

FAREHAM

eFOCUS



Fareham Methodist Church
eFocus August 2021
Registered Charity No 1127814

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Thursday Prayer Circle Dates



The Thursday Prayer Circle will be restarting after the holidays on the FIRST Thursday of each month at 10.30 am (unless advised of a change!).

All are welcome and as the Coffee Centre is open you are welcome to bring a drink into the Sanctuary with you. You can just drop in for 5 minutes or stay longer. Do bring any of your concerns and we will pray with and for you. Or just come and sit and listen - no pressure.

The dates and leaders are as below.

2nd September will be led by Claire
7th October will be led by Bob T
4th November will be led by Julie
2nd December will be led by Claire
4th January 2022 will be led by Bob T

If anyone would like to lead a session in the New Year we would be delighted. There are 6 dates from which to choose.

Just contact Bobby and choose your date!!

Services for the Month of August

1 st August	Tracy Cooper
8 th August	Deacon Laura Evans
15 th August	Gathering for Worship Songs of Praise
22 nd August	Revd. Claire Simpson United @ Methodist
29 th August	Wendy Corney

Vestry Jottings

It was lovely to hear from Jill Groom how successful the Messy Church picnic had been. A good time was had by all.

Sunday 25th July was our first "near normal" service. We could remove our masks whilst seated and sing quietly, although the percussion instruments were played with gusto.

There is still a long way to go but with the help of our prayers we will get there.

Brenda
On behalf of the stewards



Dear friends,

Many of you know that I enjoy poetry. I particularly enjoy being introduced to poems and poets that I haven't come across before. One such poet is a woman called Danusha Laméris. She is an American poet of Dutch and Caribbean descent. Her poem, "Small Kindnesses," has been widely shared on social media especially during the time of the global pandemic. It is "a poem celebrating minor, automatic graciousness within a community, which can shine a penetrating light" (a quote from the New York Times). Here it is:

Small Kindnesses

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by.

Or how strangers still say "bless you" when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying.

And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up.

Mostly, we don't want to harm each other.

We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back.

For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass.

We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange.

What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here, have my seat," "Go ahead — you first," "I like your hat."

Many of us have been on the giving and receiving end of small kindnesses especially over the last year or so; the moments of connection with other people that have still been possible even when we have been isolated and socially distanced from one another. I know that as we emerge from lockdown and begin to look to the future we will continue to give and receive. I agree with Danusha, it is often in the small kindnesses that we show one another where we can glimpse the love, care and grace of God.

With love, Claire

RIDE & STRIDE 2021



This year Ride & Stride will take place on Saturday 11th September, and the paperwork is already to hand. Andrew Wilcock is planning to visit distant locations in Norfolk, and I am going to work out a tour of some of the hillier terrain in the Isle of Wight together with my sister Cheryl.

I think we will have historic bicycles to hand to match the historic riders, and to add interest to the ride – although the Dutch Ladies' Bicycle (especially the back-peddalling brake) will be left firmly at home on this occasion, following my recent mishap!

Ride & Stride is a non-denominational charity which raises funds towards the upkeep of some 900 church buildings dating from the 8th to the 20th century. Since 1988 HIHCT has provided loans in excess of £540,000 to help repair, restore and maintain churches, their contents, and churchyards. More than 300 churches, chapels and meeting houses in Hampshire have benefitted.

Anyone from Fareham Methodist or Trinity wishing to make donations to this deserving cause please contact Mike Petter, Andrew Wilcock or myself.

John Bramall

Some of you will have heard this holiday being talked about before the start of the Zoom worship on the 11th July. As a few expressed interest I asked Gordon, a member at Petersfield, to write an article for the Focus concluding with details of next year's holiday for anyone who might be interested. Claire

Annual Church Coach Holiday 2021

Having missed our holiday due to Covid-19 last year, we looked forward to our stay at The Olde Barn Hotel near Grantham, travelling by coach each day to explore Lincolnshire.

In past years we always stayed at one of the Christian Guild Hotels, but as the Company had gone into Administration, contact was made with Angela Holidays Limited, a family run coach company based near Southampton. They rose to the challenge and produced a most interesting itinerary.

On Sunday we had the opportunity to attend worship at Bailgate Methodist Church, Lincoln. A very grand, ornate building, and we had reserved seats in the balcony. The afternoon was spent visiting the Cathedral and Castle, and dodging all the people that thronged the narrow streets.

