



Merry Christmas

FAREHAM EFOCUS

**Fareham Methodist Church
eFocus November 2024
Registered Charity No
1127814**

MINISTER: The Revd. Pauline Crispin
Telephone 01329 828706
E-mail: paulinecrispin@yahoo.co.uk

EDITOR: Lin Woodhams
E-Mail: Fareham.focus@gmail.com

Fareham Church Website:
www.farehammethodist.org.uk

Circuit website: www.esanddcircuit.org.uk

Services for the Month December 2024

08th Dec. 10:30 am.
Miss Lorraine Valler.
2nd of Advent.

15th Dec. 10:30 am.
Revd. Pauline Crispin.
3rd of Advent.
Christingle.
All Age Worship and Nativity.

22nd Dec. 10:30 am.
Mrs Wendy Corney
4th of Advent.

6:00 pm
Revd. Pauline Crispin.
Candlelit Carol Service.

29th Dec. 10:30 am.
Local Arrangement.
1st of Christmas.

5th Jan. 10:30 am.
Revd. Bill Stillwell
2nd of Christmas.
Holy Communion.

The 29th December service will be led by the church. If you have any favourite carols not necessarily from the Singing the Faith - can be from the Bethlehem Carol sheet, or any readings from the Bible please give them to Maggie.

Tea and Coffee Rota for December 2024

08th Dec. Marilyn Woodrow and Lin Woodhams.

15th Dec. Meg Cox and Sarah Brooks.

22nd Dec. Irene Russell and Sue Gibson.

29th Dec. Jean and Mike Petter.

05th Jan. Alison Humby and Pat Croker.

