

# FAREHAM eFOCUS



Fareham Methodist Church  
eFocus March 2023  
Registered Charity No 1127814

MINISTER: The Revd. Claire Simpson

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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**  
**March 2023**

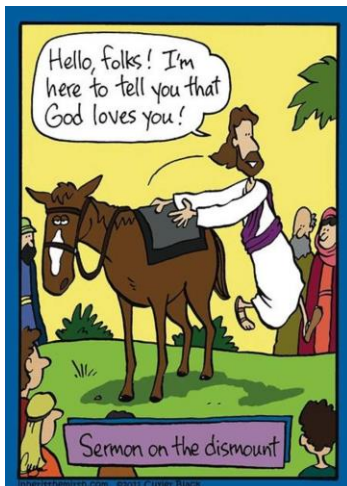
12 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	10:30 am Revd. David Rice 3 <sup>rd</sup> of Lent
19 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	10:30 am Gathering for Worship All Age Worship 4 <sup>th</sup> of Lent
26 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	10:30 am Revd. Claire Simpson Annual Church Meeting 5 <sup>th</sup> of Lent
	6:00pm Revd. Claire Simpson Holy Communion. Iona.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr.	10.30am Revd. Claire Simpson Holy Communion. Palm Sunday

**Tea and Coffee Rota**  
**for March 2023**

12 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Edith Livingstone
19 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Cath Stevenson and Judith Bramall
26 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Ian Bagshaw and Walter Metcalf
2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr.	Lynda Young and Elizabeth Wilcock

**Meet and Greet Rota for March 2023**

12 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Julie Kettle
19 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Lynda Haydon-Jones
26 <sup>th</sup> Mar.	Sue Gibson
2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr.	Bob Temple



## VESTRY JOTTINGS

We are now in the season of Lent.

We had a wonderful service celebrating the life of Mary Bailey. Her family send their heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped.

The Maundy Thursday service will be at 7.30pm and on Good Friday there will be the Walk of Witness ending at the bandstand in Fareham.

Our Annual Church Meeting will follow the service on Sunday 26th March.

The last Sunday lunch raised £471 for All we Can for the Earthquake Appeal.

Brenda  
On behalf of the stewards

## Messages from our Church Family

Sylvia Savage would like to say thank you for the flowers from church and to Tony Emberson for delivering them.

Thank you, Liz for delivering the flowers, lovely surprise which was on the step when I returned from my trip to Pompey!

Thank you and FMC for the beautiful flowers. It is much appreciated as is all the support from the church.

Take care and thanks again.

Terry

Chris wishes to thank everyone for the lovely flowers he received last week.

## Editor's Notes

We are into March already, lots of Spring flowers are now popping up which brings a smile to our faces.

Messy Church last month was a great success and we all had fun. A comment was made by a young man who comes along sometimes with his family.

"It's church but not in your face".

Clearly God is winning.

Deadline for efocus. 1<sup>st</sup> April

Perhaps some photos from your gardens showing spring coming to life for the next edition.

Brenda wishes to let everyone know that the donations that the church gives to Fareham College have been very gratefully received. They now receive a grant from the government for sanitary wear.

The college would appreciate it if we continued to send, deodorants, shower gels, shampoo, and toothpaste etc.

Many thanks.





## 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 group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 am. During the winter months we will be meeting in the snug or, when the weather warms up, in the sanctuary.

All are welcome to join us, for 5 minutes or for as long as you wish. We will pray with or for you or you may prefer to just listen and pray silently. Our prayers will include any from the prayer tree left during the month.

So, if you have anyone or any situation you want us to pray for, please feel free to write on the leaves and hang them on the prayer tree in the welcome area.

2023	
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Jill Race
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Julie Kettle
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Revd. Claire
6 <sup>th</sup> July	Revd. Claire

## Banner Workshop

The first Thursday of the month during Coffee morning 10.00am - 11 30am.  
Starting on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023

It will be open to anyone in other churches, who is interested in planning, colour, and design.  
Come on the Thursday or text Edith on 07747358060



Dear friends,

You will all be aware that for churches (and many other charities and voluntary organisations) the last three years have been tough. The pandemic changed the landscape for so many of us and it is only now that we are beginning to see the full impact of it on ourselves, our community and our country as a whole.

