

FAREHAM

O C U



A Child is born

**Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine**

DECEMBER 2014 AND JANUARY 2015

Registered Charity No. 1127814

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SERVICES DURING DECEMBER

7th	10.30am	Rev Claire Simpson	Holy Communion Advent 2
14th	10.30am	Andrew Wilcock	Advent 3 Nativity
18th	14.30	Jill Race	Red House
21st	10..30am	Rev Gillian Slaymaker	Advent 4
	18.00	Rev Claire Simpson	Carol Service
23rd	15.00	Rev Claire Simpson	Christingle
24th	23.15	Rev Claire Simpson	Holy Communion
25th	10.30am	Rev Claire Simpson	URC to join us
28th	10.30am	David Bloomfield	

JANUARY

4th	10.30am	Rev Grimshaw	Holy Communion
11th	10.30am	Rev Claire Simpson	
18th	10.30am	Fareham Team	All age
25th	10.30am	Penny Thorne	
	18.00	Rev Malcolm Groom	Iona Holy Communion

FEBRUARY

1st	10.30am	Rev Claire Simpson	Holy Communion
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LOCAL PREACHERS' & TEAM APPOINTMENTS

28th Dec	10.00am	Andrew Wilcock	Drayton
4th Jan	10.30am	Tracy Cooper	Portchester
11th Jan	10.30am	Andrew Wilcock	Eastney
25th Jan	10.15am	Tracy Cooper	Stubbington

Dear friends,

I have a bit of a love-hate relationship with the Christmas song ‘Oh, I wish it could be Christmas every day’ by Wizzard. It features on every Christmas compilation CD that has ever been produced and whilst it is a good tune and has a ‘feel-good’ factor about it I’m not sure that I agree with all the sentiments of the song.

Christmas is a special time of year that needs preparation if we are to take it seriously. If Christmas was ‘every day’ then the need to wait and prepare in the season of Advent for the coming of the Christ Child would be done away with and this would be to the detriment of our spiritual life and experience. Waiting on God in hopeful expectation is an important part of our Christian journey.

But then there is another aspect of the ‘Wizzard’ song that does ring true for me in the sense that the truth of Christmas is for ‘every day’. We don’t pack (or we shouldn’t) the Christ Child away again with all the Christmas fripperies once the New Year begins. The gift of Jesus is for all people, for all time and He is with us every day in the most uplifting moments of our human experience and in the frailest and hurting times too. So, Christmas is for ‘every day’ in that sense, and once we get past the Christmas season, the work of understanding and growing in that truth really begins, for us individually, and for the community that we are called to serve.

May God richly bless you



CHURCH NEWS

FLOWER MINISTRY

Thank you for the church flowers when Gordon came home from hospital
Rita Jackson

Edith and Colin also say thank you for the flowers, as does Mavis Parish who was particularly pleased with a visit from Marian.

Shirley and Keith Sargeant would like to thank everyone for their support, flowers and prayers during our difficult time over the last 6 weeks. We very much appreciate it and glad to say progress seems to be taking place. Some may not be aware of our new address which is 14 Faregrove Court, Grove Rd., Fareham, PO16 7AS.

Our Flower Ministry.:

Firstly, we add our thanks to those expressed in the last Focus, to people who provide flowers each Sunday, and those volunteers who take them to friends afterwards

Our new diary(2015) is ready and displayed in the corridor, so that you can choose a Sunday when you would like to provide flowers for next year.

We appreciate it, if you can arrange your flowers beforehand (key can be available), but if this is not practicable we have a few volunteers who will do them for you.

We are always pleased to hear from new folk prepared to provide flowers, arrange flowers for other people, or deliver flowers after a Sunday service.

Do speak to me or Irene Russell if you can help in this area of church ministry.



Mary Bailey.

Ruth and Antony Hollinghurst extend Christmas greetings to all friends at Church. Instead of sending individual cards, they are making a donation to the

Kevin and Linda Foster send everyone Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year. We are sending a donation to Action for Children this year.



A HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



I would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I shall be donating to the Macula Society in lieu of cards. Brenda Bennett

Ruth and Tony wish you all A very Happy Christmas.. We have given a donation to Action for Children.

Meg and Nigel wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. As usual we will be giving a donation to charity instead of

Joan Law sends Seasons Greetings to all and to let you know that she will be sending to the St John's Ambulance

To all our friends at Fareham. Thank you for your prayerful support over the last twelve months. This year we are sending a donation to Save the Children in lieu of Christmas Cards. A Happy Christmas to you

Janice and Vic would like to wish our Church Family a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year we will be making a donation this year to the Rowan's Hospice.

Maragaret and Bob wish everyone a Happy Christmas. They are making a donation to Action for Children this year

Lilwen Watkins wishes everyone a Happy Christmas. She is making a donation to Action for

Christmas greetings from The North of England. We are looking forward to spending our first Christmas at home in Northumberland for many many years. We are not anticipating a white one, although it could be a little chilly outside, but a walk along the beach will be on the agenda. As we celebrate here, we will remember everyone in Fareham, and wish you all a Happy Christmas.

Thank you to the people who have been in touch since we left. It is good to hear how you are doing & the kettle is always on for a cup of Ringtons tea (ask Brenda!) Peter & Brenda.

VESTRY JOTTINGS

It was decided at the last Church Council that the annual church meeting in 2015 will be after the service on Sunday March 1st. Ian Bagshaw will be ending his period as a steward at this meeting and so we will be looking for replacements. If you would like to join the team please let us know, or if you want more information please ask. We would love you to consider helping in this work.

With Christmas fast approaching the stewards have decided the retiring collection at the Carol Service and the Christmas Eve Service will go to the Disasters Emergency Fund supporting the Ebola crisis, and the retiring collection at the Christmas Day service, for Action for Children.

On behalf of the team I would like to wish you all a peaceful festive season.

Maggie

On behalf of the stewarding team.

It was lovely to hear from the Brownies during morning worship on the 16th Nov., how they have been celebrating a “100 years of Brownies”. A very big thank you must go to Alison Humby, for the work and enthusiasm she brings, to make the activities so fresh and exciting for the 5th Fareham Brownies, who meet at the Fareham Methodist Church. Well done

Lynda Young

PRESS DATE

All items for the **FEBRUARY 2015** Focus should be emailed to ruthelvery@yahoo.co.uk or if this is not possible placed in the box in the Welcome Area by **Thurs. 22nd Jan. 2015 please.**

DRIVERS BEWARE: As some members of our congregation have been issued with parking tickets while parking alongside a dropped kerb. There are at least two in the streets around the church, one opposite. Take care where you park even on a Sunday or evening.

Maggie

FLOWER ROTA

DECEMBER

- 7th Irene Russell
- 14th Flower fund
- 21st Maggie Allingham and Bill Batchelor
- 28th Christmas flowers

