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Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine

FEBRUARY



2013

Live joyfully
with the wife
whom you love.

Ecc. 9:9



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Number 601

February 2013

SERVICES DURING FEBRUARY

3rd	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	Holy Communion & Healing
10th	10.30	Jean Hooper	
	18.30	Stephen Oliver	Sunday 2
17th	10.30	Revd Malcolm Groom	All Age Worship & Baptism
24th	10.30	The Bridgemyary Team	
	18.00	Revd Stephen Wright	Iona Holy Communion

SERVICES DURING MARCH

3rd 10.30 Revd Malcolm Rothwell Holy Communion

LOCAL PREACHERS' & TEAM APPOINTMENTS

FEBRUARY

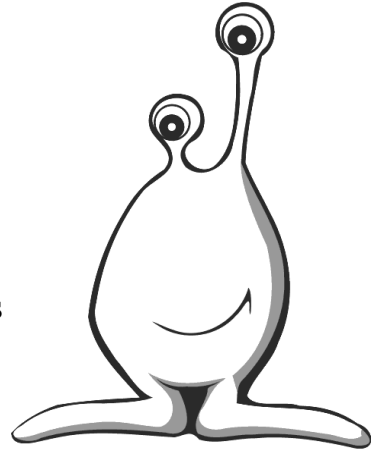
17th 10.30 Andrew Wilcock at Bridgemyary

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

FEBRUARY 2013

Dear Friends

Apart from often making ourselves as incomprehensible to the modern world as if we came from another planet we often give the impression that we are different from the ordinary (which, of course we are!). But this has its dangers - we are likely to alienate folk - just as someone said to me the other day - *"Oh, I'm not good enough to come to church!"*



I'd like to make a statement of what I believe....

We are made in the image of God and are called to be a people of God - a part of the Body of Christ. This is our Christian vocation. God leaves everyone free to refuse this call; but the call is there for all without exception.

The young are called; the elderly are called. The beautiful are called, and also the unlovely. The sick are called as well as the healthy and the energetic. Activists are called and also quiet people. We are called regardless of our race or nationality or social class.

Women are called, and men are called. The poor are called, and the rich and the comfortable.

We are all called no matter what our occupations may be. Cleaners and car dealers are called just as much as professors and lawyers and missionary nurses. And unemployed like everybody else. The great sacrament of our common calling is our baptism, which signifies our glorious new life in Christ”.

If anyone feels they don't fit into our church, then that's the church's problem not theirs . Here's a meditation to think about...

You Can't Mean Me!

(A reading or meditation/conversation with God for one person)

You can't mean me, God? Can you?

I'm not anybody special, or particularly different?

You can't mean me.

Chosen last for every team!

Left at the back of the queue,

A wallflower in the dance of life, Edged out by brighter blooms. You can't mean me!

So Moses grumbled – 'I cannot speak' - You can't mean me!

So Gideon exclaimed – 'I'm the youngest son of the least of the tribes' - You can't mean me!

So Isaiah lamented – 'Unclean lips' - You can't mean me!

So Jeremiah explained – 'only a youth' - You can't mean me!

So Mary said – 'how can this be?' - You can't mean me!

But you do, don't you? - You do mean me.

All my gifts and graces,

Outweighed at times with all my faults and failings.

You want them all, to be woven together And shaped for your use.

You do mean me. - You mean us –

Like bread to be taken, blessed and broken, To be named, 'this is my body', and given to a hungry world.

God bless,



VESTRY JOTTINGS

The Annual Church Meeting will take place following the morning service on Sunday 15 March. Some new Stewards are needed, to be appointed at that meeting. Anyone wishing to serve as a Church Steward from May, or wanting more information about the role, please speak to one of the current Stewards (Jean Petter, Maggie Wheeler, Jenny Chalmers or Ian Bagshaw) as soon as possible.

We would like more volunteers to join the list of people prepared to lead prayers of intercession. We are also revising the list of people prepared to read from the bible in services. If you are able to help with either of these, on an occasional basis, and not already on the list, please let one of the Stewards know.

The Stewards

THANK YOU

A big thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered by Jean Petter. They were much appreciated.

