

FAREHAM

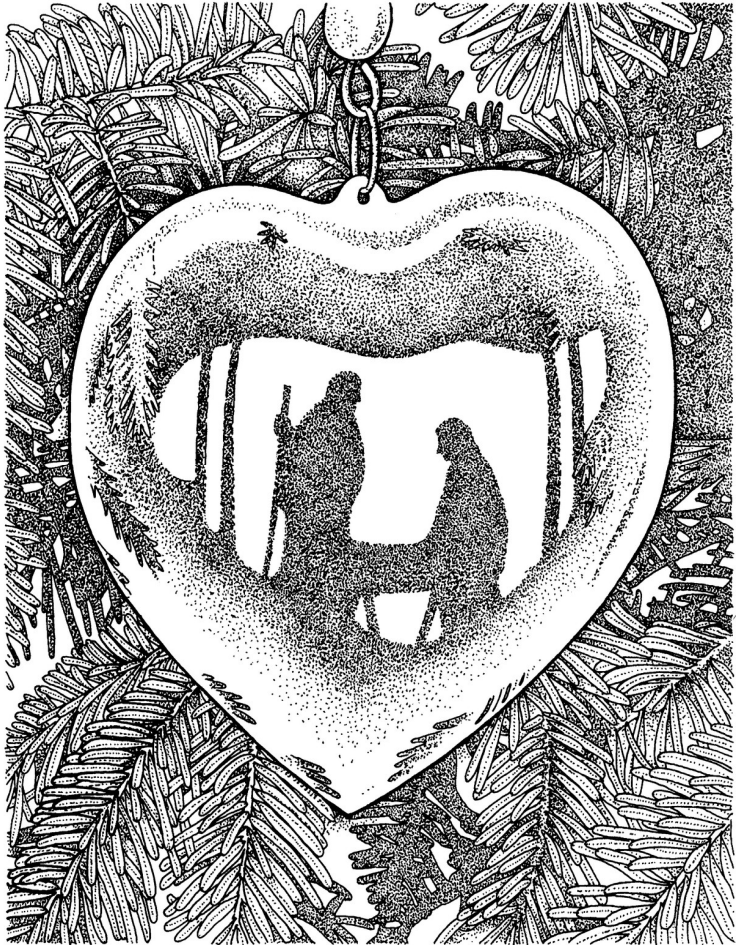
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December 2016 &
January 2017

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Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine

Registered Charity No. 1127814

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

EDITOR: To be appointed
Fareham Church website: www.farehammethodist.org.uk
Circuit website: www.esanddcircuit.org.uk

SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

Dec

4th	10.30	Rev Claire Simpson	Holy Communion 2nd Sun Advent
11th Dec	10.30		Christmas service led by our young people 3rd Sun Advent
18th Dec	10.30	Andrew Wilcock	4th Sun Advent
	18.00		Carol Service
24th	23.15	Revd Claire Simpson	Midnight communion
25th	10.30	Revd Claire Simpson	Christmas morning

Jan 2017

1st	10.30	Revd Claire Simpson	Holy communion café church
8th	10.30	Fareham Team	
15th	10.30	Pam Stone	All age worship
	18.00	Revd Claire Simpson	Iona Holy Communion
22nd	10.30	Pam Davey	
29th	10.30	Revd Claire Simpson	Healing Service

Feb

5th	10.30	Revd Claire Simpson	Holy Communion
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LOCAL PREACHER'S AND TEAM APPOINTMENTS

11th Dec	Tracy Cooper	10.30	Petersfield
1st Jan	Andrew Wilcock	10.15	Stubbington
15th Jan	Tracy Cooper	10.30	Bedhampton
	Andrew Wilcock	10.30	Portchester
29th Jan	Andrew Wilcock	10.45	Havant
5th Feb	Andrew Wilcock	10.00	Emsworth
	Tracy Cooper	10.30	Lee on Solent

