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**Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine**

JANUARY



2013



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Circuit website: www.gosportandfarehamcircuit.org.uk

Number 600

January 2013

SERVICES DURING JANUARY

6th	10.30	Revd Malcolm Rothwell	
13th	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	Family Holy Communion
20th	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	All Age Worship
27th	10.30	Revd Andrew De Ville	(from Portsmouth Circuit)

SERVICES DURING FEBRUARY

3rd	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	Healing Service & Holy Communion
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LOCAL PREACHERS' & TEAM APPOINTMENTS

JANUARY

20th	10.30	Andrew Wilcock at Gosport
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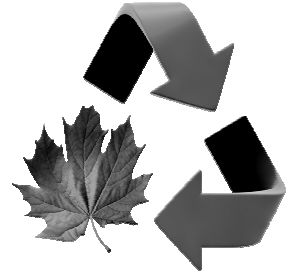
Please remember the preachers above in your prayers, as they prepare and conduct their services in our Church and in the Circuit.

JANUARY 2013

Dear Friends

"You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance." —Psalm 65:11

Coming to the beginning of a new year and the ending of an old one, we often wish we could turn over a new leaf or have a fresh start. I am sure there have been certain things we have said or done in this past year that we have come to regret.



The New Year is a time of fresh starts. It's a time when we begin with a clean slate; start a fresh page; make new resolutions: A time when we can separate what's happened last year from the unwritten page of this year.

Wouldn't it be great to just start over again? In reality, as a Christian we can have a fresh start. The new year is still a blank slate. There are opportunities ahead of us. We decide which path we are going to walk in this coming year. *"Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls'"* (Jeremiah 6:16). We decide what our priorities are going to be. We decide which direction we are going to take, each and every day.



Maybe some of us need a fresh start in this coming year. Here is a great opportunity to make one. We don't know what the New Year is going to bring. We don't know what problems we are going to encounter. We don't know what changes are going to come. We don't know what blessings the Lord has in store for us. But whatever the New Year holds, we don't have to be afraid because Jesus Christ is going to be waiting there for us.

I am often moved the words of that wonderful woman of God, Corrie ten Boom, who said, *"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."*

God is in control of your future. He is ready to bless you in this coming year

---isn't that liberating?

Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew', followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

VESTRY JOTTINGS

On 14 December we met the Rev Claire Simpson. Following her visit, The Circuit Invitation Committee was pleased to announce that she will be joining the Circuit on September 1st, 2013, after the retirement of Rev Malcolm Groom. She will have the pastoral oversight of the Fareham and Stubbington churches. We look forward to welcoming Claire and her family into the Circuit.

A total of £355.93 was received for Action for Children in the retiring collections over the Christmas period.

We hope that you have read the letter displayed on the Church Notice board regarding discussions taking place between our Circuit and the Portsmouth and Petersfield, Liphook & Haslemere Circuits with a view to forming a new Circuit in September 2013. A leaflet is now available for church members and attendees which explains the process we are in to consider forming a new Circuit. Please ensure that you receive and read a leaflet.

As part of the consultation process there will be two meetings within the Circuit where information will be shared, questions invited and discussion can take place. All who attend Fareham Church are invited to attend the meeting to be held on **Saturday, 19th January 2013, at 10.00 am at Portchester Church.**

NEVER BE AFRAID
TO TRUST AN
UNKNOWN
FUTURE
TO A
KNOWN
GOD
CORRIE TEN BOOM

Please put this date in your diary - We hope that as many of you as possible will attend.

Our best wishes to you for 2013.

The Stewards

THANK YOU

Thank you for everyone's good wishes and concern following my day surgery in November and to Lynda Young for delivering yellow flowers - my favourite colour!

Linda Brooks



Thank you for the beautiful flowers given to me in December. It was a kind thought.

Rosemarie Jackson

Thank you for the flowers given to me by Margaret on Sunday 16th December. I really appreciate this gift of love and care from the church family which will stay with me during my recovery.

Tony Elvery

Many thanks for the beautiful roses delivered by Liz which cheered me up for many days and I do appreciate being remembered. Thanks also for the kind thoughts, cards and visits which have helped me through a very difficult time.

Sheila Walters

I am most grateful to all my Church family friends for their visits, prayers and cards during my recent stay in Q A Hospital. A special thank you too for the very lovely bunch of yellow and white roses kindly delivered to welcome me home. They are exquisite — they even have a faint perfume. God Bless you all.