Shirley Sargeant

Thank you to those who bought calendars and notelets in the past 12 months. I have been able to donate £40.00 to Action for Children. I have already started painting items for new notelets and 2014 calendar and I look forward to your continued support.

Eric Wheeler

Gifts of flowers are always a joy. When they come with a message from our Church, even more so. The lovely smiles from Liz Avison and Joan Padley were an extra blessing.

Grateful thanks to every one, all year round, engaged in any way in the Ministry of Flowers.

Una Peters

Thank you to everyone who helps to make the Christmas Tree festival so successful. The £45 for Cancer Research UK from my tree has gone to the Dartford branch (where my brother-in-law is chairman) and will help them to reach £3 million pounds raised by the fairly small branch! A magnificent effort on their part and I am glad to help where I can.

Jill Groom



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

13th Feb Kevin Foster - An insight into Messy Church

27th Feb Norman Clarke - The Magic of Heavy Horses

Don't forget we have a Bring and Buy for our charity "The Fareham Stroke Club)

Shirley Henderson

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

**Friday 1st March 2013 - 2.00pm and 7.30pm
at St John's Church**

This year's service has been prepared by Christian women in France. The theme is 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. Chris Ahern will speak at the afternoon service and Amy Webb in the evening. If you would like to take part in the service or need transport please let me know. All are welcome to attend — men and women of all ages.

Linda Foster

HELP PLEASE

Can anyone help me please?!

Does anyone have an orange scarf that I could borrow please? I need one to participate in the Women's World Day of Prayer service being held at St John's Church as above. It can be plain, patterned, thin or thick material. Many thanks.

Jenny Chalmers

HOUSEGROUP NEWS

From March the **North Fareham Housegroup** will be embarking on a new study of "12 Old Testament Characters". New members are very welcome, and if anyone would care to join us, the first meeting will be on Wednesday 13th March at 7.45pm at 4 Poyner Close Fareham. Please contact Jill Race or Lynda Haydon-Jones for further details.

PLEASE NOTE

The User Groups' AGM is at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th March.

Linda Foster

ACTION FOR CHILDREN

A great big Thank You to all who contributed to AFC this year. As far as I can ascertain we raised **£820.00** over the Christmas period, starting from the end of November through to mid January. This came from various fund raising efforts including a retiring collection, a quiz, the Christmas card scheme, carol singing, card and notelet sale and a Messy Church Christmas tree! As a Church we often get a thank you letter from AFC and I will display all relevant correspondence on the notice board.



Tony Elvery

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Thank you to those who took part in this quiz in aid of Action for Children. The quiz raised over £50.00 for this charity. It appears that most people enjoyed doing it, and we had many correct answers to go into the "hat" to produce a winner. And the winner was the daughter-in-law of Lynda Haydon-Jones.

Mary Bailey

WEATHER

Whether the weather be cold, or whether the weather be hot, we'll weather the weather, whatever the weather, whether we like it - or not!

REV CLAIRE SIMPSON & HER FAMILY

Claire will be joining the Circuit in September, with the pastoral responsibility for our Church and also Stubbington. She is currently working in the Lincoln South Circuit. Claire is looking forward to moving to Fareham with her husband, John, and her two sons, Ben (11) and Sam (9).

Prior to entering the ministry, Claire worked as a secondary school teacher of English and Drama and has also worked for Action for Children, dealing with families and children known to Social Services and on the Child Protection Register. Claire describes herself as a people person with a ministry built around pastoral care for both the church and the wider community. She enjoys working as part of a team, with all age groups enabling people to grow in faith and currently chairs her local Churches Together Team. All this work is undertaken with enthusiasm and a sense of humour.

Garry Bagshaw

13th FEBRUARY - ASH WEDNESDAY:

A Good Time to Admit You Are Sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you: 'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday.

What a wonderful offer!

Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

PARKING PERMITS

Fareham Borough Council (FBC) supplies us with four Parking Permits, for the use of Church Members on church related duties and leaders of User Groups which moved to our premises at the instigation of Fareham Borough Council. They are valid in the Kings Road, Queens Road and Western Road "Residents' Parking Areas" only and need to be renewed in mid-January each year.

