

MINISTER:	The Revd.	The Revd. Claire Simpson		
	Tele	phone	01329 828706	
E-mail	revclaire72@btinternet.com			
EDITOR:	Mrs. Ruth	Elvery		
	Tele	phone	01329 288946	
E-mail	ruthe	elvery@y	ahoo.co.uk	
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Fareham Church	website:		rehammethodist.org.uk	
Circuit website:		www.es	anddcircuit.org.uk	

SERVICES DURING OCTOBER

5th	10.30am	Rev Claire Simpson Family Holy Communion
12th	10.30am	Penny Thorne
	18.00	Rev Claire Healing Service
16th	14.30	Red House Service
19th	10.30am	Rev Claire Harvest Festival All age worship
26th	10.30am	Gerry Williams
	18.00	Rev Andrew de Ville Iona Communion

SERVICES DURING NOVEMBER

2nd 10.30am Rev Claire Simpson Holy Communion

LOCAL PREACHERS' & TEAM APPOINTMENTS

5th Oct	10.30 Fareham Team at Gosport
12th Oct	10.30 Andrew Wilcock Lee on the Solent
26th Oct	10.15 Andrew Wilcock Stubbington
2nd Nov	10.15 Fareham Team Stubbington
2ns Nov	18.30 Andrew Wilcock Portchester

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

Dear friends,

A few months ago I travelled to Southampton for my annual tax appointment with my tax consultant. Mr Serplus (honestly, that is his name!). Each year, as well as doing all the necessary figures and sums, we also have a catch up regarding our work and our families. This year I learnt that Mr Serplus, at an earlier time in his life, had been a very promising footballer but a series of knee injuries had put paid to a career and cut short his potential - so he became a taxman instead! He became quite misty-eyed as he talked about his love of playing and how good he could have been had a couple of tackles not brought on a weakness in one of his knees that meant all the promise, all the potential, could not be realised. This year, for our Harvest all-age worship celebration we are thinking about 'Potential'; the potential that is in all of us to reflect something of God's image in the world today, and the potential that the organisation All We Can (formerly MRDF) seeks to realise in countries that have been devastated by conflict, poverty and climate change. God sees the potential in all of us but at times we can struggle to see the potential in ourselves and others. Sometimes our weaknesses can seem more apparent! Sometimes people's actions can damage humankind and so all that is good within us and among us is diminished and depleted. Each of us has great potential to share the love of God with others and to grow into the people God has called us to be. This harvest time is a good time to thank God for all his love and goodness to us and to remind ourselves of the great potential we have to be a force for good amongst our families and friends; in our local community and in the wider world today. May God continue to bless us in this task. Claire

All Saints Day - 'Remembering loved ones'

There will be a service of 'Remembering loved ones' at Stubbington Methodist Church on Saturday 1st Nov at 3pm followed by refreshments. This is an opportunity to share together in remembrance and give thanks to God for family and friends who have enriched our lives.

CHURCH NEWS

FLOWER MINISTRY

Irene and John Field, Sylvia Savage, Betty Bonage, Penny Garrett and Cyril and Margaret Fielder would all like to say thank you for the flowers they have received. Messages of thanks often say how much visits are also appreciated. Rosemarie Jackson has also thanked you for your cards, flowers and prayers in response to her recent illness.

I would like to express a very sincere 'thank you' for the messages get well cards and the lovely flowers that Mary delivered to me following my operation, and also to Tony for looking after the Church Stall on Mondays. It is comforting to me that the Church Family are always there. Thank you Vic Collins



SUMMER QUIZ

Thank you to all who took part in the English Counties Quiz in aid of Water Aid. Three people had full marks, Linda Press, David Bashforth and Andrew and Elizabeth Wilcock. Andrew and Elizabeth were the lucky winners who had their paper taken from the draw "Hat".

I received a thank you letter from Water Aid for the £42 raised, . The money is to be added to a fund to provide private toilet facilities for women who are made vulnerable by the lack of privacy which is the norm in some third world countries. Thank you for contributing.

⁴Mary Bailey

VESTRY JOTTINGS

As we enter October we look forward to celebrating Harvest. As you read in last months Focus we will be sharing the produce this year between The Food Bank and the Women's Refuge, please bring your gifts with you to the service where the display will be built during the service. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute please let a steward know and we will arrange to receive your contribution.

Please let us know if we can help in any way.

Maggie Contact steward WORSHIP CONSULTATION



The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th October at 19.30 at the Manse.

Please send any items for the agenda before the meeting to me.