Maude Lovell

“Thank you” everyone who made members of the Fareham Stroke Club so welcome on their visit to the Christmas Tree Festival. The members enjoyed viewing the many attractive trees—admiring how the “Themes” were depicted. They really enjoyed the excellent tea provided to round off their visit.

Lynda Young

My sincere thanks to all who sent me Christmas greetings this year, either by personal cards or by an Action for Children card. A Happy Peaceful New Year to you all.

Mary Bailey

THANK YOU cont...

Thank you to Liz Haigh who so kindly brought flowers from Church friends on the 3rd anniversary of Barry's death. It means so much to be remembered at this time.

Lynda Young & Family



How nice it was to be handed the Church flowers on Sunday. I did appreciate not only the flowers but the kind thought. The flowers are as fresh as ever. Thank you.

Lynda Thomas

The Fareham & Gosport Family Aid would like to thank us on behalf of all the families and staff at the Refuges in Fareham and Gosport for the donations recently received from our Church. They think it is so kind of us to think about the women and children especially at this time of year, and they wish us all a very happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Barbara Cass, Support Worker

Janice & Vic hoped everyone had a cheery Christmas and they wish us all a Peaceful New Year. Instead of sending Christmas cards we made a donation to Action for Children.

Janice & Vic Collins

Congratulations

To Rosemary Townley on the birth of a grandson, Thomas, on 13th December. A brother for Amelia.

Congratulations and a very Big Thank You

To all the children, young people and the Brownies for their fantastic presentation of the Nativity and Flog it! On 16th December, written and directed by the Seniors. Thank you to all parents for their support and all adults for producing stunning costumes, wonderful music and all "back stage" involvements, plus great congregational participation on the day!

Linda Brooks

What a wonderful service! It was lovely to see **SO** many people coming to celebrate the Nativity Service. The children were Brilliant! - "Thank you" to everyone who worked so hard to produce such an overall effect - which brought home the true meaning of Christmas!

Lynda Young

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2012

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this Festival the best yet. 28 trees made a splendid sight, with innovative ideas all making it very difficult for the judges - who took an hour and a half to reach a final decision!



The overall winners were Trinity preschool with their 'Helping Hands' tree. The people's vote was won by Titchfield Abbey W.I. - 'We lift you up'

We had good press coverage and all the trees may be viewed on the Fareham Methodist Church web site.

Rosemarie Jackson

Thank you everyone who helped with the Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you everyone who came to visit and made the event worthwhile. £45 was the share of the profits to the North Fareham House Group, which went to the Mercy Ships Charity. This became £90 as we donated the money before 31st December and a kind sponsor doubled the cash. This was a significant amount to an extremely important charity. Thank you so much.

North Fareham House Group

WORSHIP CONSULTATION

Worship Consultation will be held on Wednesday, 9th January at 7.30 pm, all are welcome. Please let me know of any issues you would like discussed.

Rosemarie Jackson

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

The total so far for the Christmas Card Scheme is £250. A big thank you to all who have contributed. Thank you to everyone who took part in the carol singing at Knowle prior to Christmas. A total of £66.58 was raised for Action for Children.



I have a number of home collection boxes available for the League of Light scheme. This is an opportunity to save your small change for AFC in a sealed box which is then totalled once a year. Please contact Tony Elvery or Pat Croker if you would like to join or would like more information.

Tony Elvery

PRAYER GROUP

The next Healing / Prayer group is on Wednesday, 6th February at 2.30 pm, at the home of Joan & Jeff Padley at 2 Archery Lane, Fareham



Rita Jackson

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is welcome to our meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday in each month. Meetings are held in the Wickham Room and begin at 2.00 pm. Tea is available from 1.45 pm.

Spring Programme

9th Jan	Christmas Past - Let us take a look back together
23rd Jan	Looking Forward - Sharing of ideas for the Summer months.
13th Feb	Kevin Foster - An insight into Messy Church
27th Feb	Norman Clarke - Subject to be announced.
24th April	A PROPER TEA - In aid of Fareham Stroke Club

Shirley Henderson

SAMARITANS PURSE

Thank you so much to everyone who gave so generously of their time, treasure and talents to support this appeal. This year we collected 56 boxes plus £125.00 towards delivery costs. These were given to Mrs Meacher at the Park Gate 'depot' on the first stage of their journey to spread a little happiness at Christmas time to children overseas via the Samaritan's Purse Organisation.