It is disappointing to report that three of the four permits went missing permanently, during the last twelve months, probably as a consequence of innocent error but nevertheless at some considerable inconvenience. Four new permits have been obtained to cover the next twelve months but continuance in future years will depend on observance of the following agreed rules for their use:

1. Permits are to be used only when the driver is on Church premises or undertaking Church related duties in the town e.g. banking the offertory. They are not for private/personal use.
2. Permits are to be signed for on the register sheet, giving name, function being attended or duty being undertaken, time out and time returned.
3. Permits are to be displayed prominently on the dashboard
4. Permits are to be returned before the car leaves the vicinity of the Church and NEVER taken home.

Three permits and a register are in a locked cupboard in the corridor outside the kitchen and authorised users have been issued with a key. A spare key to this cupboard is located on the vestry keyboard. The fourth permit (reserved for use by Church leaders) and its register are currently in a folder in the tall steel cabinet in the vestry.

I hope that this matter does not have to be raised again.

Ian Bagshaw

(Steward Representative to the Property Management Committee)



Messy Church 1st Birthday Party

Wednesday, February 13th 2013

From 16.00 - 18.00

**You are invited to join us
for this special celebration**

**Please sign the list in the Welcome Area
For catering purposes.**

SUNDAY LUNCH 17th FEBRUARY

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 Pate
Main Course:	Chicken Breasts In BBQ sauce or Gravy Chipolatas 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!

Jill Groom

BRITISH HUSBANDS ARE THE BEST

Here's good news for Valentine's Day: British men make some of the best husbands in the world because they are more willing to do housework and help with childcare, recent research suggests.

A study by Oxford University that looked at relationships in 12 developed countries found that Swedish and Norwegian men top the table, with British men running a close third. It seems that Australian men, with their focus on beer and sport, come last.

Fareham Methodist Church
MEAL and FILM EVENING
Friday 15th February at 6 p.m.



**We will be serving a meal of Salmon with
delicious deserts.**

**A very amusing story about plans to
introduce salmon into
the waterways of the Yemen**

Donations for the meal will go to: MRDF

**Please sign the list in the Welcome Area or leave a
message at the Circuit Office**

HAVE THE CLERICS GOT THEIR KNICKERS TWISTED?

I read the article from Parish Pump in last month's Fareham Focus about women bishops with increasing incredulity as it tried to explain away the actions of the November General Synod. The Church of England established its own decision making process which set the thresholds for making legislation and must take the consequences for so doing. To say in effect "Ah well that is not what most of us think" is disingenuous and ducks responsibility.

What is of more concern is that those laity voting against the consecration of women bishops did so because they felt that the opt out arrangements for those who did not agree with women bishops were not robust enough, even if they themselves were in favour of women bishops. Just because you believe passionately about something doesn't make it right, and not permitting women to be bishops is wrong.

That attempts are to be made to circumvent the normal processes so as to allow an early further consideration of the matter before 2015 is to be welcomed, although such manoeuvrings are normally reserved for the politicians.

Hard on the heels of the November Synod comes the announcement that gay men can be admitted as bishops, so long as they agree to be celibate. This seems to me to be another self-inflicted wound. Since heterosexuals are not required to divulge anything about their sexual activity and single clergy are not required to agree to celibacy why should gay people?

Whilst not doubting the integrity of anyone declaring a willingness to remain celibate the fact is that the church cannot police any such agreement. Surely if we are serious about accepting people whatever their sexuality then we should not be differentiating in our treatment of individuals. If we do then we can rightly be accused of discriminatory practice.

I wish the new Archbishop of Canterbury well, he has been handed a plateful of worms by his predecessor. I suspect that he will need the wisdom of Solomon and the leadership strength of Abraham to resolve these issues. He certainly needs our prayers.

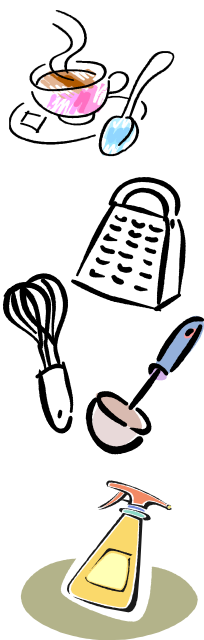
LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED...