At Fareham Methodist Church it feels like normal service has, more or less, been resumed. Our church life feels busy again and most of our groups and activities are up and running and new things are happening. Sundays feel equally as busy as the majority of folk have been able to return to 'on site' worship whilst we also have some regular Zoomers too. It is a good place to be! However, I think if we are to grasp one opportunity that the pandemic has given us, it is to pause and think about the future of our church and how we might best serve one another and the wider community that we are a part of. Grasping opportunities inevitably means considering change. Invariably, as a creature of habit who likes routine, I find the prospect of change both challenging and exciting; daunting but also life-giving. I wonder how you feel about it.

We're all going to be encountering change as we move towards the middle of the year as I prepare to leave here, and you prepare to welcome Rev Pauline Crispin as your new minister from September 2023. At the most recent meetings of Worship Consultation and Church Council it was felt that the time was right to begin to think about the future of the church, to do a bit of preparatory work in the next few months so that Pauline will be able to pick this up with you in the autumn. So, to this end, we would like to give some time at our Annual Church Meeting, which will be after the morning service on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, for some discussion about the future. We want as many folk as possible to be part of these discussions and I hope the questions below are helpful to aid your thinking and praying in preparation for our time together.

**What do we want our church life to look like in 5 (or even longer) years' time?**

**Are there some things that need to change?**

**Are there some things that we need to stop doing so that we can start something else?**

**What things about our worshipping life do you enjoy and find meaningful? What things would you like to change or see more of?**

**What new opportunities might there be to serve our local community?**

**How can our building be better used during the week – a '7 day a week' church?**

This is by no means an exhaustive list but a starting point. There are no right, wrong, or easy answers! As a church community we journey together, in the presence of God, whose Holy Spirit aids us in discerning how we might witness to the good news of Jesus Christ that is at the heart of our faith.

Thank you for all that each of you brings to our church life. Let's hope and pray for fruitful discussion that begins to shape a collective vision for the future.

Yours in Christ,  
Claire





# 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.

12hr/week, £10.90/hour.

For more information please either email [vicar@stjohnsfareham.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stjohnsfareham.org.uk)

OR visit [www.stjohnsfareham.org.uk/](http://www.stjohnsfareham.org.uk/)

CV & cover letter must be received by 28th February 2023.

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.

## BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED

Blessed are they who understand  
My faltering steps and shaking hand;

Blessed are they who know my ears today  
Must strain to catch the things they say;

Blessed are they who seem to know  
My eyes are dim and my thoughts are slow;

Blessed are they who looked away,  
When my coffee was spilled at the meal today;

Blessed are they who, with a cheery smile,  
Stop and chat for a little while;

Blessed are they who never say  
“You’ve told that story twice today”;

Blessed are they who know the ways  
To bring back memories of yesterdays;

Blessed are they, who make it known,  
I’m loved and respected and not alone;

Blessed are they who ease the days  
Of my journey Home in loving ways

Author Unknown

**SUNDAY LUNCH**  
**26<sup>th</sup> March 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 for **charity**.

If you would like to make a pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be appreciated – thank you.

*The Menu*

**Starter:** Soup or Melon

**Main Course:** Roast Chicken Breast, Sausage,  
Roast Potatoes, Vegetables, Stuffing.

**Puddings:** Variety

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

If you can stay to help until all the washing up is done, please sign the helpers list. It then means that those of us who have been at church since 8.45am can slip away before 3pm!

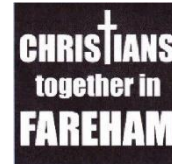
Thank you.

Jill Groom

Chris and I were at a music exhibition in Portsmouth Guildhall recently and were amused by this photo. Perhaps we can adapt our future walkers to look cool!!!



## Update on Warm Spaces



Dear friends

Since the beginning of December, Christians Together in Fareham (CTiF) have been offering a Warm Welcome Space every weekday at a number of our church premises across the town. In the autumn, when we developed this response to the news of increasing costs of living, particularly energy costs, CTiF agreed that the overall project would be evaluated at the end of January.