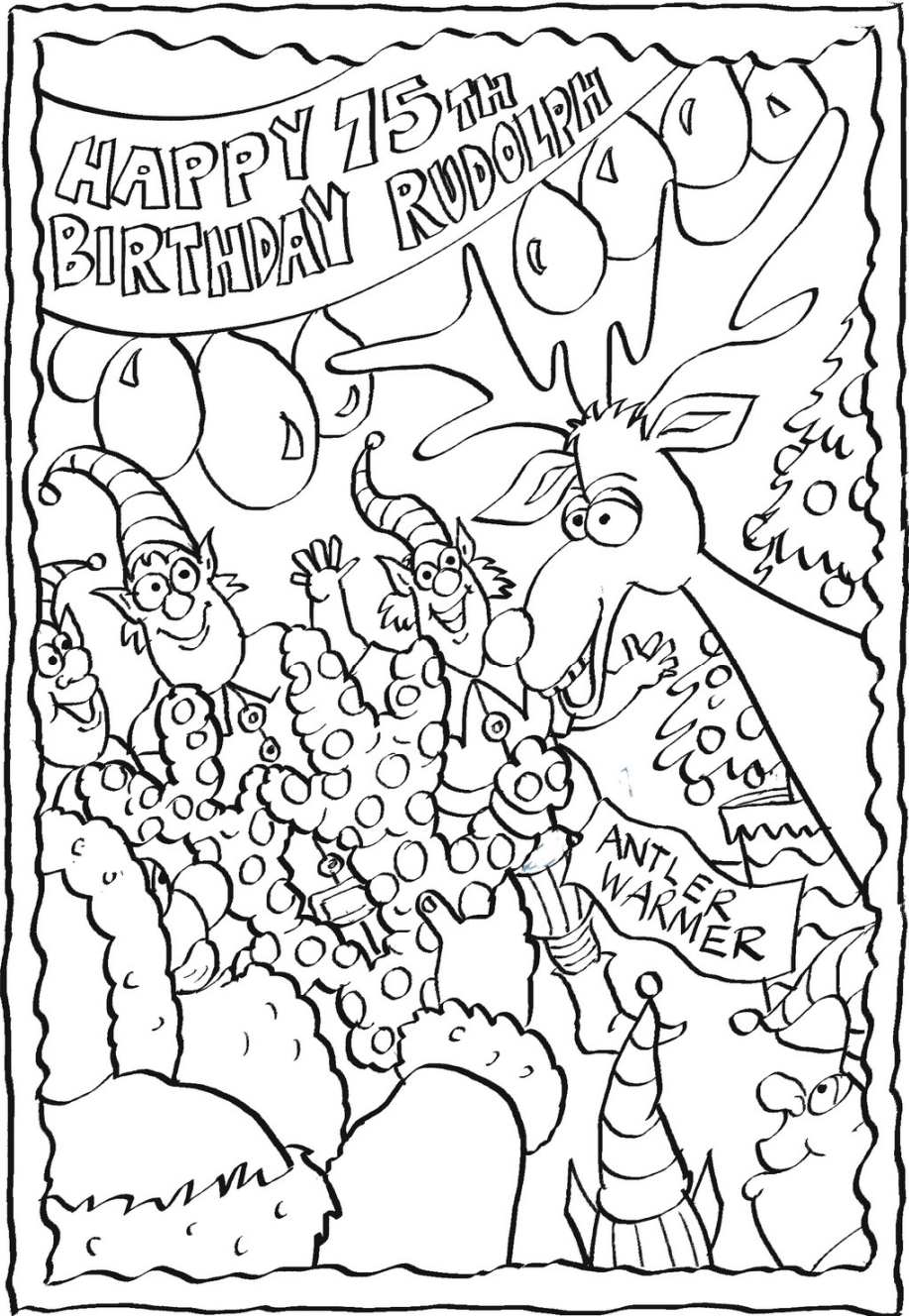
JANUARY 4th Tony Emberson

Sainsburys Active Kids vouchers are starting again In January 2015 so please collect them for us. The equipment benefits Brownies, Toddlers, Messy Church and Junior Church.
Thank you for all your support.

Alison Humby
5th Fareham Brownies

Cinderella at Titchfield Festival Theatre on Saturday, 20th December. Junior Church and Brownies are going to the pantomime. All children in Junior Church are paid for out of church funds. The cost for adults and other children is £5. The performance starts at 2.30pm so you would need to be there by 2.10pm and it finishes around 4.45pm. There is an interval to buy ice creams and sweets! A fluffy blanket is a good idea as the theatre can be a little cold in the winter.
If you would like to go, can you give me names as soon as possible so I may book the tickets?

Alison Humby





Trinity Pre School Christmas Fayre

Saturday 13th December

10.00 am - 12.00pm

A variety of stalls, games, crafts, face paint-

David and Catherine Stevenson and family send Christmas Greetings to all our Church friends and will be sending a donation to Action for Children. If anybody else wants to send a donation in this way give me the money and I will send it all off together.

Cath



If any little people of up to 10 years of age would like to colour the picture on Page 8 and return it to the editor by posting it in the letter box at church, which is by the small kitchen in the welcome area (by Christmas Day) then there will be a small prize for the most colourful entry. Please write your name and telephone number on the top.