Meet and Greet Rota December 2024

08th Dec. **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

15th Dec **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

22nd Dec. Christine Fielding

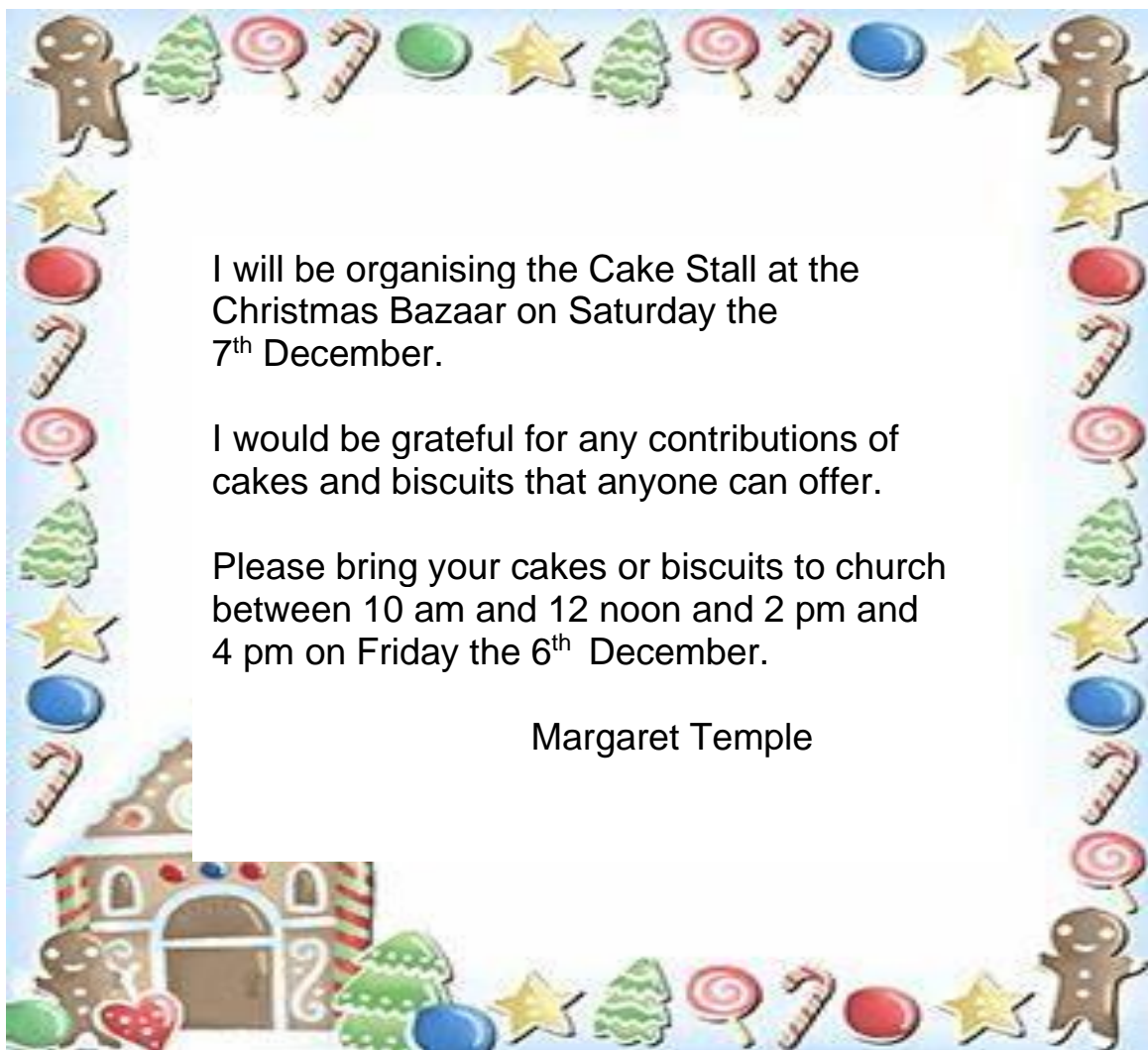
29th Dec. Christine Fielding

**Distributing hymn books on Sunday
For December 2024**

08th Dec. Rach. Davies.
15th Dec. Jenny Chalmers.
22nd Dec. **VOLUNTEER REQUIRED**
29th Dec **VOLUNTEER REQUIRED**

**Flower Rota for
December 2024**

08th Dec. **VOLUNTEER REQUIRED**
15th Dec. Lin/Chris Woodhams
22ND Dec. Ian Bagshaw
29th Dec **VOLUNTEER REQUIRED**



I will be organising the Cake Stall at the Christmas Bazaar on Saturday the 7th December.

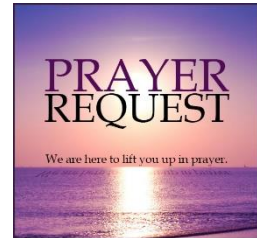
I would be grateful for any contributions of cakes and biscuits that anyone can offer.

Please bring your cakes or biscuits to church between 10 am and 12 noon and 2 pm and 4 pm on Friday the 6th December.

Margaret Temple

If anyone wants to give a gift to Action for Children, this Christmas you can give me cash, or a cheque made out to Action for Children and I'll send them all off together. Or you can subscribe to their secret Santa campaign. Find out more at iamsanta.org.uk.

Catherine Stevenson



The Prayer Tree

The Prayer Tree is now in the Welcome Area. Anyone who would like the Prayer Circle to pray for them, or others, please write your request on a leaf and hang it on the tree. These will be collected each month when the group meets.

The Thursday prayer group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.

All are welcome to join us, for five minutes or for as long as you wish. We will pray with or for you or you may prefer to just listen and pray silently. Our prayers will include any from the prayer tree left during the month.

5 th December	Bob Temple
2 nd January	Pauline
6 th February	Jill Race
6 th March	Bob Temple
3 rd April	Pauline
1 st May	Jill Race
5 th June	Bob Temple
3 rd July	Pauline
4 th September	Bob Temple

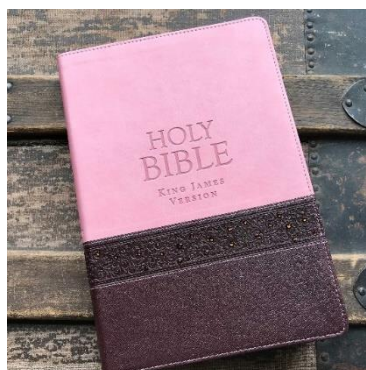


THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

At our next Bible study group, we are starting to look at the women in the Old Testament.

If you would like to join our small but friendly group on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. Please pop in or if you would like more information, it will be great to speak.

Audrey Mann





Love one another

What can I say, every month we have a great get together with our Messy Church family.

At Holiday Club this year we learned a new song to the tune of Frère Jacques which we brought to this month's Messy Church.

A new commandment
 A new commandment
 I give you
 I give you
 Love one another
 Love one another
 As I've loved you
 As I've loved you.

(courtesy from Joseph Brooks)

If only everyone could do this but we sure can at Messy Church.



