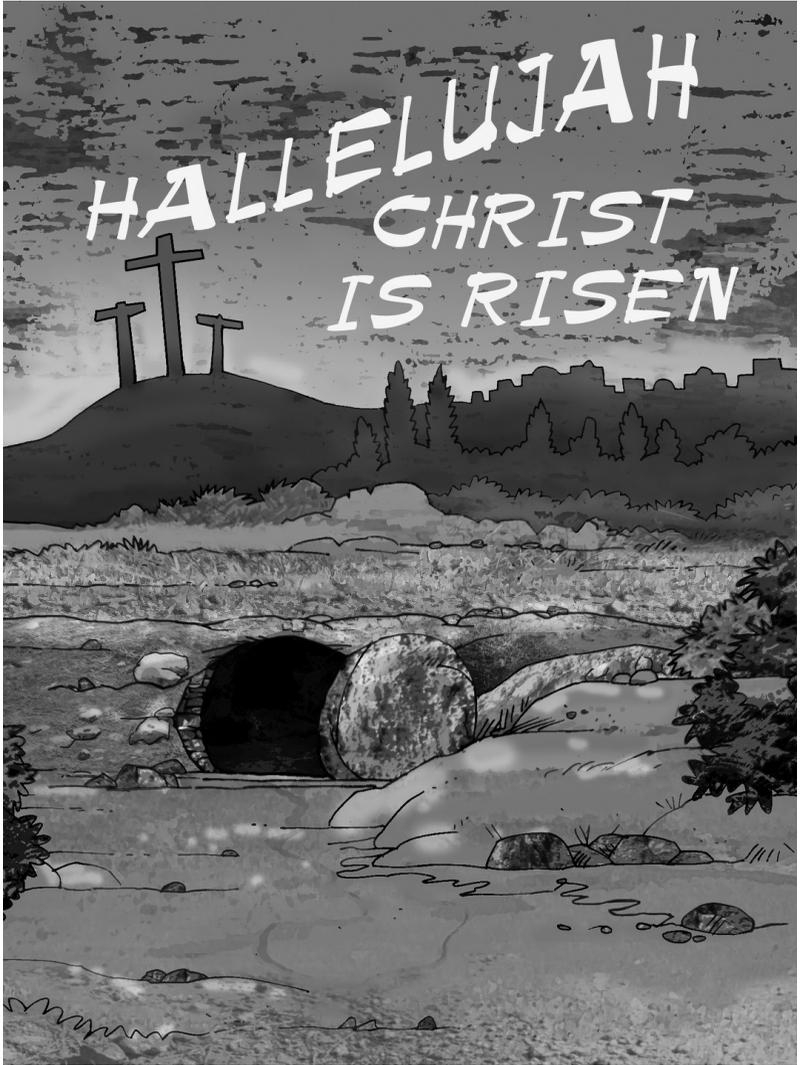


FAREHAM

APRIL 2015

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Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine



Registered Charity No. 1127814

MINISTER: The Revd. Claire Simpson
Telephone 01329 828706
E-mail revclaire72@btinternet.com

EDITOR: Mrs. Ruth Elvery
Telephone 01329 288946
E-mail ruthelvery@yahoo.co.uk

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

APRIL

5th	8.00	Service at Beach—Hill Head
	10.30	Rev Claire Simpson Family Holy Communion
12th	10.30	Mr Bill Berry
19th	10.30	Mrs Christine Hargrave - All age worship
26th	10.30	Mrs Anita Davis
	18.00	Rev Claire Simpson –Iona Holy Communion

MAY

3rd	10.30	Rev Claire Simpson –Holy Communion
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LOCAL PREACHERS' & TEAM APPOINTMENTS

5th April	10.30	Tracy Cooper at Portchester
12th April	10.00	Andrew Wilcock Haslemere
	10.30	Fareham Team Portchester
3rd May	10.00	Andrew Wilcock Liphook
	10.15	Tracy Cooper Stubbington

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

Dear friends,

You may remember that my letter in February was inspired by my reading of Rachel Joyce's novel 'The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry'. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and so I was delighted to discover that Rachel Joyce had written a companion novel called 'The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy'. This book tells the story of the woman that Harold Fry is walking to. She is dying of cancer in St. Bernadine's Hospice in Berwick-upon-Tweed, whilst being cared for by a Catholic order of nuns. It is a funny, thought provoking and, at times, immensely moving book. The last few lines of the novel belong to Sister Philomena, the Mother Superior, who writes to Harold and in that letter she says this:

'This is the conclusion that I have come to: if we work at it, it is always possible to find a rational explanation for what we don't understand. But perhaps it is wiser once in a while to accept that we don't understand, and stop there. To explain is to sometimes diminish. And what does it matter if I believe one thing and you believe another? We share the same end.'

