

FAREHAM

eFOCUS



Fareham Methodist Church
eFocus December 2022
Registered Charity No 1127814

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www.farehammethodist.org.uk

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Services for the Month of December 2022

- 11th Dec.** **10.30 am** Revd. Claire Simpson. All Age Worship. Christingle Service. 3rd of Advent.
- 18th Dec.** **10.30 am** Mrs Wendy Corney 4th of Advent.

6:00 pm Carol Service
- 24th Dec.** **11.30 pm** Christmas Eve at United Reformed Church.
- 25th Dec.** **10.30 am** Revd. Claire Simpson. Christmas Day. United **at** Methodist.
- 1st Jan.** **10.30 am** Revd. Claire Simpson. 2nd of Christmas. Holy Communion.

Tea and Coffee Rota for December 2022

- 11th Dec. Lynda Young and Elizabeth Wilcock.
- 18th Dec. Lynda Haydon-Jones and Rae Shepherd.
- 25th Dec. Margaret Boyd and Jenny Chalmers.
- 1st Jan. Ian Bagshaw and Walter Metcalf.

Meet and Greet December 2022

- 11th Dec. Bob Temple
- 18th Dec. Edith Livingston
- 25th Dec. Julie Kettle

VESTRY JOTTINGS

Here we are, my favourite time of the church year. The Advent and Christmas season.

Lots happening in the next few weeks. By the time this goes out we will have had our Christmas bazaar. A huge thanks to Liz, Penny, and their team for all the hard work. It might only be one day, but it takes a lot of organising.

We have our Christingle on the 11th December with our morning service. The Carol service is at 6.00pm on the 18th December. That will be the last posting date for our post box. Please include surnames.

Rev Claire will be including information about the warm space initiative in her letter.

We must thank Carl once again for the beautiful Christmas card that he designed for us. We have 50 blank cards which we will be selling to go towards the cost of printing the cards

May we wish all our church family a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Brenda
On behalf of the stewards

HEALING PRAYER GROUP

This long-standing group meets on the third Monday afternoon of each month at 3 p.m. at 2 Archery Lane.
All are welcome.

We aim to pray regularly, together, and privately, for church members and friends who have urgent or ongoing health needs. We always try to ask people's permission before adding to our list for prayers.

Many find help in knowing that they are upheld by a group within the church.

Our next meeting is Jan 16th.

Please contact Joan Padley, Bob Temple, Bobby Watson, or Una Peters.

Tim Padley
077 522 36253

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is such a lovely time of year for some but many people this year are struggling with the cost of living so please give, if you can, to the food banks. As you know the church is collecting for the Basics Bank in Fareham but there are donation points in most of the superstores, even Aldi.

People will remember their family and friends who passed away in 2022 and will find it difficult to be "jolly" so please keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

The church started its celebrations with the Toy Service/Donations to the food bank which saw a large number of donations. The Christmas Bazaar is on the 3rd December and then the Christingle and Carol Services follow on until we reach the day "Jesus is born".

Thank you very much for supporting the efocus and sending many funny articles- it really helps to make the efocus more than just a church magazine.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

Deadline for next efocus is January 1st.





The Prayer Tree

The Prayer Tree is now in the Welcome Area. Anyone who would like the Prayer Circle to pray for them, or others, please write your request on the leaf and hang it on the tree. These will be collected each month when the group meets.

THURSDAY PRAYER CIRCLE DATES

The Thursday Prayer Circle is held on the FIRST Thursday of each month at 10.30 am (unless advised of a change!).

All are welcome and as the Coffee Centre is open you are welcome to bring a drink into the Sanctuary with you. You can just drop in for 5 minutes or stay longer. Do bring any of your concerns and we will pray with and for you. Or just come and sit and listen – no pressure.

2023	
5 th January	Bob Temple
2 nd February	Julie Kettle
2 nd March	Bob Temple
6 th April	Jill Race
4 th May	Revd. Claire
1 st June	Julie Kettle
6 th July	Revd. Claire

Prayer Circle Information.

Julie Kettle will be taking over the co-ordinating of the Prayer Circle, as from January 2023, from Bobby. She wishes to thank Bobby for all the work she has done over the many years, particularly the help and support she has personally given to Julie. Please note that Bobby remains the point of contact should any issues arise.

Julie will share the prayers on Early Birds weekly emails for everyone to use if they wish.