FORTHCOMING CHURCH EVENTS



Wednesday, 10th December 2014
Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road, Fare-
ham PO16 0NU
Powerlessness at Christmas
4.00pm – 6.00pm



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

HEALING GROUP

The next healing group is on Wednesday January 7th at 10am at the home
of Joan and Jeff Padley.

Rita Jackson

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY LUNCH 14th December at 12.15 p.m.approx.

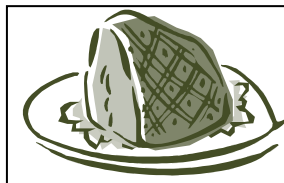
This is open to all members of the congregation and all family and friends. There is no set charge for the meal we just ask for donations to MHA. If you would like to make a festive pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very good – thank you.

The Menu

Starter: Soup or Melon

Main Course: Roast turkey, sausages, 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!

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

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

Our meetings commence at 2.00pm in the Wickham room unless otherwise stated. Tea is available from 1.45pm.

10th December Christmas Service in the Worship Area at 2.00pm followed by Tea and mince pies in the Wickham Room

2015
14th January Personal Memories

28th January "Who do you think we are!" Alan & Janet Sargent

Shirley Henderson

An Extract from “The other side of the Dale” by Gervase Phinn

Gervase Phinn is a former teacher and school inspector and writes about his experiences visiting children in the Yorkshire Dales.

On visiting a small Roman Catholic Primary School he was asked to narrate the Christmas story to the infant children and this was the result:

“It was cold and dark that December night many, many, many years ago, and on the hillside, where the icy winds whistled through the dark trees –

‘I can whistle,’ said Dominic puckering up his lips.

‘And the grass was frosted, and stiff with cold-‘

‘Do you want to hear me whistle?’

‘Not now, I don’t, I said, perhaps later.’ I continued with the story.

‘Matthew, the little shepherd boy, huddled in a dry hollow with his sheep to keep warm. The cold winter wind blew about his ears, and high above him the dark sky was studded with millions of tiny silver stars –“

‘Miss Stirling gives you a star if you do good work,’ said Dominic.

‘It wasn’t that sort of star,’ I said. ‘These were like tiny diamonds sparkling in the darkness. This was the night that a very special baby was to be born.’

‘Jesus’

‘That’s right, it was Jesus.’

I’ve heard this story already!’ exclaimed Dominic. ‘I know what happens.’

‘We all know what happens, Dominic,’ I responded, ‘and we are going to hear what happens again.’

‘Why?’

‘Because we are.’

‘Now very soon a very special baby would be born and his name, as Dominic has already told us, would be Jesus.’

‘Was he induced?’

‘No he wasn’t induced.’

‘I was induced.’

‘Well, baby Jesus wasn’t induced.’

‘How do you know?’

‘Well, I know because it was a long, long time ago and they didn’t induce babies then.’

‘Why?’

‘Just listen to the story, Dominic, and then we will all find out what happens.’

‘But I know what happens,’ he replied.

At this point, a little girl with long blonde plaits and an angelic face, raised her hand.

‘What does seduced mean?’

Oh dear', I sighed wearily, - 'I will tell you another time – when you are older.

Now let's get on with the story. And then amidst the tiny diamonds that sprinkled the dark sky there appeared a great shining star, a star that sparkled and gleamed with such a wondrous brilliant light that-

'How much did he weigh?' asked Dominic

'Who?'

The baby Jesus?'

'I've not got to the baby Jesus yet.'

'I was an eight-pounder. My grannie said I was like a plucked turkey when-

'Dominic!' I said very quietly and slowly. 'Now just listen to the story. You are spoiling it for all the other children.'

'I know how this story ends,' He replied undaunted.

Then why don't you come out here and tell us all Dominic,' I said, throwing in the towel.

And so he did – Like a seasoned actor taking centre stage –

'Once upon a time there was a man called Joseph and a lady called Mary and they were friends and they played games together and they had fun.

