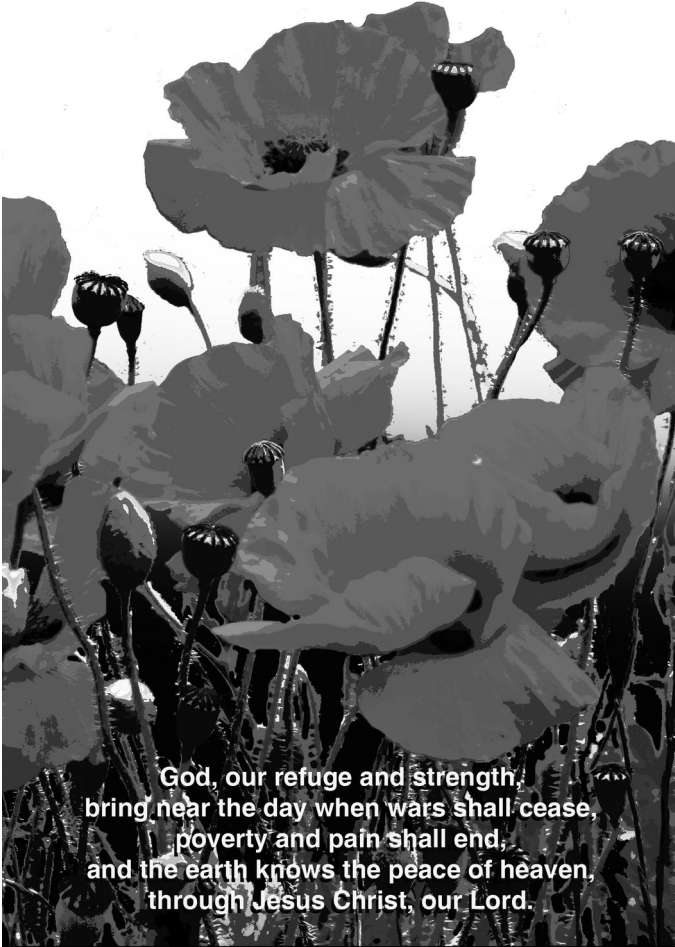


FAREHAM

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November 2016

Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine



God, our refuge and strength,
bring near the day when wars shall cease,
poverty and pain shall end,
and the earth know the peace of heaven,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Registered Charity No. 1127814

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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

NOV

6th 10.30 Rev Claire Simpson Holy Communion
13th 10.30 Remembrance Service at URC
(breakfast from 9.00)
20th 10.30 Mrs Milly Aquilina-Gray All age worship
27th 10.30 Mrs Fran Jenkins Toy service First Sun. Advent
18.00 Rev Claire Simpson Iona Holy Communion

Dec

4th 10.30 Rev Claire Simpson Holy Communion 2nd Sun
Advent

LOCAL PREACHER'S AND TEAM APPOINTMENTS

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

13th Nov. 10.30 Andrew Wilcock Eastney
13th Nov 10.30 Fareham Team Gosport
27th Nov 10.30 Andrew Wilcock Portchester
27th Nov 10.15 Tracy Cooper Stubbington

Dear friends, The Psalmist says in Psalm 46 ‘Be still and know that I am God’ and this is no easy plea. The Psalm’s context is that the nations are in uproar, mountains are shaking and trembling and waters are roaring. There is a storm going on, physical and metaphorical. And in the midst of this the Psalmist gives voice to God’s plea.

It can be hard to ‘be still’ in a world that demands we are to be busy on the 24/7 merry-go-round of life. Sometimes the church feeds in to this busyness too. There is always a job to be done, a meeting to go to and a decision to make and sometimes these things can become our main focus and we forget that call to ‘be still’; to break; to pause and be quiet in ourselves and before God. In the coming weeks we have opportunities to ‘be still’ if we allow ourselves to hear that plea. The beginning of November is traditionally a time of remembrance culminating in Remembrance Day services and commemorations on the 13th. On Sunday 6th November at 3pm at Portchester Methodist Church there is a Service to Remember Loved Ones. This is for anyone who wishes to set time aside to remember family and friends who have died and everyone is very welcome to come along and share in that time with others. Times of remembrance are pause moments – times to reflect, give thanks and then move on again with gratitude for those who have gone before us and for the freedom that we have and share. There is something intensely moving about the silence and the stillness that we hold together on such occasions.

