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April



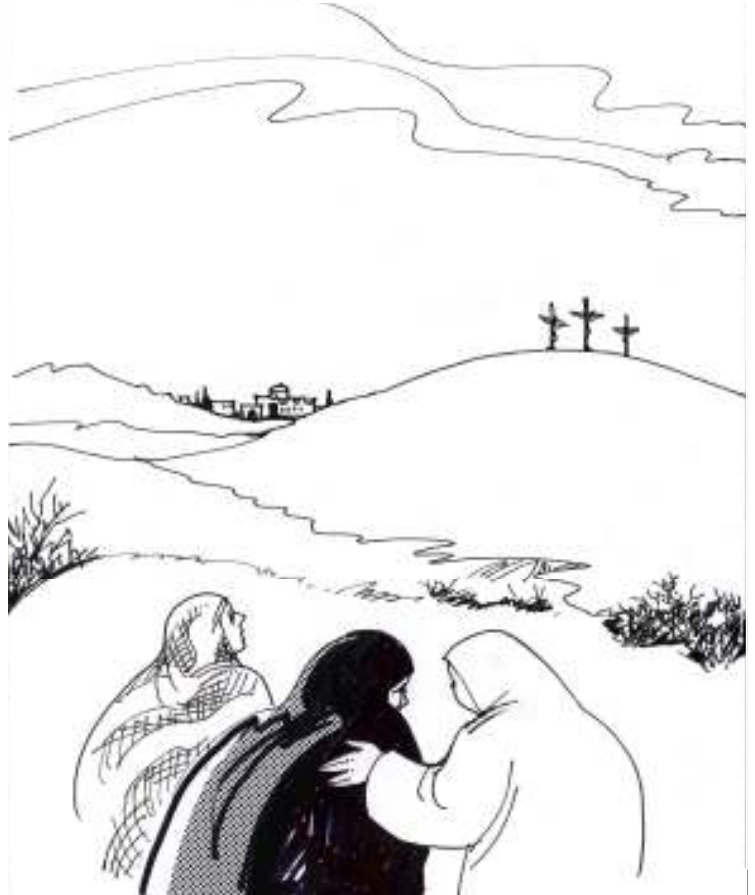
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Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine



Registered Charity No. 1127814

MINISTER: The Revd. Malcolm Groom
6 St Thomas Close, Fareham. PO16 7BZ
Telephone 01329 828706

E-mail malcolm.groom@methodist.org.uk
Mobile 07545966815

EDITOR: Mrs. Jill Groom
6 St Thomas Close, Fareham. PO16 7BZ
Telephone 01329 828706

E-mail jill.groom@btinternet.com
Mobile 07999 558524

Fareham Church website: www.farehammethodist.org.uk
Circuit website: www.gosportandfarehamcircuit.org.uk

Number 581

April 2011

SERVICES DURING APRIL

3rd	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	Family Holy Communion
10th	10.30	Revd Gillian Slaymaker	Healing Service
17th	10.30	Fareham Team & Young People	All Age Worship
	18.00	Revd Malcolm Groom	Holy Communion Iona Style
21st	18.30		Maundy Thursday Service
24th	08.00		Circuit Easter Morning Service on the beach (by the Wheelhouse & Breakfast)
	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	Easter Day Holy Communion

SERVICES DURING MAY

1st 10.30 Jean Hooper

LOCAL PREACHERS' & TEAM APPOINTMENTS

1st May Andrew Wilcock at Bridgemary

Please remember these preachers in your prayers, as they prepare and conduct their services in churches in the Circuit.

April 2011

Dear Friends,

“Thy will be done” are four very familiar words from our Lord’s Prayer. Words which we often say before we put our minds in gear. Words which, if we really think about them and understand their true significance we might find difficult to say and really mean! – What would happen if God really took us up on them!



During this time of Lent we have the opportunity to meditate on the condition of our Christian pilgrimage and how we can remove those things which get in the way of our relationship with God. To do that we need to discover in more detail what it is that is God’s will for us.

