

FAREHAM

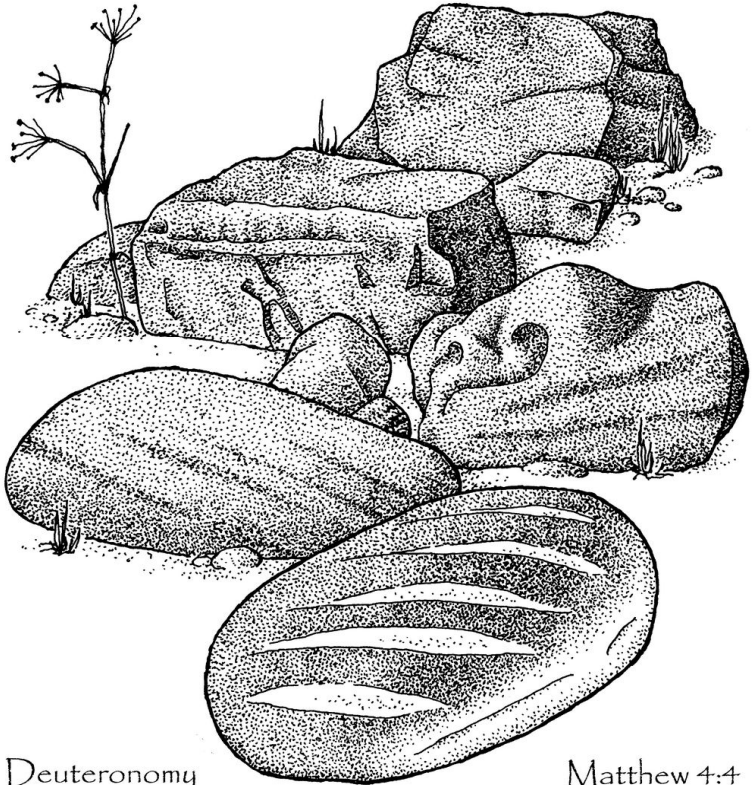
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February
2016

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**Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine**

Deuteronomy
8:3

Matthew 4:4

Bread is not enough to keep us alive;
we need to feed on every word of God

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Circuit website: www.esanddcircuit.org.uk

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

FEB

7TH	10.30	Revd Claire Simpson Communion
14th	10.30	Mrs Christine Hargrave
21st	10.30	Mrs Alison Rice All age worship
28th	10.30	Mrs Janet Baker
	18.00	Revd Claire Simpson Iona Communion

LOCAL PREACHER'S AND TEAM APPOINTMENTS

FEB

14th	10.45	Fareham Team at Lee on Solent
21st	10.15	Andrew Wilcock Stubbington
28th	10.30	Tracy Cooper Bedhampton
	10.00	Andrew Wilcock Midhurst

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

Dear friends,

It feels like Easter is very early this year. No sooner have we mulled over the message of Christmas and Epiphany we are thrown into the events that encourage us to follow Jesus' journey to the cross and beyond. So, our Lenten journey begins on the 10th February – see vestry jottings for the details of the Ash Wednesday service for our section of the Circuit. We are also a part of the ecumenical Lent groups for this year – again, see details on page 10.

I have written before about the season of Lent and explained that I am not someone who generally gives something up. You could argue that that is a bit of a 'cop out'. I could try a ban on chocolate and see what happened. Or caffeine. I suspect that when Easter Day arrives I would just go back to eating chocolate and drinking coffee and that would be that. Our President of Conference, Rev Steve Wild, has called us to relent from drinking alcohol (if you are not teetotal already) and for some this may work, but for those who only ever drink in moderation I'm not quite sure what that would achieve.

Whatever we choose to do in this penitential season of Lent it should *change us* for the better – and it should be a sustainable change that takes us well beyond Easter Day so that we don't then just go back to old, unhelpful and unhealthy patterns of life. I would want to suggest that because it *changes us* it also impacts on others too – it maybe makes something in our families or our local community, or our world, a little better, a little bit more positive. Mahatma Gandhi said 'Be the change you wish to see in the world'. However you choose to acknowledge this season of Lent then go well and be willing to change as you allow God to work in you his will and way as we journey to the cross.

With Love
Claire



CHURCH NEWS

Vestry Jottings

At the start of the new year the stewards team would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for all the work done within the church. All jobs however small are much appreciated, so thanks to all.

