

# FAREHAM

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April 2019



Fareham Methodist Church Magazine

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## **Services For the Month**

7th April: Revd. Claire Simpson - HC

14th April: Miss Jean Hooper

21st April: Mrs Pam Stone

28th April : Mrs Pam Davey

6 p.m. Revd. Claire Simpson - Iona HC

Dear friends,

I wonder how the Lenten journey is progressing for you? For me, Lent did not begin in the way that I had thought it would! Rather than preparing for Ash Wednesday services and beginning the season with others, I found myself a little more isolated at home in a bit of a 'fog' of vertigo.

What did prove to be timely was that at the beginning of March the latest edition of Magnet was placed into my hands. One of the books reviewed in that edition was 'At home in Lent: An exploration of Lent through 46 household objects'. I ordered it straightaway because I knew that at least for the first part of Lent I was going to be spending more time at home than I had previously thought.

It is proving to be a very interesting book. There are 46 chapters where the author takes a different household item each day (examples are a door, fireplace, mobile phone, mirror, keys...) and beginning with a Bible passage they explore something of the background to each object and consider how it might say something to us on the journey of Lent. I was particularly struck by the chapter on 'Shoes' where the author says:

'Each Lent is a lifetime in miniature. We begin by *recognising* our sinful nature, which we proceed to *regret* and *repent* of. Then... we *resolve* to *repair* our lives with the help of God, so that we may be *renewed* and at the end reach the goal of *resurrection* life. The journey through the seven R's of Lent is a mini-lifetime,

a condensed rehearsal or spiritual walk-through of the greater life we have.'

I wonder if Lent feels a bit like that for you? May the journeys we are walking at this time of year bear fruit in our lives and remind us of the abundant life that can only be found in Jesus Christ. We journey towards Easter with hope.

Love Claire

### **A Quick Note From the Editor**

Firstly can I just say a really big thank you to Nigel and Meg Cox for spotting our mistake in last month's issue and correcting it before it went out to the congregation. Secondly can I please remind people that all items need to be sent to me in either WORD or PUBLISHER format via the Fareham Focus email. Alternatively you can post a hard copy into the pigeon hole by the church kitchen. Finally I apologise for the incorrect information I gave out last month regarding the refreshments and door stewards. I had been working from the wrong file. Thank you to everyone for your continued support with the focus over the last year in sending in items. Please , please keep them coming.

Thank you

*Rox Garrett*

## **Vestry Jottings**

A few dates for your diaries :

The ACM is now to beheld on the 7th April following communion. Our church is leading the Walk of Witness on Good Friday the 19th April.

Our Maundy Thursday service is at 7.30 p.m. on the 18th April. Easter Sunday at the beach is at 8.00 a.m. As breakfast will be served there will be no Sunday lunch, and communion will be in the evening.

Another date for your diary is the 27th April when there will be a performance of "The Gondoliers". There will be refreshments and a retiring collection in aid of the Organ Fund.

We wish to thank Penny Garrett for her sterling work as a steward, it was appreciated. We also want to thank Jill Groom for joining the Stewards' Team.

We would like to say, "Thank you" to the First Sunday Team for a wonderful 1st Birthday Party. Keep up the good work.

Last, but not least, we are pleased to report that Rev Claire is feeling much better.

## **Walk of Witness**

The Walk of Witness will take place on Good Friday the 19th of April.

Meet at the Church for 9.45 a.m. or at The Podium on West Street, for 10.00 a.m.

This year we will return to our church for refreshments and fellowship.

Any offers of help with the refreshments will be appreciated.

Thankyou - Edith

**Christian Aid Week: 12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May**



The week will begin with a Family Quiz and Breakfast 10a.m. - 12p.m.

on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the

Fareham United Reformed Church. Book in advance: £4 adults and £1 children. Please see me for your tickets.

Collectors are needed to help in Fareham Shopping Centre from Monday to Saturday 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. as well as the usual House to House collections that we have done for many years. If you are able to support any of these activities it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers kindly delivered by Jean. I am making progress but it is very slow.

Sylvia and David Savage

THANK YOU for the beautiful flowers received last weekend (10 March) I am delighted with them.

Lynda Thomas

Thank you to Liz Avison for bringing the lovely Church spring flowers and for the 'catch up' chat.

Graham is now settled in Croft Manor Care Home and is looking forward to his 80th birthday!