Dear friends,

It scarcely feels possible that we are nearing the end of 2022 and approaching the start of a new year. As a child, I would overhear older members of my family whimsically talking about how time seems to go faster the older you get, and I thought it was a silly thing to be saying! Now, I understand more than ever that they were wise words, and their experience was true!! So, whether we like it nor not, 2022 is nearly over. If you were to look back across the year I wonder what some of the stand-out moments would be for you? There will be things that have happened to you and your loved ones that will have left memories – hopefully some good things, but possibly some not-so-good also. From a national standpoint the year has seen much political turmoil and instability and of course there have been the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee and then, sadly, the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the ceremonies that followed. In 2023 we will formally acknowledge the kingship of Charles III with his coronation at the start of May.

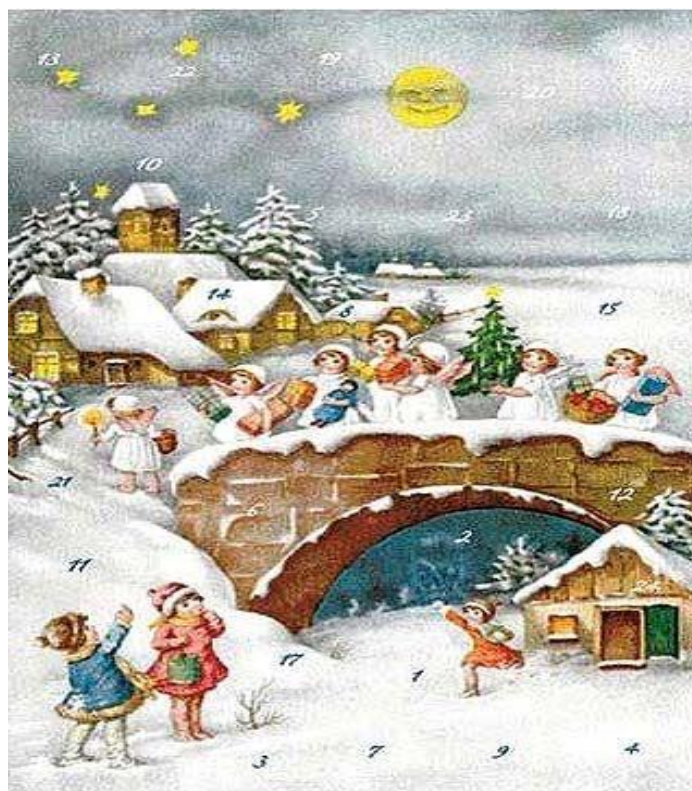
As 2022 draws to a close the war in Ukraine continues, the challenges facing our government and all parliamentarians continue to gather pace and different aspects of the cost-of-living crisis really begin to bite in our local communities.

As Christians Together in Fareham we are seeking to respond to this by working together and opening some of our church buildings as warm spaces throughout the winter months. Here at the Methodist Church, we are working in partnership with Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Portland Street as they host a warm space. It is a fantastic opportunity to work ecumenically and provide a joint witness to those who may attend.

See elsewhere in the eFocus for more details and how you can get involved.

In the meantime, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. I hope that you are able to spend time with friends and loved ones over the festive season. May the love of the Christ child, Jesus, warm your hearts and fill you with sustaining hope.

With Love
Claire



SUNDAY LUNCH
On 18th December 12.15 p.m.approx.

This is open to all members of the congregation, family, and friends. There is no set charge for the meal we just ask for donations for **charity**. If you would like to make pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be appreciated – thank you.

The Menu

Starter: **Prawn Cocktail, Soup**
Main Course: **Chicken, stuffing, sausages, roast potatoes, vegetables.**
Puddings: **Variety**

There will be a list for you to sign in the Welcome Area.
Come along and enjoy a Sunday Roast!

If you can help before or after the meal, please let me know. We particularly need help in the kitchen after the meal.

Thank you
Jill Groom



Messy Church November 9th, 2022

ALL ARE WELCOME IN GOD'S FAMILY

“For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith”

Lots of fun – loads to do – delicious food.
Come and join us for a fabulous Christmas celebration at our next meeting
in December.



Christians Together in Fareham - Warm Spaces initiative

As part of Christians Together in Fareham, local churches are working together to provide some warm spaces over the winter months as the cost-of-living crisis begins to be felt across our communities.

Some churches are opening their buildings and all church communities are being invited to be part of our response in Fareham. One of our neighbouring churches, Sacred Heart Catholic church, are opening their building on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons between 1 and 4pm for anyone who wishes to go to a warm space for light refreshments and to enjoy the company of other people. In consultation with them, we have agreed that the Methodist Church will initially support them in the offering of their warm spaces.

