

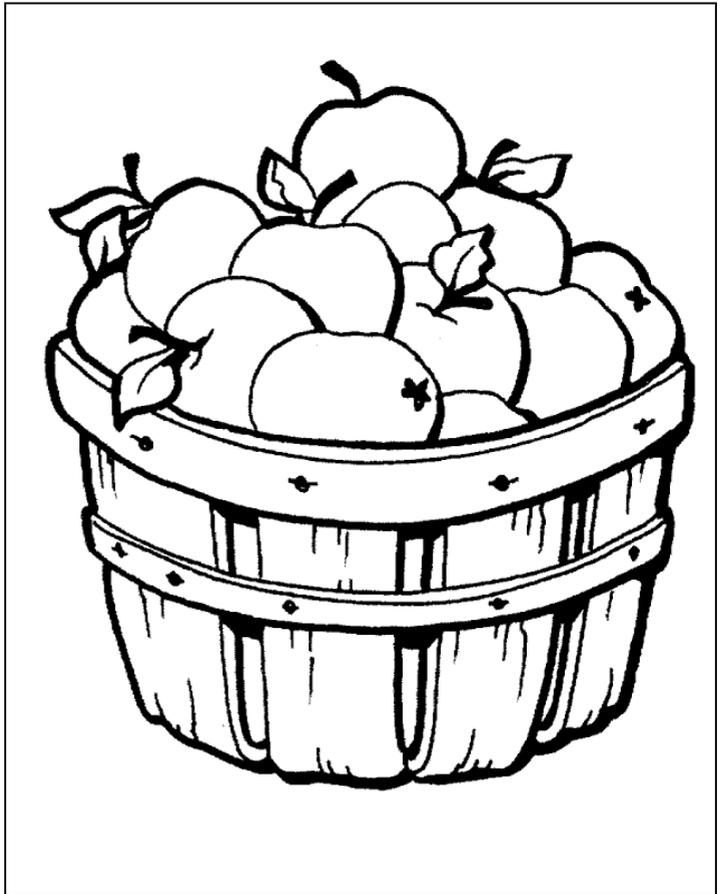
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FAREHAM

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October  2011

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Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine

MINISTER: The Revd. Malcolm Groom
6 St Thomas Close, Fareham. PO16 7BZ
Telephone 01329 828706
E-mail malcolm.groom@methodist.org.uk
Mobile 07455966815

EDITOR: Mrs. Jill Groom
6 St Thomas Close, Fareham Hants PO16 7BZ
Email: jill.groom@btinternet.com Mobile: 07999 558524

Fareham Church Website: farehammethodist.org.uk
Circuit website: www.gosportandfarehamcircuit.org.uk

Number 586

October 2011

SERVICES DURING OCTOBER

2nd 10.30 Revd Malcolm Groom Holy Communion
9th 10.30 The Fareham Team Harvest Festival
16th 10.30 Sunday3 All Age Worship
23rd 10.30 Joan Padley's House Group One World Week
18.00 Revd Malcolm Groom Iona Holy Communion
30th 10.30 Revd Malcolm Groom Healing Service

NOVEMBER

6th 10.30 Revd Malcolm Groom Holy Communion
16.00 Revd Malcolm Groom Family Remembrance Service

LOCAL PREACHERS and TEAM APPOINTMENTS

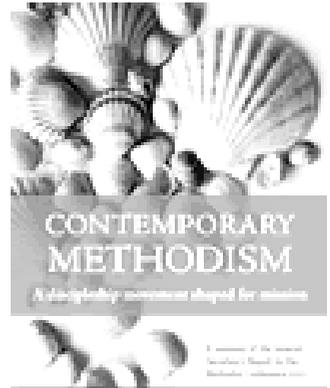
Please remember these preachers in your prayers as they prepare and conduct their services in churches in the Circuit.

2nd October Andrew Wilcock at Lee-on-the-Solent
6th November Andrew Wilcock at Stubbington

Minister's Letter October 2011

Dear Friends,

At Methodist Conference this year in Southport, Rev. Martyn Atkins, the General Secretary of the Methodist Church presented his report. Once again Martyn's annual report to Conference was not just well received, but proved to be an inspiration to every delegate that I've come across.



