

Fareham Focus

BORN



**TO
BE**

KING

December/January



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Fareham Church website:

www.farehammethodist.org.uk

Circuit website: www.esanddcircuit.org.uk

This month's services

December

January

2nd Revd. Claire Simpson

6th Revd. Claire Simpson

9th Mrs. A. Davis

13th

16th LA/A

20th Cdr Mark Barton

22nd 3p.m. Christingle

27th Mr. G. Williams

22nd Mrs. W. Corney

24th 11.15 p.m. Midnight Holy Communion

25th 10.30 a.m. Christmas Day Service

**30th Church With Choices Mrs. M Aquilina Gray
(preceded by breakfast)**

Dear friends,

There will be plenty in this edition of the Fareham Focus and elsewhere about Christmas activities and services in our church community so in this letter I will focus on

Advent, the preparation time before we encounter Christmas itself.

In this strange season of Advent which plays about with time (Christ has come, is coming and will come again) we encounter the character of John the Baptist. The last of the prophets with the most important message of all. Across the gospels we get a picture of his life. His birth and infancy is presented in parallel with Jesus' birth and infancy. In adulthood he is the last prophet who fulfils earlier

prophecy as he carries the Advent message 'Prepare the way of the Lord' and 'Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near'. He was a witness testifying to the light that was coming into the world. We are given details about his appearance and diet (a garment made of camel hair and insects!) He baptises Jesus. He too has disciples but he recognises that Jesus is the more powerful One and so he knows when his ministry is fulfilled. He dies a grisly end at the instruction of Herod.

So what are we to make of him as a challenging Advent companion for us as we journey towards the birth of Christ? **Firstly**, it seems that John was not afraid to live differently. We're not given a lot of detail but we are told he spent time in the wilderness and by the River Jordan eating an unusual diet and Dressing in unusual clothes. We get that sense that this man of conviction was comfortable living on the edges of the society of his day.

Are we willing to enter the wilderness and live differently as part of our Advent devotion? **Secondly**, John preached good news but he didn't mince his words and he made it clear that good preparation for the coming of Jesus involved repentance; a close look at our lives so that we can have open hearts to receive Jesus when he comes. **Thirdly and lastly**, John knew his place. He knew his purpose and mission and he knew when it was completed. His job was to point towards the Christ whose arrival was imminent.

So how might our living throughout Advent do all of those things that John's life accomplished as a witness testifying to the light? How do we live differently because of what we believe? Are we people who are willing to examine ourselves and be open to change if we need to be? Do we seek to always point towards Christ, the One in whom we put all our trust and place all our hope.

May God bless each one of us at this special time of year.

With Love,

Claire

Christians Together in Fareham

Good Friday Walk of Witness 2019

In 2019 it is Fareham Methodist Church's turn to lead the Good Friday Walk of Witness at the podium in West Street. To this end there will be a meeting on **Thursday 10th January 2019 at 11a.m.** at church for anyone who is interested in sharing ideas and being involved in the planning and delivery of this act of worship.

Many thanks, Claire and Edith (CTiF Rep)

A quick note from the Editor

Firstly I'd like to apologise for the staggered release of last months Focus . We had a few issues with the photocopier. I hope in the end that everyone who wanted a Focus managed to get one. If, in future, anyone for any reason does not manage to get a copy of the Focus please do let me know and I will get one printed off for you.

Secondly I would like to wish all of our readers a very happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

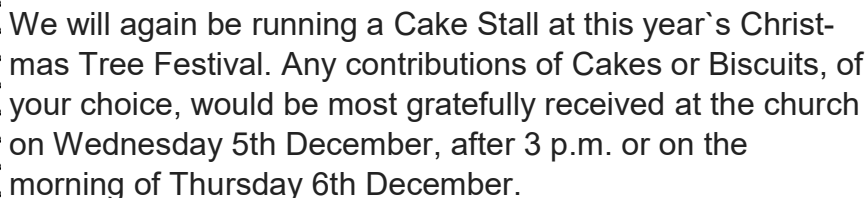
Thank you

Rox Garrett

I will again be running the Christmas and Gift Stall at the Christmas Tree Festival and would appreciate items to sell in order to cover the running costs of the church. These can be given to me at any time as I do have a certain amount of storage at home .

Thank you

Shirley Henderson

We will again be running a Cake Stall at this year's Christmas Tree Festival. Any contributions of Cakes or Biscuits, of your choice, would be most gratefully received at the church on Wednesday 5th December, after 3 p.m. or on the morning of Thursday 6th December.

Thank you - Margaret Temple

Vestry Jottings

We look forward to a busy season as we celebrate Advent and Christmas.

The Christmas card box is now available. Please address the envelopes clearly with recipients full name as this makes the job of sorting so much easier. The last posting date will be at the Nativity service, the cards will be available from then.

The Church card is now available, please share these with friends and family inviting them to the services.