Then they had a wedding and after the wedding they went home and then they had some lunch and a drink and then they set off for Bethlem on their honeymoon and they went on a donkey. When they got to Bethlem there was no room at the inn so they had to stay in a barn round the back and then Mary had a little baby and she called it Jesus and she put him in a manger

and all the animals were around him and the big star shone up in the sky and then the shepherds all came and then the three kings came and they all gave him presents because it was his birthday and baby Jesus had plenty of



Tuesday (Snug) Housegroup

Our next meeting will be on 9th December (note change of week). We are currently studying the York Courses Advent Course - Jesus, the Voice that makes us Turn.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us.

CIRCUIT NEWS

**MIDHURST METHODIST CHURCH
NORTH STREET**

OPEN DAY

**FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER
10AM TO 4PM**

To celebrate the completion of our refurbishment

Come and see the changes we have made.

Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and home-made cake.

Everyone Welcome

EXTRACT FROM THE OCTOBER CIRCUIT NEWSLETTER

The Circuit Leadership Team agreed at their recent meeting to review the workloads of the ministers and lay workers by recording activity for one month. The data will be analysed and used to plan effective use of all personnel across the Circuit. Another piece of work is starting on 'Reshaping for Mission'. Jeanette Richardson and Garry Bagshaw are seeking informal talks with church stewards to look at the mission currently going on across the Circuit. The aim is to share expertise within the Circuit and encourage and support new initiatives.

Training

Mavis Bowthorpe is waiting to hear from you if you have organised some training at your church or if you are a trainer. The CLT is trying to establish a list of suitable trainers which can be shared by everyone. Mavis may be contacted by emailmavis1169@btinternet.com or telephone 01489 581169. Also what training are you seeking for your church?

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Carol Singing on Christmas Eve At Queen Alexandra Hospital



Bring some much needed cheer and comfort to patients who will be in hospital over the Christmas period, to their anxious relatives and the hard-working staff who are caring for them.

On Christmas Eve, the Chaplaincy team leads four groups of carol singers around the hospital to each ward. We need plenty of enthusiastic volunteer singers from local churches and choirs to help us. (Any musicians with portable instruments that can play quietly are also a great help) If you can spare a couple of hours on Christmas Eve you will find this incredibly rewarding, moving and fulfilling.

Christmas Eve, 24th December 2014

Meet in the QA Hospital Chapel at 6.15pm

Teams will move off to their set areas at 6.30pm

We hope to finish visiting our areas by 8.15pm

Please ring 023 92286408 to give us your name(s), or for more details.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN FAREHAM

2014 Christmas Day Lunch for People Alone

The organisers of this year's event are looking for donations towards the cost of gifts for our guests and raffle prizes. Alternatively, if you can drop in a little gift or a small food item such as mince pies to the CAF office that would be very much appreciated.



Please contact Jennie Romecheva at Community Action Fareham on 01329 223140

Please also encourage anyone you know who is going to be alone on Christmas Day to consider coming along to the lunch. Application forms are available from Community Action Fareham and most churches.
THANKYOU!

Lunch on Sunday feeding the homeless.



We have a small team who take part in this project on the 5th Sunday of the month. We provided lunch on the 30th November and the next opportunity for the Methodist Church is on the 29th of March 2015.

Generally between 10 and 15 guests are provided with a meal for which they are very grateful.

We would like to add to the team to cover any gaps that may occur. If you would like to help please talk to Edith or Bobby.

Mission Love

(Isaiah 40:21, Gen 1, Jn1:1, 12) ...

Don't you know, haven't you heard, haven't you been told, haven't you understood?

Well here it is then – some might say it was Mission impossible, but truly - in the beginning, God created.

God, who is Love, spoke, and by his Word everything came into being His Spirit breathed life into everything.

It was a good creation: the light and the dark, the day and the night, the sky and the sea, the plants and the trees, the sun, the moon and the stars, and all the living creatures of sea, air and land. ...

It was all good and blessed and in harmony.

It was a good creation. And the pinnacle was the people -people made in the image of their creator, to be in relationship with

him, Working- partners, with the wonderful gift of free choice. It was all good, very good.

Created by Love, Word and Spirit. Too good to last some might say. And of course it didn't.