Set your heart on secret good turns

Valentine's Day is coming. It's the traditional day for sending cards, chocolates and flowers to our sweethearts (real – and hoped for!). Traditionally, such tokens of affection are anonymous. Hand-writing is disguised, or a different post office is used.

Sending a message of love, unannounced, is a good principle for living – even if you don't happen to have a sweetheart. Simple acts of anonymous kindness, or kindness given in an understated way, can have a profound effect upon another person. Jesus approved of anonymous good works: 'When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing' (Mt 6:3). The needy are not just the materially poor, but everyone who is in need of something, perhaps some kindness that only you can give them at that moment in time.

So this Valentine's Day, don't worry if you haven't got a current sweetheart of your own to love. Show your love, through an act of unannounced kindness, to someone else. Think of your neighbours, your friends, your church who would benefit from some simple compassion and support this month?



Washing Up

Thank God for
dirty dishes
They have a
tale to tell
For by this pile
I have here
It seems we're
living well
Whilst others there
are starving
I've not the
heart to fuss
For this pile
it's evident
God's awfully
good to us



ARCHBISHOP - OLDER PEOPLE " Are still participants in society, not passengers'

In his final appearance in the House of Lords as Archbishop of Canterbury late last year, Dr Rowan Williams led a debate about the place and contribution of older people in society.

Dr Williams argued that instead of society seeing older people as 'a burden', they should instead be recognised for the enormous amount of work that they do in their communities. "More than half the over-60 population are involved in some sort of formal and structured voluntary work... a majority of the older population are ready to do what they can, unpaid, to support the fabric of society; they are doing exactly what we expect responsible citizens to do."

Though older people may well find their physical independence reduced, the Archbishop urged that they should be supported so as to allow them to continue making their valuable contribution to their communities. Dr Williams also stressed the importance of different generations engaging with one another, and said that the Churches and other faith communities have a key role in facilitating this at grass roots level.

"We tolerate a very eccentric view of the good life... as one that can be lived only for a few years between, say, eighteen and forty. The 'extremes' of human life, childhood and age, when we are not defined by our productive capacity.... these are hard for our society to come to terms with."

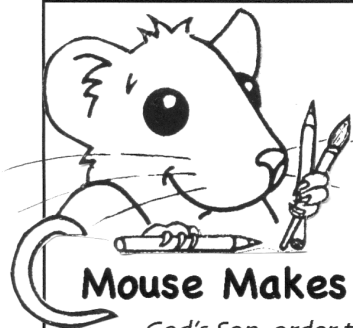


FILM AFTERNOON AT STUBBINGTON Saturday 23rd February at 2.00 pm MADAGASCAR 3



This is a fun animated film based around Circus Animals, a bear on a bike, a tiger that leaps through ever decreasing hoops which are far smaller than he is.

Refreshments of tea, cakes, popcorn and possibly ice cream will be available. Bring your friends and family and have an enjoyable afternoon. (Running time 1 hr 35 mins).



Mouse Makes

God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread. But Jesus answered, **"The scripture says, *Human beings cannot live on bread alone.*"**

Then the Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. *"I will give you all this power and all this wealth, it has been handed over to me and I can give it to anyone I choose. All this then will be yours if you worship me."* Jesus answered,

The Devil said to Jesus, *"If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread."* But Jesus answered, *"The scripture says, **Human beings cannot live on bread alone.**"*

*'The scripture says, **Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.**'*

THE DEVIL SAID:
"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me"

JESUS REPLIED:
"Worship the Lord your God and serve only him"

read Deuteronomy 6:13

1

WE LEARN:
Put God **first**
Worship **only** Him



Cut out the three cards
and during Lent learn
the bible verses

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After he was baptised Jesus returned full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

The Devil said to Jesus, *"If you are*

THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Human beings cannot live on bread alone."

read Deuteronomy 8:3



WE LEARN:
Read the Bible
Learn God's word.