Best wishes to you all!

Sheila Dyer

## **Fareham Team: There and Back Again**

Approaching nearly three years of supporting the Fareham Team, I wanted to share my experience so far and possibly recruit some others who might be unsure of what it's like being part of this wonderful team supporting our church's circuit.

During my time so far with the Fareham Team, I have been able to visit Bridgemaury, Gosport, Horndean, Lee on the Solent, Portchester and Stubbington Methodist churches multiple times! It's great to travel to other churches and experience some new acts of worship and even better to share ideas, worship together and meet other Methodist Christians.

The congregations at every church we visit are really supportive of the team and always give positive comments after our collaborative efforts, including a recent comment of: "Very refreshing!"

Our services, each led by 3-4 of us, follow the usual format of Methodist worship. However, as more people are involved in the service, the more you can do! We lead a service roughly once a month at various churches in the circuit, including our own. This helps to relieve Circuit Ministers' and Local Preachers' workloads and provide Worship Leaders with the opportunity to take part in leading a slightly different style of service in different churches. If you're interested in doing readings, leading and/or writing prayers or you have something else you could bring to our services, and think you could become one of our regular supporters for 4-6 services per year, **THE FAREHAM TEAM NEEDS YOU!** Please speak to myself or Linda Press, if you have any further questions or decide that you would like to join us.

Sarah Brooks

## **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations - May 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Plans are going ahead for our church party on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The party will start at 5.30 p.m. with some familiar party games in the Church Hall. An American Supper will be served at 6.45 p.m. This will be followed by more games and the opportunity for you to sing some of the songs from the different decades - or you can listen to the Singing Group if you prefer! After Easter, there will be a sign-up list in the Welcome Area. This is mainly so that we can estimate the requirements of the American Supper. Requests for contributions will be made at the beginning of May. It would be helpful to have groups of people to help with accepting the

supper contributions, clearing up afterwards or serving hot drinks in the Welcome Area. Please tell one of the Party Team if you are willing to help at some stage during the evening.

Please don't forget to look out your photos for Mark and Bob.

The Party Team

**Coffee Centre will be closed for all school holidays this coming year. These dates are:**

**THURS 11 APRIL**

**THURS 18 APRIL**

**THURS 30 MAY**

**THURS 25 JULY**



**Families, Friendship, Fun, Food and**



**Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019**



**See us on Facebook!**

**Join us for games, sport, challenges, craft, worship and a meal.**

**Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road,**

**Fareham PO16 0NU**

**3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.**

There is no charge for Messy Church, which is supported by Fareham Methodist Church, although donations are always gratefully received.

## **Additional new ways of giving**

Over the years the 'shape' of the church has changed with a significant amount of outreach, mission and other activity taking place during the week and not always on the church premises.

Currently Fareham Methodist Church receives donations either as cash (generally on a Sunday) or in the form of regular standing order payments. The bulk of the donations comes from Church members and adherents - people who either attend or have attended worship on a Sunday.

This model tends to exclude people who may want to support the activities of the church but who do not attend regularly or perhaps only experience the church through occasional weekday events.

We are increasingly moving towards a cashless society, especially the younger generation. More and more people pay for things using 'contactless' cards or even with their 'Smartphones'. Banks are actively discouraging the use of cheques.

It is not possible for the Church to accept Contactless or Smartphone donations, but it would be possible for the church to receive donations paid through 'Text Giving'. This is generally becoming more frequently used especially for fundraising events or appeals and younger people are more comfortable with this means of donating.

To allow this to happen at Fareham Methodist Church we have set up an arrangement with an organisation called DONR. The system allows the church to receive donations for any amount of 'whole pounds' between £1 and £20. It is currently set up for 'one-off'

donations but can be set up for regular giving by Text in due course.

It is important that we publicise this new way of giving so over the next few weeks a series of notices will be displayed, and cards will be available in the building. People might want to donate when they get home so they can just take a card with them.

TEXT Giving is not designed to replace the existing methods of cash, cheque or standing order but to supplement them. However, if anyone using one of these existing means for donation wants to change to TEXT Giving please contact Mike Petter.

To donate by text, send FMC # to 70085 where # is the amount to be donated between £1 and £20. For example: **FMC 5** sent to **70085** will donate £5 to the Church.

