

FAREHAM

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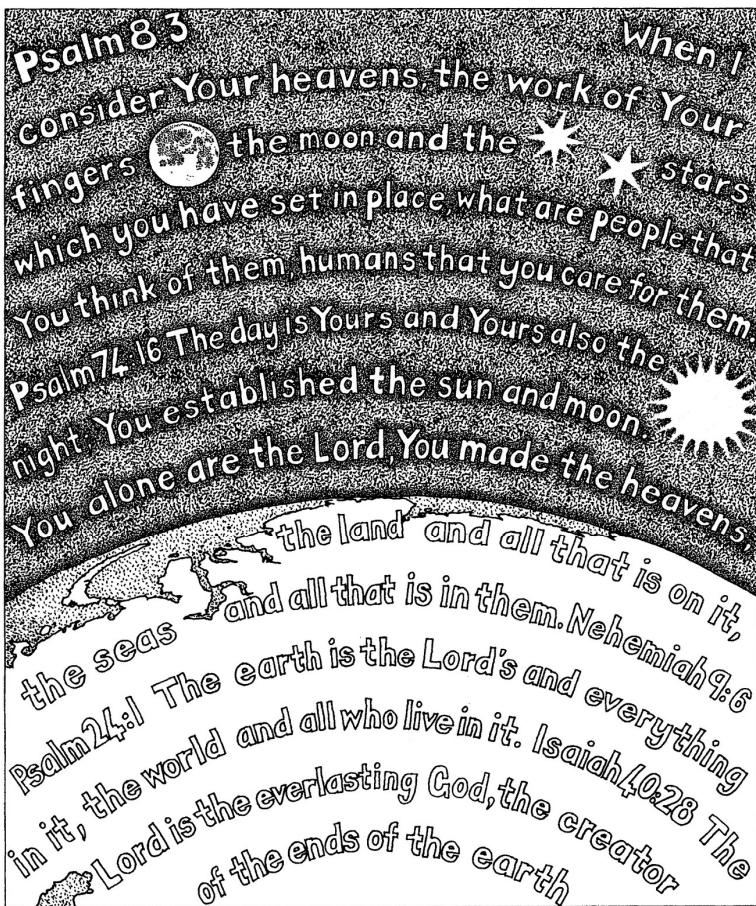


April
2016

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Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine



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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

APRIL

3rd	10.30	Rev Malcolm Rothwell Holy Communion
10th	10.30	Fareham Team
	18.30	Easter Offering at Horndean
17th	10.30	Rev Claire Simpson All age worship followed by Annual Church Meeting
24th	10.30	Local arrangement - Joan Padley
	18.00	Rev Claire Simpson Iona Holy Communion

MAY

1st	10.30	Rev Claire Simpson Holy Communion
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LOCAL PREACHER'S AND TEAM APPOINTMENTS

APRIL

3rd	10.00	Emsworth	Andrew Wilcock
10th	10.30	Portchester	Tracy Cooper
17th	10.15	Stubbington	Andrew Wilcock

Please remember these preachers in your prayers, as they prepare and

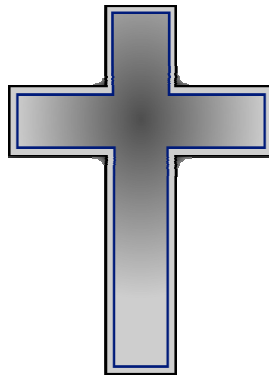
Dear friends,

Happy Easter! During this most glorious season we are encouraged to ponder again on the resurrection and the meaning that it has in our own lives of faith. I came across a good quote that has stayed with me for the last few weeks:

‘You can have death without resurrection; but you cannot have resurrection without death’.

In many ways, it’s obvious, isn’t it? But in other ways it encourages us to think about how it is only through dying to our old ways that we can be birthed into new life. I was struck this year by some of the stories of ‘new life’ that were part of the Sport Relief weekend (18-20 March). Some of our Junior Church took part in a sponsored walk with Christians Together in Fareham as part of the fundraising. Well done to those who walked and raised money! Thank you to those who gave generously! Sport Relief works to support people in need, both in this country and abroad, and to enable change and new life to grow out of poor and desperate situations. There was the most moving story of a girl and her grandmother who worked amongst the rubbish heaps in Nairobi scrapping around for a living, and how their lives have been transformed by money raised through Sport Relief so that the girl could go to school and the grandmother set up a community shop. It was a story of resurrection hope and the release from a previously deathly way of life.