We noticed over Christmas that we are short of some word hymn books, please could we all check we have not taken one home by accident. It was positive to see we were short as it showed how full the church was for Christmas services.

With Lent approaching please take a copy of the Lent course information with you to consider. The Ash Wednesday service will be held Wed. 10th February at 2pm at Stubbington.

Annual Church meeting is approaching and we are looking for volunteers to join the stewards team, if you are interested and would like more information please approach one of the team.

If we can help in any way please let us know

Maggie

Safeguarding

Please sign up for the Foundation Module training in our church April 16th. I will be handing out reminders to those due training but if you have a new member of your team or wish to take part in the training please let me know. All are welcome.

Maggie

FMC Holiday at Home



**Wednesday, February 17th
2016**

11.00 – 16.00

**We can't take you away for a holiday but we can
offer you an away day on
mv Friendship, moored at
Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road,
Fareham PO16 0NU**

**Tea or coffee with cake or biscuits on arrival, a
two course lunch, deck games, entertainment
and afternoon tea.**

**Would you like to join us for the day?
Please contact Jill Groom 01329 823347 or**



Wednesday, February 10th 2016

Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road, Fareham PO16 0NU

MC 4th Birthday

3.30pm – 6.00pm

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



SUNDAY LUNCH 21st FEBRUARY 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 a donation to 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: Soup or Pate

Main Course: Roast pork, Sausages, Roast Potatoes, , Vegetables

Puddings: Variety

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

Church Stall at Mini Market

We wish to take this opportunity to express a very sincere ' Thank You ' to everyone who donated items for the Church Stall over the past year this has resulted in the sum of £1,000.12 being raised, which goes into the Church Funds.

We are still in urgent need of items for the coming year. If you have any items to donate we will be happy to accept them. Please ensure they are in a clean and saleable condition, and please note we cannot accept any electrical items. Thanking You

Vic Collins Treasurer Mini Market

DON'T FORGET



Our Rendezvous for Prayer began for this year on Thursday, 7 January 2016 at 10.15 am in the Sanctuary. We will be continuing to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. So if you have not been aware of this meeting and the first you hear of it is in this edition of Focus we will be meeting on 18th February and hope you will join us.

We hope you will be able to join us regularly or on an occasional basis to pray with us to support our Church activities, particularly any that are new ventures or any activities that are struggling. Also Circuit issues; Community issues within the extended Borough Council area; and National and International issues.

Each session will be led by a member of our team on a rota basis. Each session is different. 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 whenever you can.

Bobby Watson

Healing Prayer Group

Healing Prayer group is on Wed. February 3rd at 10 am at the home of Joan and Jeff Padley and also Wednesday March 2nd at 10am.

Rita Jackson

Pastoral Meeting

The next Pastoral Meeting will be held on Monday 29th February @ 7.30pm in the Worship Area of the Church.

Wednesday Fellowship

Our meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday and commence at 2.15 pm with tea available at 2.00 pm unless otherwise stated.

24th Feb Quiz and get together in the Wickham Room

23rd March Easter Service. Commencing at 2.00 pm in the Worship Area followed by tea and hot cross buns in the Wickham Room.

Shirley Henderson

Thank you

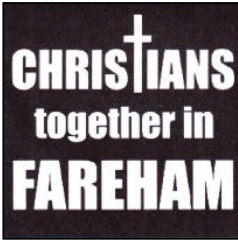
Thanks to your generosity, I was able to send a total of £152.90 to Water Aid. £95 from the sale of my delicious cakes and donations and £57.90 from my entry in the Christmas Tree Festival.

I look forward to your continued support in the coming year.



Eric Wheeler

The next meeting of the Transport Enthusiasts' Group is on Thursday 3rd March at 10 am. in the church hall during Coffee Morning. Anybody with an interest in anything that moves on land, sea or in the air is very welcome to come and enjoy some friendly chat and a coffee with like minded enthusiasts. There is no agenda, no minutes or note taking; just a bunch of like minded people exchanging views, experiences and information. If you would like to know more please contact Tony on 07944 956423



Lent Study Groups 2016

CTiF are pleased to be able to offer six study groups during Lent based on 'Life Calling' by Kate Bruce and Robert Warren.

'Some people think that vocation is just for special people...but God calls us all to live our lives shaped and directed by his call. This course for small groups explores the meaning of vocation for everyone.