His report, entitled, "*Contemporary Methodism - A discipleship movement shaped for mission*" starts by focussing on the fact that Methodism is a "*movement*" (- as opposed to something static). He suggests that "*Methodism started as a movement; a movement that, in obedience to God, wanted to make a difference in the world within communities and the lives of individuals.*" He goes on to say; "*We still share that same purpose today.*" The word "*movement*" is to be found everywhere in his report.

One thing I have discovered is that as different people read Martyn's report they each seem to interpret it with their own theological bias - much more than any other such document I have come across. The "Official Summary" of Martyn's report was somewhat played down at District Synod, several members saying it didn't do the full report justice. For this reason we were supplied with another "summary" by the District Development Officer.

I decided to read the full report for myself (you can download it from the Methodist Website) and I guess I've put my own slant on it as well. At the beginning of the report, several important questions are asked. The key question revolves around how the Methodist Church, both locally and connexionally, can "*continue to shape its life together in faithful obedience to God, for the sake of the world*" Martyn goes on to offer six approaches to how Godly change may happen;

WORSHIP - rediscovering our “*wonder, love and praise*” at the heart of our longing to transform the Church and world.

EVANGELISM - putting a disproportionate amount of resources into a less healthy area of our Church’s life.

FRUITFUL FIELD - consolidation of our resources bringing more coherence to our learning programmes, aiming at excellence to raise leadership capacity within the local church with an emphasis on lay ministry.

CHURCH BUILDINGS - regarding our property resources as God’s, entrusted to us for God’s mission and purposes. Have we too many? Do we need to own them all? Are they fit for purpose today?

GOVERNANCE - creating more flexible, more responsive and more permissive rules, regulation and governance.

PARTNERSHIPS - ecumenical, world-wide and the Methodist family.

OK - What do you think? - Read the report! - Talk to others about it! - I invite you to respond!

God bless,



Vestry Jottings – October 2011

On 2nd September we welcomed Rev Anna Bishop, with her husband Dan, into the Circuit at her welcome service at Portchester Church. She will be responsible for Portchester and Bridgemary Churches but will be going on maternity leave sometime during November.

On 4th September we marked the start of the new church year with our Covenant and Promotion Service. Young people who were “moving up” within the Junior church were presented with a book to mark the occasion. We wish them well in their new department.

The church is still desperately in need of a Property Steward. As mentioned

previously, this does not have to be a “hands on role” – it can be a co-ordinating role, with others doing the practical jobs. Please give it some thought as to whether it is something that YOU could do – or at least give it a go. If you think you might be able to help please speak to one of the Church Stewards.

We look forward to our Harvest Festival service on 9th October with Harvest Supper on 8th October. Please sign the list in the Welcome area if you wish to attend the supper.

A reminder that Order forms for the new Hymn Book “Singing The Faith” should be returned WITH PAYMENT to Antony Hollinghurst, Patrick Watson or Maggie Wheeler before Sunday 9th October. Orders can be made for personal copies or for sponsorship of copies for the church.

The Stewards

THANK YOU!!

Thank you for the lovely flowers and good wishes brought to us after church on Sunday 11th September by Lynda Young. My back is a lot better and Jean's brother is now back at home from hospital.

Gerald and Jean Everitt.

Thank you for the church flowers on Sunday 28th August and To Joan Padley for bringing them.

John Ward

Thank you very much for our lovely flowers, cards and all the kind thoughts. We appreciated all the concern shown when we had so many problems. One of these was BT giving us the wrong telephone number.

Cyril and Margaret

It has been a year since KFC (Kids Fun Church) began on the fourth Sunday each month. The children really enjoy it and it's evolving month to month. We have had up to 18, over 6 new ones, some have come more than once, some 3 to 6 times. Thank you to all the children for joining in keenly and the parents for sending them. Thank you to Malcolm, the stewards and the church as a whole for their support. Thank you to the wonderful Junior church staff for their involvement and flexibility with our ongoing changes.

Edith, Linda, Kevin

From the Bible Society

Dear Mrs Race,

Thank you for the stamps sent to the Bible Society. Please pass on our thanks to the members of Fareham Methodist Church.

We are very grateful for your support, which helps us as we seek to make the Bible heard by people everywhere.