Dear friends, The glut of Christmas advertising for both produce and presents is now well and truly upon us. Everywhere you turn there are adverts and promotions on the television, radio, the computer homepage, in magazines and through the letterbox. The bombardment brings out the ‘Bah Humbug’ in me! Despite being married to Mr Christmas, I would still much prefer to put up the tree in our house on Christmas Eve and not sing Christmas carols until we actually get to Christmas. But I know I am swimming against a (yule)tide of Christmassy expectation. Whilst I am happy to smile at the 2016 John Lewis advert (foxes and a dog dancing on the present of a newly installed trampoline in a back garden - just in case you haven’t seen it for yourself and are interested) I’m left wondering how much truth there is in the cosy extended family Christmas scenes with food and gifts aplenty and smiles and fun that is being had by all. The pressure to be happy and have the perfect Christmas is felt by many. Sometimes this is because the world tells us that we have to do everything to excess and have the best of everything just because we can. Sometimes that pressure is felt because it will mean glossing over troubles and sadness; pain and brokenness for at least a few days anyway. How far we have come from the real and true story of what Christmas is all about. One of the newer hymns in our hymn book (No. 220) puts it simply in the fourth verse:

‘Songs that paint a cosy Christmas
miss the truth of God above!
See how God, rejected, homeless,
came a child with wide-eyed love.’

These are the words that get to the heart of the meaning of Christmas and they are words that all of us need to hear again this Christmas. For those of us who have suffered loss and disappointment and are dealing with difficult circumstances, these are the words to strengthen us and remind us that God came in Jesus Christ to share our humanity and He understands our pain and suffering and our joys and sorrows. In verse 5 of the same hymn quoted above it says:

‘Here’s good news: our God is with us,
Friend for life, in joy and need!
In rejection, pain and trouble
Jesus is our Friend in deed.’

The truth is that Jesus comes as Emmanuel and so He is with us always. May each of us know this in our hearts and may this be the message we share with others at this special time of year.

With Love Claire

CHURCH NEWS and Activities

On behalf of us all I would like to thank Ruth for all her hard work as the Editor of Focus and wish both Ruth and Tony all the best. This is her last edition and we continue to look for a volunteer to take over please contact either myself or Claire if you are interested.

I would also like to thank Jean Petter for updating the Church Directory, this is a long process and we can help Jean by giving her our updated details as they occur, Jean can then keep the 'live' copy up to date.

We are now in the season of Advent, a busy time for all. Thanks to everyone who will help in church activities during the next few weeks. We look forward to an enjoyable Christmas and thank everyone who started the season by donating toys last week.

Please let the steward team know if we can assist in any way.

Advent Bible Study

There will be a series of three Advent Bible Studies led by Rev Claire Simpson and Pam Stone (Circuit Pastoral Worker), using some of the material from 'Ready and Waiting' by Nick Fawcett, at Gosport Methodist Church on Thursdays 1st, 8th and 15th December. Folks are welcome to bring a packed lunch from 12noon onwards if they wish (drinks will be provided) and the studies will be from 1-2pm. Claire

Cafe Church

10.30, Sunday January 1st 2017. Croissants, bacon rolls and toast and marmalade will be served from 09.45 onwards. Tea, coffee and fresh fruit will also be available. There will be a sign-up list in the Welcome Area from December 11th so that it will give us a rough estimate of the amount of food to prepare.

Birthday wishes to two of our nonagenarians Lynda Thomas and Cyril Fielder who both have December birthdays. God Bless you both.

Shoe Box Appeal

Many thanks to all who were involved in this year's "Shoe Box Appeal". Rotary collected 43 boxes from us, together with a cash balance from donations, and sundry gift oddments to supplement their other boxes as necessary. Your response was greatly appreciated. A small amount of toothbrushes etc, were held back for Jill's next trip to the Ukraine.

For Christmas 2017 Mrs Linda Press has kindly offered to take over from me and continue the good tradition for our Church and we thank her very much

Una Peters

Return of the Heroes!

Following the success of the Heroes holiday club in August this year, we are planning to repeat the scheme with a new theme from 14th -18th August 2017. To keep in touch with the children and families involved we are inviting them to a Return of the Heroes party at our church on Sunday 8th January from 2.30-4.30pm. Please keep this venture in your prayers.



Kevin Foster

A Quiz for Christmas

I have been given a quiz from another church for you to puzzle over this Christmas time. It concerns British Birds, so if you find a list of birds and have a (twisted?) imagination, you should find it fun to do. As usual it is for Action for Children. Mary Bailey

Thank you

On behalf of our fellow residents we would like to thank the whole team of people who planned, set up and put on the wonderful "Away Day" on 27th October.

We all had a wonderful day with good food, ideas and fellowship. The happy atmosphere prevailed throughout the day and will live in our minds for a long time.

Your kindness shone out all day and very much impressed us all. Thank you once again.

Gwen and Harvey Brosgall

Snug Housegroup

The next meeting of the Tuesday (Snug) Housegroup will be on 6th December at 10.15am. Please bring something Christmassy (stories, poems etc) to share. Mince Pies provided.

