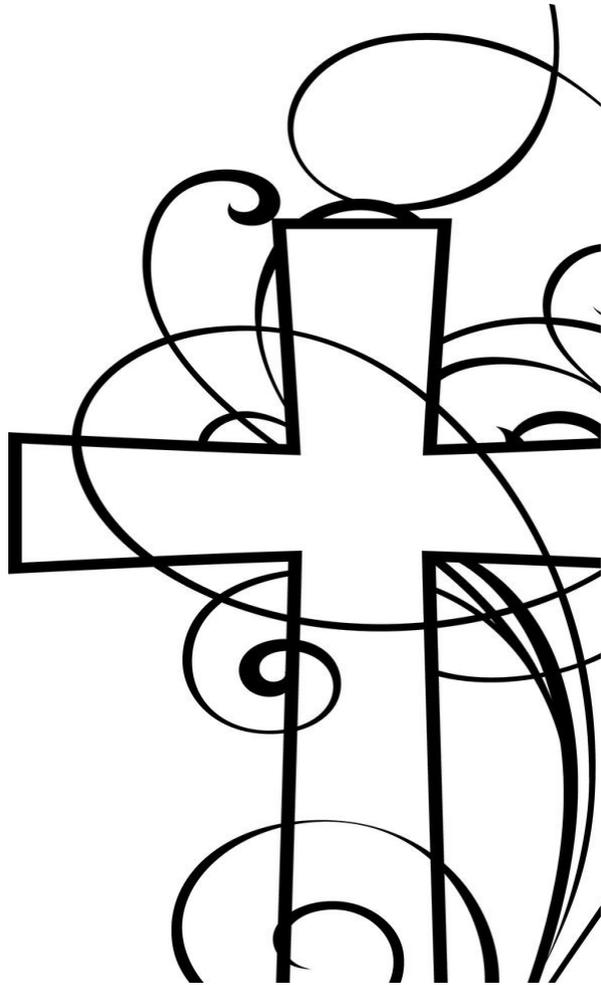


FAREHAM

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April 2018



Fareham Methodist Church Magazine

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Services For the Month

1st April 10.30am Easter Day Revd. Claire Simpson FHC

8th April 10.30am Jean Hooper

15th April 10.30am George Wheeler All-age worship

22nd April 10.30am Deacon Laura Evans
6.00pm Revd. John Mills Iona HC

29th April 10.30am Pam Stone Church with Choices
6.30pm Gosport - Easter Offering Circuit Service

Local Preacher and Team Appointments:

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

1st April Tracy Cooper at Gosport
Andrew Wilcock at Lee on the Solent

22nd April Andrew Wilcock at Havant

Please note

When Claire is on her sabbatical, from the 9th April until the 9th July, you won't be able to contact her. Any queries please see a church steward who will do their best to help.

Many thanks.

Dear friends,

One of the themes that I am particularly thinking about as we journey through Lent to the celebration of Easter, is hope. Hope is central to our lives and to our sense of purpose as human beings. We don't just live with a sense of the past and the present but also with a sense of the future and hope propels us forward in this way. This works on many different levels, of course. We might have hopes for the coming week, hopes for the coming month and year with plans that are already in the diary and will be fulfilled as time unfolds.

Hope is central to our faith and to the celebration of Easter. As we celebrate the risen Christ our hope is that we rise with Him and as Paul puts it in his letter to the Romans, 'we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God'. This is a greater hope than we can ever imagine and in faith we look forward to it! As the writer to the Hebrews puts it 'faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen'. As we reflect on our own Christian journeys and as we experience the happenings in our world today, we can probably see times when our hope has felt robust, strong and certain but also times when hope has felt more challenged and fragile. My prayer is that as we approach the season of Easter we may have an assurance of hope in our hearts and that no matter what we might face in the future weeks and months we would know that God is there with us, encouraging us with His presence and with His promise of abundant eternal life.