Stamp corner began in 1906 and thanks to people like you it continues to generate funds for Bible work worldwide. Please keep sending stamps and postcards to support this vital work!

Thank you for your ongoing support.

(More information available at www.biblesociety.org.uk.)

An Invitation

Claire Jarman and Paul Edwards are getting married in the church on **Saturday 22nd October at 2.00pm**. They would be delighted if any friends could join them to celebrate this joyous occasion.

Sunday 3

In place of Sunday 2 in October, Sunday 3 will take place at 10.30 on 16 October and normal Sunday 2 will resume on 13 November at 7.00pm. These services are planned by a group including young people and are for all to attend. We hope that you will join us at these services.

Jean Petter

Sunday Morning Refreshments

The next rota for helpers providing Sunday Morning refreshments is due to be made. If you would like to join this group of helpers I would be grateful as some people have had to come off the rota for various reasons. Thank you to those who are continuing to serve our church friends in this way.

Mary Bailey

IBRA NOTES 2012



It is time to order the notes for next year. The two main items are:

Light for our Path £8.75

Words for Today £8.75

There are various Christmas Cards all at £1.99 per packet of 5. If you are interested in ordering, then please speak to me,

Graham Dyer

BASICS BANK

There has been much appreciation for all the food donated by friends of Fareham Methodist Church. But we are reminded by those who organise the food distribution that this is an ongoing need, and donations of food, toiletries etc. are still required (in the box in the Welcome area) PLEASE.

Thank you

Sheila Dyer

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is welcome to our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

All meetings are in the Wickham Room and begin at 2.15 p.m. (tea available from 2.00p.m.)

12th October Ms Lynne Matthews – one of our Local Preachers

26th October Musical Afternoon

Please remember we have a “Bring and Buy” for our charity – Addis Ababa Hospital.

Shirley Henderson

The next **Healing Prayer Group** is on Wednesday November 2nd 19-30 at the home of Joan and Jeff Padley at 2 Archery Lane.

Church Flowers

The calendar for flower providers and delivery will be available in the corridor from late October. Thanks to all who provided flowers and visited church members and friends with flowers during the past year, these are really appreciated by both the congregation and recipients. We hope that you will continue with your support by providing flowers. We would still like to hear from anyone who feels they could help by delivering flowers on a Sunday, please speak to either of us at church or give us a ring.

Many thanks

Mary Bailey and Irene Russell

**christian
aid**

in FAREHAM presents
Martin John Nicholls
in Concert

**Thursday
27th October 2011**

**FAREHAM UNITED
REFORMED CHURCH
18 Osborn Road South
Fareham, PO16 7DG**

**7.00pm BUFFET
(using recipes
from Zimbabwe)**

8.00pm CONCERT

**TICKETS
Buffet & Concert £8
Concert only £3**

**Proceeds to the
Christian Aid
Project in Zimbabwe**

For more information and to buy tickets, please contact:



CHRISTIAN AID

It is almost a year since it was agreed that we would be involved with the Church Partnership Scheme. Along with other local churches we are committed to raise £5000 in two years which the EU will match 9 times so giving £50,000 to a project in Zimbabwe.

We are well on the way to achieving this thanks to the fund raising events organised by Wednesday Fellowship and the support of the Mini-Market. So far we have contributed £546.05 to the fund. Thanks to all who were involved, especially Shirley Henderson, Eric Wheeler, Joan Padley and Liz Haigh.

Please support the next event which is being organised by the local Christian Aid committee: a buffet meal and Martin John Nicholls in concert at the URC Church on the evening of Thursday 27th October.

Tickets are already available!

Linda Foster

Methodists face problems in Fiji

The Fijian government has banned all Methodist Church meetings except for Sunday worship in an unprecedented crackdown on religious freedom. This includes house groups, women's prayer fellowship, choir practice, mid-week communion and youth fellowship, as well as the Church's governance meetings. All Methodist ministers are also forbidden from leaving the country for any meeting.

The Church is responding with prayer and fasting. The Methodist Church is the largest faith group in Fiji and the only group to receive this treatment by the Government.

"We are gravely concerned about how this situation is developing," said Michael King, World Church Relationships Team Leader for the Methodist Church in Britain. "Our brothers and sisters in Fiji are asking us to keep them in our prayers."