The end of this month sees the beginning of Advent. Strangely enough, Advent can also be a time to ‘be still’ and pause from the rush of life. Advent has been more or less lost in the celebrations of Christmas. Christmas begins around mid-November for many (more and more people have trees and lights on show before December even begins) and finishes on Boxing Day! The traditional sales in shops and retail outlets now begin before we even get into Christmas week. Christmas merchandise has been on the shelves in my local supermarket since the end of August! Advent though, is different, and offers an alternative to us. Advent is a time of pausing and waiting, a time to ‘be still’ and prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of the One who changes everything - Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

My prayer is that each one of us finds a regular time to ‘be still’ in the coming weeks so that we are ready for all that the end of the year holds and we can truly celebrate Christmas, with hearts open and ready to welcome Jesus Christ again into our hearts, our lives and the community of which we are a part.

With love Claire

CHURCH NEWS

Vestry Jottings

The stewards would like to thank everyone for completing their Stewardship Survey. We look forward to the analysis of the returns and hope it has made us all think.

We would like to remind everyone that we will be sharing Remembrance Sunday with our friends at the URC Church November 13th. The service will start at 10.30 and we look forward to seeing everyone there.

Our thoughts then turn to Advent and Christmas. We will share in our Toy Service the first Sunday in Advent November 27th. The toys this year, as last, will be going to the Salvation Army in Gosport.

The Christmas post box will also be available from that service, Last posting date Sunday December 11th. Please help the postman by naming the cards clearly and we are only able to accept cards for church attendees as we are not able to forward post.

If we can help in any way please contact the stewards.

Action for Children



If anyone would rather send Christmas Greetings via one card in the welcome area I will be collecting for Action for Children and putting up a board for all.

Catherine Stevenson

Healing Prayer Group

The dates of the next healing group meetings are Wednesday November 2nd and December 7th at 10 am at the home of Joan and Jeffrey Padley.

Rita Jackson

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Shoe Box Appeal

This Christmas we are again planning to work with "Rotary" who will be delivering to Albania, Montenegro, Moldova, and Romania at a cost to us of only £1.00 per box. Leaflets giving all the details are available upon request from me.

There will, as usual, be a box for your gifts. Items suggested are socks, gloves, hats, toiletries, stationery, educational and activity items, small toys, etc. These will be used to supplement packers' boxes. Gifts of money are also very welcome.

Grateful thanks for your continuing loyal support.

Una Peters

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

At the Annual General Meeting on the 28th September, 2016, it was decided to dissolve Wednesday Fellowship. This was decided after a long discussion due to very small numbers and the fact that both the Treasurer and Secretary would not be standing again.

We have decided that if anyone is interested we will have a table at the Thursday Morning Coffee centre if anyone wishes to join us for a chat with old friends. The normal day will be the fourth Thursday in the month. The first one will be on 24th November, 2016 at 10.00am There will not be one in December due to all the other activities, but we will look forward to seeing you on the 26th January, 2017 at 10.00am.

Shirley Henderson

Birthday Wishes

To Doreen Phillips who was 98 on the 18th October. Many congratulations. We all send our love and good wishes to you.

Stewardship

We are grateful for all who keep in touch with us. Having read the latest Focus, especially about stewardship, we felt we would like to share a thought with you. Like us you may find that completing the stewardship booklet takes you out of your comfort zone. We found that we were on the prayer leaders' list, having ticked the wrong box!!

At first we were very nervous about doing something so different, but then we found that it was uplifting and made us take on more research into prayer. We wish you a successful stewardship campaign. With our love.
Cyril and Margaret Fielder

Who let the Dads out? (WLTD0)

A few of us met with Deacon Brian Purchase from St James Road (SJR) Methodist Church, Southampton last month for an informal chat about WLTD0. Brian is one of the regional co-ordinators and also has the experience of starting the scheme at his church. We soon identified a number of groups within the church or using the premises that we could approach to see if this is a scheme that would interest them. It gives the Dads quality time with their children in a safe environment and provides the Mums with space to do their own thing! Brian's WLTD0 caters mainly for pre-school children as they found the older children could be quite boisterous. However, we felt this could be managed by using the large hall as well as the church hall. The sessions are held once a month on a Saturday morning. Hot and cold drinks, bacon butties etc and newspapers are available. SJR ask for a £2 donation towards the cost. Their numbers continue to increase as the word is spread by mouth amongst the young families.

