

December



2010

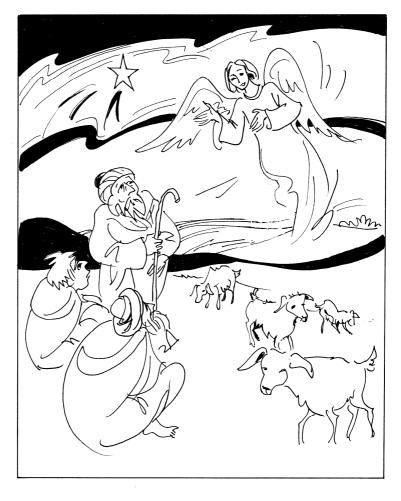












Fareham Methodist Church Magazine

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Number 577 December 2010

SERVICES DURING DECEMBER

5th	10.30	Revd Vincent Canning	Holy Communion Toy Service
	15.00	Revd Malcolm Groom	Care Homes Service & Tea
12th	10.30	Pam Davey	Nativity Service
19th	10.30	Jean Hooper	
	19.00	Revd Malcolm Groom	Carol Service
24th	23.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	Holy Communion
25th	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	United Service with URC
26th	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	

SERVICES DURING JANUARY

2nd	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	Family Holy Communion
9th	10.30	Lynne Matthews	
	19.00	BIG WORSHIP	Circuit Service

LOCAL PREACHERS' & TEAM APPOINTMENTS

Dec 12th Andrew Wilcock at Stubbington Jan 2nd Andrew Wilcock at Bridgemary

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



December 2010

Dear Friends,

Last year, several weeks before Christmas, while we were out driving about the area, Jill and I saw many houses not just adorned with Christmas lights, but smothered in them. There



were homes with Santas and homes with stars, and homes with spot lights on elves and others with coloured beams focussed on cut-outs of mangers and of angels. It was our feeling then that there were more lights and more decorations than in any of the previous years. I wonder what it will be like this year? – My guess is that there will be even more

Why are there so many lights? Especially why are there so many on the homes of those who do not claim Jesus as their living Lord?

I believe that the lights that we see are expressions of defiance in the face of hard times; that they are tangible statements that when all is fragile, that when all is increasingly dark - that there is hope; that they are an attempt on the part of believers and unbelievers alike to affirm that there is goodness and joy to be had.

Surely this is a good thing – whatever we think about turning our houses into Christmas Disneyland!



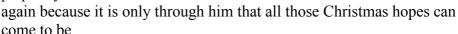
For many people the lights that they string up represent sad and futile hopes – perhaps of a return to Christmas's past when life seemed better – perhaps of family gatherings like those before divorce or an untimely death – perhaps a world to escape from the problems and pressures of normal everyday life – a place where joy can be increased in proportion to the number of lights put up.



The lights of Christmas cannot and will not bring the changes we desire.

Only the Christ whose birth we celebrate on Christmas Day can do that. Only the risen and living Lord can make the celebration of his birth something that is more than a brief, frantic, and senseless time of excess.

So, as we prepare for Christmas cover your house with lights if you want to, but more importantly prepare your hearts to receive the Christ-child once





Happy Christmas!

God bless,

Mille

VESTRY JOTTINGS

There is a Leaflet available highlighting all the Services taking place during the Advent and Christmas period. If you have not obtained one please contact one of the Church Stewards.

On 5th December the Masonic Car Park will be open in the afternoon for anyone bringing folk to the tea and carol service.

The Morning Service on Sunday 19th December 2010 will **NOT** be All Age Worship.

The Evening Carol Service on Sunday 19th December 2010 will be at 7.00 pm to enable the choir to get back from an afternoon performance. Finally we would like to take this opportunity to give everyone our best wishes for Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



ERRATUM



There is an error in the Plan and Sunday 2 will **NOT** take place in December

Join us for 'BIG WORSHIP' on 9th January at 7.30 pm - a Circuit Service

Sunday 2 restarts on 13th February 2011

Lucy Petter

THANK YOU



Thank you for the flowers and to whoever delivered them on the day which happened to be the 3rd anniversary of my brother's passing - sorry I was not in to receive them.

Daisy Hood

Joan brought me some lovely flowers. I should like to thank you for them and for your prayers and kind words when I was unwell.

Ruth Hollinghurst

Thank you to Rosemarie and Tony for bringing me flowers from the Church. The flowers were lovely and are still in bloom

Lynda Thomas

Thank you very much for the lovely Church flowers delivered by Liz. I really enjoyed arranging them. Geoff and I will be in Australia from 4th December so please don't send us any cards. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

Christine & Geoff Hillam

Lynda Young and family wish to say THANK You for the flowers delivered on 21st November. We would also like to thank the Church family for their prayers and support over the last year. It has meant a great deal to us at a difficult time.