FAREHAM STROKE CLUB is holding an Autumn Fayre at the W.I. Hall Oak Road on Friday 28th October at 2.30.p.m. All are welcome.

Lynda Young

Harvest Festival – October 8th – 9th 2011

We hope that you have the date in your diary. Do come along on Saturday, October 8th and help us decorate the church or just come along for the supper. If you are coming to the supper please add your name to the list in the Welcome Area. The supper will be preceded by café-style worship at 17.15. The menu for the supper is Cheese Ploughman's, apple cake and tea or coffee – no charge, just a donation. After the supper there will be a short talk on the work of Two Saints which will be followed by some entertainment!

We are hoping that you will be able to bring along fresh produce, packets or tins of food. All produce will be given to Two Saints for use in their hostels. They would also welcome socks, Thermos flasks, razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shower gel, hats, scarves, gloves etc. The list is endless.

If you have any queries please speak to Sheila Dyer, Jill Groom or Garry Bagshaw.

Do come along and join in the celebrations!

The FX Team

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church began as one church's attempt to be church for families who might want to meet Jesus, belong to their local church and bring up their children as Christians but can't cope with traditional Sunday morning church services. The first Messy Church was started at St Wilfred's in Cowplain by Lucy Moore in 2004.

It's a once-a-month time of creativity, worship and eating together. You may have seen it featured on the [Fresh Expressions DVD expressions](#) or read about it in the [Barnabas book Messy Church](#).

Garry and I have visited Messy Church at Holy Rood Stubbington and St Wilfred's in Cowplain and feel very inspired to start this at Fareham. This takes place during the week once a month from 3.30 until about 6.15 p.m. and is for all the family from babies to grandparents. The evening begins with a welcome drinks and biscuits and then there are lots of creative activities for everyone to enjoy around a particular theme e.g. Light (there is space set aside for babies and toddlers to play also). At around 5.00 p.m.

there is a 20 minute time of worship and singing linked to the theme, followed by a simple hot meal for all. We had a wonderful time!
We would like to start this venture in January but need a team of about 20 people to set this up.

There will be a meeting for anyone who is interested, in any way, on 21st October at 12 noon In the Welcome Area with a snack lunch of soup and rolls. If you are unable to make this meeting, but would be interested in helping, please let Jill or Garry know and we will be holding the next meeting during the evening. PLEASE come and find out about this exciting project. It will be great fun taking part!

Jill Groom



Friday Monthly Lunches

Please note that as of the this month the lunches are served at the new time of 1pm. If this means that you are now able to come we would be delighted to see you. Tickets can be purchased from Gwen Lilian or Lynda.

October 7th Menu

Soup, Bacon Steaks & Peaches, Apple Crumble & Custard

November 4th Menu

Soup, Rosemarie's Sausage Casserole, Ginger Sponge & Custard

Special diets by prior arrangement.

Lynda Haydon-Jones



10th. Christmas Tree Festival Dec. 1st,2nd,3rd.

Entries are rolling in for this year's event. If you, or your group, are hoping to enter, please pick up an entry form from the WELCOME AREA. and return it to me as soon as possible.

Despite last year's hiccup (snow) all the charities were delighted by the contribution they received.

Rosemarie Jackson

By Sarah

Mathew 14:22-33

Jesus walks on water – Rhyming Poem

Hello I'm Jesus, just strolling along,
“Along the water?” Let me finish my song!

I spotted my disciples in the boat,
They were all sailing on the water, afloat.

“Come and join me on the water, it's fun”
“No way, you're crazy” said all except one.

Peter was willing to give it a go,
But when he started sinking and cried “Oh No!”

Christ helped Peter when he needed it most,
So they no longer thought that he was a ghost.



The Methodist Church in Britain works to ease the passage of aid to North Korea

In June 2011, the Revd Alison Tomlin, the then president of the Conference, sent a public letter to President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea, urging him to allow aid to be sent directly from South Korea to North Korea to help mitigate the food crisis there. This led to discussions with embassy staff in London and questions being asked in Seoul.