“Much of the time God’s will for us is clear. Jesus calls us to be alert to the needs of our neighbours, generous in our estimate of others, quick to forgive. He calls us to accept life as a gift from God, to take any knocks along the way as part of its “rich tapestry”, and to live in a manner which commends our faith to those around us. This is the way of life to which we pledge ourselves, every time we pray the Lord’s Prayer.” (Rev. Cannon John Young)

Sometimes, however, God’s will for us may be complicated and we find ourselves in situations which are morally ambiguous. Should I drop everything when the old lady down the road rings in apparent distress? – Well of course I should. But what if it means cancelling a meeting which has involved others in travel? What should I do then? All of us face tensions of this kind from time to time. Sometimes our society as a whole faces these dilemmas – should we encourage stem-cell research? – should we legalise euthanasia or assisted suicide?

John Wesley in 1766 put forward the idea of *“Christian perfection”*, a moment in the life of a Christian at which the healing

power of the Holy Spirit results in a "*perfection in love*" which means that at least at that moment one is being motivated wholly by love of God. This means that, at this time, through the power of the Holy Spirit we are truly able to discern God's will for us.

For most of us, day by day, our simple concern is to be more like Jesus. In various parts of the world the WWJD movement has become popular. Lapel badges and car stickers ask the same question – *What Would Jesus Do?* – It's easy to mock, but for many it's an honest and heartfelt attempt to make that part of the Lord's Prayer come true for them – *Thy will be done*".



ous parts of the world movement has become popular. Lapel badges and car stickers ask the same question – *Jesus Do?* – It's easy for many it's an honest and heartfelt attempt to make Lord's Prayer come true for them – *Thy will be*

Give me low standards and I'll hit them every time. So perhaps we do need to ask, "*What Would Jesus Do?*"

God bless,

Handwritten signature of Mark Twain.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

Anon

VESTRY JOTTINGS

We are in need of new participants for Prayer Leaders and Lesson Readers on Sunday Mornings. If anyone is interested please would they contact one of the Stewards, If there is anyone whose name is down to cover either of these functions and wishes to stand down would they also contact one of the Stewards and we will delete your name from the schedule.

In future will all groups submit their written reports two weeks before the date of the next Church Council Meeting with required items for action by the Church Council, in time for the Church Council Secretary to include and send out with the Agenda. Those received too late will be held over to the next Church Council Meeting. .

Congestion at coffee time in the Welcome Area after Morning Service has become a problem. A suggestion that tables and chairs could be set up at the rear of the Church has been rejected by the Stewards due to lack of space, however, the stewards have no objections to refreshments being taken into the Church more easily achieved at this time through the side door, and the rear row of chairs unhooked and turned into social formats.

The Stewards

THANK YOU

Elizabeth Wilcock thanks the Church for the lovely flowers which were given to her and asking for the Church's continuing prayer for her sister Dorothy who is still very unwell.

My sincere thanks to all who sent me beautifully appropriate cards for my special birthday, and for "serenading" me in Church! I am very blessed in having such a caring Church family.

Mary Bailey

REMINDER

A reminder that the next Pastoral meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6th April at 7.30 pm in the Sanctuary

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Jenny Chalmers



FAMILY NEWS



Babs and Dave Wilson have moved. The family are now living at Castle Farm House, Castle Farm Lane, Wickham. PO17 5DL.

We wish them well in their new home.

HEALING PRAYER GROUP

The next Healing Group will be held on Wednesday, 4th May 2011 at the home of Joan and Jeff Padley. All are welcome at 7.30 pm at 2 Archery Lane, Fareham. We do need new members.



Rita Jackson

CHRISTIAN AID



Many thanks to Shirley Henderson and Eric Wheeler for organising the first fund raising event for the Church Partnership Scheme. We have pledged, along with other local churches, to raise £5000 to support a project in Zimbabwe. For every £1 donated the European Commission will give an additional £9. This will enable us to give £50,000 to the project! Any ideas or offers of help for future fund raising would be much appreciated. This project is in addition to our usual involvement in Christian Aid Week.

Christian Aid Week this year is the 15th – 21st May 2011. If you are able to help during this week it would be greatly appreciated, especially to deliver and/or collect the envelopes as some of our regular collectors are away. Last year we collected: £ 958.69 (including £89.88 tax gained through gift aid). The Sunday lunch also raised an additional £133.50. It would be fantastic to match this total!

