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**Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine**

May



2014

'Behold the lilies
of the field...'



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Circuit website: www.esanddcircuit.org.uk

SERVICES DURING MAY

4th	10.30	Rev Claire Simpson	Family Holy Communion
11th	10.30	Jean Hooper	
18th	10.30	Rev Claire Simpson	Church Anniversary (All age)
25th	10.30	Shirley Haynes	
	18.00	Rev Claire Simpson	Iona Holy Communion

SERVICES DURING JUNE

2nd 10.30	Holy Communion
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LOCAL PREACHERS' & TEAM APPOINTMENTS

4th May	Andrew Wilcock at Stubbington
25th May	Fareham Team at Gosport

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

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter! It is not too late to wish everyone that. The season of Easter is 50 days and as it happens this year, all of the month of May falls within this season. So that should encourage us to contemplate the meaning of Easter and the risen Christ for us and for the world in which we live.

I love the post-resurrection stories at the end of the gospels because they give us a variety of ways in which the risen Christ is recognised and they show us so much about what the risen Christ is about. For me, the most tantalising of these stories is how the risen Jesus meets Peter at the seashore and ‘reinstates’ him. Peter, along with six other disciples have gone back to doing what they know best – fishing. They had left their nets to follow Christ and yet now, to them, it appears that their hope in Jesus has not been fulfilled. But then Jesus appears on the seashore and after a night of catching nothing at sea, he shouts to them to put their nets over the ‘other side’. Then (in short) they catch lots of fish, recognise the Lord and enjoy breakfast with him on the seashore. It is there that Jesus has this lovely conversation with Peter. Peter - having denied Jesus three times - covers his denials with a threefold affirmation of love and Jesus says ‘feed my sheep’ and ‘follow me’.

It is a common denominator in all of the resurrection and post-resurrection stories that no sooner have those present encountered Christ than they are called and compelled to go and testify to what they have seen and experienced. For some that was more of a challenge than others but the call to go is there nevertheless. And that same challenge applies to us too. So what ‘other side’ is God calling you to experience? Who is he calling you to ‘go to’ and ‘feed’?

Remember, we are never alone, for as we follow the risen Christ He is always there before us, encouraging us and walking with us on our journeys of faith. With love,
Claire



CHURCH NEWS

CHURCH MEMBERS' CAR LIST

Have you changed your car lately?
If you have and you use the
Masons' Car Park in Queens Road, please
give the details to one of our Church
Stewards. They will need the drivers name/
the car's make, the colour, and the registra-
tion number. Please also make sure you tell
the Stewards about any car that needs to be
removed from our Car List.



Patrick Watson

FLOWER MINISTRY

Eric and Shirley Grant, Marion Bright and Colin
and Edith have sent grateful thanks for receiving
church flowers as have Rita and Gordon Jackson on
the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary and
Lilwen Wattkins on her Birthday.



Vestry Jottings – May 2014:

Maggie Wheeler will be taking on the role of Contact Steward from Jean Petter from 1 May 2014. The other Stewards are Jean Petter, Ian Bagshaw and Andrew Wilcock.

Our thanks go to Jenny Chalmers for her service as a Church Steward over the last two years. Jenny is standing down but is included in the rota for May. Her last duty will be on 25 May.

On 18 May it will be our Church Anniversary, celebrating 75 years in the current building. In conjunction with this there will be a display in the church from 9 May until 24 May, organised by Andrew Wilcock and Mark Brooks. If anyone has any items or material from the early days in the 75 year period, they would still be pleased to receive it.

Notes from a Student Minister's desk!:

As I sit here pondering over what I need to write in my seventh essay of the term I find myself all too easily distracted by other things. So I have decided to be productive instead and update you with how things are going. My course at Queens Theological Foundation in Birmingham is 2 years long, so I am now 2 terms into it with 4 terms left to go. It has been a very positive and challenging experience. It has made me really think through my faith and introduced me to people from a wide range of Christian experiences. I am extremely relieved to say that I have passed all my assignments so far.



Although I am enjoying the theological study I have to say that it is the practical aspect of ministry that I am gaining most pleasure from. I would like to thank the Rev Claire Simpson for agreeing to be my link minister and allowing me to shadow her on Friday mornings. I would also like to thank you, the congregation at Fareham, for allowing me to shadow Claire on visits and in services. It is through these opportunities that I feel I am learning the most about being a minister.