We can do this in different ways. Sacred Heart are particularly in need of volunteers to work alongside them for the Thursday warm space sessions that begin from 8th December. If you are able to be part of the rota for Thursdays then please contact a Sacred Heart church member:

Ann Anderson on 07717 194166 or by e-mail on annanderson589@btinternet.com copying in farehamporchester@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Board games and other activities (e.g., colouring books and pens) are to be available at the sessions so if you have a spare board game or other activity that you would like to donate for use then please bring them to church and hand over to a steward/place on the vestry table. At present, Sacred Heart is able to provide the refreshments but if the warm spaces get busy then we will offer to make contributions of tea and coffee etc. It is hard to know at this stage what the take-up will be in our local communities so watch this space and we'll see what the next few weeks bring.

NB There will be no warm spaces operating between the 24th December 2022 and the 1st January 2023. If you have any further questions, then do not hesitate to be in touch.

Rev Claire





Christmas Celebrations!



*"The shepherds found Mary and Joseph,
and baby Jesus lying in a manger."*

Games and Activities – Worship – Meal

Wednesday 14th December 2022

from 3:30pm – Fareham Methodist Church

Christmas Greetings

Trevor and Julie would like to send Christmas Greetings to our friends in Church, we will be donating to charity rather than sending cards. Some of you may know we have had a lot of family issues at present so have not thought about which charity we shall be supporting this year yet.

Bobby and Patrick wish everyone a healthy, peaceful, and joyous Christmas season and a truly happy and healthy New Year. We hope 2023 will turn out to be a better year for our country and ourselves eventually, with Covid becoming a thing of the past. We are donating to Andover Mind (a Dementia group) instead.

To all my church family I have donated to the Salvation Army in lieu of Christmas cards. May you all have a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for 2023
Brenda

Jean and Gerald Everitt send everyone in the Church community their very best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

We would like to send seasonal greetings to you all, and to wish you a happy and healthy new year. We will be making a donation to a children's charity this year in lieu of sending cards.

Jenny and Tony

Chris and Lin would like to wish our Church family a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. We will be donating in lieu of Christmas Cards to the charity of Headway.





Christmas Bazaar

Sat 3rd Dec 10am - 3:00pm

Fareham Methodist Church

King's Road, Fareham PO16 0NU

Admission FREE

Seasonal Gifts * Cake Stall * Competitions

Craft activities * Carol singing 2pm

Refreshments served all day

Light lunches served 12 – 1:30pm

Everyone welcome

CASH PAYMENTS ONLY

December to 1st January 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
28 9.30 Mini Market in Coffee Bar.	29 9.45 – 11.45 Parent and Toddler Group. 14.00 Tuesday Ladies Club. At Catisfield Scout hut.	30	1 9.30 Coffee Centre. 10.30 Prayer Circle in Church Sanctuary led by Julie Kettle 17.30 Brownies.	2 Friday Lunch 1:00 pm.	3 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR	4 10.30 Junior Fun Church. 10:30 Morning Worship led by Revd. Claire Simpson. Holy Communion.
5 9.30 Mini Market in Coffee Bar.	6 9.45 – 11.45 Parent and Toddler Group	7	8 9.30 Coffee Centre 10:30 Bible Study Group in Sanctuary. 17.30 Brownies	9	10	11 10.30 All Age Worship Christingle Service
12 9.30 Mini Market in Coffee Bar.	13 9.45 – 11.45 Parent and Toddler Group. 14:00 pm Tuesday Ladies Club at Catisfield Scout hut.	14 3.30 pm Messy Church	15 9.30 Coffee Centre. 14:30 Red House Care Home Service. 17:30 Brownies.	16	17	18 10.30 Junior Fun Church. 10.30 Morning Worship led by Mrs Wendy Corney. 12:15 Sunday Lunch 18:00 Carol Service
19 9.30 Mini Market in Coffee Bar.	20 9.45 – 11.45 Parent and Toddler Group.	21	22 9.30 Coffee Centre 10:30 Bible Study Group in the Sanctuary 17.30 Brownies	23	24 11:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at United Reformed Church	25 10.30 Junior Fun Church 10:30 Christmas Day Morning Worship led by Revd. Claire
26 9.30 Mini Market in Coffee Bar	27	28	29 9.30 Coffee Centre .	30	31	1 10.30 Junior Fun Church 10:30 Morning worship led by Revd. Claire Simpson. Holy Communion



What is CMA Connect Fareham?