It would be great if we had a few men who would like to try this out. Visits to SJR can be arranged and the ladies are prepared to help you but it needs to be run by the men.

Are you interested?

Garry Bagshaw

7 Church and Community Group

Editor of Focus

Due to the fact that Tony and I are transferring our membership to Horndean Methodist Church with effect from January 2017, I will be giving up the job of Editor of Focus Magazine with the Dec/Jan issue being my last. This will then leave a vacancy for a job which I have found very interesting, quite time consuming, but one that can be carried out in my own free time, at home, filling up those rainy days with something worthwhile!

Below is a job description. I will be happy to meet with anyone interested and to go through what needs to be done on a monthly basis, for 10 months of the year.

1. Prepare a blank master copy of Focus for the month in Microsoft Publisher.
2. Receive service plan and rotas for the month and type into draft Focus.
3. Extract graphics eg Front Page and children's page from Parish Pump and copy into draft Focus.
4. Receive Minister's letter, vestry jottings and other submitted Content. Read and amend if necessary and copy into draft Focus.
5. Access post box in welcome area and type in word ready to copy into draft Focus (this is currently done by Linda Press who emails it to me each month).
6. Complete Focus, moving information where necessary and adding topics of interest.
7. Pass to another to proof read, then make any final changes and print off.
8. Pass on to other team members for photocopying and collation.
9. E mail final copy for uploading onto church website.

Please do speak to Claire, Maggie or myself if this is a job that you have the computer equipment and skills to do. I will be happy to do

Wednesday, November 9th 2016

Trusting God



**Join us for games, craft, worship and a meal.
Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road,
Fareham PO16 0NU
3.30pm
See us on Facebook!**

SUNDAY LUNCH 20th November 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 **Haiti** this month. 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 Melon

Main Course: Baked gammon, Sausages,
Roast Potatoes, , Vegetables

Puddings: Variety

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

Thank you so much for your kind & generous donations. These will enable us to continue to support the people of Fareham & Gosport who are in crisis. With love from all of us at the Fareham & Gosport Basics Bank & Friends of the Homeless.



Good old Advent!

On the last Sunday in November the Church celebrates Advent. In popular thought this is seen as the start of the Christmas season. Advent Calendars are on sale in the supermarkets. Christmas, our annual festival of excess, is just a few weeks away. Good old Advent!

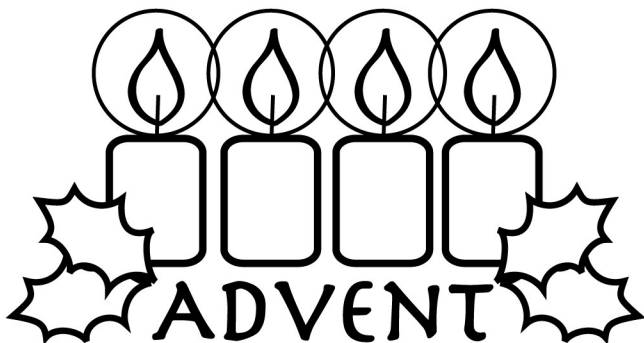
I yield to no one in my enjoyment of Christmas, with all the trimmings, but where Advent is concerned I have to be a bit of a party-pooper. It's not the start of the 'run-up to Christmas', whatever the shops think. In any case, they've been 'running up' since September. Advent is a solemn but exciting reminder that Christmas is not the end of the Christian story, but the beginning.

The end, with which Advent is concerned, is the ultimate triumph of love and goodness over evil and cruelty. The final loving purpose of God will be achieved. The kingdom of heaven will lie before us, its gates permanently open. 'Death will be no more, mourning and crying and pain will be no more'. God says, 'I am making everything new'.