Una and I have enjoyed supporting this appeal over the last 4 years but feel it is time to stand down and let new blood bring their enthusiasm and talents to its organisation. So if there is anyone who feels moved to take on this worthwhile task, please have a word with either of us. Practical support and encouragement are available!

8 Una Peters & Marilyn Woodrow

FROM THE TRUSTEES OF 'THE WELL'



Many of you will know that 'The Well's previous tenants vacated the shop at the end of April and that the property has been empty since then. We are pleased to announce that the shop has now been leased to a local charity, "The Rainbow Centre", which helps children with cerebral palsy and adults with similar neurological issues caused by a variety of conditions including stroke, Multiple Sclerosis or Parkinson's. It would be good if the Christian Community could help the Rainbow to establish their charity shop by donating second hand or unused items for sale, and perhaps by popping in and browsing their shelves for bargains.

MORBUS SABBATICUS

A Minister became so concerned about an unusual disease sweeping his Parish that he sent Church members this letter:

"I write to warn you about a peculiar disease, 'Morbus Sabbaticus' which is very prevalent at the present time.

There are four symptoms:

The symptoms vary but never interfere with the appetite

The condition never lasts more than 24 hours

No Doctor is ever called

The condition is highly contagious

The attack come on suddenly, early on Sunday morning.

The patient awakes as usual after a good night's sleep, for with Morbus Sabbaticus no symptoms are ever felt on a Saturday night..

The patient eats a hearty breakfast.

The attack comes on about 10.00 am and lasts until noon. By afternoon, the patient is usually much improved, able to visit friends, watch TV and read the Sunday papers. The patient with this peculiar ailment is able to go to work or school on Monday, as usual!!!!!!

From the Sunday Post of many years ago — Graham Dyer

PART OF A LETTER RECEIVED FROM MHA BY THE EDITOR.



I have heard old age, particularly for those of us who live to be the oldest of the old, described as being a strange land. In the words of the psalmist, 'how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?'

We cannot give people a song to sing but by nurturing body, mind and spirit, we have lots of ways to help the older people we serve find their own song. Everyone has spiritual needs - a need for meaning and purpose in life. We ensure opportunities are available to achieve spiritual well-being through resources that are provided through:

- A chaplain in every MHA residential community
- A team of music therapists for people living with dementia
- Trained reflexologists
- Over 4,000 dedicated volunteers

One of our Chaplains recently ran a meditation group, (and alternative for those residents who found they couldn't engage with a service of worship). The chaplain told me she was surprised when a resident who was a well-known atheist said he was going to come. At the end of a short period of time, with a candle burning, she asked how people had found it. The gentleman said "I met God". She asked what had God said and he said "Welcome". That gentleman died the following week, very peacefully and the Chaplain told me she felt that session had given him the freedom to meet God. It is a privilege to serve and be alongside older people.

We celebrate Methodist Homes Sunday 2013 on 9th June

It is through the generosity of our supporters that we can offer additional support and alternative therapies free of charge and we now serve over 16,000 older people around the country, more than ever before.

Our thanks go to every member and group with the Methodist Church for the continuing support through prayer, volunteering and generous donations. In 2013 we hope you will help us celebrate our 70th Anniversary and the friendships that make MHA special, whatever age we are.

*Sometimes I picture myself like a candle.
I used to be a candle about eight feet tall - burning bright.
Now, every day I lose a little bit of me.
Someday the candle will be very small.
But the flame will be just as bright.*

SUNDAY LUNCH 20th JANUARY

at 12.15 pm 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. If you would like to make a pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very good – thank you.

The Menu

Starter: Soup or Egg Mayonnaise

Main Course: Baked Ham
Cheese or Parsley Sauce
Roast Potatoes, Roast Parsnips
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!

Jill Groom

WHY YOU CRAVE CHOCOLATE

If you find chocolate hard to resist, there is good reason: scientists have found that eating it releases a natural brain chemical called enkephalin – which is an endorphin with similar properties to opium. In the brain it binds to molecular ‘receptors’ sensitive to opium chemicals to reduce pain and produce pleasurable feelings. This neurotransmitter may be what drives some forms of over-consumption and addiction in people. The findings were published in Current Biology.