Rosemarie Jackson Convenor

Service of Christian Healing and Wholeness

Following on from our morning service that included prayer for healing and wholeness, there will be an evening service on the 12th Oct at 6pm specifically focused on the subject of Christian healing and wholeness. This will include an opportunity for personal prayer, laying on of hands and anointing and will be a time when we particularly think about God's healing touch on our own lives and on the lives of others. Everyone is very welcome.

If you require transport to this service then please contact Joan Padley (tel 284801) or Rev Claire (828706) in the first instance.

Historic Churches Trust

This may not be the best known Charity in Methodist circles, nor perhaps the best supported, but one event it promotes, Ride and Stride, is in aid of raising funds for the maintenance and repair of Churches in the Hampshire and The Islands Region. Being partial to a little bicycling, and Andrew Wilcox having passed on the paperwork, I resolved to put together a ride to support the event. It didn't have to be a bicycle, it could be on foot - with or without a dog - but bicycling is one of my things, and so I decided to set out on September 13th.

The plan was to combine a pleasant if not beautiful ride through the best of local countryside, on roads largely safer than others, and to strike a balance between distance travelled and the number of Churches visited. So, starting from Fareham Methodist Church at 10.00am, taking in Holy Trinity in West Street, it was off to Wickham St Thomas More, where coffee and cake was on offer. After a pleasant stop nearly half an hour had passed by, a schedule which if repeated would destroy the timetable for the day. So Southwick St James, Denmead All Saints, and Clanfield St James were all visited with the minimum of delay, with refreshments in East Meon in prospect. Alas, time was still not on my side, with just 35 minutes left to visit Langrish St John and the Methodist Church in Petersfield and cover the remaining 4.6 miles, refreshments were again postponed in favour of completing the ride. As it happened, Petersfield Methodists had gone home, but the Catholic St Laurence also in Station Road were doubling up, which was fine. Overall some 30 miles were ridden

and 10 Churches visited. The weather very good, though the ride would have ridden better in the opposite direction to avoid being against the wind all day! The choice of bicycle, one from the back the shed dating from the mid 1950s also worked well: it was reliable, and being heavy went well downhill. I returned to Fareham with the bicycle on the train, having raised £70 for the Historic Churches Trust.



SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS 2015



We shall shortly be preparing the new rota for next year, which is a good opportunity to thank our team of women and men who volunteer to make and serve tea and coffee in the foyer each Sunday after service. Unfortunately, our numbers have gone down over the year, making it difficult to maintain the usual amount of help each week. Is it possible that you might be able to help? Even 3 or 4 extra people would mean that we could keep the number of times each person is needed down to only 4 each year. We are an adaptable group so if your turn falls on a difficult date for some reason, we find that someone will always swap with you. If you think you may like to help in this way, please get in touch with me or Tony as soon as possible to discuss it further. It is a great way of getting to know people in an

FOCUS

Bobby has decided that the time is right for her to step down from assisting with the production of Focus. I would like to thank Bobby for all her help, especially while I was learning how the process works, and to wish her well in all she does in the future.

Will you now please send dates of meetings, house groups and other activities directly to me. I can only include them if I am given the information.

On another matter as you know I welcome your contributions every month, especially when they offer some variety of content. It is really helpful when you send them as email attachments as then, they transfer effectively into publisher. Also will you please ensure if you do have to send paper contributions, that you state clearly your name and why you have submitted it. I do need to be aware of

FORTHCOMING CHURCH EVENTS



Wednesday, 8th October 2014 Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road, Fareham PO16 0NU

The man who wanted a bigger barn 4.00 – 6.00pm



Everyone is welcome to join us for games, craft, worship and a meal.

SUNDAY LUNCH 12.15 p.m.approx.

HARVEST SUNDAY LUNCH 19th OCTOBER 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. If you would like to make a pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very good – thank you.

<u>The Menu</u>

Starter: Soup or Greek Salad

Main Course: Chicken Breast in BBQ Sauce or Gravy, sausages, Roast potatoes and a 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! Everyone is welcome even at the last minute!!

HEALING GROUP

The next healing group is on Wednesday 12th November at 10am at Joan and Jeff Padley's home.

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

Coffee Centre every Thursday 9.30 to 11.45 am

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

4th 5th and 6th December 2014

From 10am to 4pm



At Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road



All are welcome—Entry free to all children

Adult entry £2 to include a drink and mince pie.

Other light refreshments are available, plus stalls with a seasonal theme.

Funds will be raised for a number of charities which will be listed in advance.

If you have reserved a place, please send in your completed forms by 1 November, with your Charity No. As usual, offers of help to run our Festival will be needed so the sign up board will be available early November.

Alan and Janice Sargent

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is welcome to our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in each month. Our Meetings start at 2.0pm in the Wickham Room. Tea is available from 1.45pm.