**Meeting at Gosport Town Hall re a Pilot CTiG Shelter for the Homeless - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 - 2.00 p.m.**

It was a large open meeting organised by Claire Nijjer with representatives from the council, vicars of the churches which may be interested in taking part in the pilot scheme and other charity volunteers. Philip Rutt, from the Fareham and Gosport Basics Bank, was also there with one or two others from Fareham.

Lisa Butler spoke about ***The Open Church Project*** in Portsmouth. Kevin Gallagher (from Caritas) spoke about the Windsor Homeless Project '***More Than a Shelter***'.

### **Specific Experience from *More than a Shelter*:**

5 churches involved.

6 - week pilot as a start in order to increase the confidence of volunteers in dealing with the homeless.

Up to 15 guests per night (the maximum number is dictated by the smallest church hall) - this is a good number for building relationships with the volunteers.

### **General Advice:**

Relationships/engagement with the volunteers are key as this is a clear window of opportunity for guests to reflect on their situations in comfort and then to take some steps to move forward in their process of recovery.

The shelter is “home” for the guests for the duration of the term - they are treated as people - with respect and care.

No proselytising.

3 shifts of c4 volunteers needed per day - evening (at least 4), night, morning.

2 meals provided - breakfast, 2 or 3 course supper - volunteers and guests eat together.

Teams of volunteers are organised by each church involved rather than by one central co-ordinator.

It takes around 25 policies to run a multi-site shelter.

The National Society for the Homeless, '**Housing Justice**', is there to give help and advice.

Volunteers do not need DBS checks for working with the homeless as there is no lone working and no one-to-one advice is given.

Guests are referred by agencies etc. There are no walks-in. There is a strict code of conduct - no alcohol, no drugs, no weapons - and a curfew.

It is recommended that a name be given to the Shelter and that a Facebook Page be set up quickly to attract volunteers/funding etc.

There needs to be a project co-ordinator who can get churches signed up, form a steering group of 5-6 people, and work with Caritas.

The lead time is about 6 months.

Volunteers can come through churches but also *Community First* and *One Community* - there is a desire to get involved in the general public as well as amongst Christians.

Funding comes from churches but can also approach the Council, supermarkets and Caritas.

If one decides to employ a shelter night manager (as volunteers for the night shift are harder to recruit) there will be a need to fund raise for that.

I am hoping to get a copy of the *PowerPoint* they showed at the meeting. If I receive this, I will pass it on to you.

Hope this is helpful for our thinking!

**Caroline Wadsworth - FCC  
VIA Edith Livingstone**

# *Fareham Methodist Church*

## *Celebration Afternoon Tea*

**Saturday 6th April 2.30 p.m. -**

**4.30 p.m. with**

**stalls selling**

**handicrafts,**

**cakes, artwork,**



Money raised from sales and donations will go to Ukraine Christian Partnership to help fund the group of young people (including four from Fareham) who are taking part in the Summer Mission in August. They will be helping with a children's holiday club, medical team and



**Points on How to Keep Safe**  
**(Submitted by Bobby Watson via an original from Erica Sheets)**

**WRITTEN BY A COP**

Everyone should take five minutes to read this. It may save your life or a loved one's life. In daylight hours, refresh yourself of these things to do in an emergency situation. This is for you, and for you to share. After reading these nine crucial tips, forward them to someone you care about. It never hurts to be careful.

1. Tip from Tae Kwon Do: The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, do so!
2. Learned this from a tourist guide: If a robber asks for your wallet and/or purse **DO NOT HAND IT OVER**. Toss it away from you... Chances are that (s)he is more interested in your wallet and/or purse than you, and (s)he will go for the wallet/purse. **RUN LIKE MAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!**
3. If you are ever thrown into the boot of a car, kick out the back tail lights and stick your arm out of the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you, but everybody else will. This has saved lives.
4. Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and just sit (doing their cheque book, or making a list, etc.). **DON'T DO THIS!** The predator will be watching you, and this is the perfect opportunity for him/her to get in on the passenger side, put a gun to your **HEAD** and tell you where to go. **AS SOON AS YOU GET INTO YOUR CAR, LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE.** If someone is in the car with a gun to your head **DO NOT DRIVE OFF... Repeat: DO NOT DRIVE OFF!** Instead 'gun' the engine and speed into anything, wrecking the car. Your Air Bag will save you. If the person is in the back seat they will get the worst of the collision. As soon as the car crashes... **BAIL OUT AND RUN!** It is better than having your body found in a remote location.
5. A few notes about getting into your car in a car park or garage:
  - a. **BE AWARE** - look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor and in the back seat.
  - b. If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door. Most serial killers attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars.
  - c. Look at the cars parked on both the driver's side of your vehicle and the passengers' side. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest to your car you may want to walk back into the shopping mall, or your work place and get a guard/policeman to walk you back out.

**IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY** - and better to be paranoid than dead.

6. **ALWAYS** take the lift instead of the stairs. Stairwells are dangerous places in which to be alone and a perfect crime spot. This is especially true at **NIGHT!**

7. If the predator has a gun and you are not under his/her control **ALWAYS RUN!** The predator will only hit you, a running target, 4 in 100 times. Even then the hit most likely **WILL NOT** be a vital organ. **RUN - preferably in a zig - zag pattern - if at all possible!**

8. Women tend always to be sympathetic: **STOP!** You may get raped or killed. Example: a serial killer who was a good-looking, well educated man **ALWAYS** played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a cane, or a limp, and often asked 'for help' into his vehicle or with his vehicle, at which point he abducted his next **VICTIM.**

9. **Another Safety Point:**

I've just been told that a friend heard a baby crying on her porch the night before last. Because it was late and she thought it was weird she called the police. They told her 'Whatever you do, **DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR!**' The lady then said that it sounded like the baby had crawled near a window and she was worried that it would crawl to the street and get run over. The policeman said, 'We already have a unit on the way. Whatever you do, do not open the door.' He told her that they think a serial killer has a baby's cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes thinking that someone dropped off a baby. He said that they had not yet verified it, but had had several calls by women saying that they hear baby's cries outside their doors when they're home alone at night.

10. **Water scam!**

If you wake up in the middle of the night to hear all your taps outside the house running, or what you think is a burst pipe, **DO NOT GO OUT TO INVESTIGATE!** These people turn on all your outside taps full blast so that you will go out to investigate and then attack. Stay alert, keep safe, and look out for your neighbours!

Please forward this to all whom you know, women in particular. This was intended for ladies only but gentlemen, you also may want to forward it.

Everyone should take five minutes to read this; it may save a life.



## A SANDPIPER TO BRING YOU JOY

She was six years old when I first met her on the beach near where I live. I drive to this beach, a distance of three or four miles, whenever the world begins to close in on me. She was building a sandcastle or something and looked up, her eyes blue as the sea. "Hello," she said. I answered with a nod, not really in the mood to bother with a small child. "I'm building," she said. "I see that. What is it?" I asked, not caring. "Oh I don't know, I just like the feel of the sand." That sounds good, I thought, and slipped off my shoes. A sandpiper glided by. "That's a joy," the child said. "It's what?" I asked, uncaring. "It's a joy! My mamma says sandpipers come to bring us joy." The bird went glissading down the beach. "Good-bye joy," I muttered to myself, "Hello, pain", and turned to walk on. I was depressed; my life seemed completely out of balance. "What's your name?" She wouldn't give up. "Ruth," I answered. "I'm Ruth Peterson." "Mine's Wendy, and I'm six." "Hi, Wendy." I offered. She giggled. "You're funny," she said. In spite of my gloom I laughed too and walked on. Her musical giggle followed me. "Come again, Mrs. P," she called. "We'll have another happy day." The days and weeks that followed belonged to others: a group of unruly Boy Scouts, PTA meetings, an ailing mother. The sun was shining one morning as I took my hands out of the dishwasher. "I need a sandpiper," I said to myself, gathering up my coat. The never-changing balm of the seashore awaited me. The breeze was chilly, but I strode along, trying to recapture the serenity I needed. I had forgotten the child and was startled when she appeared. "Hello, Mrs. P," she said. "Do you want to play?" "What did you have in mind?" I asked, with a twinge of annoyance. "I don't know. You say." "How about charades?" I asked sarcastically. The tinkling laughter burst forth again. "I don't know what that is." "Then let's just walk." Looking at her, I noticed the delicate fairness of her face. "Where do you live?" I asked. "Over there." She pointed toward a row of summer cottages. Strange, I thought, in winter. "Where do you go to school?" "I don't go to school. Mommy says we're on vacation." She chattered little girl talk as we strolled up the beach, but my mind was on other things. "When I left for home," Wendy said, "it had been a happy day." Feeling surprisingly better, I smiled at her and agreed. Three weeks later I rushed to my beach in a state of near panic. I was in no mood to greet even Wendy. I thought I saw her mother on the porch and felt like demanding she keep her child at home.