During June and July I have a 5 week placement where I will be shadowing a minister fulltime. I am going to be doing this aspect of my course at the Methodist Church in Chichester. So don't be surprised to find me missing for several weeks. I will be back!

With Every Blessing

Penny Thorne

The Easter Sunday Service was in Samuel's own words "one of the best services I have ever been to." I would like to add that; it deepened our understanding of the emotional meaning of the events of Holy Week and increased our ability to relate to the symbols such as the egg. Sincere thanks to all who contributed to the 'child friendly' and celebratory nature of what was definitely All Age Worship. Also the displays still left up were appreciated by the Parent and Toddler Group.

Linda Brooks

FORTHCOMING CHURCH EVENTS

East Fareham Housegroup

Here are our dates for the next quarter. May and June are 2nd weeks rather than third because of holidays.

14 May chapter 7 of Journeying with Matthew

11 June Celebrating Pentecost

16 July chapter 8 of Journeying with Matthew

No meeting in August

All meetings at my home

Joan Padley

Badminton-T.Tennis-T.Football-Pool

Change of Dates

In future we shall meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month.

The next three meetings will take place on the **23rd May, 13th & 27th June. 18.00 –20.00**

Mark Brooks



There will be a **Healing Group** meeting on **Wednesday 4th June at**

Mini-Market every Monday 9.30 to 11.45 am
(Not Bank Holidays)

Coffee Centre every Thursday 9.30 to 11.45 am

10am at Joan and Jeff Padley's home. ⁶

Rita Jackson



Wednesday, 14th May 2014

Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road, Fareham PO16 0NU

God's power to change.

4.00 – 6.00pm

**Everyone is welcome to join us for games, craft, worship
and a meal.**



See us on Facebook.

NO MONEY REQUIRED!!!

Just your old Bras



Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance are in need of support (!?!). They have been operating for five years but are in need of vital funds to keep the Air Ambulance Service flying and saving lives. The fund raising drive during May is to raise awareness of the Air Ambulance service and its recycling campaign.

They wish to hold a “Bag a Bra” day on **Thursday 22nd May 2014**. These bras will be collected by Bag it Up, the charity’s recycling partner, and they will be shipped to West Africa for resale at affordable prices by registered local street traders. Being able to wear a bra gives women in Africa status and helps to improve their self esteem; two very emotive reasons for donating an unwanted bra or two. So please have a spring clean and see if you have any bras you could donate. The recycling of textiles is the second largest single source of income for Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance and all monies raised will help to keep the Air Ambulance flying .

A pink plastic bag will be available in the Welcome Area beneath a poster during May for you to donate any bras you no longer require. Any queries please contact me

Bobby Watson

How many members are there in the Methodist Church?

At the last count in 2013 the British Methodist Church had 208,679 members. There are over 800,000 people in Britain who have

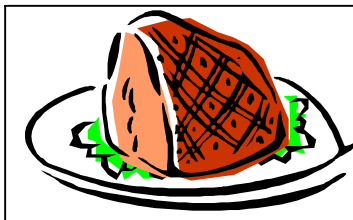
JUBILEE SUNDAY LUNCH 18th May at 12.15 p.m.approx.

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 Christian Aid this month. 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: Vegetable Soup or Prawn Cocktail

Main Course: Roast Beef or Baked Gammon, Roast Potatoes and a 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!



There is still time to get your tickets from Garry, or Brenda for the Singing Group Concert and Supper: **75 Years of Song** which will be held in the church on Friday 9th May at 19.00. Proceeds will go to the Fareham Stroke Club.

**Christian Aid
2014**



Week 11th-17th May

More help is needed to man the stall in Fareham Shopping Centre from 10.00– 16.00 Monday 12th to Friday 16th May and also with the House to House collections. If you are able to help with either of these activities please contact Linda Foster.

Christian Aid has an aim - an end to poverty - and we believe that vision can become a reality. Poverty robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives.

Christian Aid is an agency of the churches in Britain and Ireland that works around the world with those in need.

We work with anyone who needs help, regardless of faith or nationality. *Extract from the Christian Aid website*

Supporting young people with exam stress



As the exam period looms large, for young people facing GCSEs, A-Levels and other exams, this can be a very stressful and difficult time.