The UK Methodist Church's partner, the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCCCK), had been forced to send its last shipment of flour to North Korea via China, working with our partner the Amity Foundation in Nanjing. The Amity Foundation report on the delivery of the first shipment of flour reveals the terrible plight of the North Koreans:

“North Korea, has suffered a series of shocks in recent months, leaving the country highly vulnerable to a food crisis.... More than 6,000,000 vulnerable people are in urgent need of international food

assistance, due to a substantial reduction of agricultural production

and commercial imports, as well as a decrease or curtailment of bilateral assistance.”

The delivery of flour means that around 31,400 people, mostly children, in North Korea will be able to obtain food and survive from the severe food shortage caused by the natural disasters last year, including a significantly colder winter and increased summer rainfall. But now, the Methodist Church in Britain has received a report from NCKK that the South Korean government has softened its

stance on food aid and is now willing to give permits to religious and other organisations for the direct transport of food aid, even though there will be no official government aid. This will mean that desperately needed aid will reach those who need it quicker and easier. Plans are now in hand for a further delivery by NCKK. The Methodist Church in Britain’s World Mission Fund has donated £10,000 towards the costs.

A Prayer for Peace in Our Communities

The Church of England has published a prayer for peace, following the riots across the UK this summer. It reads:

Gracious God,

We pray for peace in our communities this day.

We commit to you all who work for peace and an end to tensions,

And those who work to uphold law and justice.

We pray for an end to fear,

For comfort and support to those who suffer.

For calm in our streets and cities,

That people may go about their lives in safety and peace.

In your mercy, hear our prayers,

now and always. Amen

Parish Pump

Children need to learn about giving

Children should be taught that ‘there is more to life’ than buying the latest iPod or mobile phone, if we are to create a happy society. So warns one of Britain’s most senior civil servants. Sir Gus O’Donnell, the Cabinet Secretary, suggests that both children and adults wrongly believe that happiness comes from acquiring material good, when studies actually indicate that doing things for others is far more satisfying.

A recent report tracking Britain’s ‘well-being’ found that the most important elements of life for well-being and happiness are health, relationships, work, education and training, along with the principle that everyone should be treated fairly. The first results showing how ‘happy’ the nation is will be published next year.



Comedian warns of atheism threat

Catholic comedian Frank Skinner has called for the Church to go on the offensive against atheism. In an interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral, Skinner criticised atheists for ‘looking down their nose’ at Christians, compared atheists with global warming deniers and warned that secularism is ‘a threat to the salvation of millions’. He encouraged believers to join together to counter the threat and to stop ‘making concessions on the virgin birth or the resurrection’. He said that ‘there’s too much apologising’ by the Church of England. The comedian added that atheism was ‘cool’ amongst comedians, and Dr Williams agreed that the Church was finding it difficult

to counter the trendiness of atheism, although he questioned how successful Dawkins had been at creating atheist converts.

Sources: *The Times* (19/9); *The Telegraph* (19/9)



How would you explain God?

This was written by an 8 year old, Danny Dutton for a homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God.

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valu

able time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking him for something they said you couldn't have.

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in my town. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his Father and he told his Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

"His Dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

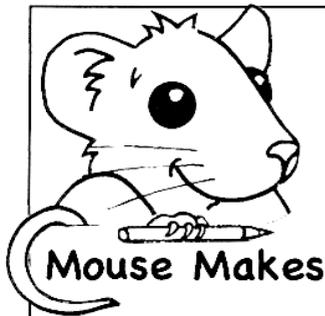
"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

"You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway."

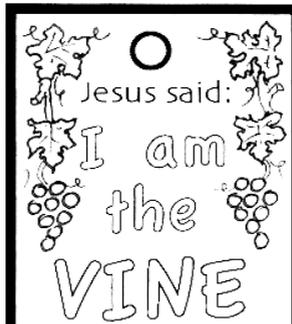
"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp or to school, but God can. It is good to know he's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids."

"But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And...that's why I believe in God."

Parish Pump

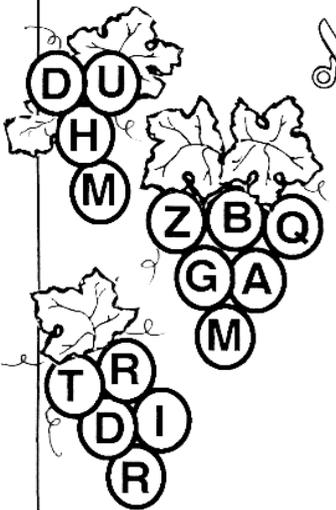


Glue onto card, colour, cut out the cross and hang up.