Hitting the Cold Spots - helping you to stay warm Winter 2012 - 13

Keeping your home warm and your family healthy can be expensive and sometimes difficult. Our Hitting the Cold Spots Advisors are here to help you keep warm at home and reduce your energy bills.

Call us today

For advice and support call our Hampshire information line, where a local team of friendly, trained staff are ready to help.



0800 804 8601

**Hitting the Cold Spots services are
available until March 2013 – call now!**

Some examples of help given

I did not know where to start. I called the free phone number and spoke to a real person who is now helping me to sort out my fuel bills and benefits.

Mr W from Romsey

The advisor was brilliant. She came to see me and we sorted out my hot water tank, it had been broken for 6 months. Thank you.

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Mrs T from Farnborough

How we can help

The **Hitting the Cold Spots** team could help you with:

- Hot water and heating system repairs.
- Support with alternative heating measures
- (electric oil filled radiators) if you are without heating.
- Access to small grant support to help cope with winter fuel emergencies.

Other Services

- Practical support and advice with debt, money and benefits.
- Free Home Safety visits which can include a Carbon monoxide monitor, smoke detector and a fire safety plan.
- Access to free insulation (cavity wall, loft and solid wall).
- Assistance to switch your energy provider or tariff to help give you savings on your fuel bills.
- Assessment for funding for a gas mains to be laid to your property and a central heating system to be installed.
- Support from a Hitting the Cold Spots Advisor when any visits or works are being undertaken in your home.

Some of the above services and emergency relief are subject to availability and conditions apply

*Remember this service will not be available after 31st March 2013.
This project has been funded by the Department of Health*



Wednesday, 9th January 2013

**Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road,
Fareham PO16 0NU**

New Beginnings

4.00 pm – 6.00 pm

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

See us on Facebook



BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering steps and shaking hand;

Blessed are they who know my ears today
Must strain to catch the things they say;

Blessed are they who seem to know
My eyes are dim and my thoughts are slow;

Blessed are they who looked away
When my coffee was spilled at the meal today;

Blessed are they who, with a cheery smile,
Stop and chat for a little while;

Blessed are they who never say
“You’ve told that story twice today”;

Blessed are they who know the ways
To bring back memories of yesterdays;

Blessed are they, who make it known,
I’m loved and respected and not alone;

Blessed are they who ease the days
Of my journey Home in loving ways.



WITH EPIPHANY IN MIND....

I was telling my three boys the story of the Nativity and how the Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus. Clearly giving it a lot of thought, my six-year-old observed, “Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies”.

GENERAL SYNOD REJECTED WOMEN BISHOPS

- Just what happened that day?

As everyone knows, The General Synod of the Church of England voted in late November to reject the draft legislation to allow women to become bishops. What exactly happened?

Well, under the requirements of the Synod, the legislation required a two-thirds majority in each of the three voting houses for final draft approval. Whilst more than two thirds voted for the legislation in both the House of Bishops (44-03) and the House of Clergy (148-45), the vote in favour of the legislation in the House of Laity was less than two-thirds (132-74). The vote in the House of Laity fell short of approval by 4 votes.

In total, 324 members of the General Synod voted to approve the legislation and 122 voted to reject it. The consequence of the "no" vote of terminating any further consideration of the draft legislation means that it will not be possible to introduce draft legislation in the same terms until a new General Synod comes into being in 2015, UNLESS the 'Group of Six' (the Archbishops, the Prolocutors and the Chair and Vice Chair of the House of Laity) give permission and report to the Synod why they have done so.

Speaking after the vote, the Rt Revd Graham James, Bishop of Norwich, said: "A clear majority of the General Synod voted in favour of the legislation to consecrate women as Bishops. But the bar of approval is set very high in this Synod. Two-thirds of each house has to approve the legislation for it to pass. This ensures the majority is overwhelming. The majority in the House of Laity was not quite enough.

"This leaves us with a problem. 42 out of 44 dioceses approved the legislation and more than three quarters of members of diocesan synods voted in favour. There will be many who wonder why the General Synod expressed its mind so differently.

"The House of Bishops recognises that the Church of England has expressed its mind that women should be consecrated as bishops. There is now an urgent task to find a fresh way forward to which so many of those who were opposed have pledged themselves."

The day after the 'no' vote, the House of Bishops of the Church of England met in emergency session to consider the consequences of the vote. At the end of November The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England also met, when a substantial amount of time was given over to a discussion of the recent vote.