Community Money Advice (CMA) is a national charity supporting churches who help people overcome their money problems. The CMA Connect Fareham debt centre works with people in difficult financial situations, to help them find freedom from debt and hope for the future. We are currently helping 11 clients, from budgeting advice to helping them find debt solutions with our CMA Hub partners. This represents more than £100,000 of debt across our active cases!

Our website is <https://cmaconnectfareham.org/>.

We need your help!

If you have a heart to help people, you're a good listener or have excellent admin skills, we need your help.

We're looking for money mentors to work with our clients, listen to them, and work with us to help them to find the best solutions to their financial problems. We offer training and you will never work alone, we always work in teams of two money mentors.

We're also looking for a centre manager, someone with a few hours available every week to make sure phone calls and emails are answered, maintain our policies and procedures in partnership with our trustees, and make sure volunteers and clients are taken care of and happy.

If this sounds like you, please call us at 01329 284837 or email cmafareham@gmail.com.

I know it's too early to be
organising Christmas yet, but

If any of our Church congregation
are going to be alone on Christmas Day
and would like to share
Christmas Day Dinner
with us, then please get in touch!

Malcolm & Jill Groom

07999 558524

Messages of Thanks

Mary B would like to say a big thank you to the church for the knitted blanket and good wishes - She was very touched by the gesture. Finally, she is open now to visits from any of her church friends who would like to see her!

Marion Bright says thank you for the church flowers delivered to her recently.

A message from Terence Ferguson.

Last week was the first anniversary of Karen's death and Jean Petter kindly brought flowers around which was really appreciated both by me and Sarah-Ann.

Since Karen passed away, Claire and everyone has been so kind to me at the church and I just wanted to say how much it has meant to me and to offer my sincere thanks.

Subject: Christmas Health & Safety

All employees planning to dash through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a Risk Assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public.

This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers.

Please note that permission must also be obtained in writing from landowners before their fields may be entered.

To avoid offending those not participating in celebrations, we would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance. Benches, stools and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds planning or required to watch their flocks at night.

While provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut, all users of this facility are reminded that an emergency response plan must be submitted to account for known risks to the flocks.

The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that, prior to shining his / her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well-publicised case, everyone is advised that Equal Opportunities legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr R Reindeer.

Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, everyone is reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered.

This applies regardless of the individual, even royal personages.

It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded, while caution is advised regarding other common gifts such as aromatic resins that may evoke allergic reactions.

Finally, in the recent instance of the infant found tucked up in a manger without a crib for a bed, Social Services have been advised and will be arriving shortly.

Merry Christmas!! Thank you Malcolm.



FAREHAM CHRISTMAS LUNCH

DONATIONS NEEDED

Every year for over 12 years, Fareham Christmas Lunch has been held on Christmas Day for anyone who has found themselves alone at Christmas.

We are looking for kind donations of gifts and food items, crackers, and serviettes - anything that will help make the day festive and special.



If you would like to make a donation that needs collecting, you can contact: Jo at 07585 330721

Like to leave a monetary donation? Scan to go straight to the JustGiving page or visit:

justgiving.com/campaign/CFirstFarehamChristmasLunch2022

Donations can be left at the Community First office
163 West Street, Fareham, PO16 0EF
until Thursday 15th December between
10:00-16:00 on Wednesdays and Thursdays

Christians together in Fareham

Christingle making – a great success

We had a brilliant day at the Christmas Light Switch-on in Fareham!

We made 200 Christingles which meant we had at least 200 conversations about the real meaning of Christmas. As well as engaging with the children, there were also many conversations going on with the adults around. Such a good witness.



Message from Sheila Dyer

After many months of waiting for our house to be finished, we have now moved to Yorkshire and are looking forward to Christmas in our new home.

There are still boxes to unpack but the decorations have been sorted and we are looking forward to decorating the Christmas tree and entertaining family.

We would love to see our friends from Fareham if you are ever visiting Yorkshire - Brenda has our address!!

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas!
Sheila, Rebecca, and Simon



We're hiring! Parish Administrator

The role is to support the clergy and church leaders in a range of administrative/office functions and demonstrate Christian love and pastoral care for all. It is an essential role for furthering the worship and witness of the church.

15hr/week, £10.90/hour.

For more information please either email vicar@stjohnsfareham.org.uk
OR visit www.stjohnsfareham.org.uk/
Completed applications must be received by 2nd December 2022.

There is a genuine occupational requirement under reg 7 of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Reg 2003 that the post holder is a committed Christian.