The Methodist Church hopes to ease some of this pain by offering advice for young people facing exams as well as guidance for youth leaders.

The [free guide](http://www.methodist.org.uk) includes revision tips, advice on handling exam stress and youth group activities for exam time.. www.methodist.org.uk

CIRCUIT INFORMATION



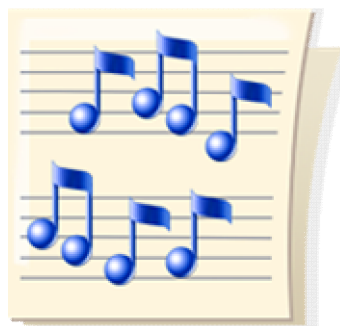
AN EVENING OF MUSIC
AT PETERSFIELD METHODIST CHURCH
ON SATURDAY 10TH MAY
STARTING AT 7.00PM

Performed by: Timothy Peake—Piano
Niko Peake—Violin, Sarah Craven—Flute
Justin Luke—Organ and Martin Elsey—Trumpet

Tickets £5
Available from One Tree Bookshop
Also at the door

All proceeds will go to Action for Children

Actionforchildren.org.uk



It was a Palm Sunday never to be forgotten. The atmosphere, the weather, the crowds, as I ran the London marathon were fantastic. Never have I felt supported by so many people most of whom were complete strangers. One guy shouted “come on Malcolm get those legs moving, you can still win this” as I plodded on at a very slow pace. Amazingly, I was in the same race as Mo Farah. He didn’t win either but he was still just a little bit in front of me – just a little bit! For a little way I followed someone who was dressed as a telephone and running for the Samaritans. It occurred to me that if I needed help he was a good person to follow!! Then, on another occasion, I looked up and saw the public entrance to a mortuary. Was somebody trying to tell me something? However, I have to say that the last few miles were pure, unadulterated agony. My feet had become very tender and it felt as though I was trying to run on eggs without breaking them. Suffice it to say that, somehow, I managed to keep putting one foot in front of the other till the finishing line. What a huge physical and emotional relief!

Many, many thanks for all your support, prayers and best wishes which all helped to keep me going. Jelly babies helped as well. At the time of writing you have managed to raise £2,500 for ‘help the hospices’. Many, many thanks. The total is still rising.

On arriving home I really needed a large crane to lift me out of the car and going up the stairs felt as though I had an elephant in each pocket. Never did a long hot bath seem more soothing. However, after a good night’s sleep I actually managed to get out of bed without any help although it did take a few minutes. After two or three days my body returned to a more normal state and I’m now back to light jogging. Although it was an amazing experience it isn’t

something I would want to do again. This was my first and last marathon. My time isn’t really important. It was a personal best. What more can you say?

Again, many thanks for all your support. It was very much appreciated.

Malcolm





QUIZ AID

THIS WILL BE THE SEVENTH QUIZ AID HELD FOR
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK EVERYONE IS WELCOME,
GET A TEAM TOGETHER OR COME
ALONG ON YOUR OWN TO

BRIDGEMARY METHODIST CHURCH

FRIDAY MAY 9th at 6pm

REFRESHMENTS, RAFFLE AND LOTS OF FUN

COST £3

CONTACT JEAN ON

02392 430657



TOPICS OF INTEREST

@LIFE

TQ TWENTY ONE LIFE STYLES

TQ twenty one Life Styles comes under the auspices of the **NHS**. It is an organisation set up to support Adults with Learning disabilities.

This group is generally based at the Wallington Community Centre which is where they provide a 3 course meal for the public twice a month on a Wednesday at 12.30pm for a charge of £4.50. They do require you to book a meal to help with the numbers for catering and the contact phone number is:

Geoff Knipe 07826309186

TQ twenty one Life Styles also have a group that offers a gardening service. They provide free labour and just ask for a contribution to cover the petrol for transport and any plants that you require. Both groups are thoroughly supervised at all times by experienced trainers.

The group is willing to travel to cover Portchester, Fareham, Wickham, Park Gate, Stubbington, Lee on Solent, or further afield if requested. Do consider if you would like some help in your garden and you would be providing a worthwhile learning experience for some who otherwise might never obtain employment.