Don't you know, haven't you heard, haven't you been told, haven't you understood?

Look around the world, see evidence everywhere of the bad choices, the broken images of those lost children of love.

Watch your television, go online, read your newspapers, walk your streets and weep for the brokenness of that beautiful, good creation.

Mission impossible? No. God knows the end from the beginning, He knows what we are like, what we need. At just the right moment, in just the right place, in just the right Love once again speaks

his living Word into the world. Jesus, Word of God, made man, born to rescue, born to save, born to live, to die and to defeat death, to rise - and to give new life by his Spirit to all who will turn and trust.

Love, Word and Spirit.

This is a new creation.

This is Mission Necessary, this is Mission Possible,

this is Mission from the Father reaching out to all who will receive him, to those who will believe in his name, giving them the right to become his children..

In the beginning, in the middle and in the end, this is Mission Love. I have called you by name, you are mine.

Come to me.

By Daphne Kitching

Tell Somebody. Show Somebody. Be Somebody.

What is Evangelism?

Here are some people's definitions of evangelism:

Sharing a treasure of ultimate value, and a need to share it authentically, whilst listening to the one in charge.

Evangelism is being who you are wherever you are.

Telling the story of Jesus? Maybe good news should feature in there in some way.

Evangelism is being good news as well as telling good news, both in Jesus' name and the power of the Holy Spirit.

What would be your definition of evangelism?

There are many models and theological understandings of evangelism. These pages will explore many of these, demonstrating that evangelism happens in all sorts of ways and in a wide variety of places inside and outside Methodist churches. And by framing evangelism in a broad framework, no single perspective will be prioritised over any other.

Evangelism is...

Evangelism is about Jesus.

Evangelism is about the people whose lives have been transformed because of Jesus. These people are called 'disciples' and can be found in the Bible, as well as in almost every street in the UK.

Evangelism is about people who have not heard about the life and continuing work of Jesus.

Evangelism is about the coming kingdom of 'shalom' - and thus links with the other sections in this website: Compassion and Justice.

Playing our part

This section is a reminder to each of us that we all have a part to play in evangelism; be that our own continuing development and discovery of Jesus in our midst, as well as the spiritual journey of other people. It can be tempting to think about evangelism in caricatures and bad experiences (either that we have been involved in, or on the receiving end of). What you will find here is an encouragement to **TELL** somebody, **SHOW** somebody, **BE** somebody.

How might the Church be equipped and resourced to move beyond a caricature and become people who know and love Jesus, and demonstrate this to a world in desperate need of hope, compassion and transformation?

To find out more visit the Methodist church in Britain website:<http://www.methodist.org.uk> or if you do not have a computer ask someone to look at it for you. Who knows this could be another way of sharing and discussing the message.

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

Presents at Christmas under the tree,
A red Christmas stocking waiting for me.

*But what is Christmas? What is it about?
Just look in the Bible and you will find out!*

It's about JESUS, the best present of all,
JESUS, our SAVIOUR,
God's gift to us all!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Mouse Makes

Make a stand up card for Christmas

Glue the picture and the stand onto card, colour in then cut out around the edge.

Cut along the slots marked A and B on the picture and the stand, then slot together.

A Saviour is born

Happy Christmas

STAND



ANGELS

We hear a lot about angels at Christmas. A lot of the carols we sing have angels in them – like 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' and 'While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night'.

Angels are God's messengers and you can read about the good news they brought to the shepherds in Luke's Gospel, chapter 2, verses 8-20.

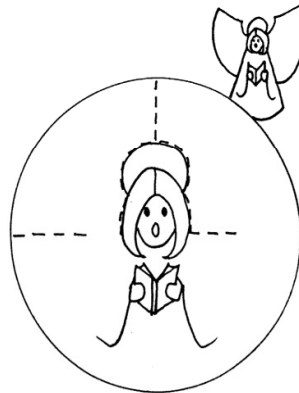
MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS ANGEL

You can make a whole host of angels, one for the top of the tree and a row of them, all different sizes, to go on a windowsill. To alter the size simply draw a bigger or smaller circle, you could use a dinner plate or a small tin to draw round. You could even make a giant angel using a dustbin lid!