Linda Press

I would like to thank Ruth for all the work she has done as Focus Editor and Joint Leader of the Fareham Team. We miss you, Ruth, but wish you and Tony all the best in the next chapter of your church life.

Linda Press

A Film - Open Bethlehem

On Saturday 10th December, the film 'Open Bethlehem' will be shown in Holy Trinity Hall (6.45pm for 7.00pm). Tickets, £7.50, are available from the Parish Office.

OPEN BETHLEHEM, is a story of a homecoming to the world's most famous little town. The film spans seven momentous years in the life of Bethlehem, revealing a city of astonishing beauty and political strife under occupation. While telling a personal story, the film charts the creation of a campaign to compel international action to bring peace to the Middle East.

See poster on the notice board for more information

Edith Livingston



Wednesday, December 14th 2016

Special Message



**Join us for games, craft, worship and a meal.
Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road,
Fareham PO16 0NU
3.30pm – 6.00pm
See us on Facebook!**

**The next Messy Church will be on 11th
January and will be on the theme “Listening to
God”**

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY LUNCH 11th December 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 to MHA. If you would like to make a festive pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very good – thank you.

The Menu

Starter: Soup or Prawn cocktail

Main Course:

Roast turkey, sausages,
Roast Potatoes, 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!

We have been a bit short of helpers lately so if you can help with serving or helping in the kitchen please sign the list. We would really appreciate your help.

Thank you

Jill Groom

Prayer Tree

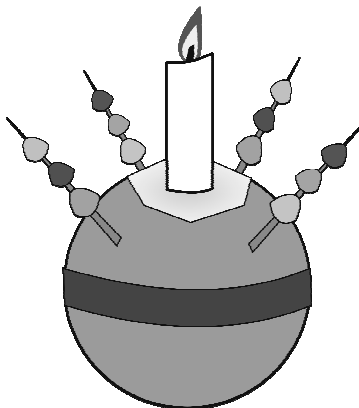
Tie a prayer on the Christmas Tree in the Welcome Area. You are invited to write your prayer and tie it onto the tree using the cards and ribbons provided. The prayers will be used at the Christmas Eve service at 23.15.

Garry

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Christians together in Fareham – Christingle Making

Christingle making will take place in the Shopping Centre on 17th December from 10:00am till 2:00pm. If you would like to volunteer please contact Edith.



Volunteers will be asked to wear an apron with a pocket and bring a sharp knife which can be kept safely in the apron pocket.

Edith Livingstone



Trinity Pre School Christmas Fayre
Saturday 10th December
10.00am – 12.00pm

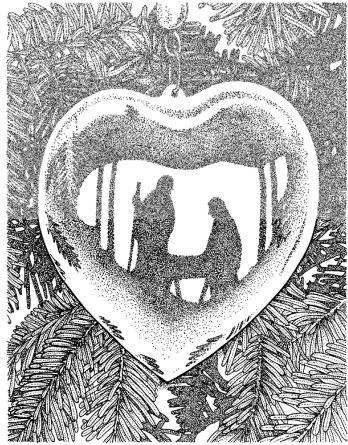


Festive fun for all the family including a Cakes stall, Tombola, Face Painting, Games, Children's Craft Table, Photo Booth and Human Fruit Machine.

Christmas prayers of praise and confession

We praise you, O loving God,
who gave your very self in human form,
your majesty born into our poverty,
your love lying in an out-house.
We thank you that, amidst Bethlehem's noisy rush,
we find in you
a focus for our activity,
a hope for your humanity,
a love for all eternity.

But we confess that
Christ's birth has gone unnoticed.
Now, as then, we have not made room
in our day to day lives.
Now, as then, we have mislaid
your message of reconciling love.
Now, as then, we have ignored
the stillness of your presence.



Gift-giving God, forgive us.
Free us from our self-centeredness.
Help us to accept your love so freely given
that we may live
as you have called us to live. Amen.

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have released the following statement in response to the recent Presidential election.

The United States has chosen Donald Trump as its new President. Viewed from the United Kingdom, the campaign appeared more hard fought, bitter and divisive than ever before. The result will undoubtedly cause both great pain and great celebration throughout the United States and the wider world.

Many of the statements made by President-Elect Trump during the campaign will prompt grave concern. Much of what was said was profoundly at odds with the beliefs and values of our Church.

