked the Queen.

"To make this very powerful spell work, the person who asks for it must give their life as well," said the Josephine. "I'm very sorry, but it is the only suitable spell in my spell books."

"Never mind," said Queen Charlotte, "I love all the Kings subjects, and, my daughter, Princess Daphne, so much; I will willingly give up my life, so that they will remain happy and beautiful."

Josephine went away and cast the spell to stop Coranda's spell. This spell was successful; the wicked witch, Coranda, and Queen Charlotte, both became very ill and died. But all the King's subjects, and Princess Daphne, remained very happy and beautiful all their lives.

When Queen Charlotte died, King Richard had to bring up the little Princess all by himself. However, all the palace servants, and all the people of Very Happy Land, loved his family so much that everybody helped in whatever way they could. To Princess Daphne, it was like living in one big family, all the other children were like brothers and sisters to her.

Now King Richard was very old, he knew that he might not live much longer. He called his wise men together and said, "As you know, I am very old and weak. However, before I die, I would like to see my daughter, happily married to a Prince, who she loves, and who will help her to run the country when I die. What can I do?"

The wise men went away and sat and thought and thought about what the King had asked them. After many sleepless nights, the wise men went back to King Richard and said to him. "We think that you should invite a few suitable Princes to come and visit Very Happy Land. During their stay, you and the Princess can decide who would be the most suitable husband for the Princess, and the best future King for Very Happy Land."

"That sounds like an excellent plan; I will ask Princess Daphne what she thinks." Said the King.

When he asked the Princess what she thought of the idea, she said, "I think that it's a very good idea indeed. I'll do all I can to make it work, but I hope you won't expect me to marry just anyone; I wouldn't like to be married to someone for life, who I couldn't love. Who are you going to invite?"

At that point, everybody seemed to talk all at once, but when the hubbub had quietened down, the chief wise man said, "We have three names at present, they are Prince Arthur from Very Important Land, Prince Jason from Soldier Soldier Land and Prince Thomas from Happy Ever After Land."

"Very well, we will invite all three Princes to stay with us for one week," said King Richard. "They will be free to

meet everybody, not just the Princess and myself. On the last day, each Prince will have the opportunity to speak to the nation about what plans they might have for the benefit of Very Happy Land.”

“Hurrah! Hurrah! Three cheers for King Richard,” the crowd cried out.

The three Princes were invited to come and stay in Very Happy Land. They stayed at the Royal Palace; it was a bit of a tight squeeze, as some of them brought so many servants with them. During the week, the Princes spoke to King Richard and Princess Daphne at meal times, but at other times, they walked around Very Happy Land, talking to all the King’s subjects. On the last day of their visit, the Princes were all asked to speak to the nation in turn.

Everybody gathered in the Royal Park for the speeches. “We will ask the Prince’s to speak in alphabetical order,” announced King Richard. “So, Prince Arthur, it’s your turn first.”

Prince Arthur from Very Important Land stood up and spoke. “I am annoyed that when I arrived here, the Royal Palace was so small, there was hardly enough room for me and all my servants. It is very degrading for someone of such high rank as I, to be so short of space. The most important thing that I will do, will be to expand the Royal Palace, this will cost a lot of money, so it will be “necessary to increase the taxes.” Then he sat down. Prince Jason, it is now your turn to speak,” said King Richard.

Prince Jason from Soldier Soldier Land stood up and spoke. "I feel very worried while I am here in Very Happy Land. You do not have an army; any other country could come and attack you. The most important thing that I would do, I would recruit and train an army, to make sure that we are not attacked, this will cost a lot of money, so it will be necessary to raise taxes." Then he sat down.

"Prince Thomas, it is now your turn to speak" said King Richard.

Prince Thomas from Happy Ever After Land stood up and spoke. "I have felt very happy and safe here in Very Happy Land. I do not have many servants, so the Royal Palace is plenty big enough. You have never been attacked in living memory, so why have an army now? I would not wish to change anything, except to seek your permission to ask Princess Daphne if she will marry me." Everybody joined in the cheering of Prince Thomas's speech.

While this went on, Princess Daphne stood up, and walked over to Prince Thomas, who was facing the crowd. She held up her arms for silence, and then said, "What am I to say to him?" "YES!" the entire crowd shouted with great gusto.

Smiling, Princess Daphne turned to Prince Thomas, and said. "You have your answer, Sir." as she curtsied deeply to him.

DIARY DATES FOR FEBUARY

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 13:00 Monthly Lunch Club	2
4 9:30 Mini Market	5 9:45 Parent and Toddlers Group	6	7 9:30 Coffee Centre 10:15 Prayer Circle 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	8	9
11 9:30 Mini Market	12 9:45 Parent and Toddlers Group 20:00 Ladies' Night	13 16:00 Messy Church	14 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	15	16
18 9:30 Mini Market	19 9:45 Parent and Toddlers Group	20	21 14:30 Red House Service 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	22 18:30 Fourth Friday Games Night	23
25 9:30 Mini Market	26 9:45 Parent and Toddlers Group 20:00 Ladies' Night	27	28 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group		

Door Stewards

03rd February: Liz Haigh and Marilyn Woodrow
10th February: Sally Bland and Janice Collins
17th February: Bessie and Daniel Taabu
24th February: Pat Croker and Keith Sargeant

Refreshments

3rd February: Pat Croker and Mary Bailey
10th February: Liz Haigh and Liz Avison
17th February: Shirley and Keith Sargeant and Peggy Long
24th February: Ian Bagshaw and Walter Metcalf

Flowers

Providers	Deliverers
03rd February: Flower Fund	Joan Padley
10th February: Pam Mullins	Jean Petter
17th February: Flower Fund	Lynda Young
24th February: Flower Fund	Liz Haigh

PRESS DATE All items for the May Focus should be emailed to

fareham.focus@gmail.com

by noon of 15th February

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website