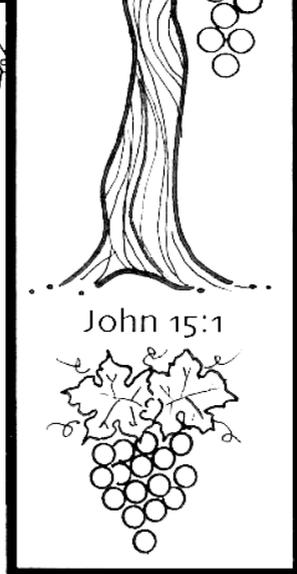


Jesus said
"I am the
real vine, and
my Father is
the gardener.

He breaks off
every branch in me
that does not bear
fruit, and he prunes
every branch that
does bear fruit, so
that it will be



Change each letter on the grapes to the one after it in the alphabet then rearrange to find the words



John 15:1

clean and bear
more fruit...
...A branch cannot
bear fruit by itself;
it can do so only if
it remains in the
vine. In the same
way you cannot
bear fruit unless
you remain in me.
**I am the vine,
and you are the
branches.**

Those who remain
in me, and I in
them, will bear
much fruit; for you
can do nothing
without me."

John 15
verses 1-2,4-5

Qcr11



THE POWER OF GOD'S LOVE

A bridge needed to be built across a large, busy river so divers were sent to explore the river bed. The divers discovered a wreck of a large old sailing ship buried in the deep mud just where one of the bridge's main piers needed to be built. They used ropes and powerful tugs, but no matter what they did, the wreck would not budge.

Then an engineer had an idea: the river rises and falls with the tide twice a day so why not use the power of the whole ocean to lift the wreck? At low tide ropes were fastened to lots of barges and then they waited. As the barges rose on the ingoing tide so the ropes tightened and pulled. And slowly, the wreck was eased out of the mud. Nothing could resist the power of the rising water.

And so it is with the love of God. Nothing can resist its power or stand against it. When we would give up and say 'it is impossible', God's love is bigger than any ocean and He changes what we believe is unchangeable.

WHAT WATER?

The answers to this Bible quiz are all to do with water...

1. The river where John the Baptist baptised Jesus? (Matthew, chapter 3)
2. The mountain where the Ark landed after the Flood? (Genesis, chapter 8)
3. Where Jesus walked on the water? (John, chapter 6)
4. Who lived by the Cherith Brook and was fed by a raven? (1 Kings 17)
5. Jonah set out from this port. (Jonah, chapter 1)
6. The river where Moses was found in a basket. (Exodus, chapter 2)
7. The island where Paul was shipwrecked. (Acts, chapter 28)



If a whale mummy had a son and a daughter, what relation would they be?
Blubber and sister.



What jungle animal shouldn't get wet?
A rhinocerust.



Answers: 1.Jordan 2.Ararat 3.Sea of Galilee 4.Elijah 5.Joppa 6.Nile 7.Malta

Hallows' Eve', The Holy Evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.
For **31 All Hallows Eve**

Modern Halloween celebrations have their roots with the Celtic peoples of pre-Christian times.

In those long-ago days, on the last night of October, the Celts celebrated the Festival of Samhain, or 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. For there was a very dark side to all this: Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth, creating mischief. So the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.

Then the Romans arrived, and brought their Harvest Festival which honoured the Goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts. The two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived still later, it began to replace the Roman and Druid religions. 1 November - All Saints' Day - was dedicated to all Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died. It was called 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before became an evening of prayer and preparation and was called 'All many centuries, however, fear of the supernatural remained strong. During the Middle Ages, animal costumes and frightening masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits of darkness on Halloween. Magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck, and everybody believed that witches ride about on broomsticks. Fortune telling was popular, and predicting the future by the use of nuts and apples was so popular that Halloween is still sometimes known as Nutcrack Night or Snap-Apple Night.