A short visit Monday morning to Woodhall Spa, then on to the Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre containing a Lancaster Bomber from World War II. The Centre occupies the site of RAF East Kirby (1943-45). We were able to visit the control tower and also the Chapel, complete with 1933 edition Methodist Hymn Books! Barnsdale Gardens, a series of 38 gardens made famous by Geoff Hamilton, was our first stop on Tuesday, then on to Rutland Water for an afternoon cruise.



Wednesday was spent at Doddington Hall, built between 1595 and 1600 it has never been sold, passing down through the generations of the family. After a guided tour we ventured out into the formal garden, then into the enormous walled garden, marvelling at all the vegetables and the beds of flowers for cutting. After visiting Stamford on Thursday morning our coach took us to Burghley House, well known for the horse trials held on the estate. A house well worth visiting, with knowledgeable room guides pleased to answer questions from visitors. As well as the formal gardens near the house, and the more natural wooded area, the most spectacular part was The Garden of Surprises. My word, and didn't it surprise us! Not one water feature, but many, in little gardens separated by hedges. As we walked from one "room" to another there was a different watery surprise. Upon reaching the exit we were confronted by a curtain of falling water, seemingly with no dry way through. However, by approaching very close to the curtain it stopped to let us through, and then started once again. On Friday morning we stopped off at Louth, a market town with stalls in the main square and many small shops. In the afternoon we arrived at Cleethorpes to board the Cleethorpes Light Railway to spend a few hours by the seaside. Unfortunately the tide was out, a very long way out!

After dinner each evening we enjoyed quizzes and table top games, and to complete the day, a short Epilogue. Many friendships were rekindled, and also, most importantly, new friendships made. Next year we visit Chester from Saturday 9th July to Saturday 16th July.

Bookings are made direct with Angela Holidays: **Phone 02380 404536 quoting reference PR851.** The coach pick-up points are Fareham, Petersfield, Liss, Alton, and Basingstoke.

The Church coach holiday has been arranged for the last 14 years by Gordon Churchill who attends Petersfield Methodist Church. Please call him on 01730 260454 or email at gordonachurchill@gmail.com for further information. He would love to hear from you and welcome you on board the coach next year.



COFFEE CENTRE

I AM INTENDING TO OPEN COFFEE CENTRE ON THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 9.30 – 11.15 AM. IT WILL BE WAITRESS SERVICE WITH ANY NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE. BELOW IS A SAMPLE MENU TO TEMPT YOU.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.

PENNY 🙌

MENU

TEA/COFFEE	50p	BACON SANDWICH	90p
FRUIT TEA	60p	SAUSAGE ROLL	60p
MILKY COFFEE	60p	CRUMPETS (2)	60p
HOT CHOCOLATE	60p	TOASTED FRUIT LOAF	60p
SQUASH	50p	HOMEMADE CAKE	50p

A message from Sarah Brooks

Since this situation began, I have been on furlough, had supply work, worked through one lockdown, lost supply work, had unsuccessful application and interview processes and worked for holiday club on and off in between.

I am now thrilled to share with you all that I have a job as an Early Years Assistant (working in Year R/Reception, not supply) at Alver Valley School in Gosport starting in September.

Many thanks,
Sarah

Congratulations to Sarah

EXERCISE FOR PEOPLE OVER 60

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, and then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

Thank you Ian

Urgent Prayer needed Please

Please pray for our Housing Team, viewing a very promising property on Saturday.

Please join us in praying that this may be the one God is leading us to.

Prayer Support for Refugee Matters

Supported by Fareham Christians together



Note from Editor

I wish to thank you all very much for your prayers and my flowers. It helped me through this time and soon it will be over and life gets back to normal or whatever normal is.

Going to church is so much better now we can sing quietly and definitely bang the instruments (I can't get the beat Chris tells me). Seeing smiles on people's faces brightens up the day.

The church is opening soon for all clubs and other events which happen in church. Please send me notifications of when you are coming back into church with your club etc. I would love to let everyone know we are bursting forth in praise next month.

Next eFocus deadline will be September 1st.

Thank you for all the articles I have received this month as things start opening more I expect a jam packed eFocus next month.

Thank you Lin



IF GOD EXISTS

If God exists, then why does He,
Or should that be, then why does She,
Allow a world where pain and grief
Seem daily to belie belief?

A world where terrors stalk mankind,
Where sightless leaders lead the blind
And floods and famine spread disease,
While global warming fuels unease.

For surely if religion's true,
Then when we pray (as millions do)
To halt these horrors daily seen,
A loving God would intervene.

We have to face the truth,
It seems,
That hopes in God are childlike dreams,
And modern men, as Dawkins claims,
Are merely apes with bigger brains.