At the recent stewards' meeting we decided that when there is a retiring collection over the Christmas period we will donate to charity, the charity we have chosen to support is Action for Children. It was decided though that if there was a great need over the period we have the right to change and support this.

Looking to the New Year, we would like to support Rox in her idea to produce Focus on the final Sunday of a month so we are aware of future events the following month. We thank Rox for all her work producing the magazine and continue to support her.

May we as a stewards team wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and if you need us please ask.

The Stewards team.

Holiday@Home October 25th

The church buzzed with conversation and activity all day. It was our latest Holiday@Home. We didn't go far this time – only to the leafy lanes of Surrey. Our day was based on the film 'Quartet' with everyone having the opportunity to make wind chimes, decorate a cake with musical instruments, answer the 'Four' quiz or race horses in the Wickham Room! There was plenty of food – drinks and home-made biscuits on arrival, a two course lunch prepared by the Friday Lunch team and tea and cakes at the end of the afternoon after a sing song led by Jill (Race) and Bob on the drums. We even served ice creams during the film. I have received several letters since the event:

We enjoyed the variety of experiences as well as the food

Such a happy day with excellent food

The team worked so hard from the food through to the entertainment

What a lovely time we had and we cannot thank you enough for inviting us

So a big 'thank you' goes to all the team, who decorated and set up the church the day before, who prepared all the food, who masterminded the quiz and those who arranged the activities as well as Malcolm (G) organising the film show and Jill (R) and Bob for the music. If you want to know more about the horse racing, just ask me! Our only quiet time was when they were watching the film and we were able to eat our lunch.

One lady told a team member that if she hadn't come to the event she wouldn't have spoken to anyone all day. There is obviously a need and so we are also thinking about having an afternoon tea once a month. The only disappointment on the day was that some people didn't turn up so next year we are thinking about having tickets.

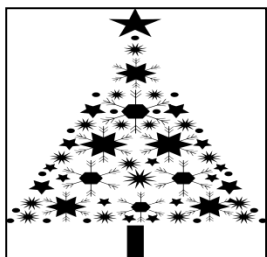
Garry Bagshaw

Church and Community Group

For many years a small group has been making banners to enhance the worship area of our church.

Apart from being visually attractive, their purpose is also to highlight the various seasons and aspects of Christian life, and, where known, to connect with a particular Sunday Service theme. Over the years, the group has diminished in number due to folk moving, having other commitments, or in some cases sadly dying. Anyone who enjoys needle work, craft work and so on, and would like to be involved would be very welcome to join us. It is, however, best for the group to be fairly small, but we would be happy for the group to increase from the present four! We usually meet on Thursday afternoons monthly. Our norm of late has been one new banner a year. Time is also spent checking and refreshing existing banners. More information can be given by

Mary Bailey
Edith Livingstone
Marion Bright
Maggie Smith



THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL IS
6 – 8TH DECEMBER AND AS USUAL WE WOULD WELCOME
HELP FROM VOLUNTEERS. WE WILL REQUIRE DOOR
STEWARDS, GENERAL STEWARDS AND HELP WITH THE
CAKE STALL. BELOW IS SOME INFORMATION YOU MIGHT
FIND HELPFUL IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING SIGNING UP.

DOOR STEWARD - WELCOME PEOPLE, SELL TICKETS,
HAND OUT INFORMATION, EXPLAIN VOTING AND
REFRESHMENTS PROCEDURE.

GENERAL STEWARD - CHECK TABLES TO ENSURE CLEAN
AND TIDY, TOP UP SUGAR / SPOONS ETC. DELIVER FOOD
FROM COFFEE BAR TO TABLES. INTERACT WITH PEOPLE
AND KEEP A GENERAL EYE ON THE HALL.

THE VOLUNTEER SHEETS WILL BE IN THE WELCOME AREA
FROM THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER FOR THOSE
WISHING TO HELP.

MANY THANKS IN ADVANCE
TREE FESTIVAL TEAM

Kevin and Linda Foster would like to extend their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all church family and friends. They are making a donation to Action for Children

Joan and Jeffery wish all their friends a happy and peaceful Christmas

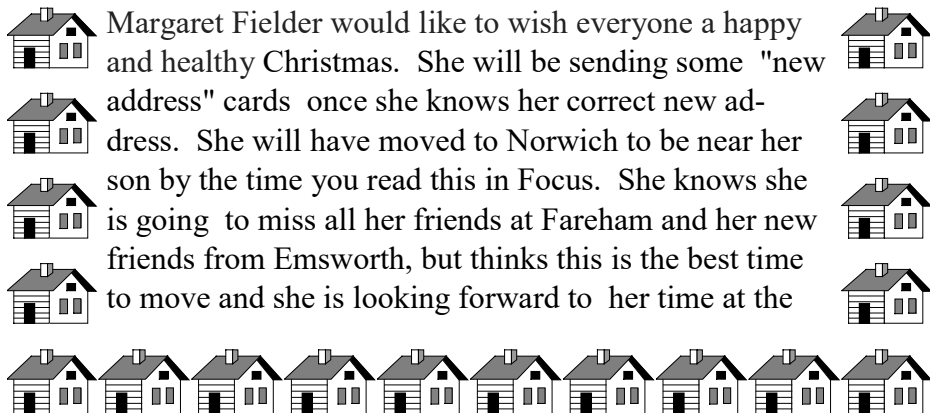
I would like to wish all my church family a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. I will be donating to the Macular Society instead of sending out Christmas cards.
Brenda