'Advent' simply means 'Coming'. The first Advent was Christmas, the second Advent will be when all that the coming of Jesus promised will be fulfilled. Yes, it's a bit more complicated than a

cattle shed
and a manger,
but it's a wonderful
prospect.

Good old
Advent!
(Parish
Pump)



FAREHAM METHODIST CHURCH,
KINGS ROAD
ARE HOLDING A
CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Welcome, entry is free to all children, Adults £2 includes drink and mince pie, other refreshments are available, plus stalls with a seasonal theme. Funds raised are donated to charities

We are open on
Thursday 1st December
10 am to 5pm
Friday 2nd December
10 am to 5 pm
Saturday 3rd December
10am to 4 pm



Join in sing-
ing Carols at

Saturday, refreshments will be
available until 2.30pm

Helpers are essential to run our Christmas Tree Festival 1-3 December, so please offer to assist in stewarding, setting up, tidying up, giving a warm welcome to those people who come to view the trees, on the cake stall or take a turn in the kitchen with the dishes. The Sign Up Board will be on the table in the Welcome Area from Saturday 12 November to add your name. Thank You –

Alan and Janice Sargent

We will again be holding a Cake Stall at the Christmas Tree Festival . We would be grateful for any gifts of home- made biscuits and cakes, large or small. Please bring these to church on Wednesday afternoon 30th Nov from 3pm, or on Thursday Morning 1st December.

Thank you

Margaret Temple



I will again be running the Christmas and Gift Stall at the Christmas Tree Festival and would appreciate items to sell in order to cover the running costs of the Church. These can be given to me at any time as I do have a certain amount of storage at home.

Thank you,
son

Shirley Henderson



TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fareham Good Neighbours Scheme – Befrienders

I know that several members of our congregation are involved with this very worthwhile scheme, some befriending more than one lonely person. All of us will vouch for the fact that it is a very satisfying act of ‘outreach’ and the commitment isn’t excessive. I find that the most important attribute needed is to be a good listener. Befrienders have received the following request which I, unfortunately, cannot respond to positively other than to repeat the scheme secretary’s request in our magazine:

“At the present time we have a long waiting list of people who are seeking a visit by a befriender.

There have been too few people joining us in 2016 (and some of us are going to the churches of Fareham to make an appeal for more volunteers).

You would think that with 50 volunteers we would be well off but we really need to increase our numbers to meet the demand.

If you can persuade a friend or relative to join us we would be most grateful and of course we thank you for all that you already do.”

If anyone feels able to offer their services, particularly as our Stewardship Booklet is being circulated now for us to review our commitments, I will happily point interested persons in the right direction.

Ian Bagshaw

A note of thanks to the kind members of the Fareham Methodist Church for the knitted spread (blanket) you sent me which will be very useful in the coming months. Love from Joyce Guest.

February 10th 2017 This is a date for your diaries. We will be holding the next **Film and Food evening** on this Friday and will be showing the film **“Florence Foster Jenkins”**. We had hoped to show this sooner but Christmas and holidays mean that this is the earliest date. Please keep it free. Jill and Garry

Christians together in Fareham

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 2017:

Wednesday 18th	St Johns
Thursday 19 th	St Peter and St Paul with St Francis
Friday 20 th	Holy Trinity 8am-2pm St Columba 2pm-8pm
Saturday 21 st	Fareham Baptist New Life Church
Monday 23 rd	Methodist
Tuesday 24 th	Fareham URC
Wednesday 25 th	FCC

The churches will be open for prayer from 8am to 8pm on the above days, it was suggested that prepared prayers could be shared on the hour.

Thanks

Edith



Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research UK

Please support a Coffee Morning in the Church Hall on Wednesday 16th November from 10.00am - 12noon. There will be some stalls including Cakes, Bric-a-Brac and a raffle.

Entrance £1.00 to include Tea/Coffee & a biscuit. Thank you,
Linda Foster



Hurricane Matthew hits Haiti

Hurricane Matthew hit the West Coast of Haiti on Tuesday 5 October with devastating effect, leaving hundreds dead and thousands displaced.