Thank you for the lovely flowers and to Joan for delivering them to me. It is great to be "Thought of". Thank you.

Mavis Parish



Thank you to all involved on 19th November. A very moving film shared with such companionship and an excellent meal. We both enjoyed the evening so much.

Una & Scott Peters

I should like to thank Garry, Jeff, and the choir for their lovely rendering of Mozart's Ave Verum on 14th November. I know it took many hours of practise. What a pity the men had to work even harder because of lack of numbers. Are there any men willing to join the group to improve the balance?

Betty Phillips

Thank you to John Ward for his kind donation of cutlery, to be used for meals at Church, in memory of his wife, June.

Film and Meal Evening 19th November

Thank you to all the people that supported this event. There were about 60 attending and we raised the sum of £385 to be shared between "Help the Heroes" and "Cancer Research UK". Thank you for your generous donations.

Jill & Garry

FAMILY NEWS

We have just returned from a visit to Sidmouth and whilst there visited Pat and Donald Barber. They send their best wishes to Fareham Methodist Church

Ron & Margaret Henderson

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD APPEAL 2010

Our heartfelt thanks to everybody who contributed in any way, shape or form to this year's "Shoe Box Appeal".

Last year we gave 42 boxes, but this year your generosity of spirit has enabled us to donate 58 boxes (crammed to bursting point!), £151.75 towards delivery costs and a bag of extra 'goodies' to the reception point in Park Gate. We have been informed that the first 'wave' of boxes will, hopefully, be delivered to the children of Haiti.

We felt truly humbled by your loving response to this cause. Thank you.

6 Una Peters & Marilyn Woodrow

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Bobby and Patrick Watson send Christmas greetings to everyone at Fareham Methodist Church. We hope you all enjoy a happy and blessed holiday period, and



may 2011 be a year of challenge, joy and good health for all. We are donating our Christmas Card money to NCH Action for Children this year.

A very happy Christmas to all our friends. This year we will be sending a donation to the 'Save the Children Fund'.

Sheila & Graham Dyer

Irene and John Field wish all their friends a happy Christmas and New Year.

Prayers and loving Christmas wishes to all at our Church from Una and Scott Peters. We are donating to Action for Children

Robin and Pat Croker wish all their Church friends a happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. A donation to Action for Children will be given in lieu of cards.

Mavis and Peter Parish will be sending a donation to NCH Action for Children in place of sending Christmas cards to all our friends at Church this year.

Antony and Ruth wish all their friends a very happy Christmas. We shall be sending a donation to the Haiti appeal.

Thinking of our many friends we have bought 1,000 saplings for Kenya instead of sending Christmas cards and wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Meg & Nigel

Tony and Jenny would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will be making a donation to Naomi House children's hospice to help provide respite care for the families of disabled children

Mary Bailey wishes all Church friends a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year. The chosen charity in lieu of cards is Action for Children.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS cont.

Gwen and Harvey will be making a donation to the Limb Deficiency Department of The Sydney Children's Hospital with grateful thanks to Dr. Bellmore who has looked after our granddaughter Keiri for the last 15 years and performed 2 successful operations to lengthen her leg. This donation is in place of us sending Christmas cards to our friends in Church. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Janice and Vic would like to wish all their Church Family A Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year we won't be sending Christmas Cards this year we will be giving a donation for Action for Children

Jill and Malcolm wish everyone a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will be donating to Action for Children instead of sending cards

To all at church, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from Colin, Edith, Clare & Craig Livingstone. Remembering families at this time our donation goes to Action for Children

Action for Children.

For those wishing to offer season's greetings in the form of one Christmas card to all and taking the opportunity to donate to Action for Children this year a pin board with logo will be placed in the welcome area from the 28th November.

Tony and Ruth

WELLS FOR INDIA

Fareham Methodist Church raised a total of £750.00 for "Wells for India", partly through fund raising by Wednesday Fellowship and partly by a generous donation from the proceeds of Harvest Lunch.

Eric Wheeler



When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.





SINGING ON AIR

The Church singing group reached the last four choirs in the Radio Solent competition to select a choir to sing at their annual carol concert.



At very short notice we were invited to the studios in Southampton where we sang "Where is the room" in front of a panel of four judges. Although we didn't win, it was a closely contested event with only 8 points separating all four choirs. The judges had not heard this carol before and we were complemented on our ability to paint the word picture and on our inclusion of all age ranges. They did not comment that we were the only group not to have a uniform!!.