Our understanding of God's purpose is that all people are valued and should be treated with dignity and respect. This value is incompatible with the "off the cuff" comments made about women or in support of torture and mistreatment of prisoners; nor can it be reconciled with the more considered rhetoric directed at immigrants and people of different faiths.

The Churches view climate change as one of the greatest challenges facing humankind. Our brothers and sisters in Pacific Islands are already experiencing its consequences. We know that, even with the plans agreed at the Paris COP21 last year, many more people and species will be threatened. It is of profound concern that Mr Trump has indicated that he wishes to ignore the world's scientists and leaders, dismiss the threat of climate change and refuse to implement the Paris targets.

In a democratic society, votes bestow a right, and a responsibility, to govern. We respect and honour this, and recognise that we are all facing a new political landscape. The Methodist Church must always stand with our sisters and brothers in partner Churches as

Cont. from page 12

President-Elect Trump says that he will seek the common ground. We will pray for him and all who have the responsibility of leadership. We hope and desire that the United States will travel a peaceful, generous, faithful and just path.

We offer this prayer:

God of truth and justice,
We give you thanks for the peoples of the United States Of America;
and pray for Donald Trump, the Senate and Congress at a time of change and transition.
Grant to its leaders,
vision, wisdom and compassion.
To its people,
listening ears, generous hearts and a spirit of unity,
to the world,
a compelling vision of your kingdom that excites our imagination,
deepens our love,
and inspires us to build in every place communities of welcome that cast out division.
In Christ's name,

Amen

Revd Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard
President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

Did you know?

Did you know that our own Prime Minister Theresa May, is the daughter of a former Anglican Vicar in Eastbourne. She lost both her parents within a short period in her mid 20s and still remains a person of great faith according to the

Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus



The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible story. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was her reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh," explained Kate happily, "that's Pontius - the pilot!"

Parish Pump

Farewell but not goodbye

Well here we are at my final edition of Focus. I have enjoyed producing it for you over the last three years, but I did not do it on my own. Thank you to all who have contributed interesting articles and information on forthcoming events. Thank you also to Alan Sargent who photocopies each edition, to Tony who has proof read, to Nigel and Meg who collate and staple and to Linda Press who has emptied and typed items from the post-box since we moved further away. Thanks also to Malcolm Race who uploads the content to the church website. I have tried my best to keep the information as accurate as possible. Please be kind to the next editor as it takes many hours of checking information and tussling with the computer which always knows best!!!!!!

Feedback is always good and praise lifts the spirit and makes the task seem easier.

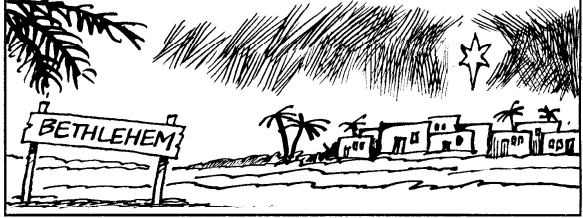
A Happy Christmas to you all

Ruth Elvery
Editor

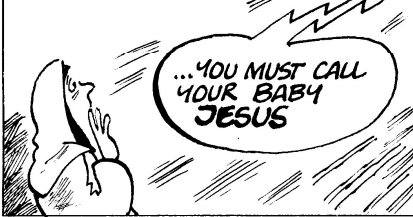
ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.

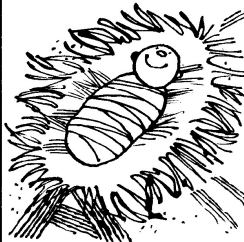


MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



FLOWER MINISTRY and Christmas wishes

Bobby and Patrick wish everyone every happiness for Christmas and the New Year. We hope and pray that the forthcoming year will bring a sense of inner peace to all of us when all the world seems to be in turmoil. Perhaps it is good that we cannot see into the future but go each day with our hand in the Lord's trusting in him that he will give us the strength and wisdom to cope. Instead of cards we are making a donation to Action for Children this year. "

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers that Mary kindly delivered following my recent operation and also for the cards good wishes telephone calls and e-mails, I am pleased to say I am now feeling much better.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, flowers and cards during the past few weeks, owing to my brother John's sudden illness and death. I really appreciated your care and concern.
Jill Groom

We wish all our church friends a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year. As usual we will be making a charity donation in lieu of cards.

Meg and Nigel

Instead of individual Christmas cards - we are giving one card with loving wishes to all our Church family - plus a donation to Action for Children from
Una and Scott

Sincere Christmas Greetings to you all.
In lieu of cards I am donating to Action for Children.