And yet...
When I see love in human eyes,
And skudding clouds cross azure skies,
When springtime nature comes to play,
I feel compelled to kneel and pray.

When kindly, selfless deeds are done,
And battles with disease are won,
When hope replaces hate and spite,
I know my trust in love is right.

When all said and done,
It seems,
I need my helpful, hopeful dreams,
And yes, of course, I may be wrong
But still my faith in God is strong.

And in the end who knows what's true?
(Though God may take a different view!)
For if I'm wrong I'll never know,
And if I'm right – I told you so!

Thank you Elizabeth

Messy Church Picnic 14th July



On 14th July we had our first meeting, since March 2020, with some of the families from Messy Church, as we held a picnic on the Green behind Holy Trinity Church.

The weather was perfect – warm and sunny with a gentle breeze - we had 30 parents and children (The legal number for outside gatherings at the time!) that came, along with Messy Church Volunteers, to enjoy games and activities on the green.

We had plenty of play equipment for the children to use and a craft table set up where they could colour in rainbow sun catchers to take home. It was great to see the children chatting and playing with each other, and everyone catching up after so long. How the children have grown!

We sang the hymn “He’s got the whole world in His hands” accompanied by guitars **and** much playing of percussion instruments!

Everyone brought their own picnic along but we provided small bottles of drink and cake. The cake went down very well and several of the boys were so hungry that they had several pieces! The children went home with a small bag of sweets, a tub of bubbles and the sun catcher, if they had made one.

People came along from 3.30pm and we finished about 6pm, although some seemed reluctant to leave then! It was a very successful afternoon and we all had a good time.

We are hoping to resume Messy Church in September, having games and activities on the Green at first, weather permitting, before the worship time and a meal back at church.

Jill Groom



Places to go!!

I have been in many places, but I have never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go there alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport. You have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my family, friends and those where I have worked.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I am not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense. It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart.

At my age I need all of the stimuli I can get. Now if I can just avoid getting in Continent.

Thank you Ian

HELP REQUIRED

If you have an hour or two to spare on the morning of Tuesday 17th August I would very much appreciate your help to finish deep cleaning the main church kitchen in readiness for its return to normal usage

If you think you can help please contact me 01329 842646

Lynda Haydon-Jones



Get your church related event on the website calendar!

If you have details of a church related event that is not shown on our website calendar then you can put these on the website yourself.

On your desktop/laptop/ipad/iphone go to the church website - <https://farehammethodist.org.uk> . From this Homepage click on the <Calendar> option at the top of the page. On the Calendar page click on the <Submit an Event> button on the top-right of the calendar. From there you will be taken to a standard form to fill in the event details. When you have completed the details click the <Submit> button at the foot of the page. These details will then be sent to me to check and confirm their addition to the Calendar.

EASY!

BUT, if you don't want to do this then please let me have your Calendar additions by email (malcolm.groom@methodist.org.uk) or phone or snail-mail, etc..

You have no excuses!

Best wishes,
Malcolm



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SEE ABILITY

Live. Love. Thrive. Belong.

Mark is running the Virtual London Marathon.

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/MarkBrooks19>

I am running the virtual London Marathon on the Sunday 3rd October to Southsea and back, raising money for SeeAbility (The Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead).

They looked after my great uncle, Samuel James Brooks from 1889 to 1909. He was appointed Organist & Choir Master of St. Andrews Church, Oxshott in 1909. SeeAbility support people with blindness or partial sight to achieve their goals particularly those with additional disabilities.

To find out more about the work of SeeAbility or to donate click on the link above.

If you wish to donate in another way my contact details are in the church directory.

Mark Brooks

Malcolm Rothwell

My latest book has just been published.

‘OMG emails from Tom’.

Thomas was a science student and a committed Christian. Now, 20 years later, he is having serious doubts about his Christian beliefs. He has contacted me as his former university chaplain, in the hope I can answer some of his questions. In a series of emails he asks, for example, whether Adam and Eve actually existed, whether the Christmas stories are historically true. He also wants to know about God. Does God intervene in human lives, if so where does that leave the laws of science? Where is God? Can God be described? Does God answer prayer? What are we doing when we pray?

I am trying to make sense of the Christian faith in this scientific world in which we live. Some will find the book too radical, others will find it liberating, and hopefully most will find it stimulating. In any event there is plenty of material for discussion and dialogue.

A bargain at £9.95 from me or from Amazon + p&p

Malcolm Rothwell

(Email: vmalcolm@ntlworld.com)