"Look, if you don't mind," I said crossly when Wendy caught up with me, "I'd rather be alone today." She seemed unusually pale and out of breath. "Why?" she asked. I turned on her and shouted, "Because my mother died!" and thought, my God, why was I saying this to a little child? "Oh," she said quietly, "then this is a bad day." "Yes, and yesterday and the day before that and, oh, go away!" "Did it hurt?" "Did what hurt?" I was exasperated with her, with myself. "When she died?" "Of course it hurt!" I snapped, misunderstanding, wrapped up in myself. I strode off. A month or so after that, when I next went to the beach, she wasn't there. Feeling guilty, ashamed and admitting to myself that I missed her, I went up to the cottage after my walk and knocked at the door. A drawn-looking young woman with honey-coloured hair opened the door. "Hello," I said. "I'm Ruth Peterson. I missed your little girl today and wondered where she was." "Oh yes, Mrs. Peterson, please come in." "Wendy talked of you so much. I'm afraid I allowed her to bother you. If she was a nuisance, please accept my apologies." "Not at all ... she's a delightful child," I said, suddenly realising that I meant it. "Where is she?" "Wendy died last week, Mrs. Peterson. She had leukaemia. Maybe she didn't tell you." Struck dumb, I groped for a chair. My breath caught. "She loved this beach; so when she asked to come, we couldn't say no." She seemed so much better here and had a lot of what she called happy days. But the last few weeks, she declined rapidly. "Her voice faltered. "She left something for you, if only I can find it. Could you wait a moment while I look?" I nodded stupidly, my mind racing for something, anything, to say to this lovely young woman. She handed me a smeared envelope, with MRS. P printed in bold, childish letters. Inside was a drawing in bright crayon hues... a yellow beach, a blue sea and a brown bird. Underneath was carefully printed: A SANDPIPER TO BRING YOU JOY. Tears welled up in my eyes, and a heart that had almost forgotten how to love opened wide. I took Wendy's mother in my arms. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm so sorry," I muttered over and over, and we wept together. The precious little picture is framed now and hangs in my study. Six words, one for each year of her life, that speak to me of inner harmony, courage and undemanding love. A gift from a child with sea-blue eyes and hair the colour of sand who taught me the gift of love.

## DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 09:30 Mini Market	<b>2</b> 09:45 Parent and Toddlers Group	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 09:30 Coffee Centre 10:15 Prayer Circle 16:00 Lent Study Group 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group 19:30 Lent Study Group	<b>5</b> 13:00 Monthly Lunch Club	<b>6</b>
<b>8</b> 09:30 Mini Market	<b>9</b> 20:00 Ladies' Night	<b>10</b> 15:30 Messy Church	<b>11</b> 19:30 Singing Group	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>15</b> 09:30 Mini Market	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 19:30 Singing Group 19:30 Maundy Thurs- day Service	<b>19</b> 10:00 Good Friday Walk of Witness	<b>20</b>
<b>22</b> 09:30 Mini Market	<b>23</b> 09:45 Parent and Toddlers Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 09:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	<b>26</b> 18:30 Fourth Friday Games Night	<b>27</b>
<b>29</b> 09:30 Mini Market	<b>30</b> 09:45 Parent and Toddlers Group  20:00 Ladies' Night				

## **Door Stewards**

- 7th April Bessie and Daniel Taabu  
14th April Sally Bland and Janice Collins  
21st April Judith Bramall and Marilyn Woodrow  
28th April Lynda Haydon-Jones and Lynda Young

## **Refreshments**

- 7th April Lynda Haydon-Jones and Rae Shepherd  
14th April Sheila Dyer, Sarah Brooks and Meg Cox  
21st April Brownies and Guides  
28th April Margaret Boyd and Jenny Chalmers

## **Flowers**

	<b>Providers</b>	<b>Deliverers</b>
7th April	Mary Bailey	Joan Padley
14th April	Bob and Margaret Temple	Jean Petter
21st April	Garry Bagshaw	Lynda Young
28th April	Barbara Wilson (FF)	Liz Haigh

PRESS DATE All items for the April Focus should be emailed to

**fareham.focus@gmail.com**

by noon of **Thursday 18th April**

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website