Mary Bailey

We wish our Church Family a very Happy Christmas and a very Healthy New Year. We have donated to Action for Children
Best Wishes from
Janice and Vic.

Joan and Jeffery Padley send Christmas wishes to all friends at church. We shall make a donation of the cash saved to 'Sightsavers'.

Thank you for the church flowers and Linda for bringing them. Thanks also to Bob for the lovely warm shawl which is being well used.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and thank you all for your kind thoughts and prayers. Shirley and Eric

Thank you for the flowers and for all the concern so many people have shown during Katie's illness and recent spell in hospital. Katie herself has been very touched, and has really appreciated the prayers, cards and good wishes.

Judith and John Bramall

I want to wish all my church family a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. I have donated to the macular society and the British legion instead of sending cards.

Brenda

Jean and Gerald Everitt would like to wish all their friends in the Methodist family a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas

Kevin and Linda send our very best wishes to all church friends at Christmas. We shall be supporting Action for Children

Thank you so much for the beautiful church flowers delivered to me by Lynda Young following the recent death of my brother. Also for all your kind messages of condolence sent through cards, flowers, plants, e-mails and telephone calls. Liz.Avison.

Thank you for the lovely flowers handed to me by Dennis on Sunday. They were greatly appreciated. Lynda Thomas

Ruth and Tony Elvery along with Graham and Sheila Dyer wish you all a Happy Christmas and a good New Year. We have donated to Action for Children in lieu of cards.

DIARY DATES FOR DEC/JAN

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28 9.30 Mini-Market	29 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 20.00 Ladies Night Grooms	30	DEC 1 Christmas Tree Festival 10.00 to 17.00 10.15 Prayer Circle 13.00 Advent Bible Study Gosport 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
5 9.30 Mini-Market	6 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 10.15 Snug House Grp.	7	8 Coffee Centre 9.30 13.00 Advent Bible Study Gosport 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	9	10 10.00 Trinity Pre School Fayre 19.00 Film at Holy Trinity
12 9.30 Mini-Market	13 9.45 Parent and Toddlers party 20.00 Ladies night at Bagshaws	14 15.30 Messy Church	15 Coffee Centre 9.30 10.15 Prayer Circle 13.00 Advent Bible Study Gosport 17.30 Brownies Party 19.30 Singing grp	16	17 10.00 Christingles in Precinct
19 9.30 Mini-Market	20	21 Brownie S.O.	22 Coffee Centre 9.30	23	24
26	27	28	29	20	31

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..

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
JAN 2	3	4	5 Coffee Centre 9.30 10.15 Prayer circle 10.00 Transport Grp. 17.30 Brownies	6	7
9 9.30 Mini-Market	10 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	11 15.30 Messy Church	12 Coffee Centre 9.30 19.30 Singing grp.	13	14
16 9.30 Mini-Market	17 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	18	19 Coffee Centre 9.30 10.15 Prayer circle 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	20	21
23 9.30 Mini-Market	24 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	25	26 Coffee Centre 9.30 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	27	28
30 9.30 Mini-Market	31 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	FEB1	2 9.30 Coffee Centre 10.00 Transport grp 10.15 Prayer circle 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	3	4

DOOR STEWARDS

JAN

DEC 4 Liz Avison/Irene Russell 1 B and D Taabu
11 Alan Sargent and Judith 8 S Bland/J Collins
Bramall 15 L Haigh/L Haydon-Jones
18 Pat Croker/Keith Sargeant/ 18.00 E Wheeler
Sarah Brooks 22 L Avison/I Russell
18.00 Eric Wheeler/Watsons 29 B and P Watson
25 Special arrangement
FEB 5 Penny Garrett/Sarah Brooks

REFRESHMENT ROTA

DEC 4th Irene Russell and Tony Emberson
11th Lynda Haydon-Jones and Rae Shepherd
18th Sheila Dyer, Sarah Brooks and Meg Cox
25th No refreshments

JAN 8 Jan. Margaret Boyd & Jenny Chalmers
15 Jan. Margaret Temple, Sally Bland & Brenda Bennett
22 Jan. Cath Stevenson & Judith Bramall
29 Jan. Pat Croker & Mary Bailey

FLOWER ROTA

DEC 4th Tony and Ruth Elvery
11th Flower fund
18th Christmas flowers
25th " "

PRESS DATE To be arranged when new Editor appointed.

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website