For many years the envelope 'drop' has been organised by different Churches collecting in a specific area. This will continue again this year, but many roads are not covered, so if you would like to collect in your own or a particular road/street please let me know.

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Linda Foster

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

We will be holding our Easter Service on 13th April 2011, at 2.00 pm in the Worship Area.

It will be followed by Tea and Hot Cross Buns in the Wickham Room. Everyone is very welcome to join us.

Shirley Henderson

REVIEW OF REGULAR GIVING

Malcolm's letter in January asked us to consider increasing our regular giving to Church funds by 4½%. I am pleased to report that income from standing orders has increased by 7%. Sunday offerings have also increased but it is difficult to be precise about how much, because the variations from Sunday to Sunday are greater than what appears to be the long term increase. Nevertheless, the increase puts our finances back on to a reasonably secure footing.

Thank you, everybody, for this magnificent response.

Antony Hollinghurst Church Treasurer

MESSY CHURCH TRAINING - TUESDAY 12th APRIL 2011

Paul Woodman has organised an evening of training for anyone running, or wanting to run Messy Church, with National Author and Originator, Lucy Moore.

The **free** event will be from 7.30pm at St Andrews in Sholing (SO19 8LW), where Messy Church has been running every Sunday at 5.00 pm since October in partnership between City Life Church, New Community and the Methodist Circuit. Please let Paul know if you are planning to attend paulw@citylife.org.uk



Julia Wills
Methodist Training Officer
Southampton District

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THANKS FROM GWEN

Harvey and I thank Jill, Bobby and our Church friends for the love and prayers we received whilst I was ill in Australia. Also many thanks for the beautiful flowers from Church and friends on our safe return. Aussie friends are upset that I've been in hospital on two holidays out of the twenty visits there! Unfortunately this time it was the lack of sleep after the long journey via Dubai and Bangkok two nights travelling. My twin brother has told us to break the journey next time as we're not thirty anymore!

However we had a lovely holiday for the last month visiting new places. We bumped into Lillian's daughter and son-in-law in the middle of Tilba Tilba (an 'Historic' town in N.S.W). Also, we saw Keiri's UTS building where she started her 'Interior Spatial Design' course on her 18th birthday. The highlight of the last week was Keiri's 18th birthday party in a Thai restaurant on a balcony overlooking the harbour. There were 35 guests and she thanked us for being there in her speech and afterwards many of the guests came to Shellcove to continue the party where an Aussie friend borrowed Jorja's guitar and we had a sing song! We were very late in bed that night. The small Shellharbour Uniting Church welcomed us with the words "Gwen and Harvey visit every two years!" However we were not the only Methodists there as a couple from Victoria Methodist Church in Bournemouth were on holiday in Shellharbour.



Our neighbours, our two daughters and families have been a 'tower of strength' over the time I was ill and I, of course, recovered well due to Harvey's loving care and attention.

Gwen Brosgall

POINT TO PONDER

Soon after the New Testament, part of the New English Bible was Published in 1961, C S Lewis remarked to T S Eliot,

"Odd, the way the less the Bible is read, the more it is translated!"

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Regius Professor of Hebrew
Via Antony Hollinghurst

MOTHERING SUNDAY 4th SUNDAY IN LENT

There is an old Jewish saying:

God could not be everywhere,
And therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.



In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called Simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday Lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Parish Pump

SHOW AND TELL (thought provoking!)

An infant school teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Baptist, and this is a casserole."

THE EASTER LABYRINTH

The Fresh Expressions Team will be setting up an Easter labyrinth in the church on Sunday, April 17th in the afternoon. It is a special labyrinth designed to help us think about Christ's suffering as he journeyed towards the cross and to reflect on the events of Easter. Hopefully, it will help us to think and pray about our own lives too, and about the people who are suffering in the world today.

The FX Team hope that you will visit the labyrinth during Holy Week. The church will be open from 10.00 until 14.00 from Monday through to and including Good Friday. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available. If you would like to help us in anyway please let me know.