Messy Church 

Wednesday 11th December 2024
 from 3:30pm - Fareham Methodist Church
 Games and Activities - Worship - Meal

Christmas Celebrations!

"So Joseph went to Bethlehem with Mary. While they were there, the time came for her baby to be born, and she gave birth to a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the Inn."



Children should be accompanied by an adult

SUNDAY LUNCH ON 15th December 2024 AT 12.15 P.M. APPROX.

This is open to all members of the congregation, family and friends. We ask for a donation (of at least £5 each if you are able, please) towards the cost of the meal and any profits will go to “**Action for Children**”. If you would like to make a pudding of your choice (festive if possible) and bring it along that would be very good.

Thank you.

The Menu

Starter: Soup or Prawn Cocktail.

Main Course: Chicken, Sausages, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Vegetables,

Puddings: Variety

There will be a list in the Welcome area for you to sign. Please let me know if you can't come after all, as we will have catered for the total number on the list, and last month 5 didn't turn up.

Please come along and enjoy a Sunday roast.

Thank you. Jill Groom



The Solent Pastoral Area Advent Service
Make Way for Christmas!

The
GIFT

By Graham Kendrick

**Immaculate Conception church Stubbington,
7pm Friday 13th December**

All welcome – come and sing!

MESSAGES FROM CHURCH MEMBERS

Vic and Janice have asked me on their behalf to say, "Thank you" for the flowers that have been delivered over the past year. They also want to show their appreciation to Heather for the communion that she shares with them on alternate

months.

Brenda

On behalf of Janice and Vic

Sylvia Savage would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers which Tony delivered. They were so colourful, and I was delighted to be remembered by the church.

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers delivered to me just now by Irene. I am doing very well and am already halfway through my treatment. I feel very blessed and grateful for all the messages of support that I have received and look forward to getting back to normality soon!

Sue Prior xx

During the past year Malcolm and I have received Church Flowers, on several occasions, when Malcolm has been poorly and hospitalised. We wish to say how much they have been appreciated and the knowledge we are being thought about gives us much comfort.

Lynda H-J

The Flower Rota sheet for weekly providers will be on the notice board in the corridor from 1st December.

Please see if there are dates available for you to provide flowers or that you would like me to put flowers in on your behalf. If you are unable to access the church building and would like to do your own arrangement, please contact me.

Thank you to those who have provided flowers during the past year and to those who help deliver flowers each week, it is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks

Irene Russell



Lent Study Course

The selected course is "You can be serious - meeting Jesus afresh in John's Gospel"

Group leaders and hosts are needed, if anyone is interested please contact Edith Livingstone or Liz Dunning

Thankyou

Calling all knitters!

My sister has told me about an Advent Knitalong which she is doing. It comes from Victoria Methodist Church in Bristol.

Over the course of Advent you knit a square table mat. The exact design is a surprise as it's a Mystery Knitalong. Each day you knit a chunk of the mat and this is accompanied by a Bible verse for reflection as you knit.

You will need 40-60g of DK or 30-45g of 4ply.

Full details can be found at vic-methodist-bristol.org.uk

Happy knitting!

Linda Press

Vestry Jottings

Christmas greetings from the Stewards. The Christmas Post Box is now up and operational, but please only send cards to those who are likely to be in church 😊.

If you haven't already got your advent Quiz, there are a few left, but hurry before the answers are available after the Christingle and Nativity service. Then you can pick up the Christmas quiz!!

We have some exciting eco. projects that are due to be happening soon, so keep your eyes peeled.

Lastly, advance notice and a request; on the 1st February we are having a clothes sale in aid of the Eco Church Fund, if you have any 'good quality' clothes (no underwear please) we will be collecting from the week beginning 26th January.

CTiF Carol Singing at The Podium, 10.30-11.30am, Saturday 21st December 2024

We are delighted to share that this year Christians Together in Fareham has secured a slot at The Podium to sing carols on the last Saturday before Christmas.

We hope that lots of you from the congregations of our churches will turn up on the day and join with the shoppers to make a rousing sound to share the message of Christmas. We will have some festive treats to share with shoppers.

We have acquired a large number of Bethlehem Carol Sheets which contain the words to 21 traditional carols, and we will probably add in a few modern ones too.

We wanted to use this opportunity to encourage donations to the Fareham and Gosport Basics Bank and will have a trolley to which we'd invite you, and the Fareham shoppers, to add contributions from the latest list.

