

# FAREHAM

## eFOCUS



Fareham Methodist Church  
eFocus February 2022  
Registered Charity No 1127814

MINISTER: The Revd. Claire Simpson

Telephone 01329 828706

E-mail: [revclaire72@btinternet.com](mailto:revclaire72@btinternet.com)

EDITOR: Lin Woodhams

E-Mail: [Fareham.focus@gmail.com](mailto:Fareham.focus@gmail.com)

Fareham Church Website

[www.farehammethodist.org.uk](http://www.farehammethodist.org.uk)

Circuit website: [www.esanddcircuit.org.uk](http://www.esanddcircuit.org.uk)



### Services for the Month of February

13 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Revd. Bill Stillwell 6 <sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Fareham Team 7 <sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Gathering for Worship Sunday before Lent
6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Revd. Claire Simpson Baptism 1 <sup>st</sup> of Lent

### 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 the leaves in the basket and hang it on the tree. These will be collected each month when the group meets.

### THURSDAY PRAYER CIRCLE DATES

The Thursday Prayer Circle is held 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> Mar. will be led by Julie Kettle

7<sup>th</sup> April. will be led by Claire Simpson

Bobby

### Note from Editor

Thank you so much for the flowers received recently it was very kind.

I believe that Mini Market needs pre-loved items for their stall – so any gifts from Christmas going spare perhaps they could be donated to Mini Market.

Thank you for all your contributions for the efocus please keep them coming in.

Love Lin

March deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

## VESTRY JOTTINGS

When this goes out some of our restrictions will have been eased. We are still asking people to wear masks while walking around church and we are keeping the one-way system.

In last month's Vestry Jottings, I forgot to thank Sheila for the wonderful job of dressing the Welcome Area window and Lin and Chris for organising the dressing of the windows in Church. It was much appreciated.

There will be a Church and Community open meeting in Church on Monday 28th February at 7.30pm to discuss events for 2022 including H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. Any thoughts and ideas would be most welcome.

Brenda  
On behalf of the stewards

### A4 Laminator

A4 laminator from WHSmith. Free to a good home!  
Please contact Jill and Malcolm Race.

### Gift Weekend in December

The Gift Weekend held in December raised a total of £2121.90 for church funds.

Thank you to all who made donations.

Update from Christians Together in Fareham

### Refugee Matters Update

We received wonderful news on Christmas Eve. Our application has now been granted full approval by the Home Office. The details of our house and our Group's planning are now being passed to the 'Allocations Team' for them to select an appropriate refugee family.

We expect the family to be seven in size with possibly four adults and three children. We will then be asked to consider the details of the family and decide if we can properly support them for two years. If we give the go ahead the family is likely to arrive 6 -10 weeks later depending in which country, they are at present living.

We already have people in the house doing bits of repairs and improvements. Then we will start furnishing and equipping it to look like a welcoming new home for the day the family arrives.

In the New Year I will put together a message requesting very specific help of which we are still short, but for now please just give thanks to our beneficial God.

Paul Tomlinson Leader of Refugee Matters

Sylvia Savage would like to say thank you for the flowers from church. It was a lovely surprise, and many thanks to Margaret Temple who delivered them.



# Christians Together in Fareham have forwarded this interesting Newsletter.

It's great how the Churches are all working together to ensure that we save God's planet

## Operation Noah

### Faith Motivated, Science Informed and Hope-Inspired



The Bright Now campaign of which Operation Noah is a part has gone from strength to strength. Nearly every major Church in the UK has now divested from fossil fuels, and even the ones that haven't, such as the Catholic Church in England and Wales and the Church of England – both of which still have fossil fuel investments at a national level – are seeing increasing numbers of dioceses divest. This year, we also saw the Climate Sunday movement – which we initiated and supported – enable over 2,200 UK churches to hold a climate-themed service, with many of those churches acting by lobbying their MP or signing up to a church greening scheme.

The 26 October announcement, which was made just five days before the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), included 72 faith institutions from six continents with more than £3.1 billion (\$4.2 billion) of combined assets under management in Australia, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Ukraine, the UK, the United States and Zambia. Of the institutions that joined the announcement, 37 were from the UK; participating institutions included the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of Wales, the Presbyterian Church in



Ireland, 15 Catholic dioceses in the UK and Ireland, and two Church of England dioceses, among others.



Started by Operation Noah, [Climate Sunday](#) – an initiative to invite churches to hold a climate-themed service before November’s UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow – grew to include almost every major Church in the UK and most of the largest Christian environmental and international development charities. More than 2,200 UK churches held a climate-themed service, and many of those churches also lobbied their MP, signed the Climate Coalition’s letter calling for more ambitious climate action or joined a church greening scheme.

Some of the largest UK Churches divested from all fossil fuels in 2021, including the [Church in Wales](#), the [Methodist Church](#), the [Baptist Union](#) and the [Church of Scotland](#). David Palmer, Chief Executive of the Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church, which oversees £1.3 billion of investments, said: ‘The patience of the Church has run out’, adding, ‘The pace of change across the oil and gas sector has been inadequate and we welcome the recommendation...to disinvest.’