A statement read: "Many council members commented on the deep degree of sadness and shock that they had felt as a result of the vote and also of the need to affirm all women serving the church - both lay and ordained - in their ministries.

"In its discussions the Council decided that a process to admit women to the episcopate needed to be restarted at the next meeting of the General Synod in July 2013. There was agreement that the Church of England had to resolve this matter through its own processes as a matter of urgency. The Council therefore recommended that the House of Bishops put in place a clear process for discussions in the New Year, with a view to bringing legislative proposals before the Synod in July."

Parish Pump

WORK CONTINUES ON ANGLICAN METHODIST COVENANT

The Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) of the Anglican Methodist Covenant has voiced its disappointment that the General Synod did not agree to women bishops. It added, however, that, although the vote in General Synod failed to remove a major obstacle to growing into that unity to which the Church of England and the Methodist Church are committed in the Covenant between them, the basis of that Covenant has not changed.

"There is much that still unites us and we will continue to work towards the full visible unity of our churches," said the Rt Rev Christopher Cocksworth and Prof Peter Howdle, who co-chair the JIC. The Anglican Methodist Covenant was signed at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster, on Saturday, 1st November 2003, in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

Parish Pump

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHERE THE NAME 'JESUS' COMES FROM?

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. Or there is the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became 'Ἰησοῦς' (Iēsoûs), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke 1:26-33 told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because he will save his people from their sins".

DEEP IN DEBT? NEED HELP?

January can be a scary month, when you realise just HOW much you spent on Christmas. If you are in debt, and feeling really daunted, please consider free debt counselling. Do not fall prey to companies that will charge you large fees for advice and loans. (Last January a number of people around the country who consulted debt-management companies only ended up deeper in debt!)

One organisation you might consider is **Christians Against Poverty** (CAP), which now runs 150 free debt-counselling centres in churches across the country. CAP director John Kirby says: "The isolation and fear of living with out-of-control debts is a unique kind of misery which can drive people to the edge." Details of help available: www.capuk.org

CONSCIENTIOUS

A Minister walked into his church office and found his eager young assistant minister had emptied a huge box of various teaching resources that had been sent to the church, including a Noah's Ark for the very young children. The assistant had most of the animals lined up along the desk, and he was searching for more, "Whatever are you doing?" asked the Minister,

The assistant minister looked up eagerly. "The box clearly said: 'Do not use if seal is broken'. So - I'm looking for the seal".

SMILES

Smiling is infectious,
You can catch it like the flu.
Someone smiled at me today,
And I started smiling too

Anon

No matter how grouchy you're feeling,
You'll find the smile more or less healing.
It grows in a wreath
All around the front teeth -
Thus preserving the face from congealing.

Anthony Euwer

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR

A very sick man visited his doctor in a small rural village. As he was leaving, he suddenly blurted out: “Doctor, I am afraid to die. You go to church on Sundays. Tell me what lies on the other side!

The doctor thought a moment. Then he said simply: “I don’t know.”

“You a Christian, don’t know—can’t you say more than that?” exclaimed the man.

The doctor was holding the handle of the door into the waiting room of the surgery. On the other side, there was a sound of eager scratching and whining. He opened the door and the patient’s spaniel sprang into the room, leaping on his owner with an eager happiness.

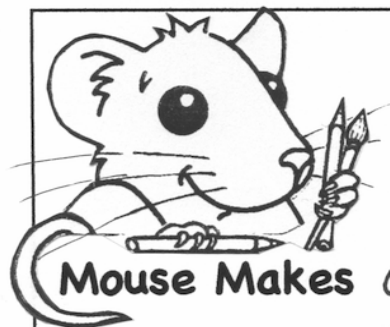
Turning to the patient, the doctor said, “Here’s your dog. He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and so when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. It is the same for me. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing: I know my Master is there, and that is enough. And when the door opens for me one day, I shall pass through with no fear, but with gladness.

WALK YOURSELF HEALTHY THIS YEAR

Walking every day can halve the risk of a stroke, but only if you step up the pace, according to a recent study. A spokesperson from the British Heart Foundation explains: “It is only physical activities which leave us feeling warm or breathing more heavily that are good for our health.”

DON’T SNIFF AT ‘MAN FLU’

When a woman sneezes, she has a cold. When a man sneezes, he has flu. This long-running debate over why women usually carry on with life, while men often take to their beds, may at last have been solved. A recent study in Australia has found that women do indeed have a ‘much stronger immune response’ to rhinoviruses - the bugs that cause the common cold - than men. As one scientist commented: “It makes sense from a biological point of view because women are more likely to ensure the survival of the species”.