The BBC reported that at least 10,000 people were in shelters along with reports of overcrowded hospitals and shortages of fresh water. The storm knocked down communications and blocked roads, hampering emergency efforts.

British Methodist Mission Partners in Haiti, John and Sharon Harbottle have managed to get a couple of emails through to us. They say: "Many areas of Port-au-Prince have suffered from extensive flooding, and the water pouring out of the mountains is likely to continue to increase for a day or two yet as it is still raining.

"Roofs have been blown off many homes and many people are in refuge centres. We understand that the authorities tried to clear people from the areas most at risk before the hurricane arrived, and everyone received text messages on their mobile phones giving guidance.

"The situation further to the west, where the centre of the hurricane made landfall, a little to the west of Les Cayes, is much worse. A few reports have been received from there indicating the town has had significant flooding, damage to buildings and trees are down.

"We have not been able to make contact with folk in that area nor in the Jeremie area, and we have now heard that one of the bridges on the main road from Port au Prince to the west has been washed away so there is no road access to the worst hit parts of the southern peninsula.

"Please continue to pray for the country and especially those in the areas closer to the central track of the hurricane."

An emergency fund is now open to support the Methodist Church in Haiti as it helps in rebuilding communities in the hurricane-affected areas. Donations can be made [online](#), or by cheque or bank transfer.

More details are available [here](#).

A prayer for peace

Please join us in praying for Haiti and the communities affected by this devastating crisis.

Jesus, we see you calming storms-
storm tossed seas and stormy lives.
Extend your power and grace again,
especially upon these most recent storm victims.

Speak peace and healing over bodies and spirits broken by the chaos.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

Speak peace and hope over families and communities devastated by sudden loss.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

Speak peace and unity over diverse groups of people so they would come together for greater provision, just distribution, and effective rebuilding.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

Speak peace and protection over rescue workers as they reach out to those who are suffering.

Jesus, speak peace. *Silence*

You are the Prince of Peace.
You are the Resurrection and the Life.
You are strong to save. ¹⁷
Our hope and trust are in you. Amen.

Christian Aid Week donation of £6,524.85 from the Fareham and Portchester Christian Aid Group : Thank you very much for all your hard work during Christian Aid Week this year. Please do pass on our thanks to all those who volunteered their time in support of our work, especially the 22 house-to-house collectors. We are truly grateful for all you do.

The focus of Christian Aid Week 2016 was on our work in Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world, and on the people living on the chars or low-lying islands in the Brahmaputra river, for whom devastating floods are a terrifying part of everyday life. Living on a char in the river means living in fear. It means never truly feeling safe, or having a place to call home. But with nowhere else to go, and no defences against the flood, all they can do is hope.

Morsheda, a young mother of four, lives in a corrugated shack. She has no land, no assets, no savings, and the only work she can get is doing backbreaking manual labour for as little as 74p a day. Bangladesh's annual floods have trapped Morsheda in an inescapable cycle of suffering. No matter how hard she works, every year the floods threaten to destroy her modest resources and leave her with nothing.

Creating an earth plinth 6-8ft above water level could give Morsheda a safe place to rebuild her house, keep livestock and grow essential crops without worrying they'll be washed away. As an example of what the money raised in Christian Aid Week might buy, £250 is enough to provide Morsheda or another family like hers, a flood-proof home, and the chance of creating a safer, more secure future. In emergency situations and in our long-term development work, Christian Aid tackles the causes and the symptoms of poverty.

Thanks again to you and all those who have taken part in the fundraising efforts for Christian Aid Week 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Wake

Regional Administrator – South West Christian Aid





Prayer points Christian Aid

- Pray for those who have and are fleeing their homes into an uncertain future.
- Pray for Christian Aid partners working in Iraq and Lebanon.
- Pray for Christian Aid's ACT Alliance partners working in Greece and Serbia.
- Pray for those in authority to make wise, cooperative and compassionate decisions.



A few members of our church attended the Southampton District Celebration Day on 19th October. The day was led by Anne Browse the Connexional MWiB President and was based on a stories and songs theme. Anne told us about her life story, and recognised that we all had stories to tell and we were encouraged to share with one another.