Garry Bagshaw
01329 845978
hazel_bagshaw@sky.com

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24th - COMMUNION ON THE BEACH

The service will start at 8.00 am at the Salterns Car Park, Hill Head. The Rotary Club Wheelhouse is booked so the service will go ahead regardless of the weather...but we do hope to be outside. It will be followed by a breakfast of bacon rolls or toast and a hot drink. Hope to see you there.



Garry Bagshaw
Circuit FX Enabler

THE LITTLE BOY WHO DREW A CROSS

A Sunday School teacher asked her young class to draw a cross. Most of the children quickly drew a stick-like object that closely resembled the letter "T," but one child got out all the pastel crayons and became quite intent while working on his drawing. When he finished, his picture was a cross, covered with beautiful flowers. He explained, "I put flowers on my cross to make it beautiful because that's how Jesus made it so I could go to Heaven."



THE HANDWRITTEN BIBLE PROJECT

As part of our Methodist celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible and the Biblefresh initiative, Conference 2010 resolved that the Districts would work collectively to handwrite the Bible during the course of 2011. This will be done using re-cycled paper, and with encouragement to express maximum creativity, and cultural diversity to create a 'Bible of the people'.

The hand transcription will take place in the Districts between January and the end of May 2011 during the first half of the Methodist Year of the Bible. Each District will present their handwritten sheets in an act of worship at Conference 2011. The approximate 8000 sheets will then be bound in the summer of 2011 into a number of hard bound volumes, which will be displayed, celebrated and used in various ways throughout the Connexion.

The Gosport and Fareham Circuit has been asked to transcribe Galatians Chapter 1 and Ecclesiastes Chapter 5. Vincent and Sharon Canning have offered to make a frontispiece for Galatians. The special paper was handed to the Circuit two days ago with the request that it is completed by May 7th when it will be presented to Synod. Consequently, there is a change to the earlier plans.

The Circuit Fresh Expressions Team, who undertook the responsibility for the completion of this work, has decided to use Fareham Church during Holy Week, 18th – 22nd April. The Church will be open from 10.00 until 14.00 from Monday to Friday to enable people to visit their Holy Week labyrinth. A table will be set up in the chancel area with all the necessary implements for undertaking this task. There will also be the chance of colouring a copy of the frontispiece which will be displayed in the Welcome Area at Fareham. They will also be on display at the Circuit Biblefresh Day on Sunday, June 5th at Bridgemary Church starting at 14.30 along with a photocopy of our handwritten chapters.

I hope that members of your Church family come along and participate in the transcription. If a group of people wish to come together, please can you contact me on 01329 845978 or hazel_bagshaw@sky.com so that I can reserve the time for you.

Yours sincerely



Circuit FX Co-ordinator

CHRISTIANS
together in
FAREHAM

GOOD FRIDAY 2011
Walk & Witness



- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 09:30 | Gather at your church ready to walk to Westbury Manor with a cross and church banner. |
| 10:00 | Short Service for Good Friday outside Westbury Manor followed by refreshments. |
| 10:30 | A team will then distribute Hot Cross Buns in the town & shopping centre. |

EASTER – the Most Joyful Day of the Year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

REAL EASTER EGG - on its way to become a UK top seller



A church backed campaign has succeeded in convincing retailers to stock The Real Easter Egg, the UK's first and only Fair-trade charity egg to mention Jesus on the box.

Morrison's, Waitrose, Co-op and Booths are to stock a limited 'trial listing' of the Real Easter Egg and sell it in their biggest stores. A number of independent shops and a selection of cathedrals are also stocking The Real Easter Egg. And hundreds of Traidcraft supporters have ordered thousands of eggs on behalf of their communities.

The retail price of The Real Easter Egg is £3.99. It is made from high quality Fairtrade chocolate. Two charities benefit from the sale of the egg: Traidcraft Exchange receives 30 pence from every egg sold and Baby Life-line will receive 10% from Real Easter Egg net profits.

Despite selling over 80 million Easter eggs a year, supermarkets initially turned down The Real Easter Egg, unsure if there was a place for a charity-faith egg in their Easter range. The Rt Revd, Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Manchester, said; "It is great news that for the first time people will have the chance of buying an Easter egg from a shop that explains the significance of the festival on the box. Through the charitable donation and its Fairtrade chocolate the egg brings to light the Easter themes of hope and new life. I believe there will be widespread support for the product from the faith community with many others likely to be interested."