You will need:

Scissors, thick white paper or thin white card, some felt tip pens and something circular to draw round (use a small plate or saucer to start with).

- Draw a circle on the paper and cut it out. Mark the centre of the circle (lightly fold it into quarters to find the centre).
- Copy the face and features on to the circle and colour them in.
- Mark the dotted lines and cut around them and around the halo and hair as marked.
- Fold the angel into a cone by putting one wing over the other and slotting them together. A little piece of sellotape will hold it firmly.



How do angels greet each other?

They say,
Halo.



What do fish sing at Christmas?

Shark, the herald angels sing.

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
8 9.30 M Market	9 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 10.00 Tues am House grp Snug House grp 10.00	10 14.00 W Fellowship Christmas service 16.00 Messy Church 19.00 Guides 19.30 PAX H Grp	11 9.30 Coffee Centre 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Sing.grp.	12	13 10.00 Trinity Pre-school fayre
15 9.30 M Market	16 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 20.00 Ladies Night at Garry's	17 19.00 Guides 19.30 E Fareham H grp	18 9.30 Coffee Centre 14.30 Service at Red House Res. Home 17.00 Carols at the Podium 17.30 Brownies at the Avenue Rest \Home 19.00 Singing grp at Home Fayre	19 10.00 Midhurst Church open day	20 14.10 Pantomime for Brownies and J Church at Titchfield
22 9.30	23 15.00 Christingle Service	24 18.15 Carol sing at Q.A. 23.15 Christmas Eve Holy Communion	25 Christmas service at 10.30 am	26	27
29	30	31	JAN 1	2	3
5	6 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	7 10.00 Healing service planning at Joan's 19.00 Guides 22	8 9.30 Coffee Centre 17.30 Brownies party night 19.30 SingingGrp	9	10

The diary dates as provided on these pages 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 information from the weekly notice sheet..

JANUARY

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
12 9.30 M Market	13 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	14 10.00 Healing grp at Joan's 14.00 W Fellowship 16.00 Messy Church 19.00 Guides	15 9.30 Coffee Centre 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	16	17
19 9.30 M Market	20 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 10.00 Snug House grp 19.30 Church Council	21 19.00 Guides 19.30 E Fareham House grp	22 9.30 Coffee Centre 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp Closing date for Feb. Focus	23 18.00 Badminton	24
26 9.30 M Market	27 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	28 14.00 Wed. Fellowship 19.00 Guides	29 9.30 Coffee Centre 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	30	31
FEB 2 9.30 M Market	3 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	4 19.00 Guides	5 9.30 Coffee Centre 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	6	7

DOOR STEWARDS

DECEMBER

7th 10.30 Liz Haigh and Lynda Haydon-Jones

14th 10.30 Sally Bland and Brenda Bennett

21st 10.30 Margaret and Bob Temple

18.00 Bobby and Patrick Watson

23rd 15.00 Sally Bland and Brenda Bennett

24th 23.15 Rosemarie and Tony Jackson

25th 10.30 TBA

28th 10.30 Sue and Bob Metcalf

JANUARY

4th 10.30 Judith Bramall and Keith Sargeant

11th 10.30 Patrick Watson and Anna-Marie Mitchell

18th 10.30 Rosemarie and Tony Jackson

25th 10.30 Bessie and Daniel Taabu

18.00 Eric Wheeler

FEBRUARY

1st 10.30 Janice Collins and Brenda Bennett

REFRESHMENT ROTA

DECEMBER

7th Sheila Dyer, Sarah Brooks and Meg Cox

14th Margaret Temple, Sally Bland and Brenda Bennett

21st Cath Stevenson, Janice Collins and Judith Bramall

28th Pat Croker and Mary Bailey

JANUARY

4th Liz Haigh and Liz Avison

11th Ruth and Tony Elvery

18th Pat and Walter Metcalf

25th Shirley Henderson and Marilyn Woodrow

FEB

1st Shirley and Keith Sargeant and Peggy Long