Then the Devil took Jesus to the Temple and said to him, *"If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, **They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.**"*

But Jesus answered, *"The scripture says, **Do not put the Lord your God to the test.**"*

READ
Luke 4: 1-13

THE DEVIL SAID:
"If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take good care of you"

JESUS REPLIED:
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

read Deuteronomy 6:16



WE LEARN:
God cares, **trust** Him
do not test Him.



ASH WEDNESDAY

13th February

The date of Ash Wednesday changes each year according to the date of Easter. The earliest possible date for Ash Wednesday is 4 February and the latest possible date is 10 March. So this year it is quite early.

It is called Ash Wednesday because of the church service where palm crosses kept from last year are burnt and their ashes mixed with water to make a paste. This paste is used to make the sign of the cross on peoples' foreheads.



For Christians these ashes are a symbol of being sorry for things that they have done which make God sad. It is

also a reminder that we are all mortal.

The mark of the ashes on the forehead shows as a sign of our commitment to Jesus Christ and God. And it reminds us that we are saved through Christ's death and resurrection.

FIRE & ASHES



All of these Bible questions have answers to do with fire or ashes... answers at the bottom of the page

1. Who saw a burning bush in the desert? (Exodus, chapter 3)
2. According to Isaiah chapter 58, what should you wear with ashes when you fast?
3. In the second letter of Peter, what cities does he say were turned to ashes?
4. How did an angel cook a cake for Elijah? (1 Kings, chapter 19)
5. In what year did the seraph touch Isaiah on the mouth with a live coal? (Isaiah, chapter 6)
6. Where was Peter when he heard the cock crow? (Luke, chapter 22)



Which English King invented the fireplace?
Alfred the Great.



1. Moses 2. sackcloth 3. Sodom and Gomorrah 4. he baked it on hot stones
5. in the year that King Uzziah died
6. While sitting by a fire in the courtyard of the house of the High Priest.

*YOU ARE INVITED
TO THE
VALENTINES QUIZ
AT
BRIDGEMARY METHODIST CHURCH
GREGSON AVENUE PO13 0UE
ON*

SATURDAY 16th FEBRUARY

At 2pm.



Please come along
for an afternoon of
fun and
refreshments
the cost is £2
for more
information
Call 02392 430657

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All meetings at Church unless otherwise stated)

FEBRUARY

1st	Friday Lunch		13.00
6th	Healing / Prayer group at 2 Archery Lane		14.30
13th	Wednesday Fellowship		14.00
	Messy Church 1st Birthday		16.00
15th	Film & Food evening		18.00
16th	Valentines Quiz at Bridgemary MC		14.00
17th	Sunday Lunch	approx	12.15
23rd	Film afternoon at Stubbington MC		14.00
27th	Wednesday Fellowship		14.00

MARCH

1st	Friday Lunch		13.00
	Women's World Day of Prayer at St Johns		14.00
	And at		19.30
7th	Users Group AGM		19.30
17th	AGM	approx	11.30
	followed by Sunday Lunch	approx	12.15

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

FEBRUARY

3rd	10.30	Janice & Vic Collins
10th	10.30	Garry Bagshaw, Shirley & Keith Sargeant
	18.30	A N Other
17th	10.30	Liz Haigh, Lynda Haydon-Jones
24th	10.30	Bobby & Patrick Watson
	18.00	Eric Wheeler

MARCH

3rd	10.30	Sheila & Graham Dyer
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FLOWER ROTA

FEBRUARY

3rd	Pam Mullins
10th	Rosemary & Tony Jackson
17th	Liz Avison
24th	Irene Russell

MARCH

3rd	Flower Fund
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REFRESHMENT ROTA

FEBRUARY

3rd	Linda Young & Elizabeth Wilcock
10th	Jean & Mike Petter, Anne Isom
17th	Brownies & Guides
24th	Irene Russell & Tony Emberson

MARCH

3rd	Pat & Tony Pickering, Lynda Haydon-Jones
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PRESS DATE

All items for the **MARCH Magazine** should be placed in the box in the Welcome Area or handed to the editor - **Jill Groom** - by **Lunchtime** on **THURSDAY 21st February 2013 please**. (I am away from Friday to Tuesday). Thank you