This will be my last letter for a while as I begin my 3 month sabbatical away from Circuit life at the beginning of April. Many of you have asked about my plans for this time. My hope is that I will be able to spend some time thinking about the use of language and liturgy with people who are 'at the edge of human predicament'. This will entail spending time reading, reflecting, writing and observing practice in different healthcare settings with both Christians and non-Christians. I hope to be able to spend time with my family too. When I return I hope there will be opportunities to share with you all some of the things that I have learnt and experienced whilst I have been away.

In the meantime, I wish you a blessed Easter season and send all my good wishes for the next few months.

Love Claire

A quick little note from the editor:

I'm pleased to be taking on the role of the Fareham Focus editor though it is quite a daunting task to begin with. However, I'm hoping that it will all settle down quite quickly.

I would just like to ask for a little patience and forgiveness if I miss out anything that was intended to be in this issue.

It's a tricky business trying to find my feet and, looking back at previous editions of the Focus, the bar is set quite high.

To make life easier for everyone I have set up a new email account that will only be used for the focus magazine so if anyone would like something published please send it to:

fareham.focus@gmail.com

For any email received I will reply to say that it's arrived. If you send something and don't get a reply then please let me know.

Also if there's anything you think should be in the Focus that isn't then please tell me. As I said earlier, this is very new to me.

Lastly I would just like to thank you all for your support and the articles that have been sent in. I hope that you enjoy this issue.

Rox Garrett

Editor

RETREAT

22/24TH JUNE 2018

LADYWELL CONVENT,

GODALMING, SURREY

LED BY GILL DASCOMBE

(FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CONFERENCE)

THE THEME FOR THE WEEKEND

WILL BE

"JESUS REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM"

Cost is £160 fully catered

To book your place please contact

Brian Sherrell

brian-car@hotmail.co.uk or 01883 370945

This retreat is organised by the

Methodist Retreat Group "REFLECT"

1st

1st

"FIRST" First Sunday

On the first Sunday of February, 7 young people and several adults met to plan an evening service run by ourselves for any young people and anyone else to come along to. We started planning by thinking of ideas we wanted for our service and came up with all sorts from group activities to action songs! Then we looked at the set readings for the service and tried to think of any themes or ideas. After eating, we decided on a theme of firsts. We accumulated all our ideas together into one draft order of service.

A month later we met to prepare and practise together and after that we ate. Just before 6pm we were ready to go for it and for our first time, everything went well. If anything seemed a little unrehearsed, it added to the spontaneity and informality of the service. The early finish meant people had time to chat over refreshments and there was a relaxed, friendly and uplifting atmosphere. At the end we were all so glad that people showed us their support, by coming along, and enjoyed themselves.

First Sunday gives us the opportunity to experience planning and taking part in a service. We can have a go at trying new things, speaking in front of people and sharing our faith with others, which before this service some of us had never had the chance to do before. We are looking ahead to even more firsts!

1st

1st

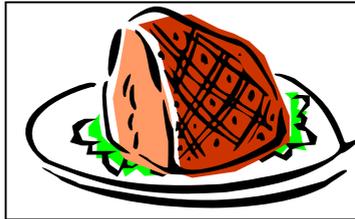
SUNDAY LUNCH 15th April at 12.15 p.m. approximately

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 towards **Christian Aid**. 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: Roast Meat (Turkey hopefully), Stuffing, 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 Roast!

Please note that at the lunch on April 15th the donations will go to Christian Aid



Wednesday,
April 11th 2018

New life and
healing



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!

Messy Church – doings and sayings!

Messy Church is always busy. Helping out with the registration in the Welcome Area last week enabled me to speak to everyone! It was wonderful to hear that one of our regular mums had brought along a friend of one of her sons, following a conversation with his mother at the school gates that evening. His mother had a toddler and baby to look after but has been urged to come along next month. It was interesting to watch both the children and the mums. New friendships are made and mums have time for a cup of tea and to talk to one another.