It offers five interactive sessions:

The course starts in the week beginning 15th February and runs for 5 weeks, each attendee will receive the course book at the first session – please bring £4.50 with you to cover this.

If you wish to join with Christians from across the town please fill in the form below and return it to Liz Dunning, 8 Frosthole Crescent, Fareham, PO15 6AD by Friday 5th February please.

Name- _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

Church attended _____

Any special needs or requirements? _____

Please tick the session/sessions that you are able to attend – you will be noti-

Monday	7.30pm	Fareham URC, Osborn Road South	
Tuesday	10am	8 Frosthole Crescent	
Tuesday	6.30 for 7pm	36 Maylings Farm Road	
Wednesday	2pm	St Johns Church, Upper St Michael's Grove	
Thursday	10am	Fareham URC	
Friday	10am	Methodist Church, Kings Road	

fied by the host for your session in the week commencing 8th February at the latest.

If you have any questions or require more information please call Liz on 01329 237127.

TOPICS OF INTEREST



**By Charlotte Scott,
Christian Aid regional co-ordinator for Hampshire**

We've all been struck by the images showing the recent flooding in the north of England – and felt sympathy for those who have lost homes and valuable possessions.

Of course there are some countries in the world where flooding happens even more regularly. And we'll be able to hear about one of those countries next month.

Christian Aid project officer Rezwana Islam will share stories about the precarious life of islanders in the mighty rivers of Bangladesh. She'll visit Holy Trinity Church, in West Street, Fareham on Saturday 13th February at 18.00.

Action for Children



Thanks to all who put one card on the board and donated to Action For Children. I have sent off well over £100 from this.

The Christmas Quiz made £34.

During Lent, Action for Children are suggesting you could be sponsored for a sacrifice. If you are interested you can find out more by visiting virginmoneygiving.com/giving and searching for Action for Children. Some of us have a Count Your Blessings poster which gives ideas for helping AfC during Lent. I will put one on the board to give you ideas.

AfC fundraisers raised £1.5 million last year. Lets keep up the good work.

Catherine Stevenson

The Gift of Friendship by Vic Collins

The word 'gift' has one or two meanings but none more special than that applied to those who have attained a talent in their life. One of these is the ability to produce those cakes that are made for a special event. How do they go about it? First, the ingredients that are needed to make the body are put together. Once this is ready they then put in those ingredients that will give the cake the quality it needs for success. Then more talent is required to give it a perfect finish. It has been achieved with warmth and sincerity.

Why have I said all this? When Jesus Christ died on the cross he left a gift for all mankind. He was and still is our friend and from him we get the gift of friendship.

What actually is friendship? First of all it is in need of a body. This is made up by three ingredients: kindness, love and thoughtfulness. These are essential. Then it needs to have quality.

The first ingredient is to care about people whatever their religion, creed, colour or atheism. Especially those who have worries and problems in their life. Then comes help whether it is either needed or not. We can achieve this by using our hands, by word of mouth or putting our hands together in prayer.

The next ingredient is to give our time to listen to those who are in need of talking to someone. As we listen we should endeavour to find out whether they just need someone to talk to or does it go so much further.

The next two ingredients are consideration and compassion and these we must portray.

All of these ingredients have been given with warmth and sincerity. The connection between those who produce those cakes and friendship is that there is actually a Friendship Cake.

Finally may I leave you with this thought. An acquaintance is someone who always comes round when they want to have a good time. A friend is someone who always comes round when you are in need



Giving Hope Today

To Minster, Members and Friends 7th Dec

Thank you so very much for the magnificent number of toys you donated to the Salvation Army at your Toy Service. I collected last week on a very windy day. This week we are in the process of sorting the toys and collating the lists ready to wrap, pack and deliver next week to those nominated by local agencies. We deliver to both Gosport and Fareham so you have been able to help those in your local community.

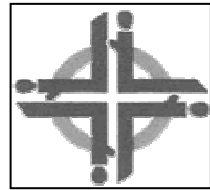
We have a policy of delivering in mid-afternoon so the toys can be hidden before children come home from school.

Thank you again and God bless you all.

Pauline Humphries Secretary

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 4th March



More than 170 countries participate in an annual day of prayer and celebration which brings people together of various races, cultures and traditions. This year's service has been prepared by a group of Christian women in Cuba and is based on Mark 10: 13-16. The theme being: 'Receive Children. Receive Me'.