In comparison, we may lead prosperous lives but the call to new life is there for us too. There may be things that need to die in us so that we grow into the new life that God offers through Jesus Christ. This call to change - to dying and rising - can take time for us to process and work through but it’s worth remembering that Eastertide is 50 days long and so, in that sense, there is no rush. Happy Easter – may we allow God’s new life to work within our lives so that His life and love is seen in the world today.



CHURCH NEWS

Vestry jottings April 2016

We thank everyone who helped with the Easter Celebrations.

We now look forward to the Annual Church Meeting. We thank those of you who are thinking of ways of helping within the church and ask if you would like to consider being a church rep to church council. This position would give you the opportunity to have your say in the church life so we can hear everyone's opinion.

I would like to take this opportunity also to remind everyone that Saturday is Claire's day off, if you need anything on that day please contact a steward and we can forward messages to members of the circuit team as needed.

Please contact us if we can help in any way

Wednesday Fellowship are holding a tea to raise money for the Dalit Women of India. (see page 7) This has been a project for Methodist Women in Britain for several years and WF would like to support it this year by the Afternoon Tea and the Garden party in June but we do need help from women within the congregation who are not able to be part of WF. Please support the tea and possibly offer raffle prizes or cakes, to Pat Croker or Shirley Henderson.

The age old caste structure in India puts at the bottom level those previously called untouchables who have chosen the name Dalit for themselves which has meanings including crushed broken and oppressed. WF will be sharing more information as the months go by, but please bear this cause in your mind and in your prayers.

MHA Live at Home Scheme

Each week the MHA hosts a luncheon club at Bridgemary Church aimed at helping elderly people to enjoy a meal, meet friends, be entertained and experience care from a dedicated group of volunteers. This is part of an overall caring and befriending service to enable older folk to live in their own home for longer. Part of the logistics that enable this to happen is a mini bus service that collects those taking part and returns them to their homes. There is an urgent need for a volunteer driver to fulfil this role on a fortnightly basis. The route includes parts of Gosport town, Rowner and Bridgemary and normally involves commitment for a day. Full training and familiarisation is offered for what is a most enjoyable and fulfilling position. If you would like to know more or know someone who could be interested please let me know, my new telephone number is 02392 427222 or email: tonyelvery@yahoo.co.uk

East Fareham Housegroup will meet at our house at 7.30 on 20th April. We shall be discussing a recent article in the Methodist Recorder by Colin Morris entitled "What would Jesus do?" and I will have copies of the article available for anyone interested. We would welcome any visitors who would like to sample the group, just turn up. Joan Padley

The Annual Church Meeting will be held on April 17th and the minutes for last year are on the board in the corridor. If anyone would like me to email them their own copy, please contact me at katestevenson49@hotmail.com

Cath Stevenson

Tuesday (Snug) Housegroup will next meet on April 19th at 10.15 am. We will be using the York Course "Making Room".

Linda Press

Communion Stewards

Would you be able to assist the worship at the Church by taking on the role of a Communion Steward?

Whilst normally two people act as Stewards for the morning Communion they do not have to be a couple.

The task involves preparing the bread and wine for the service setting out the Communion table and directing folk to ensure the smooth progress of the service. After the service the table needs to be cleared, the glasses washed and put away. The table linen may also require washing. For the evening service normally one Steward is sufficient.

At present we have a team of six, however two are not continuing and need replacing this year with a similar situation probably arising next year. As currently arranged each pair does one morning service and one evening service per quarter, but nothing is cast in stone!!

For the morning Communion you need to arrive at Church at least forty minutes before the service starts in order to give sufficient time to prepare. Afterwards the clearing away takes about half an hour depending on the speed of washing up. Less time is needed at the evening Communion because the numbers attending are less.

As with all the best jobs full training and induction will be given!!



Wednesday Fellowship

April 27th We are holding a St. George's Afternoon Tea at 3.00pm in the Church Hall.

Tickets are £3.50 available from Committee Members.

Proceeds to the MWiB Partnership for the Dalit Women in India.

Donations for Raffle Prizes would be appreciated.

Shirley Henderson

SUNDAY LUNCH 17th April 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 for **Christian Aid** this month. 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 Melon

Main Course: Chicken breasts in gravy or BBQ sauce, Roast Potatoes, , Vegetables

Puddings: Variety

There will be a list in the vestibule for you to sign. Please come along and enjoy a Sunday Roast!