Attached are files for you to share amongst friends and on social media, and a number of printed flyers and posters will be distributed to CTiF churches before the weekend.

If you would like to volunteer to help on the day with handing out treats and collecting donations, or joining in the band of musicians and singers, or have any questions please contact sue.hall@htscf.org.uk

In the meantime, please pray for all those involved in the planning of the event and for dry weather on the day.

Yours in Christ's service

Sue and Pete Hall, Holy Trinity with St Columba, Fareham
Ian and Fiona Corless, Fareham United Reformed Church

on behalf of Christians Together in Fareham



P



NOEL

E

Celebrated by millions of people around the world, Christmas is more than just a holly, jolly season of gift giving, tree decorating, and cake baking. It's a sacred time of the year that celebrates the birth of Jesus and the hope and joy He brings.

A

The Bible tells us: "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." — Luke 2:10

C

It is said that Christmas is for children. Amongst the twinkling lights, food adverts, and Father Christmas, there is a little child, lying in a manger over 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem, Palestine. May we remember that it wasn't all charming and cosy, as many Christmas cards would have us believe. Let us not forget King Herod. The nativity plays stop short of Herod's slaughter of innocent babies, and Jesus and his parents fleeing into Egypt. It all seems rather heartbreaking as we look to the Middle East this Christmas.

E

There are still the cries of so many children. Amid the joyful cries of new birth there has also been the traumatic cries of children buried under the rubble of military attacks in Gaza; and let's not forget the cry of the children of Bethlehem and the Westbank. Indeed, let us not forget the cries of children in so many places of conflict, famine, earthquake, flood and poverty. And yet, here's the glorious mystery of that first Christmas: Here is God as a small child come to earth to be amid the mess and pain. We hear too the cry of that Christmas child-Jesus Christ. Here is love amid hatred and division. That ultimately shows us that love and life is stronger than hate and even death itself.



And now the Christmas celebrations and the twinkling Christmas lights all make sense, because the hope and light of Jesus Christ are stronger than the darkness, even in the darkest tunnel or pile of rubble.

That first-Christmas cries from the manger in Bethlehem is a cry of hope and love for everyone. Here is Jesus Christ, Emmanuel which means 'God with us.' And God 'is' with us. And with God one day there will be no more crying, no more pain, no more death. Even now God longs to hold us, as children. Longs for us to cry 'yes' and to stretch out our hands to God and to each other.

I wish you a peaceful and hope-filled Christmas and New Year.

Pauline

Christmas





Christmas Bazaar

Sat 7th Dec 10am - 3pm

**Fareham Methodist Church
King's Road, Fareham PO16 0NU**

Admission FREE

- * Stalls * Competitions ***
- * Decoration making ***
- * Puzzles & colouring***

*** Carol singing 11:15am & 2pm ***

Refreshments served all day

Everyone welcome!





**URGENT NEEDS!
PRIORITY ORDER**



1. Tins of corned beef, ham, spam
2. Jars of jam
3. Small jars of coffee
4. Tins of fruit
5. Tins or cartons of custard
6. Deodorant for men and women
7. Shampoo
8. Tins of minced beef, stewed steak
9. Tins of peas, carrots, sweetcorn
10. Tins of baked beans
11. Tins of soup
12. Chocolate, sweets and crisps
13. UHT milk (semi skimmed and full fat)
14. Toilet rolls

THANK YOU

Merry Christmas

In lieu of Christmas cards to local addresses and to people whom I see, or could see, regularly I send a donation to a charity of my choice, this year it will be "Guide Dogs for the Blind".

*I wish all at church a very happy Christmas and a happy, peaceful and healthy New Year.
Ian B*

Meg and Nigel wish all our church family a Happy Christmas and New Year. As usual we are giving a donation to charity instead of sending cards.

Margaret Henderson would like to wish all her church family a Happy Christmas and New Year. She will be donating to the church Eco fund this year.

"Lynda Young wishes all her church family members a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. I will be donating to the Stroke Association this year"

I want to wish my church family best wishes for Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. In lieu of cards I have donated to The Macular Society and The Gurkha Welfare Trust, two of my favourite charities.
Brenda Bennett



Please screen your calls #WeWon'tAskYouForMoney



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT CONSTABULARY

Good afternoon,

We're receiving a really high number of calls from people who have answered the phone to an unknown/withheld number and are informed they are speaking to a police officer who then persuades them to withdraw money, or transfer money, or buy valuables.

