

# Peace on Earth

**Fareham**

**Focus**



**December/January**

Registered Charity No: 1127814

MINISTER: The Revd. Claire Simpson

Telephone: 01329 828706

E-mail: revclaire72@btinternet.com

EDITOR: Roxanne Garrett

Tel: 07908590340 (mobile)

E-mail: fareham.focus@gmail.com

Fareham Church website:

[www.farehammethodist.org.uk](http://www.farehammethodist.org.uk)

Circuit website: [www.esanddcircuit.org.uk](http://www.esanddcircuit.org.uk)

**Services For the Month (all at 10:30 a.m.)**

December

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1st  | Revd. Claire Simpson - Holy Communion / Toy Service |
| 8th  | Mrs Imelda Temple                                   |
| 15th | Nativity Service Led by the Junior Church           |
| 22nd | Revd. Bill Stillwell                                |
| 29th | Local Arrangement - Church With Choices             |

January

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 5th  | Revd. Claire Simpson - Family Holy Communion |
| 12th | Revd. Leslie Judd                            |
| 19th | Mrs Pam Stone                                |
| 26th | Mrs Christine Hargrave                       |

Dear friends,

As I write this I have just returned from Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral where I have shared in a service of celebration and thanksgiving for 25 years of care given by The Rowans Hospice. In his closing blessing the Bishop of Portsmouth referred to Jesus' life as 'a life lived for others'. His care and compassion inspires us to be caring and compassionate people.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this Christmas we remember that at the start of his life Jesus needed the care and compassion of his own parents Mary and Joseph. God was willing to become helpless, small and vulnerable for our sake; entrusting Jesus to the care of human hands as he entered the world. As Jesus grew and his ministry unfolded he then showed care and compassion to others. Sometimes those who witnessed this couldn't understand why Jesus associated with the misfits, the outcasts and the marginalised in the way that he did. Jesus showed no favouritism for he came with love and a care for all.

So how might we be inspired by the birth of Christ as we celebrate this year? If we are seeking to follow in his footsteps then *where* is he leading us and *who* he is leading us to as we show a care and compassion for others, not least at this time of year? There will be many opportunities for us to support charities international, national and local through our giving over the Christmas season. There will also be opportunities for us to meet with people face to face and share the truth of the Christmas message that God loved the world so much that he

gave us the gift of his Son Jesus Christ. God's love, care and compassion for every human being knows no bounds. Love came down at Christmas. How will we choose to share this love with others as we seek to live for Christ's sake?

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful new year.

With love,

Claire

### **A Quick Note From the Editor**

Can I please remind everyone that any items sent to my personal email address will not be put into the Focus. That email address will no longer exist after January so please send items to:

**fareham.focus@gmail.com**

Can you also please ensure that items are sent before the closing deadline. Any items sent after 12 noon on the Thursday deadline will not be entered.

I hope you all have a wonderful festive season and I wish you a very healthy and happy new year.

Thank you

*Rox Garrett*

## **Vestry Jottings**

This month's Jottings are mainly reminders of what's coming up in the next two months.

The Post Box will be in the Welcome Area on the following Sundays:: 24th November, 1st December, 8th December and the 15th December when they will be collected up and put at the back of the Large Hall during lunches.

Please remember to put full names including surnames on envelopes.

The Toy Service is Sunday 1st December. Please donate new and unwrapped gifts which will once again go to the Women's Refuge.

Our Reverse Advent will begin on the 1st December when two boxes will be left in the altar area, marked non-perishable and toiletries. These will be given to the Food Bank for families in need after Sunday 22nd December.

There will be a week of prayer for Christian Unity from 18th January to 25th January.

There will be three meetings starting 30th January and 13th February and 27th February, in the sanctuary, to have prayerful discussions following the resolutions passed at Conference regarding marriage and relationships.

Last but not least on behalf of the stewards may we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

## **ERIC'S CAKES STALL CLOSING DOWN**

I have decided to make no more cakes for sale at church. It has become increasingly too great an effort. I wish to thank all those who have generously supported me over the years; you have enabled me to support Water Aid thereby bringing fresh, clean water to many, many people and eradicating disease.

Eric Wheeler

The next meeting of the Church and Community Group will be held in church on Tuesday 14th January 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

### **Banner Group**

The Banner Group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday between 10.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.