All four finalists can be heard on Tim Daykin's programme between 07.00 and 08.00 on Sunday 5th December. If you are reading this after that time you can go to the Radio Solent website to hear programmes for the last seven days.



WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP



We will be holding our Advent Service on 8th December, 2010 at 2.00 pm It will be led by Revd. Gillian Slaymaker with Jeff Padley accompanying our singing.

It will be followed by Tea and Mince Pies in the Wickham Room. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Shirley Henderson



GIFT AID ADMINISTRATION

I am very grateful to Patrick Watson for agreeing to take over administration of the Gift Aid scheme. Please contact him if you wish to join the scheme or have any questions about it

Antony Hollinghurst Church Treasurer



Christmas Shoppers

Service

12.30pm

Monday, December 20th 2010

Fareham Methodist Church Kings Road, Fareham P016 ONU

Hot drinks and mince pies will be available from 1 2 noon

Come along and join us for this short service of carols and readings.

GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS



Many of us will go to the cinema this month – drawn by the trailers for the latest block-buster films set for release around Christmas. Trailers never make much sense on their own; their job is to tantalise you into wanting to know the whole story.

In his wisdom, God wrote a trailer for the Christmas story. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God began to tell his people just a bit of what they had to look forward to. Throughout the Old Testament there are glimpses of a coming Messiah, of a Prince of Peace. God didn't tell the people in the Old Testament everything – they had to wait for the events to actually take place. But slowly the sense of anticipation builds through the Old Testament. And when the Messiah finally came, there was surprise, but no anticlimax. Everything about the birth, life, death – and resurrection - of Jesus would surpasses all expectations.



Parish Pump

CHRISTMAS: Why does it begin at Midnight with Holy Communion

The hour was first chosen at Rome in the fifth century to symbolize the idea that Christ was born at midnight – a mystical idea in no way hindered by historical evidence! No one knows the hour of his birth.

Certainly in recent times, Holy Communion at midnight on Christmas morning has proved popular with modern families. One British writer pointed out its "domestic convenience" in 1947: "for where there are children and no servants, husband and wife may be unable to communicate at any other time." (So things don't change, then!)

Parish Pump

CHRISTMAS PUDDING

Bill: "Can you tell me what are the best things to put into a Christmas pudding?"

Will: "Well, I should say your teeth, old chap".



Gosport & Fareham Methodist Churches

We'll be Carol Singing around the Knowle Estate on Tuesday 21st December between 6:30pm and about 8:30pm.



While we are singing we will be holding a house to house collection for

Action for Children

and we invite you to make a donation to this very worthwhile cause if you would like to do so.

If you would like to give to Action for Children
or not we want to wish you a

Very Happy Christmas!

and we hope you enjoy the carol singing.

(ps - Please come and join in the fun! - We start in the square (Arty's Bar) at 6:30pm)

WHERE DID CHRISTMAS TREES COME FROM?



There are two early stories that mention fir trees. The first involves St Boniface, who went to Germany in the 8th century as a missionary and found people sacrificing a child to their god under an oak tree. Boniface was appalled, and rescued the child. He then chopped down the



oak tree and found a tiny fir tree growing nearby. He gave this to the people and said: "This is a symbol of life. Whenever you look at this tree, remember the Christ-child who is the one who will give you life, because he gave his life for you."

The second early fir tree story involves Martin Luther in the 16th century. It is said that one year he decided to drag a fir tree into his home and to decorate it with candles. He used it as a visual aid, telling people that the candles symbolised Jesus as the light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life.

light of the world, and the evergreen tree symbolised the eternal life that Jesus gives to us. Many of the people who followed Luther were struck by the idea, and took up the custom.

Parish Pump

SUPPER CLUB REVIVED

The first of a new series of Supper Club was held on Saturday, October 23rd. The twenty people who attended enjoyed a supper of tasty lasagna and salad followed by delicious desserts. Then we had some hilarious time taking part in or listening to "Just a Minute". My thanks go to those who prepared the meal, arranged the entertainment and supported it by coming.

HEALING GROUP

The next Healing Group will be held on Wednesday, 5th January 2011. All are welcome at 7.30 pm at 2 Archery Lane, Fareham.

Eric Wheeler



Rita Jackson







Now that Mary and Irene have taken on the responsibility of coordinating the Ministry of Church Flowers, we would like to try and make if clear to you how the system will work. Irene will compile the rotas of both flower deliverers and the calendar of flower donators for Sunday services, and notify the Focus editor of this. She will also keep a check on the supplies kept in the Snug which flower arrangers may need.