Today, Christians have learned to turn to prayer instead of charms to overcome the powers of darkness. And the deeper, true meaning of All Hallows' Eve, should not be forgotten. As Christians, we all draw closer to Christ when we remember and give thanks for our loved ones and for others who have gone before us through the gates of death.

SUNDAY LUNCH 16th OCTOBER at 12.15 p.m.approx.

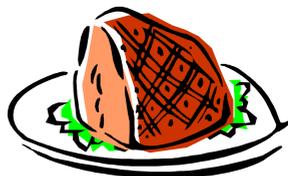
This is open to all members of the congregation and all family and friends. There is no set charge for the meal we just ask for donations for MHA. If you would like to make a pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very good – thank you.

The Menu

Starter: Soup or Pate

Main Course:

Chicken Breast in Gravy or BBQ Sauce,
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 Lunch!

Fareham Methodist Church Directory June 2011

Please note there is a small error in Keith Sargeant's e-mail address.

The Fire Works

MEN'S CONFERENCE IN HAMPSHIRE

Saturday 5th November 2011

SEMINARS: Unpacking the code

More than Gold

Testimonies from real blokes

VENUE Holy Rood Church Gosport Road Stubbington PO14 2AS

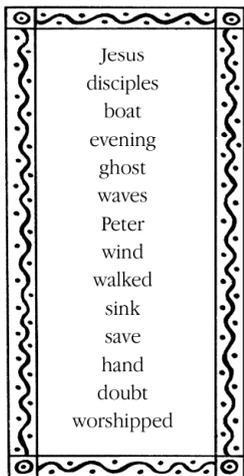
TIME 9.15am—4.00pm

COST £15.00 (with a hog roast)

For more information and booking details please see the poster in the corridor or www.bigbang.org.uk

Trusting

You'll find the story of Peter walking on the water in Matthew 14:22-33. Read the story and then find all the words from the story in the wordsearch.



T	A	O	B	T	R	D	E	K	L	A	W
B	E	S	T	W	J	I	V	N	T	U	E
U	L	O	I	R	E	D	A	W	I	T	D
O	H	N	A	L	S	L	S	Y	O	E	U
D	D	R	H	E	U	A	R	T	P	A	N
D	N	L	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S
E	A	A	N	N	O	T	I	O	N	V	Y
O	H	U	R	G	O	H	W	N	U	E	N
D	E	R	H	S	S	T	A	S	I	N	K
N	D	O	I	R	N	G	P	R	O	I	U
E	S	R	O	B	S	C	W	H	A	N	P
T	T	W	E	R	T	U	A	R	E	G	E
W	E	T	V	E	R	S	V	E	F	T	V
R	F	S	E	M	E	R	E	T	E	P	M
S	O	R	O	R	Y	V	S	E	R	S	E

Try to imagine what it would be like to be Peter.

How do you think you would feel? _____

Would you trust Jesus as much as Peter did? _____

Who do you trust most? _____

Who do you think trusts you most? _____

What does it mean to trust in God? _____

The Perfect Minister

When looking for a new minister, it may be helpful to bear the following in mind:

The Perfect Minister preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin roundly, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and is also the church handyman.

The Perfect Minister lives on a very small salary, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates £30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old and has 40 years' worth of experience. Above all, he is handsome.

The Perfect Minister has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church. He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The Perfect Minister always has time for church meetings and all of its committees, never missing the meeting of any church organization. And he is always busy evangelizing the unchurched. He also spends hours preparing couples for their weddings, hours preparing parents for their baby's baptism, and hours visiting the bereaved. But his life is dedicated to solitude, prayer and meditation.

The Perfect Minister is always in the next town over! So if you think that our minister does not measure up, it has been suggested that we simply send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their minister. The idea is that we bundle up our minister and send him to the church at the top of our list. If everyone cooperates, in one week we will receive 1,643 new ministers. One of them should be perfect. less than three months.

Have faith in this plan. One church broke the chain and got its old minister back in less than three months.

A Sharing Opportunity from our cruise to the Norwegian Fjords

On our cruise to Norway in July, Mike and I attended a Church Service on the ship on the Sunday morning, while we were still in the North Sea. One of the readings was The Seafarer's Version of The 23rd Psalm. At the September Sunday 2 service I shared this during SO (Sharing Opportunity). It was of particular relevance as the theme was Journeys. It has been suggested that others who were not present may like to read it:

The Seafarer's version of The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift.