If you are not sure about making / restoring banners then either come and see me on a Thursday morning or give me a ring. If you can't manage Thursday mornings but would like to be part of the team, no problem. Chat with me on a Sunday morning or ring me.

At present I could do with help backing banners that I am sewing together for Christmas.

Future plans - to design banners for Lent and Pentecost. I would be grateful for your help.

Dennis much appreciated the flowers and visit he received. I also want to say a special thank-you to Jean who made more than one visit to find me at home, delivering a lovely bouquet and stayed for a chat  
Marion Bright

The Coffee centre will be closed on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will reopen January 9<sup>th</sup>. Happy Christmas and New year to all and a huge thanks

## Christmas Tree Festival

Thurs 5th Dec and Fri 6th Dec 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sat 7th Dec 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

with carol singing at 3 p.m.

*Come along and vote for your favourite tree!*

If you are able to spare any time to help during the festival, **please** sign-up on the sheets in the Welcome

Taize Worship for Advent

'The Waiting Place of God'



Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019 4 p.m. at  
Lee on the Solent Methodist Church  
followed by tea in the Church Hall



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

Please join us for our  
**Christmas Celebration**  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
3:30 p.m. to 6:00.p.m.

**and we are back in 2020 on  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

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

**New faces are always very welcome, come  
and give us a try!**

Supported by Fareham Methodist Church. For more  
details about this once a month event for the whole  
family, find us



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

or email [fareham.methodist.messy@gmail.com](mailto:fareham.methodist.messy@gmail.com)

Messy Church logo © The Bible Reading Fellowship 2018



**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY LUNCH 15<sup>th</sup> December at  
12.15 p.m. approx.**

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

The Menu

Starter:	Soup or Prawn Cocktail
Main Course:	Roast Turkey, Sausages, Roast Potatoes, Selection of Vegetables.
Puddings:	Variety

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

If you can help with serving or helping in the kitchen please sign the list. We really need at least 2 people to stay after the meal until about 2.30 p.m. to help with the dishwasher etc. We would really appreciate your help.

**SUNDAY LUNCH 19th JANUARY**  
**at 12.15 p.m. approx.**

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 to a 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 Egg Mayonnaise

Main Course:              Baked Ham, Cheese or Parsley  
                                    Sauce, 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!

## *Christmas Greetings*

Ruth and Antony Hollinghurst send Christmas Greetings to all their friends at FMC. Instead of sending individual Christmas cards they are making a donation to Action for Children.

I would like to wish all my church family a very happy Christmas and good health in the New Year.  
In lieu of cards I have donated to the Royal British Legion.  
Brenda Bennett

A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all my Church Family. My card money is being donated to Water Aid.  
Eric Wheeler

***Ian Bagshaw is sending a donation to 'Macmillan Nurses - Cancer Support' instead of local cards.  
He wishes everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and thanks all who have helped, and are helping and supporting, him through this difficult and raw time since we lost Garry.***

### Santa's Letter for Focus

This poem was written by a Peacekeeping soldier stationed overseas. The following is his request. I think it is reasonable PLEASE. Would you do me the kind favour of sending this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to all of the service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us. Please, do your small part to plant this small seed.

T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, HE LIVED ALL ALONE,  
IN A ONE BEDROOM HOUSE, MADE OF PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE CHIMNEY, WITH PRESENTS TO GIVE,  
AND TO SEE JUST WHO, IN THIS HOME, DID LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT, A STRANGE SIGHT I DID SEE,  
NO TINSEL, NO PRESENTS, NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY MANTLE, JUST BOOTS FILLED WITH SAND,  
ON THE WALL HUNG PICTURES, OF FAR DISTANT LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND BADGES, AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,  
A SOBER THOUGHT, CAME THROUGH MY MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS DIFFERENT, IT WAS DARK AND DREARY,  
I FOUND THE HOME OF A SOLDIER, ONCE I COULD SEE CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY SLEEPING, SILENT, ALONE,  
CURLED UP ON THE FLOOR, IN THIS ONE BEDROOM HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO GENTLE, THE ROOM IN DISORDER,  
NOT HOW I PICTURED, A TRUE BRITISH SOLDIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO, OF WHOM I'D JUST READ?  
CURLED UP ON A PONCHO, THE FLOOR FOR A BED?