Mary will make suggestions from another list of people to whom we regularly send flowers, and pass these on to the weekly deliverers. She would like to be informed of any special reason for flowers to be given, such as significant birthdays, anniversary, illness or bereavement.

We would encourage all donors of flowers for a Sunday to arrange their own. They do not need to be done professionally - their purpose is both to beautify the Church and to show the recipients that we care. Either Irene or Mary will find a "stand in" for anyone who really cannot arrange their own. We have a few kind volunteers who will help out in an emergency.

Lastly, we need the calendar of flower donors for 2011 to be filled as soon as possible please, and would be happy to have more folk willing to deliver flowers. Many thanks to present helpers, and hopefully to new ones.

Mary & Irene



CHILDREN IN CHURCH

After a service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother,

"Mum, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up".

"That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?! She replied.

"Well," said the little boy, "I have to go to Church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen"



FLOWERS



Flowers are sunshine on grey days of rain Flowers say 'sorry' for causing you pain Flowers say 'thank you' for all that you do And say that your special for just being you.

> Flowers give comfort in times of despair Flowers remind us of people who care Flowers say 'welcome' when babies are born Flowers bring smiles to faces forlorn

Flowers say 'well done' to those who've achieved Flowers console when the heart is bereaved Flowers say 'love you' and need you so much Flowers say 'miss you' and long for your touch

> A pot or a posy, a bunch or bouquet Just give some flowers, you'll brighten their day



Anon



CHILDREN IN CHURCH

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again

Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago". "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago".

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed,

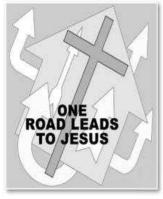
"God's getting better at it, isn't he?"











I would like to be able to make what used to be called "Wayside Pulpits".

At the last Circuit meeting I was given permission to organise a Saturday workshop to do this.

I do not have the knowledge myself, and wonder if anyone within the Circuit would like to be the tutor for this occasion?

I imagine that the day would start at 9.30 am until 4.30 pm. People could come for a part or for the whole day with a break for lunch.

The suggested date is April 16th 2011. I can be contacted on 01489 600549, or email: peter.cheer@ntlworld.com Joan Cheer



AGM FOR THE WELL

Would you please note that the date for the **AGM for The Well** has changed from the date given at the CTF meeting last week.

It is now: Wednesday 8th December 2010 – 7.30pm. Venue: SS Peter and Paul Church Hall, Fareham

We look forward to seeing anyone who has a heart for the work of The Well continuing in Fareham.



If God is your co-pilot, SWAP seats!

Peace starts with a smile





RELATIVES COMING? - Don't clean the house too much!



If you are one of those people who wants the house immaculate for Christmas, be careful. It seems that the use of household cleaning sprays can be contributing to a rise in cases of asthma. Recent studies suggest that some products can exacerbate existing conditions or even trigger breathing problems in people who have never before suffered from the illness.

Around five million of us in Britain suffer from asthma. Inhaling chemicals found in many household cleaners, including bleach, ammonia, solvents and stain removers, more than once a week was linked to a 20 per cent rise in cases of asthma or wheezing. So – by all means have a vacuum and dust before Auntie Mildred arrives at your front door, but careful on the chemicals.



Parish pump

OBSERVATIONS FOR TRAVELERS AT THIS TIME OF YEAR

How does the chap who drives the snow-plough get to work?

Drive carefully. It's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker.

If Santa had one small gift for every child on earth his sledge would weigh 333,333 tons!

For Santa to deliver all of his gifts in one night he would have to make 822 visits per second. (At the speed of light 186,000 miles per second). So keep out of his way!

WITH NEW YEAR'S EVE (Hogmanay) IN MIND

What's the difference between a piper and a mother-in-law? Not everyone loathes their mother-in-law.

Bagpipes and the Loch Ness Monster have two things in common – they attract tourists and terrify little children.

How do you get two pipers to play a perfect harmony? Shoot one!!







SKY LIGHTS

Stars are another source of light and the wise men and shepherds followed a star to the baby Jesus.

The answers to this quiz all start with the letters STAR so can you say which Star...

- is the righthand side of a ship?
- 2. is a bird?
- is used to stiffen things?
 is to look with
- is to look with wide open eyes?
- is the US flag?
- is someone who sets a race off?
- 7. is suddenly surprised?

What carol is heard in the dessert?

Camel ye faithful.



What's impossible to overtake at Christmas?

The three wide men.