8th October	Life in the Military Police with Brenda Bennett
22nd October	Recent Travels with Jill Groom

Shirley Henderson

Badminton will be held on the 2nd & 4th Fridays in October & November. No badminton in December.



I.B.R.A. International Bible Reading Association

I will be ordering the I.B.R.A. Notes for 2015 in the next 2 or 3 weeks. If you are interested in taking a copy of these for next year, please let me know as soon as possible.



Graham Dyer

Fareham Methodist Church MEAL and FILM EVENING 6:00 pm - Friday 31st October



The story of how Walt Disney courted P.L.Travers into letting him have the rights to bring Mary Poppins to the screen in this non-fiction drama starring Tom Hanks, Emma Thompson and Colin Farrell We will be serving an Australian/English meal - details to follow. Donations towards the cost of the meal will go to: SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen Families Association) Please sign the list in the Welcome area or contact Jill or Garry - jill.groom@btinternet.com

CIRCUIT NEWS

The next Circuit Mission Day on 'Remembering' will be held on Saturday, November 8th at Portchester Methodist Church, starting at 10.00. This change had been made to avoid clashing with a meeting for local preachers and worship leaders at District level. Posters will be available within the next 10 days to promote the event. Our legendary soup will be availbale at lunch time.

Garry Bagshaw

EXTRACT FROM SEPTEMBER CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

As we begin our new year we welcome new staff – Deacon Janet Heys to Bordon/Liphook; Probationer Deacon Laura Evans to Emsworth; Probationer Rev John Mills to Eastney/Trinity and Rev David Rice to Petersfield.

There will be a number of different opportunities to meet our new staff, at services and meetings, in the next few weeks and I know that you will welcome them as, together, we share in ministry in and around our Circuit

Church Copyright Licence

Please remember that the CCL number should be stated on words produced for services on a sheet or as a Power Point presentation. The details of the author should also be included. Records need to be kept of hymns and songs used in this way for the annual return.

Please note the lectionary readings for the 12th of October should be as follows and not as listed on the preaching plan.

Exodus 32:1-14 Psalm 106:1-8, 19-23,47 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14.

Thanks

Jo Gregory Circuit Administrator

References to weather: 21. The glory of the Lord is shining all around 1.I hear the mighty thunder 22. Can this tiny spark set a world on fire? 23. Light a candle in a darkened 2. Autumn gales, tremendous seas place 3 Sweet the rain's new fall 24 Set our hearts on fire 4.Lift your voice in evening rain Reference to things: 5.We'll praise him if it's sunny or if it's wet 25 A submarine 6.Cold wind in the winter, pleasant summer 26. Tinsel fairy sun 7. From colours of fall to fragrance of spring 27. Here are table, font and pulpit 8.0 rushing wind that is so strong 28. Jet planes meeting in the air to get refuelled References to music. 29 Shoes on our feet 9.Tell me who made music and laughter 30.A lowly cattle shed 10.Celebrate the eternal God with harp and 31.Hammer for action and compass psalter for travel 11. Angel harps for ever ringing 32.Blood-red poppy petals flutter 12. Your people have always had a song in Questions; Answers in hymns: their hearts 13. The church with psalms must shout 33. Whose temple task was done? 14. So dance for our God and blow all the 34. What does Emimimo" mean? trumpets 15.The trumpets sound 35. Now let the weak say..? 16. Music is your art, drum, trumpet, string, 36.God's people have always been.? References to Light: 37. What happened when God said 17. There's a light upon the mountain "Leaf"? 18.So light up the fire and let the flame burn 38. What is the church glad to sing? 19. Arise, shine, your light has come 39. Who left all their friends behind? 20.All the lights of town were shining 40. What did prophets know long ago? 14

TOPICS OF INTEREST

How well do you know "Singing the Faith"? In which hymns are the references? on previous page(Hymns 1-222) – Please see Eric if you require the answers.

CONFESSIONS OF A DEFIANT BIBLE-READER

On three or four occasions in my childhood, I recall sitting down, opening my Bible at Genesis Chapter 1, and announcing "I'm going to read the Bible all the way through." The reaction was always the same. "No! Don't try that! Here, use these Bible-study notes…" Even recently I was listening on a tape to a gentleman advising upon how to read the Bible. "Some people start at Genesis Chapter 1 and *think they'll read right through!*" he chortled, to gales of laughter from the audience. So I know I'm admitting to breaking all the rules when I say that at last I've done it – I've read the entire Bible, cover to cover.