For some of us the event of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, as wonderful as it is, is a puzzle. By that I mean, not a puzzle that ties us up in knots and ultimately frustrates us, but a puzzle that 'to explain is sometimes to diminish'. No words are sufficient to attempt to explain the event which, we believe, has changed everything about our world. Those who were there at the time struggled to understand what was happening too. But something happened and what we believe about it might be slightly different from the person next to us, but ultimately it is where we find our end and our new beginning. So we are rightly glad and celebrate all that Christ has done for us!

'He is risen! Alleluia!'

May God bless us during this season of Easter.

Lent Course

These meetings were well attended with about 25 people managing at least one session. I felt it was good to meet with members who attend House-groups and some who are not part of another House-group. I hope those who attended found the sessions helpful with food for thought.



CHURCH NEWS

VESTRY JOTTINGS

We warmly welcome Jill and Shirley to our team and look forward to working with them. We thank Ian for all he has done during his time as a Steward.

We give a very warm welcome to the Shepherd family who are joining us in membership.

I have been asked to repeat our need for someone to come forward as a treasurer for the church. Antony has written a great job description and will be happy to work with someone to explain the processes. Please consider this and chat to one of us or Antony if you want more information.

May we take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Easter.

Maggie

The next healing prayer group will be held on April 15th at Joan and Jeff's house starting at 10.00.

Rita Jackson

OBITUARY

We remember fondly Reg Smith who died on Saturday 21st February in a nursing home in Nailsea near Bristol, where he had moved to be nearer his daughter.

Reg was a lifelong Methodist at Stoke Road, Gosport before spending many years, along with his wife Maureen at Fareham. They were both actively involved in the church until Maureen sadly died not long after her retirement, having looked forward to spending time with Reg who had retired some years earlier.

We send our condolences to his family.



A thank you letter has been received from Helen Perry of Cedar Oak pregnancy and post-abortion support, for our churches donation of £159.65. Helen says “At this time, there is much thoughtful consideration and prayer about where God is leading us at Cedar Oak. Alongside that we still have clients who are receiving support and counselling so donations such as yours allow us to continue providing the facilities for this work.”

I would like to thank all those who supported The coffee morning held in aid of the Rainbow Centre 25th Anniversary appeal, especially the band of willing helpers. I am pleased to say that £140 was raised on the day. A cheque has been sent to the Centre along with a gift aid form which will enhance the sum raised by 25%.



Ruth Elvery

EXTRACT FROM THE ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING MINUTES OF 1ST MARCH

Election of representatives to Church Council

Bobby Watson had stepped down during the year and Mary Bailey and Harvey Bros gall have completed their terms and do not wish to continue. Keith Sargeant, Linda Foster, Nigel Cox, Sheila Dyer, Jill Groom and Tony Jackson are prepared to carry on and were elected en bloc. Lynda Young, Bob Temple and Mike Petter have not yet completed their 6 years. Shirley Henderson and Edith Livingstone will be on Church Council as a Steward and Christians together in Fareham rep. respectively anyway. Janis Sargent and Bob Metcalfe are prepared to stand as is Rae Shepherd who will be received into membership on Easter Day. They were duly elected. This makes 12 representatives from the congregation.

These elected people are your representatives to Church Council.. Therefore if you have topics that you wish to be brought to Church Council please communicate with any of them stating your thoughts on the matter in question. They represent you!

FORTHCOMING CHURCH EVENTS



Wednesday, 8th April 2015

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

Loving Easter

4.00pm – 6.00pm

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



THURSDAY COFFEE CENTRE

There will be no coffee centre on Thursday 2nd April. It will re-open on Thursday 9th April with a new time of 10am till 11.30 am and run by Penny Garrett who has taken over the organization from Jill Race. Thank you Jill and thank you Penny.