Answers: 1 starboard 2 starling 3 starch 4 stare 5 Stars & Stripes 6 starter 7 startled

A LIGHT TO

Just 30 years ago all people had were decorated trees and a few paper-chains at Christmas, but now we have wreaths on the front door, outdoor lights in gardens; and the most recent addition, those arched candlesticks with 7 or more electric candles to stand on windowsills.

This custom came to us from Scandinavia. The story is that in weeks before Christmas, like that first Christmas nearly 2,000 years ago, Mary and Joseph wander the world looking for a

place where they will be safe. They look for a welcome light in the window. And that is why we put the lights in our window: to invite the Holy Family into our

homes at the darkest and coldest part of the year. The candles say that Christ is welcome in our homes, to be born in our hearts and that we invite him to stay with us - not just for Christmas but for all time.









"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." Luke 2:14 (NLT)

Poem by Daphne Kitching, Picture by Elaine Hill, Coloured by



WOMAN AND A FORK



There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things 'in order,' she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes.

She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. 'There is one more thing,' she said 'What's that?' came the Pastor's reply.

'I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.' The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say.

The young woman explained. 'My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming.....like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!'

So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: 'Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.'

The Pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. **She KNEW that**

something better was coming.

Cont.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN FAREHAM (Church Representative)



Having been the Church Representative on the Main committee for a number of years, and an active Member of the Ecumenical Sub Committee for a much longer period. I have decided that the time has come for me to stand down and make way for a new person to represent our Church

I propose to retire at the A G M in February 2011 and would ask that members of the congregation consider whether they might wish to offer themselves as the new representative.

The work of Christians Together is important and our Church does need to have representation as part of the on-going process of ecumenism.

Please have a word with me if you feel you might want to explore the matter further.

Graham Dyer

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN (formerly Network)

Two dates for your diary

The Eastern Area Day is to be held on Monday, 28th March 2011 at Bridgemary Church. The theme is "Travelling On".

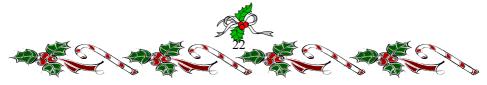
The District Celebration Day is to be held on Saturday, 15th October 2011 at Salisbury. The speaker will be Jill Baker and will include the Induction of Liz Chick as District M W i B President.

Pat Croker



Cont..

So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that **the best is yet to come**.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



(All meetings at Church unless otherwise stated)

DECEMBER

2nd 3rd 4th	Christmas Tree Festival Christmas Tree Festival	10.30 - 18.00 10.30 - 16.00				
3rd	Monthly Lunch	12.30				
5th	Toy Service Care Homes Service & Tea	10.30 15.00				
12th	Nativity Service by Junior Church	10.30				
16th	Trinity Pre School Christmas Service	11.00				
19th	Carol Service	19.00				
20th	Shopper Christmas Carol Service	12.00				
21st	Carol Singing at Knowle	18.30 - 20.30				
24th	Christmas Eve Communion Service - to st	art at 23.30				
25th	Christmas Day Service with URC (FMC to	host) 10.30				
26th	Boxing Day - An informal service	10.30				
TANITIADAY						

JANUARY

7th	Monthly Lunch	12.30
9th	BIG WORSHIP Circuit Service led by Fareham Young People	19.00
12th	Worship Consultation	19.30
19th	Church Council Meeting	19.30



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

Coffee Centre every Thursday 9.30 to 11.45 am



DOOR STEWARD

DECEMBER

5th 10.30 Margaret & Bob Temple

15.00 A N Other

12th 10.30 Geoff Tarvin, Judith Bramall

19th 10.30 Brenda & Peter Taylor

19.00 Eric Wheeler

24th 23.30 Rosemarie & Tony Jackson

25th 10.30 Jean Petter

26th 10.30 Margaret & Bob Temple

JANUARY

2nd 10.30 Bobby & Patrick Watson, Liz Haigh

FLOWER ROTA

DECEMBER

5th Marion Bright 12th Lynda Young

19th Maggie Allingham & Bill Batchelor

25th Joan Padley26th Joan Padley

JANUARY

2nd

REFRESHMENT ROTA

DECEMBER

5th Sheila Dyer, Margaret Boyd, Sarah Brooks12th Margaret Temple, Sally Bland, Brenda Bennett

19th Cath Stevenson

25th Ruth & Tony Elvery

26th Pat & Robin Croker & Shirley DeAth

JANUARY

2nd Sheila Dyer, Margaret Boyd & Sarah Brooks

PRESS DATE

All items for the **JANUARY** Magazine should be placed in the Magazine box in the Welcome Area or handed to the **Editor—Jill Groom** by **Friday 31st December 2010**4

Fareham Focus is now available to be read on the Church Website