Study notes are, of course, an excellent aid which I shall use again in the future, and obviously – as a child struggling with the Authorised Version – I would never have achieved my ambition. But unless one is studying a single book of the Bible over several days or weeks, daily readings can take the form of "bleeding chunks" plucked out of context, and I've always found something unsatisfying about snippets (it's why I've never got on with Classic FM, and why I can't enjoy just twenty minutes of some cricket or snooker match on TV.) And that is why down the years the niggling feeling always lingered on that one day I really must try to read right through the Bible.

So there I was, sitting down once more with my Bible open at Genesis Chapter 1. I knew the early, story-packed pages would soon give way to something much harder-going, so I decided to use the Good News Bible, and right from the start established a target of roughly two chapters a day. This could be more if the chapters were very short, or it would sometimes be just one long chapter, but it would usually work out at about two pages. Most days I managed to fit in a reading, and it took me altogether just over two years.

Was it hard work? Yes, in places it was, and I had to push myself through genealogical tables, list after list of names in a census, and endless pages of not very interesting details about the requirements for different kinds of sacrifices, and how a properly-dressed priest should be turned out.

Cont. on next page

I know more than I'm ever likely to need to know about how to measure out and build a Temple, and have waded through whole catalogues of rules and regulations that ring very strangely in present-day ears. (Did **you** realise that God has forbidden you to wear two different kinds of fabric at once? Leviticus 19 verse 19.)

So what was the point? Was it worth it? Undoubtedly so. It brought the Bible alive for me as I've never experienced it before, and enhanced my knowledge and grasp of it in several important ways:

Familiar passages fell into context. Just as, years ago, while at college in London, I would explore strange streets and find well-known landmarks suddenly linking up, so all the stories one knew as a child became part of a longer narrative, a bigger picture, which made it far easier to understand what was happening and why.

One was face to face with what the Bible actually says. Let me take one simple example. People with no Biblical knowledge who go by some of the Church's louder voices could be forgiven for thinking the Good Book is predominantly one long list of "Thou Shalt Nots" concerning sex. Whereas I found myself reading surprisingly little about sex. Instead, God's main displeasure, according to the Old Testament, is directed towards the worship of false gods – in fact, if all the repetition on this theme were removed, we would be left with a comparatively slim volume. In the New Testament, Jesus repeatedly challenges our attitude towards our wealth and possessions. How many of those shown demonstrating against some controversial film or gender issue are ever seen protesting as vociferously about greed or financial malpractice?

I realised how little of the Bible I really knew. After a childhood rich with Bible stories at home and Sunday School, with thorough, Bible-based lessons at school and college, I thought I knew it pretty well. In fact, parts had become so familiar over the years, they had long since ceased to have any discernible impact. But here suddenly were new stories about people I'd never heard of, exciting adventures, dastardly plots, heroes and rascals and inspirational men and women of faith. Here were wise, down-to-earth proverbs, exhilarating psalms, sensuous love poetry, accounts of extraordinary visions. . I'm sure I studied Amos years ago, and Hosea and Jeremiah, but I found I really couldn't remember much about them as I read. As for most of those minor prophets, and books like Job and Revelation – I was reading them for literally the first time in my life. How could I have gone all those decades not knowing about the man ordered to lie on his left side for 390 days, shaking his fist at a brick? Or the chubby victim of a particularly gruesome assassination who lay undiscovered for hours because everyone thought he was locked in the loo?

I'm missing my daily adventure now. In a while, I may even begin the whole journey again. But even if I don't, each time I use my study notes in future the extract will seem like an old friend I'm revisiting, its context no longer frustratingly unknown territory.

Oh – and if you think I've made up those bits about the brick and the closeted corpse, just get hold of a Good News Bible and look up Ezekiel 4, and Judges 3 verses 15-25!

Judith Bramall

FAREHAM STROKE CLUB

AUTUMN SALE

FRIDAY 10TH OCTOBER

AT THE W.I. HUT, OAK ROAD, FAREHAM

OPEN FROM 2.30PM

CAKES—TOMBOLA—BRIC A BRAC BOOKS—REFRESHMENTS—GIFTS

There is a Cancer Research Coffee Morning 10.30 – 12.00 on Wednesday 19th November in the Church Hall.

Linda Foster

St Luke the Evangelist – linking the sacred and the profane

To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.



Parish Pump



We believe in life before death

You are invited to a Quiz and ploughman's supper

On Saturday 8th November 2014 at 6.30pm

At St John's Church Hall Upper St Michael's Grove, Fareham

Either gather your own team together (up to eight people) or just come along and join in with others Ham or cheese ploughman's Bring your own drinks and glasses

Tickets - £5 per person For more details and tickets, please contact Rachel Hicks (01329 312895) or your church rep:



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HALLOW'S EVE

Many customs are linked with this day – most of them because this was the 'day before'. To the Celts it was the day before winter and the New Year officially began. In later years it became the day before, or eve of, the Christian festival of All Hallows, or All Saints' Day.