The services are here at our own church this year at **2.30pm** and **7.30pm**. Women prepare the services but everyone, men, women and children are welcome to attend.

Christmas Tree Festival

A big thank you to everyone who donated cakes for the cake stall which was a great success once again.

Margaret Temple

This was another great success although there were fewer trees it made it easier for visitors and gave them a better view. We had excellent coverage from the News with lots of photographs. It was disappointing with the numbers attending on Friday morning when the Mayor & Mayoress visited.

We have had lovely letters of appreciation from the Mayor & Mayoress Mike and Anne Ford, Julie Maby, Una Peters and The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

The charities have received their cheques of £57.90p from the donations

A big thank you for all the help that was given to make it a success.

Alan and Janice Sargent

CHURCH MEMBERS' CAR LIST

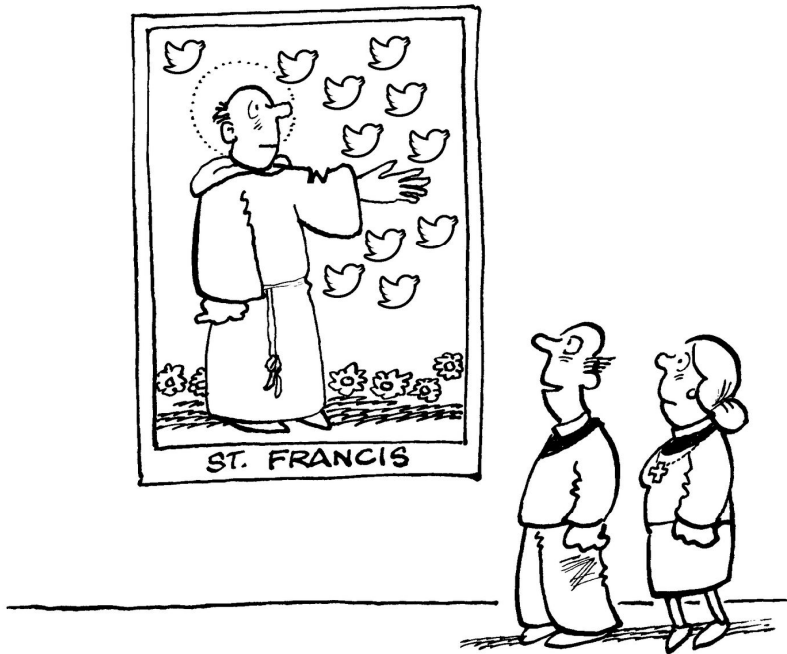
Have you changed your car lately?

If you have and intend to park it in The Mason's Car Park in Queens Road, Please give the details to one of our Church Stewards. They will need the car drivers name/s, the cars make, the colour, and the registration number.

Also please make sure you tell the Steward about any car that needs to be removed from our car list.



Patrick Watson



*He's been updated. He's now the
patron saint of tweeting!*

The Fareham Stroke Club

We wish to thank church members for their very warm welcome on our visit to the Christmas Tree Festival—and for providing such a very enjoyable tea. It was certainly the beginning of the Christmas Season for us all. Thank you

Members of the Stroke Club also wish to send their thanks to the anonymous donor who so kindly gave a donation to the club via Shirley Henderson. We are most grateful.

News from Nuneaton!

In the middle of February Penny and I will have been living in Nuneaton for 6 months! Where has the time gone? It's been a bit of a whirlwind – more so for Penny than me.

I loved Malcolm Rothwell's inclusion in your last newsletter (yes – I read it - online!!!) Finding the balance between doing and being is not always easy, is it.

There have been so many new experiences for us both. But while much has been new and changing, God's presence and provision has remained firm and our awareness that we are in the place that God has called us to be has grown stronger too.

Penny is really enjoying the ministry side of life (even if sometimes it has its challenges) – but finds it frustrating that the ongoing college work takes up so much time and gets in the way of all that she is seeking to do. The folk in her three churches are very understanding and supportive though and appreciate the fresh and new approach she brings.

Penny is loving having the dog around – and sometimes even has time to walk him! I, on the other hand, am keeping very fit with three walks a day!! I am rather enjoying being in the background – although that is beginning to change as I am now 'on the plan' so back to Local Preaching and I have become involved with the Young People's Band which is fun.