As above **Mr Geoff Knipe** is the contact person.

Bobby Watson

Support for Pastor imprisoned in Iran

World leaders continue to take a strong stand for American Pastor Saeed Abedini - imprisoned in Iran for his Christian faith. The British Parliament has released a statement supporting Iran's recent talk of clemency. Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said there were 'various clemency measures' in Iran that can be introduced.

The UK's All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief said: "While we understand that such a decision rests with the judiciary in Iran, we are encouraged that a high-ranking minister is openly taking this position."

Parish Pump



MRDF have decided to have a change of name. They will now be known as “ALL WE CAN Methodist relief and development”. Their Mission statement is “All We Can helps people in some of the world’s poorest communities to become all that they can, by investing in partnerships that improve quality of life and create positive, long-term change for individuals, families and nations.”

All We Can traces its roots back to the 1940s, when Methodist Minister Henry Carter felt the church had a responsibility to respond to the post-war refugee crisis in Europe. He pioneered the Methodist Refugee Fund as a personal initiative to raise money and collect supplies to relieve hunger and improve conditions among refugees, particularly in Austria and Germany.

During the 1950s the remit expanded and the Fund became known as the Methodist Relief Fund. It supported the building of a Wesley Village in Hong Kong, a resettlement camp for refugees fleeing the civil war in China. It also increasingly provided practical relief in response to disasters including a hurricane in the West Indies, famine in India, a fire in Burma and the Hungarian uprising.

Continuing its work during the 1970s a new World Development Fund was launched alongside the Relief Fund to encourage education and political action to address some of the structural causes of poverty. In November 1980 MRF launched an appeal following an earthquake in Southern Italy asking for caravans for emergency accommodation and 250 volunteers spent Christmas driving them across Europe. *(Some of you will remember I think that this was the time that Mike Smith and Geoff Hillam responded with the donation of a caravan and made the long journey to Southern Italy towing the caravan).*

In 1985 the Relief Fund and World Development Fund were merged to become the Methodist Relief and Development Fund MRDF which we have known until the present time. MRDF have supported 38 partner organisations in 16 of the world’s poorest countries, with a focus on livelihoods, health and women’s empowerment. It continues to respond to emergencies, and resource campaigning and development education work in the UK, including its award-winning Iota course for small groups.

We as a church are supplied with information on many of the ongoing partnerships. Those of you who were present at our Harvest Festival Service would know that some of the resources used were provided by MRDF keeping local churches informed and raising awareness of the ongoing relief and development work. Your generous giving along with that of other Methodist Churches enables this work to continue and grow each decade. Keep looking at the rack in the welcome area where leaflets and information continues to be updated. Thank you for all your generous help.

www.allwecan.org.uk

The Editor

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN



JULIAN of NORWICH

Julian was a woman who lived in Norwich, and in 1373, on the 13th May, she had a series of visions of Jesus that were so important to her that she spent the next 20 years learning to read and write so that she could share these visions with others. Imagine the hard work and trouble that must have caused because it was very rare for any woman to read and write at that time, let alone an unimportant countrywoman. Julian lived most of her life in a small room that joined onto one wall of St Julian's Church in Norwich. And you can actually visit the room (it was bombed during the Second World War but rebuilt).

Dame Julian wrote about the love of God and you can still read her book 'The Revelations of Divine Love' today. The book ends with the words "before God made us, he loved us". Before we were born, God chose us for the work we are to do. And as we know, God doesn't make mistakes. He chose you and me, and he loves us. What a wonderful promise!

NOR - PUZZLE

All the answers start with the letters NOR. Answers at the bottom of the page.

What NOR is....

1. The language of the Vikings.
2. A compass point.
3. Three English counties.
4. A country.
5. A man's name and a style of church building.
6. The town where Julian lived.
7. It's not unusual.

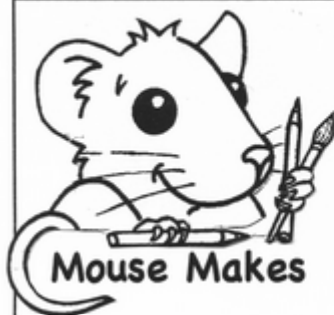
What do you get if you cross a Viking and a detective?
Inspector Norse.