Virtual Real Easter Egg hunter:- With demand expected to outstrip supply Google Maps is providing the 'Virtual Real Easter Egg hunter' which allows people to hunt for an independent shop or church in their area where they can buy the Real Easter Egg. Visit www.realeasteregg.co.uk



Parish Pump

EARS

Why do they have ear piercing 'while you wait'; is there some other shop where you can drop them off and pick them up later?

AN EVENING OF COLOUR INSPIRATION

I have been fortunate in arranging for Joen Wolfrom, an international quilter from America, to give a presentation entitled "The Visual Dance - Creating Spectacular Quilts". The date is Wednesday 13th April, time 7.30 pm, venue Fareham Methodist Church. Joen's talk applies to all sorts of craft, so if you would like to attend, please contact me to purchase your ticket. Cost is: Quilters Guild members £5.00, non-members £7.50. Doors open at 6.45 for refreshments and we have 2 traders for retail therapy. Please telephone me on 01329 231790 or email jenkchalmers@hotmail.co.uk

Jenny Chalmers

SUNDAY LUNCH 17th APRIL 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 MHA. 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: Home made Tomato & Carrot Soup or
Melon & Orange Cocktail

Main Course: Baked Gammon with Pineapple
or Cheese, Sauce
Roast Potatoes, Roast Parsnips,
Vegetables



Puddings: Variety

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

SURPRISE

Behind every successful man is a surprised mother-in-law

THE SOUND OF MUSIC & THE CLATTERING OF CUTLERY

The concept of a ‘Mozart’ dinner and concert is coming to this Church on Saturday, **14th May**. Please note the item on page 14 of the March edition of Fareham Focus!

The Singing Group are working very hard to make this a superb evening of entertainment and food. The tickets will be on sale after Easter with the proceeds going to Methodist Charities. Make sure you get your tickets.

Garry Bagshaw

A REFLECTION ON THE LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6:1-18

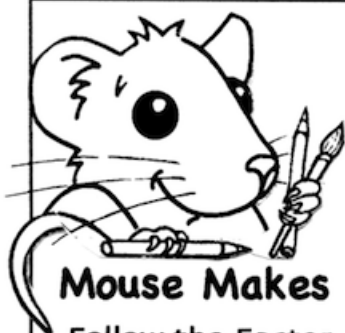
Our Father in heaven, please help us.
We, your children, learn slowly.

So often we say nothing when your name is mis-used.
Often our lives do not reflect your ways,
Mostly we do what we want on earth,
And this can make heaven unimaginable.

We expect so much more than we actually need each day.
Sometimes we think we don’t need forgiveness,
Sometimes we think we are unforgiveable,
And we forget that other people make these same errors of thinking.

When it comes to temptation, we find our own ways,
We are confused about what is and is not evil,
We are confused about deliverance,
We are confused

And here is the wonder, the grace and the mystery,
That you know us completely,
Our failings, our secrets,
And love us forever and ever,
Amen



Mouse Makes

Follow the Easter story using the Bible references, then look for the words in the wordsearch puzzle



read *Matthew 21:1-11*

DONKEY • ROAD
BRANCHES • PALMS
KING • HOSANNA

Last Supper

read *Matthew 26:17-30*

PASSOVER • ROOM
BREAD • WINE
BODY • BLOOD
CUP • MEAL



Betrayal and Death

read *Matthew*

26:36 - 27:56

KISS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • SON
CRUCIFY • JESUS
CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE
NAILS • CROSS
DARKNESS • QUAKE
DEATH • LOTS