We also heard about visits that various members had taken part in, including visits to the world assembly in Houston Texas, where Alison Judd was elected as World President of WFM and UCW. Wow! Imagine taking on a world role like that, and such an honour to have someone from our District serving in this way.

If you want to know more, look out for a copy of Southern View. Pat, Joan, Shirley, Elizabeth, Janice and I have copies.

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

The Doctor and the Sick



THE PEOPLE JESUS CHOSE TO BE HIS CLOSE FOLLOWERS WERE OFTEN QUITE UNUSUAL.



ONCE JESUS STOPPED BY A TAX-COLLECTOR'S OFFICE AND SPOKE TO A MAN CALLED 'LEVI'.



LEVI'S LIFE WAS CHANGED BY MEETING JESUS.



LEVI WANTED ALL HIS FRIENDS TO MEET JESUS TOO, SO HE CALLED A BIG PARTY FOR HIS TAX COLLECTOR FRIENDS



IN JESUS' DAY TAX COLLECTORS WERE VERY UNPOPULAR. THE PEOPLE THOUGHT JESUS WAS MIXING WITH A BAD BUNCH!

...BUT I AM HERE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR WAY!



SURELY IT IS THE UNWELL PERSON WHO NEEDS THE DOCTOR - NOT THE WELL?!



see Luke 5:27-32

FLOWER MINISTRY

Once again my thanks for the flowers brought to me by Irene on 25th September. These things matter so much to people like myself who can't always get out to Church which I do miss. I shall water them daily so that they will be with me longer. Thanks again. God bless you all. Lilwen



Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers given to me at church on the 23rd October by Mary, following Graham's recent operation. Also for all your prayers, kind messages, cards, phone calls and e-mails wishing Graham a speedy recovery.

Liz and Graham Avison



Flower Ministry Irene & I would like to thank all who have contributed to our Church Flower Ministry during the past year. We are grateful to all flower providers, flower arrangers & those who deliver flowers after Sunday Services. I'm sure we also wish to thank Sheila, Una & Joan who enhance our welcome areas with their imaginative floral arrangements. The rotas for 2017 are to be found on the corridor notice board & we look forward to more contributions

DIARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
31 9.30 Mini-Market	NOV1 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 20.00 Ladies Night	2	3 9.30 Coffee am 10.15 Prayer Circle 10.00 Transport Enthusiasts 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	4	5
7 9.30 Mini-Market	8 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	9 15.30 Messy Church	10 9.30 Coffee am 10.00 Healing Prayer grp at Padley's 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	11	12
14 9.30 Mini-Market	15 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 20.00 Ladies night	16 10.00 Coffee am Cancer Research	17 9.30 Coffee am 10.15 Prayer Circle 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	18	19
21 9.30 Mini-Market	22 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	23	24 9.30 Coffee am 10.00 Fellowship 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	25	26
28 9.30 Mini-Market	29 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 20.00 Ladies Night	30	DEC 1 Christmas Tree Festival 10.00 to 17.00 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	2 Christmas Tree Festival 10.00 to 17.00	3 Christmas Tree Festival 10.00 to 16.00

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..

Poem by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in The Times newspaper on 21st September 1914.

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill: Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres.
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain,

DOOR STEWARDS

NOV 6th Penny Garrett and Mary Bailey
 13th At United Reformed church Bob and Margaret
 Temple
 20th Tony Jackson and Judith Bramall
 27th Bobby and Patrick Watson and Lynda Young
 18.00 Eric Wheeler

REFRESHMENT ROTA

NOV 6th Lynda Young and Elizabeth Wilcock
 13th Pat and Tony Pickering and Una Peters
 20th Brownies and Guides
 27th Jean and Mike Petter and Anne Isom
DEC 4th Irene Russell and Tony Emberson

FLOWER ROTA

November 6th Shirley Sargeant
 13th Service at URC
 20th Lynda Young
 27th Una Peters
December 4th Tony and Ruth Elvery

PRESS DATE

All items for the Dec/Jan Focus should be emailed to ruthelvery@yahoo.co.uk by noon of 24th November. If this is not possible items can be placed in the box at church which will be emptied by the previous Sunday the 20th November.

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website