Young Christians' Sport Relief Churches' Walk

On 13th March, the Sunday before the big Sport Relief Friday night special, nine young people from our church joined with around thirty other young people and leaders for the Sport Relief Church Crawl. This involved walking from St Columba Church past 7 other churches in the town (including our own) and finishing at the URC church for refreshments and activities.

The weather was glorious with a clear blue sky, and the walk commenced at 4pm finishing around 5.30pm. It was great to hear plenty of chat and laughter going on during the walk and a good mix in with other young Christians at the finish with activities, games and lovely food.

As a result of their efforts around £300 was raised for Sport Relief by our nine youngsters. Really well done and thanks to Sarah, Samuel and Joseph Brooks, Evelyn Garrett, James Parkinson, Amy and

A PARABLE IN SCULPTURE by Eric Wheeler

I used to have a useful life; I held up the pipes that carried the hot water to heat the church so that the congregation could sit in comfort. Then it was decided I was redundant, out-of-date, past my usefulness. So I was thrown out, not even in the skip so that I could be recycled into something else useful, but left on my own on the ground. Fortunately a hand picked me up, took me inside and put to rest on a shelf. Still not much use but with hope.



My story is similar; I was part of the seating in church for over one hundred years. Generations of the congregation sat on me Sunday by Sunday. Perhaps I was not as comfortable as the chairs they had at home but I heard no complaints. Then after all that time of service it was decided that we pews were to be replaced. Most of my friends were taken away to be used by people who liked to sit on pews. Unfortunately I was broken and therefore of no value.

However I escaped the skip as a pair of hands took me in and I was given a new valued life as mementos of the past. I was beautiful, a rich colour, so I deserved to be cherished. A bit of me now sits proudly as a cross lifted high on.....

Yes, me, that bit of scrap metal, I now support the cross and a fish, the sign of Christians. I help to adorn a windowsill, to inspire people; it is a far richer life now, not of practical use but not hidden out of sight as before.

We are so thankful that someone did see that we were of value and to be cherished.

Thank you Eric for your lovely artistic work. I have a cross made by you from that same pew and it stays with us in our lounge.



Wednesday, April 13th 2016
Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road,
Fareham PO16 0NU
Unbelievable Truth



3.30 to 6pm

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

CIRCUIT NEWS

East Solent and Downs Circuit

Mission Day: 'If you needed a neighbour...'

Saturday 30th April 2016 10am – 3pm

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

Programme for the day includes:

Worship, sharing what we are doing in our Circuit with neighbours, new and old, close by and further afield, refreshments and lunch, looking at what needs to be done. Please contact Mrs Garry Bagshaw, 2 The Cloisters, Fareham, PO15 5PU Tel: 01329 845978 or hazelbagshaw@virginmedia.com by 24th April to help us with planning and catering.

3Generate manifestos

Young Methodists from across the country have shared their priorities and passions for the Church, highlighted for the first time in [three new manifesto](#) documents released this month. This follows research at the Methodist Children's and Youth Assembly, 3 Generate, which identified the concerns of the different age groups.

This new venture raises the voices of the young people of the Church and highlights the real and varied subjects close to their hearts. These issues include the environment, poverty, bullying, disability accessibility and the refugee crisis.

Craig Gaffney, Youth President of the Methodist Church, added: "These statements are essential reading for all Methodists across the Connexion. It is vital that everyone in the Church engages with the voice of young people and the topics close to their hearts. All of the issues raised should be important to the whole Church and its membership and should be a regular focus for any Christian living out their faith."

Thank You.

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me for my 6 mile run at the Winchester Sports Stadium. I have raised £85 for Sports Relief. I first ran the Eastleigh 10 k (6 1/2 miles) race in under 3/4 of an hour in the morning.

Mark Brooks





Methodist Women
in Britain

**Gosport Methodist Fel-
lowship Anniversary
Tuesday 26th April 2016**

2.15 p.m. At

Stoke Road Methodist Church, Gosport

We are holding our anniversary celebration on the
Tuesday 26th April 2016 .

We are very excited as we have an excellent speaker who
is the Christian Aid Regional Co-ordinator for Hampshire
and the Isle of White Mrs. Charlotte Scott

We will be following the service with a lavish cream tea.
We would be very pleased if members of your Organiza-
tion, Congregation or Fellowship could join us for the af-
ternoon. Men and women are equally welcome;

Please pass the invitation to anyone that might like to
spend the afternoon with us. Please let me know by phone
023 92 430657 , or leave a message on my answer phone
to let me know how many will be attending.