Finally thank you for the many cards we received at Christmas – that was lovely! Wishing you God's richest blessing in 2016.

Lynne & Penny

Active Kids vouchers from Sainsburys

The vouchers are available from 27th January to 3rd May and the box will be at the back of the church. The sports equipment is used for all the youth groups in church including Toddlers and Messy Church.

Many thanks.

Alison Humby

CIRCUIT NEWS

An extract from the East Solent and Downs Circuit Newsletter of Dec 2015

Stationing, Staff & Officer News

Hart Plain, Horndean, Midhurst and Petersfield have entered stationing for a Presbyter who will reside at the Manse in Petersfield. Unfortunately, so far, we have not yet been successful in securing a match. The next round will take place in January

The District Policy Executive has approved our proposal for the appointment of Bill Stillwell as an Active Supernumerary from 1st Sept 2016 for a period of 3 years. Bill will serve (60% time) at Bedhampton, Havant and Wymering churches.

Two of our Circuit Ministers will be going on Sabbatical during this Connexional Year. Rev David Muskett – February, March & April and Rev Jeanette Richardson – April, May & June . Support groups have been set up to support them and their families.

Rev John Mills will be ordained next year, following successful completion of his probationary period. There will be a Circuit Pre-Ordination service, date to be confirmed. We recently learnt that two of our circuit members ,Joan Mason and Janet Heys have been elected by District Synod to the annual conference.. Also, Janet Baker has been elected as a District Rep on the Methodist Council.

Garry Bagshaw has been appointed as the Circuit Mission Enabler. Garry is very excited about this challenging role and looks forward to building on the work started earlier this year. As of Sep 1st, John Wardle took over from Philip Warren as Chair of the Manse Committee. Mrs Yvonne Jameson took over from Rev Gillian Slaymaker as Chair of MWiB.

Inspirational Women Appeal 2016

We are all likely to have met many women who have inspired us. Women, who have nurtured and cared for us, taught us and equipped us, and led us and encouraged us in our lives.

All We Can invites you and your church to celebrate these women in support of the many who are often overlooked this Lent. You can now order the church resources to accompany this year's Inspirational Women Appeal from All We Can.

All We Can's free worship resource pack will enable you to hold a service focused on celebrating inspirational women. It also gives congregations the opportunity to reflect on and pray for the challenging situations many women across the world face, and enables them to give gifts inspired by the women in their own lives.

In November 2015, Vice-President of Methodist Conference Jill Baker visited Jharkhand in India with All We Can to find out more about the work of its partner the Srijan Foundation. In the new Inspirational Women Appeal video, follow Jill on her journey as she meets Rita, a very inspirational woman.



Connecting Disciples:

7-10 March 2016

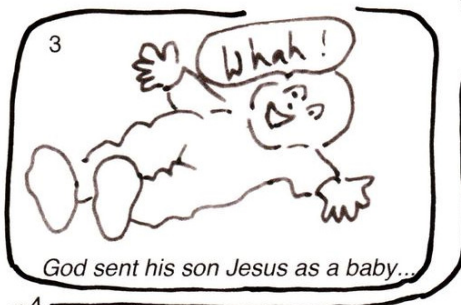
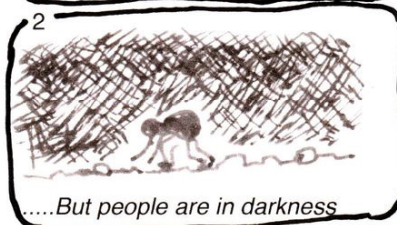
There are just a few places left on the annual Methodist conference for all lay employees and children & youth workers.

Held at High Leigh Conference Centre in Hoddesdon, it is an opportunity for training, development, fellowship and community through workshops, worship, Bibles studies, class meetings and networking. The theme for the event is Then: Now – Passion – Prophecy – Prayer - Protest.

You can discover more information on both topics including booking details on: <http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/e-news>

Your Kingdom Come!