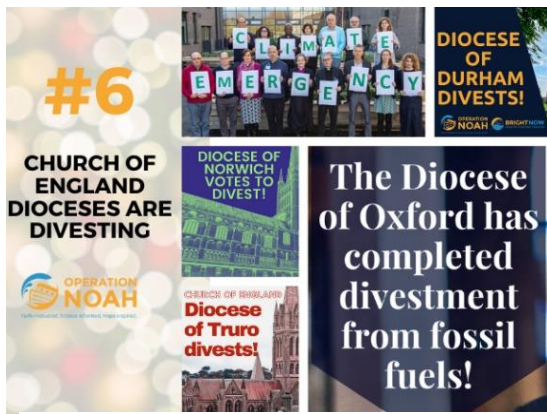


Operation Noah made its presence felt at COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. One of our trustees, Shilpita Mathews, an environmental economist, was an official observer at the conference, and our Bright Now Campaign Manager, James Buchanan, spoke at several events and helped organise a powerful in- person [discussion on divestment and climate justice](#), which we also live-streamed to an international audience.

In December, [Shell announced that it would no longer fund the Cambo oil field](#), west of Shetland. While majority stakeholder Siccar Point Energy still hopes to take the project forward with new backers, [it is now pausing the project](#) as Shell’s withdrawal means it is unable to keep to the ‘originally planned timescale’. Cambo would produce annual emissions equivalent to 18 coal-fired power stations and is the first of more than a dozen proposed North Sea oil projects.

Operation Noah is proud to be an official partner of the [Stop Cambo](#) campaign.





In 2021, we saw a rapid acceleration in the number of Church of England dioceses deciding to divest. Since March, six Church of England dioceses have announced their divestment from fossil fuels, with many others actively considering such a move. This year, the Dioceses of Bristol, [Oxford](#), [Sodor & Man](#), [Truro](#), [Norwich](#) and [Durham](#) made divestment commitments. Currently, 18 Church of England dioceses have fossil fuel investments, and 18 dioceses have no fossil fuel investments but have yet to make a public commitment not to invest in fossil fuels in the future. At a national level, the Church of England still has £55 million invested in fossil fuels.

We saw real movement from the Catholic Church this year on divestment, [a step recommended by the Vatican](#). In the Catholic Church of England and Wales, [the Archdiocese of Birmingham divested](#), becoming the first Archdiocese in England and Wales to do so. In September, [176 Catholic young adults from every diocese of England and Wales wrote to bishops calling for divestment from fossil fuels](#). The week before COP26, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland announced its divestment along with more than a dozen Catholic dioceses in the UK and Ireland.



In June, we held a brilliant online [Supporters' Event](#) chaired by one of our trustees, Hannah Malcolm. Over 80 people registered to hear from our speakers, Chine McDonald of Christian Aid, Dave Gregory of the Baptist Union Environmental Network and Josh Tregale of Mock COP26. We also had breakout sessions, providing opportunities for supporters to discuss specific environmental and theological topics.

Operation Noah held a series of divestment webinars in 2021, including a [Methodist Webinar](#) in February which featured the founder of the global divestment movement, Bill McKibben. That webinar was watched live by nearly 400 people. In March, we held an [Anglican Communion Divestment Webinar](#) with speakers from South Africa, New Zealand, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with over 200 people watching live.



In late 2021, Operation Noah secured funding to expand our successful [Bright Now campaign](#). This new funding will allow us to hire two new staff members and to scale up our work with UK Churches and faith institutions on investment in climate solutions, such as renewable energy. We will also work with partners on a campaign to encourage the Church of England to increase tree coverage on its land and improve its land management practices, given the urgent climate and biodiversity crises.

## HOLY VOICE MAIL

The following is courtesy of Dundee Parish Church.

Voice Mail nowadays is a nuisance  
And becoming too often routine,  
But imagine it being in Heaven!  
If you will, try and picture the scene.  
Hello, and we thank you for praying;  
To continue remain on your knees  
And select from the following menu  
Any one of the options you please.  
All our angels right now are quite busy  
Helping sinners who prayed before you,  
So hang on and just try to be patient,  
You'll be glad that you did when you do.  
Press 1 if you're seeking forgiveness,  
Press 2 if you're offering thanks  
Press 3 if you're only complaining;  
Number 4's for agnostics and cranks.  
Press 5 if you're wanting Our Father,  
Press 6 to consult with His Son;  
Press the pound key if you're getting frantic  
And are dying to reach ANYONE.  
Press Zero to dial Operator,  
If it's busy, don't panic or fuss;  
Just wait and re-pray a bit later,  
Your prayer is important to Us.  
Your prayer may perhaps be recorded  
And relayed on back to Earth;  
To hear psalms, while you wait, by King David,  
Please enter the year of your birth.  
You may pray every day except Monday,  
There's a chance you may reach someone live;  
Please don't pray before eight in the morning  
And there's nobody here after five.  
Well, thank you again and keep praying,  
We hope you have a nice day;  
In the future, for aid or for comfort,  
Remember We're here, so just pray.