PRAYER CIRCLE



Our new rendezvous for prayer begins on Thursday, 16th April at 10.15 am in the Sanctuary.

We hope you will be able to join us regularly or on an occasional basis to pray with us to support our Church activities; Circuit concerns; Community activity within the extended Borough Council area; and National and International events.

Each session will be led by a member of our team on a rota basis. A prayer box will be available and all prayer requests from the box will be offered in prayer towards the end of each session. Please consider joining and supporting us twice a month after Easter.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Friday, May 8th 2015,

The singing Group is preparing for another evening of music and food. This year, we will be singing film music, including Rogers and Hammerstein, Henry Mancini, Leonard Bernstein and many more. Tickets will be available after Easter. The proceeds of the concert will be going to Fareham Stroke Club and The Methodist Relief and Development Fund – “All We Can”



SUNDAY LUNCH 19th APRIL

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

The meal consists of a starter followed by a roast dinner and a variety of sweets.

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

Jill Groom

Thank you once again to Shirley Henderson for the latest cheque raised by running a stall at the Monday Mini-market and for her continued support of the Fareham Stroke Club.

Lynda Young

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

OLD PORTSMOUTH GUIDED WALK

I am willing to lead a guided walk around Old Portsmouth, if sufficient number of people are interested. It will be just over a mile long and will start at the Cathedral, visiting the Camber (see BAR HQ); the Point; Round Tower (lunch stop) and Domus Dei. There is an optional extension to “All About Tea”. My suggested dates are: May 26th, June 3rd, June 23rd, June 24th or July 1st. If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible.

Eric Wheeler

CIRCUIT NEWS

East Solent and Downs Circuit
Mission Day: 'Doing and Dreaming - One year on'
Are you still dreaming or are you doing?
Saturday 18th April 2015 10am - 3pm
Fareham Methodist Church,
Kings Road, Fareham, PO16 ONU



Programme for the day includes:
Worship, sharing the Mission Audit, refreshments and lunch, networking, shar-

Name(s):..... Church:.....

Contact details:.....

Any dietary requirements:.....

Return to: Mrs Garry Bagshaw, 2 The Cloisters, Fareham, PO15 5PU

Tel: 01329 845978 or hazelbagshaw@virginmedia.com

I would like to say thank you to my church family for all the kind words, wishes and beautiful birthday cards I received for my 18th birthday and also for singing Happy Birthday to me.

Many Thanks Sarah Brooks

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN

There will be an Easter Offering Service to be held at Portchester Methodist Church on Sunday 17th May 2015 at 18.30. Although we are a Stewardship Church, we still participate and give a substantial monetary gift to the World Church and everyone is invited to attend.



The next charity to be supported by MWiB and Wednesday Fellowship as part of the Connexion will be in support of the “Dalits”, a very deprived group of women previously known as ‘the untouchables’. These women live mainly in Northern India, but there could be at least 50,000 in the UK. They are left to do the most menial of jobs. To support these women the MWiB Connexional President has pledged to raise £50,000 nationwide in the next three years. This support will consist of an Education Project within the Church of North India.

Pat
Croker



Christian Aid Week 10th -16th May 2015

Do you have a couple of hours to spare? Volunteers are needed to help on a stand in Fareham Shopping Centre from Monday 11th to Saturday 16th

AN INVITATION

TO A SKITTLES' NIGHT TO WELCOME

HEATHER AND JOHN MADDERN.

PLEASE COME ALONG FOR A FUN NIGHT ON

SATURDAY 18TH APRIL 2015 AT 6PM.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Bridgemary Methodist church Gregson Avenue PO13 0PP

If you could give Jean a ring 02392 430657

if you are coming just to help with the catering

Time to rethink sanctions

In 2014, one million benefit sanctions were imposed on people. This means their payments stopped for a period of between one month and three years. The most common reason for being sanctioned is being late or not turning up for an appointment. The result is often needing to turn to a foodbank.