◊ THE BAPTISM OF JESUS ◊

Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptised by John in the Jordan.

As soon as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw heaven opening and the Spirit coming down on him like a dove.

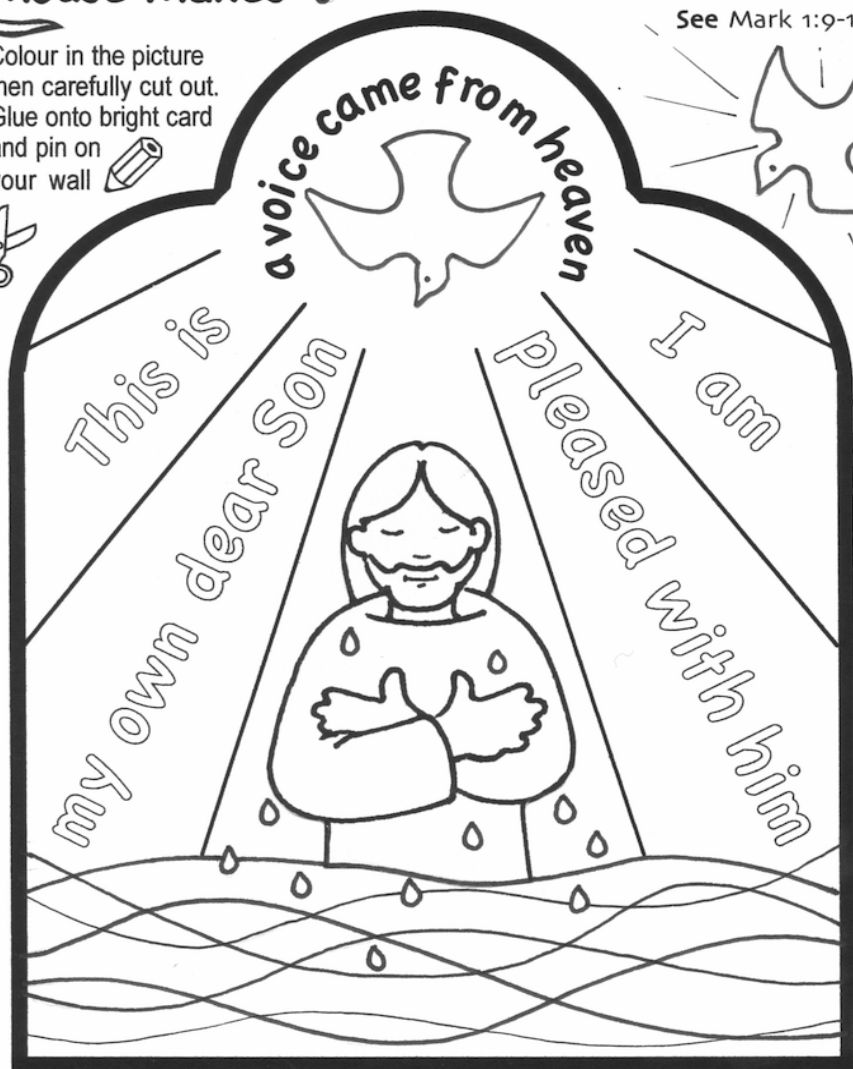
And a voice came from heaven:

"You are my own dear Son.

I am pleased with you"

See Mark 1:9-11

Colour in the picture
then carefully cut out.
Glue onto bright card
and pin on
your wall





FROM LITTLE THINGS

Sometimes the smallest, most innocent looking things can cause great changes. The proverb says that great oaks grow from little acorns and it seems a miracle that something as small as an acorn, so small that you can hold a lot of them in your hand, can grow into something as huge and strong as an oak tree.



Jesus talked about this power in the parables, the stories that he told, when he said that the Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast (Matthew, chapter 13, verse 33). Yeast is a small fungus but without it we wouldn't have bread, wine or beer. Jesus reminded us that you don't have to be big to make a difference. A very small amount of yeast turns a lot of flour into bread. We may be only one, small person but we too can make a difference.

BABY NAMES

When a cat has babies they are called kittens. What are the babies of these other animals called. Answers at the bottom of the page.