Easter Wordsearch

B	R	A	N	C	H	E	S	D	
			O	D	O	N	K	E	Y
			M	E	S	S	I	A	H
		C	U	P	A	S	S	O	V
			W	A	N	O	S	W	I
S	M	E	A	L	N	N	M	E	S
R	O	A	D	M	A	N	B	L	O
			S	C	R	O	S	S	D
			C	R	U	C	I	F	Y
D	E	A	T	H	O	R	N	S	Q
			R	W	M	A	R	Y	G
			K	I	N	G	I	O	R
			S	Y	H	L	A	N	G
			T	A	E	S	T	O	N
M			Q	A	B	O	D	Y	D
O	U	G		U	V	O	M	U	K
R	O	O	M	T	A	E	O	B	U
N	K	D	A	R	K	N	E	S	S
I	P	E	A	C	E	U	J	S	P
N	J	G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S
G	O	T	E	L	L	I	S	A	G
V	Y	S	A	V	I	O	U	R	E
P	R	A	I	S	E	A	E	A	S



Burial and Resurrection

read *Matthew 27:57 - 28:20*

TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN
GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT
SAVIOUR • PRAISE



EASTER





MOTHERING SUNDAY 3rd April

The old Gospel reading for this Sunday was about the feeding of the 5,000 so it was originally called Refreshment Sunday. This Sunday became linked with family reunions and gatherings and became Mothering Sunday.



Mother's Day, which in this country is on the same day as Mothering Sunday, is an American invention started in 1906. Mother's Day is directly connected with the mother of the family but Mothering Sunday is more connected with Mother Church, the family meaning has been added on.

MOTHER'S DAY CARD

Nice cards for Mother's Day can be rather expensive so why don't you make your own? You don't have to be an artist to make a lacy card. You will need some coloured card, glue and a paper lace doily.

Cut a piece of card twice as big as the card you want and fold it in half. Cut your decoration from the doily, some have lovely patterns of hearts, flowers and leaves. Put a very small amount of glue on the back of the 'lace' and press it onto the card. Finish by writing a nice message inside.



Why was the Egyptian girl worried?

Because her daddy was a mummy.

What stories do the sailor's children like to hear?

Ferry tales.

Did you hear about the little boy that they named after his father?

They called him dad.

How did your mum know you hadn't washed your face?

I forgot to wet the soap.

CELEBRITY CHEFS BACK FAIR FEAST

If you like pancakes, it is not too late to sample some very special ones, even if Shrove Tuesday is now past. For celebrity chefs Gary Rhodes and Monica Galetti have shared their favourite pancake recipes with the Methodist Church, and you can still download the recipes from its website.

The pancake recipes are the chefs' way of backing Fair Feast, the MRDF's latest initiative to promote fair trade and tackle world hunger. Gary Rhodes says: 'I'm delighted to be a part of this campaign. It is a fantastic opportunity to get together with friends... with the satisfaction of knowing that the money raised will be used to help people make their own living and fight hunger themselves.'

Download Monica and Gary's recipes and find out more about Fair Feast at: <http://www.mrdf.org.uk>

HOW TO GET CHILDREN TO EAT MORE VEGETABLES

Children and vegetables don't always seem to get along. But if you encourage them to grow their own fruit and veg, you will have much better success.

The National Trust poll of 1,000 children found that 42 percent of 8 to 12 year-olds try to hide the vegetables under other food on their plates. Almost a third throw them in the bin when their parents are not looking. A fifth feed greens to the family dog.



But it seems that more than half of children would indeed risk actually eating a vegetable – if they had grown it themselves. And nearly three quarters of youngster would like to have their own growing space. So, think about it this month. Spring is ^{at} hand!

ROYAL PROMISES - AND NO ESCAPE CLAUSES!



Probably not since the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981 will so many people be watching a Christian wedding ceremony as will doubtless be



watching on April 29th. The future heir to the throne, Prince William, will marry Kate Middleton in Westminster Abbey.

The solemn and moving words of the service will echo around the world: ‘to have and to hold, from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part’. As one groom - a lawyer, needless to say - remarked to me, ‘Not many escape clauses there!’

The exchanging of rings is equally uncompromising: ‘all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you’. All that I am? All that I have? My car, my laptop, my precious handbag . . . and my aching heart? All? It’s such a comprehensive word; it leaves nothing outside its limits.

Marriage is, on these terms, the total giving of one person to another, for life. It’s both wonderful and awesome. No matter how many weddings you attend, those vows still move you. This is what love, as **God** understands it, is all about. It’s not ‘I love you and I want you and I’m going to have you’ (which is how modern culture sometimes portrays it) but about the total giving of one human being to another. It mirrors the self-giving love of God as we see it in the life of Jesus - which may be why St Paul compares the love of a husband for his wife to Christ’s love for his people (Ephesians 5:25).