This is one person's story: "During the first three weeks of my sanction I continued to look for work as I was required to. By the fourth week however I was exhausted, unwell and no longer had it in me. I was not eating as I had no food and was losing a lot of weight. I told the Job Centre I was unwell through not eating but was sanctioned for another three months for not looking for work properly."

The report, **Time to rethink benefit sanctions** published by a large coalition of churches, including the Methodist Church, looks at the sanctions regime and argues strongly that it is not working and is damaging some of the most vulnerable people in society.

For further information see this page on [ITV News](#).

What factors should we consider when choosing an MP, a local councillor or any other holder of an elected office?

This topic is explored in a pack produced by the free churches, encouraging us to consider under four headings, with suggested questions for our candidates, samples as below.:

TRUTH What will you do personally to ensure that your party can keep the promises and commitments that it is making in this election campaign? How will you hold yourself accountable to your constituents for this?

JUSTICE How will your party address economic systems that leave many developing countries disadvantaged and impoverished?

PEACE How can the UK best support peace in the Middle East and other places of conflict and unrest? What policies do you have to pursue this?

WELLBEING What will you do to address the growing inequalities in our society between rich and poor?

The pack includes Bible study material, a DVD, and other suggested questions. If you would like a group set up to look at this, or borrow it for an existing group, or for personal use please contact me.

Joan Padley (social responsibility secretary)

What is High Time?

High Time is the name of the project of repair, restoration and improvement launched by Holy Trinity in May 2014.



Lunchtime concerts

Last Tuesday of the month 1.05 – 1.50pm

- 28th April **Baroque Ad Hoc**
Music for harpsichord and recorders, with the odd surprise
- 6th May **The Star Lights**
Singers of a lighter style of music
- 30th June **Speranza**
Chamber music for flute and piano
- 28th July **Karen Taylor and Friends**
A selection of instrumental music from Karen and her friends from Surrey University

Other forthcoming concerts and events

Watch out for posters with more details

- 30th April **Fashion show** in Fareham Shopping Centre
- 30th May **High Time for a Fayre**
All the fun of the fair in the grounds of Holy Trinity, with good food and a beer tent
- 27th June **The Madding Crowd**
A welcome return by this band who will take a look at Wel

NEW DEMENTIA ADVICE AND SUPPORT AT FAREHAM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Two new services for people with dementia and their carers have been set up in Fareham, thanks to the Alzheimer's Society - a Dementia Advice Service and a Support Group. The Dementia Advice Service is based at Fareham Community Hospital, Brook Lane, Sarisbury, Fareham SO31 7DQ. It offers confidential advice and wide-ranging information on services available, and is open every Monday from 9 am to 5 pm. To make an appointment, contact Kellyn Weir on 07707 890891, or email kellyn.weir@alzheimers.org.uk

People with dementia and their carers will also be able to visit the Support Group at Fareham Community Hospital on Monday afternoons, from 1-3 pm from Monday, March 2nd. The group offers support and friendship. There's no need to pre-book, just drop in to enjoy tea, coffee and a chat.

Election Hustings

Your chance to
Question the Candidates
Standing for election in the Parliamentary
Constituency of Fareham on 7th May

Sunday 26th April 2015
6.00pm – 8.00pm

Chair: Mr Ossie Ellis
Venue: Holy Trinity, West Street, Fareham
Questions must be submitted prior to the
event to secretary@farehamurc.org.uk

Welborne report to CTIF 26 February 2015

The Council submitted the Welborne Plan to the Government-appointed Inspector in the autumn of 2014.

The Inspector came back with some modifications he required.

The Council responded to these and passed them in full Council on 21 January in a marathon session that lasted from 6 – 11.20pm

After a period of public consultation in these modifications, which ends on 9 March, the Plan will be resubmitted. If all goes well the Inspector will finalise his report and find the Plan “sound” without great delay. However, he may ask for further modifications and the process could go round one or more further cycles, including public consultation.

Once the Plan is found to be sound, then the landowners and developers will put in their outline and detailed planning applications, in accordance with the parameters of the Plan. But, in that process, the public will still be able to object/make constructive comments on the detailed plans as they take shape.