A baby DOG is a		
fluppy	puppy	huffy
A baby GOAT is a		
kid	cuddle	groat
A baby HARE is a		
harbour	cub	leveret
A baby BEAR is a		
cub	hug	teddy
A baby KANGAROO is a		
roo	joey	bluey
A baby ELEPHANT is a		
dumbo	tusker	calf

How can you tell a baby snake?

By its rattle.

What's a baby whale called?

A little squirt.

1.puppy 2.kid 3.leveret 4.cub 5.joey
6.calf

THANK GOD FOR THE INTERNET - AND FOR THAT PARTICULAR PLUMBER!

30 years ago this month the internet was first created (when on 1st Jan 1983 the ARPANET officially switched to using Transmission Control Protocol and Internet Protocol (TCP/IP). The internet has transformed our lives, but spare a thought also for another invention which was not so hi-tech: 150 years ago this month, on the 13th of January 1863, the British plumber and industrialist Thomas Crapper launched the one-piece pedestal flushing toilet. What would your life be like today, without either?

The Bible records how, when Israel was in the wilderness, struggling to build the tabernacle, that people of goodwill, “to whom the Lord had given ability, and who were willing to come and do the work,” transformed the lives of everyone around them for the common good.

Not many of us will invent something that will transform the world. But each one of us HAS been given some sort of ability from God. The rest is up to us. Are we willing to ‘come and do the work’ required that will put our ‘ability’ to the common good, and improve the life of even one person around us? The story of Tabitha is told in Acts 9:36-43. She ‘was always doing good and helping the poor’. When she died, her distraught friends turned to St Peter for help. ‘All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Tabitha had made while she was still with them.’ God richly blessed Tabitha for her willingness to use her ability to help others, for when Peter prayed for her, she rose from the dead.

You probably won’t be brought back from the dead by the minister one day (!), but wouldn’t it be great to know that your life will have made a difference to someone? That people are really going to remember you with love? The Bible observes: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’. (Acts 20.35)

Parish Pump

EXPLAINING BIRTH

An expectant mother let her four-year-old place his hand on her tummy and feel the baby kick. The little boy was amazed and wondered aloud how the baby would ever get out. To keep it simple, the mother just said, “The doctor will help”.

Her son’s eyes widened: “You’ve got a doctor in there, too?!”

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All meetings at Church unless otherwise stated)

JANUARY

4th	Friday Lunch	13.00
7th	Healing Prayer group @ 2 Archery Lane	14.30
8th	Ladies Night @ The Manse	20.00
9th	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at Circuit Office	12.00
	Wednesday Fellowship	14.00
	Messy Church	16.00
	Worship Consultation	19.30
10th	Messy Church meeting	10.00
15th	Church Council Meeting	19.30
16th	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders meeting @ Lee M C	19.30
19th	Meeting for all @ Portchester MC re Reshaping for Mission	10.00
20th	Sunday Lunch	approx 12.15
23rd	Wednesday Fellowship	14.00

FEBRUARY

1st	Friday Lunch	13.00
6th	Healing / Prayer group at 2 Archery Lane	14.30
13th	Wednesday Fellowship	14.00
	Messy Church	16.00
27th	Wednesday Fellowship	14.00

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

Coffee Centre every Thursday 9.30 to 11.45 am

DOOR STEWARDS

JANUARY

6th	10.30	Gwen & Harvey Bros gall
13th	10.30	Linda & Kevin Foster
20th	10.30	Brenda & Peter Taylor
27th	10.30	Bobby & Patrick Watson
	18.00	Eric Wheeler

FEBRUARY

3rd	10.30	Janice & Vic Collins
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FLOWER ROTA

JANUARY

6th	Lynda Haydon-Jones
13th	Lilian Tildesley
20th	Garry Bagshaw
27th	Edith Livingston

FEBRUARY

3rd	Pam Mullins
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REFRESHMENT ROTA

JANUARY

6th	Ruth & Tony Elvery
13th	Lilian Tildesley, Una Peters, Jill Groom
20th	Linda & Kevin Foster, Marilyn Woodrow
27th	Shirley & Keith Sargeant, Peggy Long

FEBRUARY

3rd	Lynda Young, Elizabeth Wilcock
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PRESS DATE

All items for the **FEBRUARY** Magazine should be placed in the box in the Welcome Area or handed to the editor - **Jill Groom** - by **Lunchtime** on **Friday 25th January 2013** please.

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