He lighteth me across dark waters.

He steereth me in deep channels. He keepeth my log.

He guideth me by the star of holiness for His name's sake.

Yea, even midst the thunders and tempests of life,

I dread no danger; for Thou art with me,

Thy love and Thy care, they shelter me.

Thou preparest a harbour before me in the homeland of Eternity.

Thou anointest the waves with oil – my ship rides calmly.

Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage I take,

*And I will rest in the port of my God forever. **Amen***

DEPRESSION: what can the local church offer people who suffer from it?

Church can be a challenge when you are depressed. This is partly just a function of the fact that it usually involves being amongst a group of people in a public setting, when you'd feel more comfortable under your duvet on your own. The chirpy tone of many services contrasts sharply with your inner chaos and despair.

It is hard to show up week after week showing no improvement, hard to engage with God when you feel abandoned, hard to deal with people who imply that all you need to do to get better is repent of the dreadful sins you must be committing.

But the church has incredible potential to be a place of healing, acceptance and practical support for the broken. It is a family, a group of people who are so interdependent that Paul refers to it as a body (Ephesians 4). What

can be done to help your church be a safe place for the depressed people who belong to it? Some suggestions:

Allow your leaders to be real, vulnerable and honest, and encourage them to lead in such a way as to foster a church culture which is comfortable with brokenness and hurt as well as victory and joy.

Educate yourselves about depression, its causes, symptoms and treatments. Perhaps run a training day for your pastoral team, or plan a sermon series around depressed Biblical characters (there are more of them than you'd think).

Think about practical ways that the church family can rally around and help people with depression and their families, tangibly showing them the faithful love of God by cooking, cleaning or organising regular visits.

Combat the stigma and shame around depression, and determine that your church will be somewhere that depressed people won't be judged.

As depressed people we have our part to play too. We need to keep showing up, if at all possible. We need to allow our family to care for us and not shut them out. We need to forgive well-intentioned but insensitive church members who say the wrong thing and make us feel worse. And when we climb out the other side, we can use our inside knowledge to comfort and walk alongside those who are still deep in the pit.

Jo Swinney is a writer married to a clergyman. Visit her at: www.joswinney.com

Dates for your Diary

OCTOBER

4 th	Faith and Worship – Unit 17A at Fareham Manse	19.30
7 th	Monthly Lunch -	13.00
8 th	Harvest Festival Decoration and Supper	16.00
9 th	Harvest Festival Service	10.30
12 th	Wednesday Fellowship – Wickham Room	14.00
16 th	Sunday Lunch	approx 12.15
18 th	Fareham Church Council Meeting	19.30
21 st	Meeting re Messy Church – Welcome Area	12.00
25 th	Faith and Worship – Unit 17b at Joan Padley's	19.30
26 th	Wednesday Fellowship – Wickham Room	14.00
27 th	Christian Aid Event – URC	19.30

DOOR STEWARDS

October

2 nd	10.30	Gwen and Harvey Brosgall
9 th	10.30	Meg and Nigel Cox
16 th	10.30	Garry Bagshaw and Vic Collins
23 rd	10.30	Sheila and Graham Dyer
	18.00	Eric Wheeler
30 th	10.30	Shirley and Keith Sargeant

November

6 th	10.30	Bobby and Patrick Watson, Mary Bailey
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FLOWER ROTA

October	2nd	Bob and Margaret Temple
	9th	Christine Hillam
	16th	Garry Bagshaw
	23rd	Wedding
	30th	Margaret and Cyril Fielder

November	6th	Janice Collins
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REFRESHMENT ROTA

October

2 nd	Rosemarie Jackson and Judy Bramhall
9 th	Sheila Dyer, Margaret Boyd and Sarah Brooks
16 th	Margaret Temple, Sally Bland and Brenda Bennett
23 rd	Cath Stevenson and Vic Collins
30 th	Pat Crocker and Shirley De'Ath

November

6 th	Liz Haigh and Liz Avison
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All items for the November Magazine should be placed in the box in the Welcome Area or handed to the editor – Jill Groom – by FRIDAY 28th October please.