Every Christian church prays regularly "Your - or 'Thy' - Kingdom come." It's part of the Lord's Prayer. We're asking for the 'kingly' rule of Jesus to cover the world so one day we'll all be in his glorious Kingdom! The big problem is all of us are in the darkness of evil and sin and far away from this Kingdom. But God did the most amazing thing - he sent his son Jesus into the world AS A BABY!!!! And Jesus calls all of us to follow him, go the way of the Cross so we can be free from the darkness and come into the wonderful freedom of his Kingdom! How about you? Is this your experience? Read more in Luke 11:2 and Matthew 6:33



ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Mouse Makes

Each day during LENT as you countdown to EASTER, colour a stepping stone on the footprint calendar and learn more about Jesus by reading Luke's Gospel.

1 ASH WEDNESDAY

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40 PALM SUNDAY

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

GOOD FRIDAY

Saturday

EASTER SUNDAY

“Teach me your way, O LORD; that I may walk in your truth.”
Psalm 86:11

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105

JESUS IS RISEN

Feb16 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

FLOWER MINISTRY

Thank you so much for the colourful flowers on such a dull day. We were so glad to receive them on behalf of Dennis's homecoming after an unexpected stay in hospital at Christmas time.

Dennis and Marion Bright



Thank you for the cards and Christmas wishes from my church friends. I hope you saw the card I left on the Action for Children board for you all, for which I gave a donation.
Mary Bailey.;

Grateful thanks for the flowers, and the lovely thought.

Joan Law
Una Peters

Message from the Editor

Firstly, at the start of another year, I would like to say thank you to all the team who spend time producing your copies of Focus. To Tony and Alan who proof read it every month. To Alan who photocopies it and to Meg and Nigel who collate and staple the copies. Also to Malcolm Race who copies it onto the church website. This year there will be a new member of the team, as Linda Press has kindly volunteered to open the Focus post-box and type and email me the contents. Of course if you can email me your contributions directly then that saves a lot of typing time. I am also encouraged this month to receive some contributions from you the readers. I am always happy to include your contributions.

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
FEB1 9.30 Mini- Market	2 9.45 Parent & Toddlers	3 10.00 Healing Prayer grp.	4 9.30 Coffee 10.00 Transport Enthusiasts 10.15 Prayer Group 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	5	6
8 9.30 Mini- Market	9 9.45 Parent & Toddlers	10 14.00 Stubbing- ton Ash Wed service 1530 Messy Church	11 9.30 Coffee 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	12	13 18.00 Curry eve. at Holy Trinity
15 9.30 Mini- Market	16	17	18 9.30 Coffee 10.15 Prayer group 19.30 Singing	19	20
22 9.30 Mini- Market	23 9.45 Parent & Toddlers	24 14.00 Wed. Fellowship	25 9.30 Coffee 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	26	27
29 9.30 Mini- Market 19.30 Pastoral meeting	MAR 1 9.45 Par- ent & Toddlers	2 10.00 Healing Prayer grp	3 9.30 Coffee 10.00 Transport Enthusiasts 10.15 Prayer Group 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	4 14.30 and 19.30 Women's World day of prayer	5

The diary dates as displayed are presented in the same format as the Church website. They are as accurate as the information provided 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..

Spirit of Affirmation by Cecily Taylor

I am the way that stretches out before –
I am the journey you are on,
I am the present moment that you tread –
I am the next place that you stand upon.

I am the air you breathe –
I am every part and of the whole,
I am the love you cannot fall beyond –
I am the inner silence of your soul.

I am the question that you ask –
I am the answer that you crave,
I am the reality of truth,
I am the ever-living thread that leaps the grave.

I am all time in now,
I am this minute to begin,
I am the one that you have always known;
I am the peace that you may dwell within.

DOOR STEWARDS

FEB 7th Bessie and Daniel Taabu
 14th Lynda Young and Mary Bailey
 21st Judith Bramall and Alan Sargent
 28th Bobby and Patrick Watson
 28th 18.00 Eric Wheeler

REFRESHMENT ROTA

FEB 7th Sheila Dyer, Sarah Brooks and Meg Cox
 14th Margaret Boyd and Jenny Chalmers
 21st Margaret Temple, Sally Bland and Brenda Bennett
 28th Cath Stevenson and Judith Bramall
MARCH 6th Pat Croker and Mary Bailey

FLOWER ROTA

February 7th Mary Bailey
 14th Jose Barney
 21st Brenda Bennett
 28th Flower fund
March. 6th Linda Foster

PRESS DATE

All items for the FEB Focus should be emailed to
ruthelvery@yahoo.co.uk or if this is not possible placed in the box
in the Welcome Area by noon of **Thurs 25th February 2016**

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website