Over the last few months we have looked at the 'Stairway to heaven', 'Families', and 'Second chances'. Cooking is always a popular activity especially if the final product can be eaten with our meal later. 'Second chances' involved thinking about the robbers on the cross. Easter gardens were made in clear plastic cups – one can be seen on the table in the Welcome Area – as well as making cross necklaces and rocky road cakes. Malcolm led our worship and spoke about the Last Supper. He produced a loaf that he had baked and a goblet of grape juice and everyone was invited to take of the bread and 'wine'. Some of the boys came back for seconds. The remainder of the loaf was distributed as part of our meal. Next month we are looking at 'New life and healing'. Do come along and see what we get up to and share the fellowship.

There is a saying – 'out of the mouths of babes and sucklings...'. We were told that one mum would be arriving late but that she knew how to get to the church as she comes regularly for her fat club!

Garry Bagshaw

Trying to help the Environment

As we are all being told regularly in programmes by David Attenborough and others – we are destroying our planet with plastic. Governments around the world have spoken of this but not many have laid down laws. Most have issued guide lines but some areas of industry are waking up to the effects that some of their products are having on our wild life. The beauty industry is at last finding out what effect the use of minute plastic granules in body scrubs or facial lotions has in the oceans. It has been proven that these granules are appearing in the bodies of fish and other sea animals. Plastic bags are being eaten by sea turtles who think that they are jelly fish – a delicacy to turtles.

Our Government is talking of bringing in laws to limit the use of plastic but not yet. We are all being encouraged to use paper straws instead of plastic and some of the coffee shops are encouraging folk to bring their own cups rather than use the non-recyclable ones the coffee shops give away.

Last week I discovered, at Southdown's College, some little clear water cups. I thought that these would be the answer for us to use at Messy Church to spread the word about our environment and to show that we were doing our bit to save the planet, so to speak. I shall have some with me each Sunday to show anyone. If you have a look at them you will see that they are made from plant material NOT plastic. A firm called Vegware makes them and a whole range of other containers for hot use as well as cold. Their web site is worth exploring, I think that this is worth pursuing and publicising. I took them to the Lent house group so other Churches could also hear about them especially as one week the topic was centred on the environment.

However, as you probably can guess, I cannot find where to purchase these, as a member of the general public, in the quantities that we need. Large organisations can order them in the thousands for their drinks machines but we only need approximately 80 a month for Messy Church. I have tried Vegware themselves who pointed me to Chef Direct, and then Bookers, Makro, Batleys, and Nisbets in Southampton. Only Nisbets stock them as a general item but I would need to buy 1000 at a time at an exorbitant cost and go through the rigmarole of getting a Nisbets card.

So please would you all keep your eyes open, and if you do find compostable items such as these little cups available to be bought in small quantities, e.g. 100 at a time at a reasonable cost, please let me know. Also Vegware may be the first company to market such products but others will get on the band wagon due to public opinion in the near future

Bobby Watson

The next meeting of the Tuesday (Snug) House group will be on 10th April at 10.15am.

We will be using the York Course "Living in the Light".

Linda Press

Christian Aid Week:

13th - 19th May



Collectors are needed to help in

Fareham Shopping Centre from Monday to Saturday 10.00am – 5.00pm as well as in the usual House to House collections that we have done for many years. If you are able to help with any of these activities it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Date for your Diary:

A Quiz Evening is planned for Saturday 6th October

6.30 – 9.30pm at St John's Church.

Red House

This church has offered a short act of worship in the Red House residential home once a month for many years.

This comprises 4 Hymns with a prayer, short reading and a relevant story. It normally lasts half an hour.

At present it is led on a rota by Revd. Claire, Jill Race, Linda Press and myself, with three of us normally attending. While at present we cope, we need new members of the team to carry on this much appreciated work.

This happens at 2.30 on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Why not come along sometime and see if this service is calling you?

Joan Padley

What did you do during Lent?

Many people give up something during Lent such as biscuits or chocolates or even grumbling! Much was said at the beginning of Lent about our approach to life through the weeks leading up to Easter. I decided not to give up something but to do something. Over the years I have bought a number of books relating to church life, Messy Church, Fresh Expressions etc. So my aim throughout Lent was to read some of these books – a chapter a day. I started with Tom Stuckey's book 'Beyond the Box – Mission Challenges from John's Gospel' along with John's Gospel. My copy of Tom's book now carries stickers and pencil marks so that I can find the quotes that inspired me. It made me look at situations in a different way, challenged me and made me wonder how we cope with some of the problems in the world today.