I REALISED THE FAMILIES, THAT I SAW THIS NIGHT,  
OWED THEIR LIVES TO THESE SOLDIERS, WHO WERE WILLING TO  
FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE WORLD, THE CHILDREN WOULD PLAY,  
AND GROWNUPS WOULD CELEBRATE, A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED FREEDOM, EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR,  
BECAUSE OF THE SOLDIERS, LIKE THE ONE LYING HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP WONDER, HOW MANY LAY ALONE,  
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE, IN A LAND FAR FROM HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT BROUGHT, A TEAR TO MY EYE,  
I DROPPED TO MY KNEES, AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAKENED, AND I HEARD A ROUGH VOICE,  
"SANTA DON'T CRY, THIS LIFE IS MY CHOICE;

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM, I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,  
MY LIFE IS MY GOD, MY COUNTRY, MY CORPS.."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER, AND DRIFTED TO SLEEP,  
I COULDN'T CONTROL IT, I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR HOURS, SO SILENT AND STILL,  
AND WE BOTH SHIVERED, FROM THE COLD NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE, ON THAT COLD, DARK, NIGHT,  
THIS GUARDIAN OF HONOUR, SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER ROLLED OVER, WITH A VOICE SOFT AND PURE,  
WHISPERED, "CARRY ON SANTA, IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY, ALL IS  
SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY WATCH, AND I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT.  
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY FRIEND, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT."

### DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>2</b> 9:30 Mini Market	<b>3</b> 9:45 Parent and Toddlers	<b>4</b> 19:00 Alpha Course at Café Imbizo	<b>5</b> Christmas Tree Festival 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	<b>6</b> Christmas Tree Festival 13:00 Monthly Lunch Club	<b>7</b> Christmas Tree Festival
<b>9</b> 9:30 Mini Market	<b>10</b> 9:45 Parent and Toddlers 20:00 Ladies Night	<b>11</b> 15:30 Messy Church 19:00 Alpha Course at Café Imbizo	<b>12</b> 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	<b>13</b> 17:00 Cook at Church	<b>14</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 Mini Market	<b>17</b> 9:45 Parent and Toddlers	<b>18</b> 19:00 Alpha Course at Café Imbizo	<b>19</b> 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>23</b> 9:30 Mini Market	<b>24</b> 23:30 Midnight Communion Service with the URC	<b>25</b> 10:30 Christmas Morning Worship at the URC	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

### DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 13:00 Monthly Lunch Club	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b> 9:30 Mini Market	<b>7</b> 9:45 Parent and Toddlers	<b>8</b> 15:30 Messy Church	<b>9</b> 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 Mini Market	<b>14</b> 9:45 Parent and Toddlers 19:30 Church and Community Group Meeting	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	<b>17</b> 17:00 Cook at Church	<b>18</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 Mini Market	<b>21</b> 9:45 Parent and Toddlers	<b>22</b> 19:30 Church Coun- cil /meeting	<b>23</b> 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	<b>24</b> 18:30 Family Friday Games	<b>25</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30 Mini Market	<b>28</b> 9:45 Parent and Toddlers	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	<b>31</b>	



### **Door Stewards**

1st December    Tony Jackson and Liz Haigh  
8th December    Lynda Young and Mary Bailey  
15th December   Janice Collins and sally Bland  
22nd December   Liz Avison and Irene Russell  
29th December   Liz Haigh and Marilyn Woodrow

### **Refreshments**

1st December    Margaret Temple, Sally Bland and Brenda Bennett  
8th December    Cath Stevenson and Judith Bramall  
15th December   Pat Croker and Mary Bailey  
22nd December   Liz Haigh and Liz Avison  
29th December   Shirley and Keith Sargeant and Peggy Long

### **Flowers**

	<b>Providers</b>	<b>Deliverers</b>
1st December	Rae and Mike Shepherd	Irene Russell
8th December	Joan Moore (FF)	Mary Bailey
15th December	Flower Fund	Joan Padley
22nd December	Eric wheeler	Jean Petter
29th December	Ian Bagshaw	Lynda Young

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

**fareham.focus@gmail.com**

by noon of **Thursday 16th January**

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website