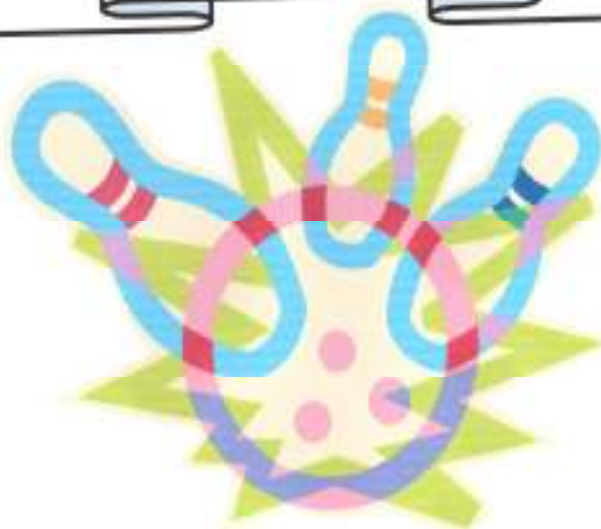
You may notice, as the service proceeds, just how often the word ‘love’ occurs in it. Indeed, the opening words sum it all up: ‘**God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.**’ This is the great sacrament of love. On April 29th we can - wherever we are - share in its joy.

Bridgema^y Methodist Church

Skittles Night

Friday 15th April 2011 6.00 pm

£4.00 includes
Jacket Potato Supper
Children half price



Please come and join us
Further details from
Anne on 01329 237090

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All meetings at Church unless otherwise stated)

APRIL

1st	Monthly Lunch	12.30
2nd	Spring Fayre	10.00
	Circuit Quiz	19.00
4th	Lent Study Group - Welcome Area	12.15
6th	Pastoral Meeting	19.30
11th	Lent Study Group - Welcome Area	12.15
12th	Messy Church Training at Sholing (page 7)	19.30
13th	Wednesday Fellowship	14.00
	Church Council Meeting	19.30
17th	Sunday Lunch	approx 12.15
18th	Lent Study Group - Welcome Area	12.15
	Hand Written Bible Project Mon - Fri	10.00 - 14.00
	And Holy Week Labyrinth	
22nd	Walk of Witness	9.30
	Service behind Westbury Manor	10.00
	Distribution of Hot Cross Buns in West Street	10.30
24th	Circuit Easter Morning Service on the Beach at The Wheelhouse, Hill Head	8.00

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4th	Healing Prayer Group 2 Archery Lane, Fareham	19.30
7th	District Representative Synod in Southampton	10.00
10th	Circuit Leadership Team at the Manse	10.00
14th	Singing Group Concert	19.30
15th	Church Anniversary & Sunday Lunch	

Mini-Market every Monday 9.30 to 11.45 am
(Not Bank Holidays)

Coffee Centre every Thursday 9.30 to 11.45 am

DOOR STEWARDS

APRIL

3rd 10.30 Gwen & Harvey Brosgall, Lynda Haydon-Jones
10th 10.30 Sheila & Graham Dyer
17th 10.30 Kevin & Linda Foster
18.00 Eric Wheeler
24th 10.30 Shirley & Keith Sargeant

MAY

1st 10.30 Bobby & Patrick Watson

FLOWER ROTA

APRIL

3rd Mavis Parish
10th Bob & Margaret Temple
17th Jean Petter
24th Garry Bagshaw

MAY

1st

REFRESHMENT ROTA

APRIL

3rd Pat & Robin Croker, Shirley DeAth
10th Liz Haigh, Liz Avison
17th Ruth & Tony Elvery, Mary Bailey
24th Lillian Tildesley, Una Peters, Jill Groom

MAY

1st Linda & Kevin Foster, Marilyn Woodrow

PRESS DATE

All items for the **MAY** magazine should be placed in the Magazine box in the Welcome Area or handed to the **Editor - Jill Groom** by **Friday, 22nd April 2011**

Fareham Focus is now available to be read on Fareham Church Website