Thanks Brenda



IF ONLY THE CHILDREN RAN OUR COUNTRY, OH  
THEY DO, THAT'S RIGHT.

## Reasons Not to Mess with Children

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human, it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah'.

The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?'

The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God'.

The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like'.

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute'.

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, 'Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face'.

'Yes', the class said.

'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position the blood doesn't run into my feet?'

A little fellow shouted,

'Cause your feet ain't empty'.

Come AS YOU Are

# You're more than welcome here



## OPEN TABLE

The parish of Holy Trinity with St Columba, Fareham, is planning to host a Christian worship community that genuinely welcomes and affirms LGBT+ people, as part of the Open Table Network\*

We'd love you to join us for a meeting to reflect together on the kind of experience we want to create, so everyone feels welcome, included, affirmed, and empowered in this community.

Open Table Network Coordinator Kieran Bohan & Revd Wendy May Jacobs, Curate at Holy Trinity with St Columba, will guide the conversation.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022

2-4pm @ Holy Trinity Fareham Church Hall,  
132 West Street, Fareham, P016 OEL

For more info, email [wendymay.jacobs@htscf.org.uk](mailto:wendymay.jacobs@htscf.org.uk)

\* The Open Table Network is Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1193868 registered in England & Wales.

To find out where and when you're #MoreThanWelcome to #ComeAsYouAre, visit [www.opentable.lgbt](http://www.opentable.lgbt)

St Columba Church







Date - Wednesday 9th February 2022

Time - from 3:30pm

Venue - Fareham Methodist Church

Games and Activities

Worship

Meal



## What has been happening at Messy Church – pictures from January 2022

The theme for January 2022 was the **Parable of the Lost Coin. Luke 15:8 -10**



The children are rubbing a coin and then inserting it into a magnet for the fridge.



As the theme was things that had been lost and found. To bring conserving the planet into the session we talked about animals that were becoming extinct but now numbers are now increasing due to conservation. The activity above shows the children putting together a jigsaw of one of these animals.



When the woman looks for her lost coin she uses a lamp. The children had to make the torch work using wires to connect a circuit to make a light. If they did this, they then had a small torch to take home. This went down very well and they used them in the quiet tent which is provided for any child who wants a peaceful moment.



In the parable the woman used a broom, so the children made an edible broom which was promptly eaten!!



Treasure hunt game searching for coins.

## The Fareham Team

On 8<sup>th</sup> January 1984 the Fareham Team, for the first time, undertook responsibility for the preparation and leading of evening worship; at Stoke Road Church. The team was formed in response to the difficulties in completing the Gosport and Fareham Circuit Plan.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> February – some 38 years later the team is due to lead worship, for the final time, appropriately at Fareham. During this time at least 25 members of our congregation have taken part in services led by the team. Sadly, as one might expect over a period of 38 years, a number of team members have passed into God's eternal care.

The sharing of talents, skills and especially the sense of fellowship experienced in preparing and leading worship will always remain with me. The witness of the team has been well received wherever it had led services. At one time the team was able to send out teams to lead worship at two different churches on the same day and time.

There may be some degree of sadness the team will no longer be leading services of worship. However, I much prefer to remember with thanksgiving, the work of the team over such a lengthy period. Blessings and thanks to everyone who has assisted and contributed to the witness of the team.

I am sure the Lord will find many opportunities for team members, and others, to continue to respond to his call for service in the future.

Blessing Bob

## CTiF Appeal

Dear friends

So many people have already generously given goods which we will use to make the family's life more comfortable when they arrive here with so little. All five adults will have an acute need to embark on improving their English language skills to help them settle into their new life but also to be able to enter the 'world of work' as soon as possible.

We will be looking to enrol them in E.S.O.L. (English to Speakers of Other Languages) classes as soon as possible. However, it may take some time for places to become available and these classes on their own will be insufficient. There is a lot they can do to improve their English language skills if they have access to using the internet. To this end we are looking to see if we can source any of the following:

- Preferably used and working laptops but possibly tablets
- Adult bicycles (for males)

If you have any such items, please could you let me know either by emailing [paultomlinson@ntlworld.com](mailto:paultomlinson@ntlworld.com) or phoning 07941 328278

Thank you and God bless

Paul Tomlinson Leader of Refugee Matters

## SUNDAY LUNCH February 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 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 for charity. If you would like to make a pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very welcome – thank you.

### The Menu

Starter: Soup or Greek Salad

Main Course: Gammon, Sausages, Roast Potatoes, Vegetables

Puddings: Variety

There will be a list in the Welcome area for you to sign. Please come along and enjoy a Sunday Roast!



World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)  
Friday 4th March 2022

This year's service has been prepared by Christian women in Britain. The church of St Peter and St Paul are coordinating the service which will take place on zoom at 7.00pm. Further details to follow.

Linda Foster