I have met with Gavin Collins, Archdeacon, and plan to set up a meeting, after Easter, with reps from the denominations who get involved in strategy. Hopefully we will be addressed by the Archdeacon of Oxford, who has analysed the churches’ mission strategy in a number of greenfield developments – some positive stories some less so. Our aim would be to avoid reinventing the wheel and to learn from the best practice.

For information I attach an extract from the Plan as submitted with reference to places of worship. These declarations of intent are the result of several years of CTIF’s association with this project, and cover not only providing space for worship, but also our role in community cohesion and “place-making”.

Commentary in the Plan

5.68 In addition, the need has been identified for places of worship, including at least one church, to be provided at Welborne. Such buildings are generally funded and developed by the churches (or other faith groups) and therefore will not necessarily place a burden on the development of Welborne. However, given that most churches and other places of worship play an important role in providing general community meeting space and, more widely, in contributing to community cohesion and place-making, it is right for this plan to support the delivery of such buildings.

Therefore, the comprehensive master-planning for Welborne will be expected to consider how places of worship can be incorporated into Welborne and sufficient spaces will need to be allowed for these facilities to come forward during the development of the new community. Spaces for places of worship should be incorporated into Welborne’s three centres to maximise access by sustainable modes of travel. However, the Council will consider the case for one or more of these to be outside of the centres where there were good reasons for applying this. Cont. on page 15

Cont. from page 14

Formal statement in the Plan

The comprehensive masterplan(s) that accompany initial planning applications shall incorporate sufficient and appropriately located space for the development of churches or other places of worship. Such reserved spaces shall be identified either within, or in close proximity to, each of Welborne's three centres. The Council will work with the site promoters and with local faith groups to support the delivery of churches and other places of worship at Welborne throughout the plan period."

Comment from the Editor: This is all very commendable and right That Christians Together in Fareham should be considering the potential requirement for new churches in a planned development as huge as this. However, this does not take away from the fact that some of our church membership are very opposed to a development as large as this on our doorsteps. We are saddened at the requirement to take away prime farming land and are concerned at the potential risk of flooding and the strain that 6000 new homes will put on the infrastructure: Roads are already overburdened and medical/hospital facilities in the area are already considerably overstretched and oversubscribed.

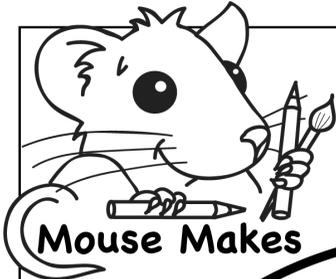


OPEN DAY on Saturday 25th April 10am – 12pm in the Large Hall

An opportunity to meet the staff, children and families. Refreshments, cake stall and lots of activities and games.

Please drop in to support the Pre School and advertise to any prospective parents with young children. Flyers are available on the table in the welcome area.

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN



Colour the picture and cut out. Make into an Easter card or hang up.

Jesus said to Martha, *"I am the one who raises the dead and gives them life again. Anyone who believes in me, even though he dies like anyone else, shall live again. He is given eternal life for believing in me and shall never perish. Do you believe this Martha?"*

"Yes, Lord," she said "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one we have so long awaited."
Matthew 11:25

<p>JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED</p>	<p>JESUS SON OF GOD Matthew 3:16-17 SAVIOUR John 3:16-17 LORD 1 Corinthians 1:9 SHEPHERD John 10:11</p>	<p>JESUS WAS BURIED</p>
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JESUS IS WITH US

<p>JESUS IS RISEN</p> <p>JESUS IS ALIVE! Read the Easter story in Luke 22-24</p>	<p>THE WORD John 1:1-50 THE WAY John 14:6 THE LIGHT John 8:12 THE BREAD John 6:35 THE LAMB John 1:29 THE DOOR John 10:9 THE LIFE John 11:25-27</p>	<p>JESUS IS ALIVE</p> <p>Jesus said: <i>"I am the resurrection"</i> Read Matthew 11:14-44</p>
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FLOWER MINISTRY

Thank you for the lovely flowers delivered by Jean Petter, and the chance to catch up on church news.

Mavis Parish



I want to thank all my friends at church and especially Claire for all her prayers and messages while I have not been well after my accident. Rita

Thank you so much for the tulips delivered on Sunday. They are lovely and it is very good to be remembered.