On the first page, Tom states that he believes God is punching holes in the institution (the church) because he wants to reshape it and that he is calling us to plant new seeds of church alongside the old since much of the old, in its resistance to change, will not survive. What a statement, especially at a time when we are being asked to think about mission and outreach for our church – not just think but do something! Further on in this first chapter, Tom writes about mission challenges. He asks us to allow God's Spirit to reshape our church, to personally renew and empower each

What did you do during Lent?

one of us, to celebrate the diversity of the Church, to encourage more creative relationships between different people paying particular attention to the contribution of the disempowered and those on the margins of society, to get stuck into the bigger concerns about social justice, to pray and obey, to move out of our comfort zone and talk to outsiders about God and to remain open to God. Tom assures us that there is life in abundance if we move beyond the box. All this is in the first eleven pages of the book. Each challenge is the subject of a chapter of the book. At the end of each chapter are some questions to challenge your views / feelings about what you have just read and a prayer.

It was a stimulating read and a good place for me to start. It's made me think about the people I meet in life. What do I do for the disempowered or those on the margins of society - not enough I fear? The book has certainly challenged me and I hope that some of you will read it. I've now moved on to 'I am somewhere else' by Barbara Glasson who started the 'bread church' in Liverpool. Already I am reading about Barbara's encounters with those on the fringes of society, which is food for thought.

Happy reading!

Garry Bagshaw

Church Website

www.farehammethodist.org.uk

Do you know that Fareham Methodist Church has its own website? (a real one, not that old junk cupboard in the vestry!)

To become really useful to the successful running of the church, it needs two things.

Firstly it needs to include up-to-date and accurate information. Secondly it needs as many people as possible to view it regularly.

May I therefore make two requests of church members.

Firstly, please keep me regularly updated with dates, times and locations (and any other information) of events and meetings that are organised in the church. (Paper copies to me or email me at

malcolm.groom@methodist.org.uk)

Secondly, why not make www.farehammethodist.org.uk your <Homepage> so that whenever you go on the web you will automatically be updated with important information and dates for church activities for the coming week. (P.S. — If you don't know how to make the church website your homepage then please ask a grandchild!)

Simple!

Best wishes,

Malcolm



DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
2 09:30 Mini-Market	3 09:45 Parent & Toddlers Group	4	5 09:30 Coffee Centre 10:15 Prayer Circle 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	6 13:00 Monthly Lunch Club	7
9 09:30 Mini-Market	10 09:45 Parent & Toddlers Group	11 15:30 Messy Church	12 09:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	13	14
16 09:30 Mini-Market	17 09:45 Parent & Toddlers Group	18 19:30 East Fareham House Group	19 09:30 Coffee Centre 14:30 Red House Service of Worship 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	20	21
23 09:30 Mini-Market	24 09:45 Parent & Toddlers Group	25 10:00 Healing Prayer Group	26 09:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	27 18:30 Fourth Friday Games Night	28
30 09:30 Mini-Market					

Door Stewards

April

1st Matthew & Amy Shepherd

8th Liz Avison & Irene Russell

15th Margaret & Bob Temple

22nd Bessie & Daniel Taabu

29th Pat Croker & Keith Sargeant

Refreshment Rota

April

1st Shirley and Keith Sargeant & Peggy Long

8th Ian Bagshaw & Walter Metcalf

15th Brownies & Guides

22nd Marilyn Woodrow

29th Lynda Young & Elizabeth Wilcock

Flower Rota

April

1st Jean Petter

8th Lynda Young

15th Liz Haigh

22nd Tony Emberson

29th Liz Avison

PRESS DATE: All items for the May Focus should be emailed to

fareham.focus@gmail.com

by noon of **20th April**.

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website