CTiF met last week to discuss the experience and learning, with reports back from each Space. Across most of the churches taking part, the experience was similar with just an occasional visitor, and those churches who used an existing community session to offer a Warm Welcome Space have not added significantly to their number of participants.

One notable exception is Hill Park Baptist Church who offered lunch and have regularly attracted 7-10 visitors with numbers gradually increasing. Anecdotally, it is thought some visitors were former users of The Hub and we know that the Social Prescribers from the Highlands Practice have helped encourage people to attend. CTiF members noted that the centre of town is well served by the library, which is also a designated Warm Welcome Space.

The conclusion that we have reached is that Hill Park Baptist Church (Monday and Friday 11am to 2pm) will continue and the sessions at St John's (Tuesday morning) and Sacred Heart (Tuesday afternoon) will continue to be drop-ins/coffee mornings as they were originally. The United Reformed Church, Fareham Baptist New Life Church and Holy Trinity will cease the project this week, prior to the half term school holidays.

We have been encouraged and grateful that so many members of our church congregations have responded to making the Warm Welcome project happen with minimal lead-in time. This has included the process of making our buildings safe and welcoming including risk assessments, safeguarding training and of course, publicity and awareness raising.

The project has been an act of faith - a worthwhile experience for all involved and our churches have learned very much individually and collectively, informing our mission activities in the future. We have raised the profile of Christians Together in Fareham across a range of media and local voluntary organisations in our town and the Borough Council have also been supportive.

Please express our heartfelt thanks to all who have supported this initiative.

Yours in Christ's service

Ian

Ian Corless  
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[farehamchristians.org.uk](http://farehamchristians.org.uk)  
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Party cannons were made and set off.

Party hats created.



A Messy Church member was 11 years old in February, so she helped blow out the candles.



Making party cannons



MESSY CHURCH 11<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY PARTY.





# Rejoice and be Glad

**Games and Activities – Worship – Meal**

**Wednesday 8th March 2023**

**from 3:30pm – Fareham Methodist Church**

# March – April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>27</b> <b>9.30</b> Mini Market in Coffee Bar.	<b>28</b> <b>9.45 – 11.45</b> Parent and Toddler Group	<b>1</b> Deadline for articles for efocus.	<b>2</b> <b>9.30</b> Coffee Centre  <b>10.30</b> Prayer Circle in the snug led by Bob Temple  <b>19.30</b> Singing group rehearsal	<b>3</b> <b>11:00</b> Friday Lunch  <b>14:00</b> Service for World Day of Prayer.  <b>19:00</b> Service for World Day of Prayer.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>10:30</b> Junior Fun Church Morning Worship by Revd. Claire Simpson. Holy Communion.
<b>6</b> <b>9.30</b> Mini Market in Coffee Bar.	<b>7</b> <b>9.45 – 11.45</b> Parent and Toddler Group  <b>14:00</b> Tuesday Ladies' Club	<b>8</b> <b>3.30</b> pm Messy Church	<b>9</b> <b>9.30</b> Coffee Centre  <b>19.30</b> Singing group Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>10:30</b> am Junior Fun Church Morning Worship Revd. David Rice
<b>13</b> <b>9.30</b> Mini Market in Coffee Bar.	<b>14</b> <b>9.45 – 11.45</b> Parent and Toddler Group.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>9.30</b> Coffee Centre.  <b>14.30</b> Red House Care Home Service . <b>19.30</b> Singing group rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>10.30</b> All Age Worship Gathering for Worship.
<b>20</b> <b>9.30</b> Mini Market in Coffee Bar.	<b>21</b> <b>9.45 – 11.45</b> Parent and Toddler Group.  <b>14:00</b> Tuesday Ladies' Club	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>9.30</b> Coffee Centre  <b>19.30</b> Singing group rehearsal	<b>24</b> <b>18:30</b> Friday Night Games	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>10:30</b> Junior Fun Church Morning Worship Revd. Claire Simpson  <b>11:30</b> Annual Church Meeting  <b>12:15</b> Monthly Sunday Lunch.  6:00pm Revd. Claire Simpson. Holy Comm. Iona
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