The Eve of All Hallows (Hallow's Eve gradually became the word 'Halloween') was the day for driving out evil – which makes it seem very strange now that some people 'celebrate' Halloween by dressing up as witches and monsters and having special parties.

Wouldn't it be better for us as Christians to celebrate by dressing

up as angels and saints rather than as ghosts and devils?



BEFORE & AFTER

The answer to these questions are either 'befores' or 'afters'...

- 1. What comes before thunder?
- 2. What comes after red on traffic lights?
- 3. What comes after Advent?
- 4. What comes before green in the colours of the rainbow?
- 5. What comes after dusk?
- 6. What comes after revision?
- 7. What comes before a surname?
- What book comes before the Book of Ruth in the Bible?
- 9. What comes after Lent?
- 10. According to the proverb, what comes before a fall?



Answers: 1. lightning 2.amber 3.Christmas 4.yellow 5.night 6. exams 7.fore or Christian names 8. Judges 9.Easter 10.pride

DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
6 9.30 M.Market	7 9.45 Parent & Toddlers 20.00 Ladies Night-at Meg Cox's home	8 14.00 Wednesday Fellowship 16.00 Messy Ch. 19.00 Guides 19.30 at Manse— Worship Consultation 19.30 PAX HG	9 09.30 Coffee am 10.00 Messy Church wash up 17.30 Brown- ies	10. 14.30 Stroke Club sale W.I. hut 18.00 Badminton	11
13 9.30 M Market	14 9.45 Parent & Toddlers	15 19.00 Guides 19.30 Church Council	16 9.30 Coffee am 14.30 Red House Service 17.30 Brownies. 19.30 Singing Gp	17	18
20 9.30 M.Market	21 9.45 Parent & Toddlers 10.00 Tues am HG 20.00 Ladies Night At Jill Groom's home	22 14. 00Wed Fellowship 19.00 Guides 19.30 East Faream HG		24 18.00 Badminton	25
27 9.30 M.Market	28 10.00 West Fare HG	29 13.00 Lunch for retired men At Sailmak- ers, Gosport 2	30 9.30 Coffee am 19.30 Singing Gp	31 18.00 Film & Food	1 15.00 Remem- bering loved ones service at Stubbington

The diary dates as provided on previous page are presented in the same format as the Church website. They are as accurate as the information held at the time of going to press, but should only be used as a guide, which can be updated with information from the weekly notice sheet.

The Methodist Church E-News

Freedom Sunday (19 October 2014)

Freedom Sunday is a day of worship, prayer and action on human trafficking. Churches all over the world are joining together to raise awareness of the crime of human trafficking and show the world our compassion for men, women and children who are trafficked and exploited.

The <u>Freedom Sunday resource pack</u> has prayers, sermon outlines and Bible studies for use in services, as well as an action pack for congregations and individuals.

What in the world is happening?

Read the latest <u>World Church Bulletin</u> and discover

- how far evangelism goes in the Bolivian tropics

- the difference a generator makes to a children's home in Zimbabwe

- how support for independence in West Papua has brought someone back to church.

New Resources

Glimpses of Love and Praise

Compiled by the Revd Kenneth Howcroft, President of the Conference 2014/2015, it encourages us all to make links between Bible passages, hymns, images and our own experience.

The printed booklet, priced $\pounds 5$ (plus p&p) for a pack of 50 can be ordered online

DOOR STEWARDS

OCTOBER

5th 10.30	Sue & Bob Metcalf
12th 10.30	Judith Bramall and Keith Sargeant
18.00	Patrick Watson
19th 10.30	Patrick Watson and Anna Marie Mitchell
26th 10.30	Rosemarie and Tony Jackson
18.00	Eric Wheeler
NOVEMBER	

2nd 10.30 Bessie and Daniel Taabu

FLOWER ROTA

OCTOBER

5th	Ruth Elvery
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- 12th Joan and Jeffrey Padley
- 19th Garry Bagshaw
- 26th Flower Fund

NOVEMBER

2nd Margaret Fielder

REFRESHMENT ROTA

OCTOBER

Una Peters & Pat Metcalf
Shirley Henderson and Marilyn Woodrow
Brownies and Guides
Shirley and Keith Sargeant and Peggy Long

NOVEMBER

2nd Lynda	Young and Elizabeth	Wilcoc
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PRESS DATE

All items for the OCTOBER. 2014 Focus should be emailed to