What do Eric the Red and Winnie the Pooh have in common?

They have the same middle name.

Answers: 1. Norse 2. North
3. Northumberland, Norfolk and Northamptonshire 4. Norway
5. Norman 6. Norwich 7. normal



THE ASCENSION

Forty days after his resurrection JESUS led his disciples out to Bethany and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. As he blessed them he was taken up into heaven.

"Christ Jesus is the one who died for us and was raised to life again for us and is sitting in the place of highest honour next to God, pleading for us there in heaven" Romans 8:34

"For there is only one God and there is only one way that people can reach God. That way is through Christ Jesus"
1 Timothy 2:5



THE LORD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS



Write your prayers to GOD in the prayer hands above knowing that JESUS is in heaven at God's right hand speaking to God for us



May14 @deborahnoble @parishpump.co.uk

Diary Dates for May

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28 9.30 M.Market	29 9.45 Parent & Toddlers 10.00 W Fareham H.Group	30 19.00 Guides 19.30 Church council	1 09.30 Coffee am 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	2 13.00 Lunch	3
5 B.Hol.	6 Parent & Toddlers	7 19.30 Outreach Meet Guides	8 Coffee am Brownies Singing	9 19.00 Spring concert/ supper	10 9.30 District Synod Brid/Dort
12 M.Market 17.30 CTiF Meet Hub	13 Parent & Toddlers	14 14.00 W. Fellow- ship walk 16.00 Messy Church 19,30 E Fareham H.group Guides	15 Coffee am 14.30 Ser- vice at Red House Brownies	16	17 9.30 Safeguard- ing train- ing Drayton
19 M.Market	20 Parent & Toddlers 10.00 Tues am H Group	21 Guides	22 Coffee am Brownies	23 18.00 Family Badminton	24
26 B.Hol	27 10.00 W Fare- ham H Group	28	29 Coffee am	30	31

The following affirmation of faith was included in the Good Friday service in the precinct and spoken by all:

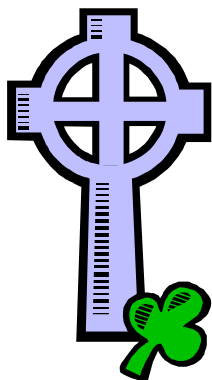
**We believe in God,
who made the sun and the sky, the stars and the sea,
who calls us to live responsibly.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
who became human, who healed the sick
who talked to children, who made friends with sinners.**

**He burned brightly and offended many,
His journey was one of life and death and resurrection.
His light continues to shine in darkness.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who inspire the scriptures, and whose breath we breathe.**

**We believe that God calls us to be a community,
committed to one another,
Offering a welcome to everyone
old and young, rich and poor, strong and weak.**



**We believe that God calls us to be peace-
makers
workers of justice, brothers and sisters
A light for our world. Amen.**

*Written by two 14 year old boys at a
WorshipWorkshop on Iona.
From Eggs and Ashes; ed. Ruth Burgess
and Chris Polhill*

The diary dates as provided on previous page are presented in the same format as the church website. They are as accurate as the information held at the time of going to press but should only be used as a guide which can be updated with in-

DOOR STEWARDS

MAY

4th	10.30	Keith and Shirley Sargeant
11th	10.30	Bob and Margaret Temple
18th	10.30	Rosemarie and Tony Jackson
25th	10.30	Linda and Kevin Foster
	18.00	Eric Wheeler

JUNE

1st	10.30	Bessie and Daniel Taabu
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FLOWER ROTA

MAY

4th	Flower Fund
11th	Irene Russell
18th	Pam Mullins
25th	Lynda Haydon-Jones

JUNE

1st	Marion Bright
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REFRESHMENT ROTA

MAY

4th	Rosemarie Jackson and Margaret Boyd
11th	Sheila Dyer Sarah Brooks and Meg Cox
18th	Margaret Temple Sally Bland and Brenda Bennett
25th	Cath Stevenson Janice Collins and Judith Bramall

JUNE

1st	Pat Croker and Mary Bailey
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PRESS DATE

All items for the **JUNE 2014** Focus should be emailed to ruthelvery@yahoo.co.uk or if this is not possible placed in the box in the Welcome Area by **Thursday, 22nd MAY 2014 please.**