Vic and Janice would like to wish our church family a very happy Christmas and a healthy new year. We are making our contribution

Bobby and Patrick wish everyone a healthy, peaceful and joyous Christmas season and a truly happy and healthy New Year. We are making a donation to Action for Children instead of sending Christmas cards this year.

Christmas Greetings

Ruth and Antony Hollinghurst wish everyone a very happy Christmas. Rather than sending individual cards, they are making a do-



Well, I'm home; not in full harness but getting there very slowly. I think that it will be a long haul before I'll be in any position to resume full activities all round.

"Any road up", to use a bit of my native vernacular, Garry and I would like to thank everyone for their prayerful and practical support together with hospital visits which we appreciate take considerable time and effort from your busy schedules. We also thank everyone for the many cards of encouragement which both brightened up the Ward and cheered everyone

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CHRISTMAS SUNDAY LUNCH 16th 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 charity. 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 Prawn cocktail

*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!

We have been a bit short of helpers lately so if you can help with serving or helping in the kitchen please sign the list. We really need two people to stay after the meal until about 2.30 p.m. to help Tony with the dishwasher. We would really appreciate your help.
Thank you J - ill Groom

God so loved the world.



Wednesday,

December 12th 2018

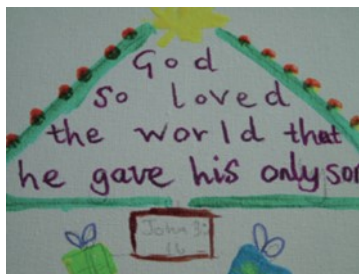
See us on Facebook!

**Join us for games, sport, challenges, craft,
worship and a meal.**

Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road,

Fareham PO16 0NU

3.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.



There is no charge for Messy Church, which is supported by Fareham Methodist Church, although donations are always gratefully received.

Families, Friendship, Fun, Food and Faith in Fareham

DIARY DATES FOR DECEMBER

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
31					1
3 9:30 Mini Market	4 9:45 Parent & Toddlers 20:00 Ladies Night	5	6 10:00 Christmas Tree Festival 10:15 Prayer Circle 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	7 10:00 Christmas Tree Festival 13:00 Monthly Lunch Club	8 10:00 Christmas Tree Festival
10 9:30 Mini Market	11 9:45 Parent & Toddlers	12 16:00 Messy Church	13 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	14	15
17 9:30 Mini Market	18 9:45 Parent & Toddlers 20:00 Ladies Night	19	20 9:30 Coffee Centre 14:30 Red House Service of Worship 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	21	22 15:00 Christingle Service
24 9:30 Mini Market 23:15 Christmas Eve Communion Service	25 10:30 Christmas Day Service	26	27 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	28	29

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 9:30 Coffee Centre 10:15 Prayer Circle 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	4 13:00 Monthly Lunch Club	5
7 9:30 Mini Market	8 9:45 Parent & Tod- dlers 19:30 Worship Con- sultation Group @ The Manse	9 16:00 Messy Church	10 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	11	12
14 9:30 Mini Market	15 9:45 Parent & Tod- dlers 20:00 Ladies Night	16	17 9:30 Coffee Centre 14:30 Red House Service of Worship 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	18	19
21 9:30 Mini Market	22 9:45 Parent & Tod- dlers	23	24 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	25 18:30 Fourth Friday Games Night	26
28 9:30 Mini Market	29 9:45 Parent & Tod- dlers 20:00 Ladies Night	30	31 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group		

Door Stewards

December

2nd Liz Haigh & Marilyn Woodrow
9th Tony Jackson & Ian Bagshaw
16th Liz Avison & Irene Russell
23rd Judith Bramall & Brian Cooper
30th Lynda Haydon-Jones & Linda Young

Refreshment Rota

December

2nd Pat & Tony Pickering
9th Jean & Mike Petter & Anne Isom
16th Lynda Haydon-Jones & Rae Shepherd
23rd Sheila Dyer, Sarah Brooks & Megan Cox
30th Margaret Boyd & Jenny Chalmers

Flower Rota

December

Provider

2nd Flower Fund
9th Flower Fund
16th Flower Fund
23rd Garry Bagshaw
30th Flower Fund

Delivery

2nd Joan Padley
9th Jean Petter
16th Lynda Young
23rd Liz Haigh
30th Tony Emberson

PRESS DATE: All items for the **February** edition of
Fareham Focus should be emailed to:

fareham.focus@gmail.com

by noon of **18th January 2019**

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website