We don't involve members of the public in our investigations, we won't ask you to help us solve a fraud in a bank, we don't ask members of the public to withdraw or transfer money, nor buy gold/jewellery/valuables etc, we will never ask you for a PIN/one-time password.

We know it isn't always feasible, but please try to screen your calls/let them go to voicemail and Stop! Think Fraud.

If this message is not relevant to you, please share it with friends and family members who may find it more useful.

If you've been affected by a crime please contact Victim Care Hub for free, confidential support: [Home - Hampshire Victim Care Hub \(hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk\)](http://Home-HampshireVictimCareHub(hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk)) or phone 0808 178 1641

If you would like to report a crime anonymously please contact: [Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](http://IndependentUKcharitytakingcrimeinformationanonymously|Crimestoppers(crimestoppers-uk.org)) or phone 0800 555 111

Hampshire Alerts is **not** a crime reporting portal – **please do not report crime here.**

If you realise you've been scammed and wish to report a fraud that has already happened, please report it to Action Fraud either phone 0300 123 2040 or online at: [Action Fraud](http://ActionFraud)

If a crime is in progress, and/or you are in fear for yourself or someone else, and/or there is evidence in situ that could be damaged/destroyed, please phone 999 immediately.

Otherwise, report online, or find out about other ways to report a crime at: [Report a crime | Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary](http://ReportacrimelHampshireandIsleofWightConstabulary)

Thank you – Fraud Safeguarding Team



Message Sent By

Fraud Safeguarding Team

(Hampshire & Isle of Wight Constabulary, Fraud Safeguarding Officers, Hampshire and Isle of Wight)

Pre-Loved Clothing Sale

Ladies, Gents & Childrens' Clothes & Accessories

Saturday 1st February 2025
10:00am to 12:00pm

FREE ENTRY
Cash & Card Payments accepted.
Refreshments Available

Fareham Methodist Church,
Kings Road,
Fareham.
PO16 0NU

Proceeds from sale will go towards making us
a more "environmentally friendly" church

Donations of clothing can be brought
to the church from Sunday 26th January please!

www.farehammethodist.org.uk
Reg. Charity No: 1127814



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

- 1st Dec. 10:30 am
Toy and Gift Service.
- Sat. 7th Dec.
10:00 - 3:00 pm.
Christmas Bazaar.
- Wed. 11th Dec.
3:30pm.
Christmas Messy Church.
- Sun. 15th Dec.
10:30 am
Christingle and Nativity Service.
(followed by Sunday Lunch).
- Sun. 22nd Dec.
6:00 pm.
Candlelit Carol Service.
- Tues. 24th Dec.
11:15pm.
Midnight Communion URC
- Wed. 25th Dec.
10:30 am
Christmas Day service

SAFEGUARDING

Please can we remind everyone to be safe – it is not wrong to refuse entry to a stranger especially if you are on your own or feeling vulnerable.

Do not hand out your own cash. Remember there are vouchers available, there maybe items in the food bank box you can give out, and a phone call can give you access to the Benevolent fund.

We are a welcoming, caring church but we need to keep everyone safe.



Christmas Bazaar

Sat 7th Dec, 10am - 3pm

Plans are well under way for our Christmas Bazaar which we hope will be the successful community event it has been in previous years. To this end, the planning team would be very grateful for your help with contributions of **new** or **'as new'** items for the stalls please, including:

- Items suitable for the Gift stall and raffle
- Games, books & jigsaws (*no missing pieces, please*)

Items may be given to Liz Haigh, Penny, Brenda, Edith or Lin Woodhams. Alternatively, please speak to one of the team if you would like us to collect any items.

Many thanks, the Planning team.

Please see the separate notice regarding cakes for the Cake Stall.

www.PageBorders.net

Editor's Notes.

Chris and I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy, loving New year.

I would like to thank you all for being patient with me over the efocus and how you all continually contribute each month, helping it to be full of information and sometimes bring a smile to our faces.

In the new year I will be starting a new flower wall for the spring and summer as the old one looked a bit tired when we took it down. Anyone who would like to knit some flowers let me know – we will continue to meet at the Coffee Centre on a Thursday and perhaps I will actually knit something when I am there!!!

Love Lin xx Deadline for the next efocus will be **(dare I say it)**
1st Jan 2025