Alternatively you could contact me by e mail jeanplum-
mer47@ntlworld.com.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Jean Plummer Secretary

MWiB are holding a writing competition in memory of the Rev'd
Julie Hulme. This is in the form of a meditative or reflective piece
of writing on the theme of "From deep within". This can be either
poetry or prose and no more than 500 words. This must be an origi-
nal piece of work, not previously published either in print or elec-
tronically.

Full information is now available on the web-site at mwib.org.uk/

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Richard of Chichester - wanting God more clearly, dearly and nearly (from Parish Pump)

Ever wonder where the prayer ... ‘May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day’ comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III’s misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity was obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well as the Lord’s Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full: (see page 13)

(cont. from page 12)

“Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day.”



*...and when it comes to 'the peace' I want all
those who want to stay in Europe to shake hands
with all those who want to leave...*



Christian Aid Week: 15th - 21st May

Collectors are needed to help at Fareham Railway Station each morning and evening and in Fareham Shopping Centre from Monday to Friday 10.00am – 4.00pm as well as the usual House to House collections that we have done for many years. If you are able to help with any of these activities it would be greatly appreciated, as some of our regular volunteers are on holiday at this time, this year. Thank you.

Date for your Diary:

A Quiz Evening is planned for Saturday 29th October 6.30 – 9.30pm at St John's Church.

Linda Foster

“Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

We work globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. We are part of a wider movement for social justice. We provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.”

For more information visit the website:

christianaid.org.uk

Bible Bite

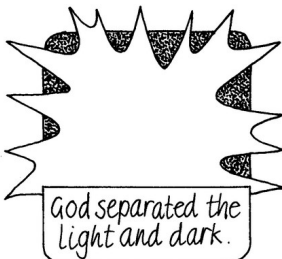
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Genesis chapter 1 to 2 verse 3.

This story is at the start of the Bible, and the start of time...

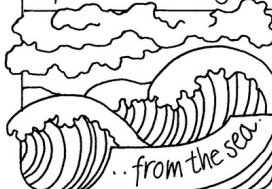
When God first made the universe it was empty and shapeless. God said...

Let there be Light!



God separated the light and dark.

On the next day, God separated the sky...

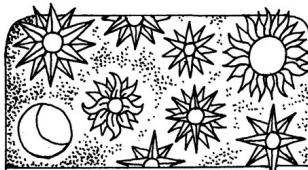


...from the sea.

On the third day God separated the sea...



...from the dry land. Then He made plants of all kinds grow on the land.



On the fourth day God made lights shine in the sky for day and night.



On the fifth day God filled the sea with all sorts of fish, and the sky with all sorts of birds.



On the sixth day God made all kinds of animals...



and then He made people, men and women

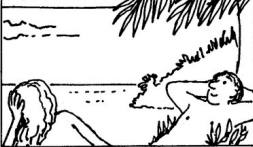
God told the people...

Take care of all I have made.



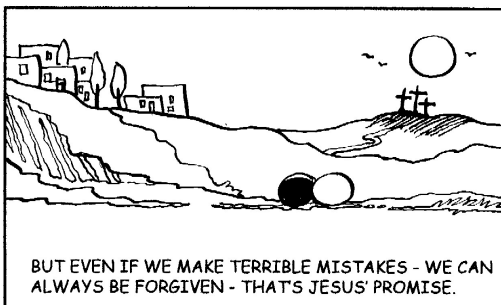
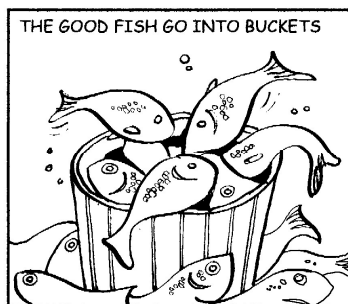
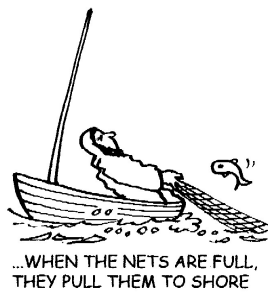
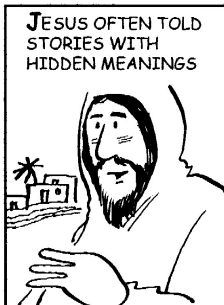
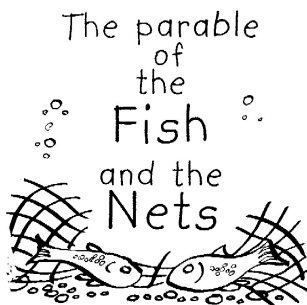
God saw that everything He had made was very good.