Betty Bonage

Thank you Joan for bringing the flowers and for sparing the time for a chat.

Lynda Thomas

Thank you very much for the flowers sent to me when I was not well. They were much appreciated.

David Bashforth

Betty Harris was very pleased to be remembered with flow-

Thank you for the lovely flowers given to us by Lynda Young. They were very much appreciated.

Graham and Sheila

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR: I would like to thank all contributors to this month's edition of Focus. I am encouraged at the amount of input this month from you. I particularly encourage items on social issues that affect us all and hope that readers will find the content thought provoking. Please continue to submit items, preferable by e-mail, but I do realize that some of you do not have access to computers and so I regularly check the box in the 'Welcome Area'.

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
6 Easter Mon.	7	8 14.00 Wed Fellowship 16.00 Messy Church 19.30 PAX HG	9 10.00 Coffee Centre 10.30 Transport enthusiasts 19.30 Singing Grp	10	11
13 9.30 M Market	14 20.00 Ladies Night	15 10.00 Healing Group at Padleys 19.30 East Fareham HG	16 10.00 Coffee Centre 10.15 Prayer Circle 14.30 Service at Red House 19.30 Singing Grp	17	18 10.00 Circuit day at Fareham 18.00 Skittles at Bridgemary
20 9.30 M Market	21 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 10.00 Snug HG	22 19.00 Guides	23 10.00 Coffee Centre 10.15 Prayer Circle 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	24	25
27 9.30 M Market	28 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 10.00 W Fare HG 13.05 Concert-Holy Trinity 20.00 Ladies Night	29 13.00 Men's Lunch at Sailmakers Gosport 14.00 Wed Fellowship 19.00 Guides	30 10.00 Coffee Centre 10.15 Prayer Circle 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing Grp	MAY 1 13.00 Fri. lunch	2
4 B.H.	5 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	6 19.00 Guides	7 10.00 Coffee Centre 10.15 Prayer Circle 17.30 Brownies	8 Singing group Concert	9

The diary dates as provided on these pages 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..

GIMME GIMME GIMME TEMPTATION

Like a microwave oven, it starts to cook on the inside.

Like the small ads in the tabloids, it offers what it can't provide.

Like queues on the M25, it brings the best plans to a halt.

Like a badly brought up tennis star, it never admits to a fault.

Like a book club joined in error, it won't let you rest 'til you're dead.

Like a topless liquidizer, its effects are quickly widespread.

Like cut-price plastic surgery, its after is worse than its before.

Like any well-managed pop star, it always leaves you wanting more.

**Like the shepherd's red sky at night, it promises delight at sunrise,
But like the sleeping dog that it is, it lies.**



By Gerard Kelly from "Spoken Worship" Zondervan 2007

MY GRANDCHILDREN

Hide away the treasures under lock and key.

Hands to action stations grandchildren've come to tea.

Their sticky little fingers their questing little minds.

They're into very cupboard they seek and they will find.

And just as you're exhausted and finding them a strain

It's time for them to leave you "please let them come again."

DOOR STEWARDS

APRIL

2nd	18.00	Brenda Bennett and Sally Bland
5th	10.30	Margaret and Bob Temple
12th	10.30	Liz Avison and Irene Russell
19th	10.30	Lynda Young and Mary Bailery
26th	10.30	Brenda Bennett and Janice Collins
	18.00	Eric Wheeler

MAY

3rd	10.30	Bobby and Patrick Watson
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REFRESHMENT ROTA

APRIL

5th	Margaret Temple, Sally Bland and Brenda Bennett
12th	Cath Stevenson, Janice Collins and Judith Bramall
19th	Pat Croker and Mary Bailery
26th	Liz Haigh and Liz Avison

MAY

3rd	Pat and Walter Metcalf
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FLOWER ROTA

April

5th	Garry Bagshaw
12th.	Bob and Margaret Temple
19 th	Mary Bailey
26 th	Liz Haigh

May

3rd	Irene Russell
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PRESS DATE

All items for the **MAY 2015** Focus should be emailed to ruthelvery@yahoo.co.uk or if this is not possible placed in the box in the Welcome Area by 12 noon **Thurs 23rd April 2015**.

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website