On the seventh day God rested...



and so did everyone else!

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN



FLOWER MINISTRY



.Thank you for marking our recent wedding anniversary with flowers. This was not a Big Number one, and only leaked out due to a house group meeting the same day - so it was a lovely surprise when the flowers were presented!

Judith and John

Jill and Malcolm
Groom thank you
for the lovely flow-
ers kindly delivered
by Liz Avi-
son. They were
greatly appreciated.

.Thank you to all the folk who are thinking of me, for the flowers, letters, phone calls, visits and prayers. It is like being wrapped in a warm blanket of love.

Rosemarie Jackson

Thank you so much for the lovely Church flowers. They were much appreciated and lasted so long.

Lynda Thomas

To all the Church members and friends who came on Tuesday March the 1st to help me celebrate my 80th Birthday. Thank you all for coming I had a wonderful afternoon, so many people came to wish me well it was quite overwhelming it will remain in my memory for a very long time.

Thank you every one who sent me gifts, flowers, and cards it was very much appreciated. All in all it was a very special day.

Thank you

Shirley Sargeant.

DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
28 Bank Holiday	29	30	31 9.30 Coffee am	APRIL 1	2
4 9.30 Mini-Market	5	6	7 9.30 Coffee am 10.00 Transport Enthusiasts 10.15 Prayer group 19.30 Singing	8	9
11 9.30 Mini-Market	12 9.45 Parent & Toddlers	13 15.30 Messy Church	14 9.30 Coffee am 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	15	16
18 9.30 Mini-Market	19 9.45 Parent & Toddlers 10.15 Snug HG	20 19.30 E Fareham HG	21 9.30 Coffee am 10.15 Prayer group 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	22	23
25 9.30 Mini-Market	26 9.45 Parent & Toddlers 14.15 MWiB at Gosport	27 15.00 Wed Fellowship tea	28 9.30 Coffee am 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	29	30 10.00 to 15.00 Circuit mission day
MAY 2 Bank Holiday	3 9.45 Parent & Toddlers	4	5 9.30 Coffee am 10.00 Transport Enthusiasts 10.15 Prayer group 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing	6	7

The diary dates as displayed are presented in the same format as the Church website. They are as accurate as the information provided at the time of going to press, but should only be used as a guide, which can be updated with information from the weekly notice sheet..

Flower God, God Of The Spring by Robert Louis Stevenson

FLOWER god, god of the spring, beautiful, bountiful,
Cold-dyed shield in the sky, lover of versicles,
Here I wander in April
Cold, grey-headed; and still to my
Heart, Spring comes with a bound, Spring the deliverer,
Spring, song-leader in woods, chorally resonant;
Spring, flower-planter in meadows,
Child-conductor in willowy
Fields deep dotted with bloom, daisies and crocuses:
Here that child from his heart drinks of eternity:
O child, happy are children!
She still smiles on their innocence,
She, dear mother in God, fostering violets,
Fills earth full of her scents, voices and violins:
Thus one cunning in music
Wakes old chords in the memory:
Thus fair earth in the Spring leads her performances.
One more touch of the bow, smell of the virginal
Green - one more, and my bosom
Feels new life with an ecstasy.

DOOR STEWARDS

APRIL	3rd	Judith Bramall and Alan Sargent
	10th	Liz Haigh and Lynda Haydon-Jones
	17th	Bessie and Daniel Taabu
	24th	Brenda Bennett and Sally Bland
	18.00	Liz Avison and Sally Bland
MAY	1st	Lynda Young and Mary Bailey

(This is correct at time of publication but does not take account of changes made by individuals)

REFRESHMENT ROTA

APRIL	3rd	Marilyn Woodrow, Janice and Alan Sargent
	10th	Lynda Young and Elizabeth Wilcock
	17th	Brownies and Guides
	24th	Tony and Pat Pickering and Una Peter
MAY	1st	Jean and Mike Petter and Ann Isom

FLOWER ROTA

April	3rd	Flower fund
	10th	Mary Bailey
	17th	Eric Wheeler

PRESS DATE

All items for the MAY Focus should be emailed to ruthelvery@yahoo.co.uk by noon of **Thurs 21st April**. If this is not possible items can be placed in the box at church which will be emptied by the previous Sunday the 17th.

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website