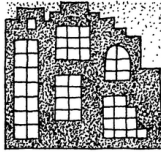


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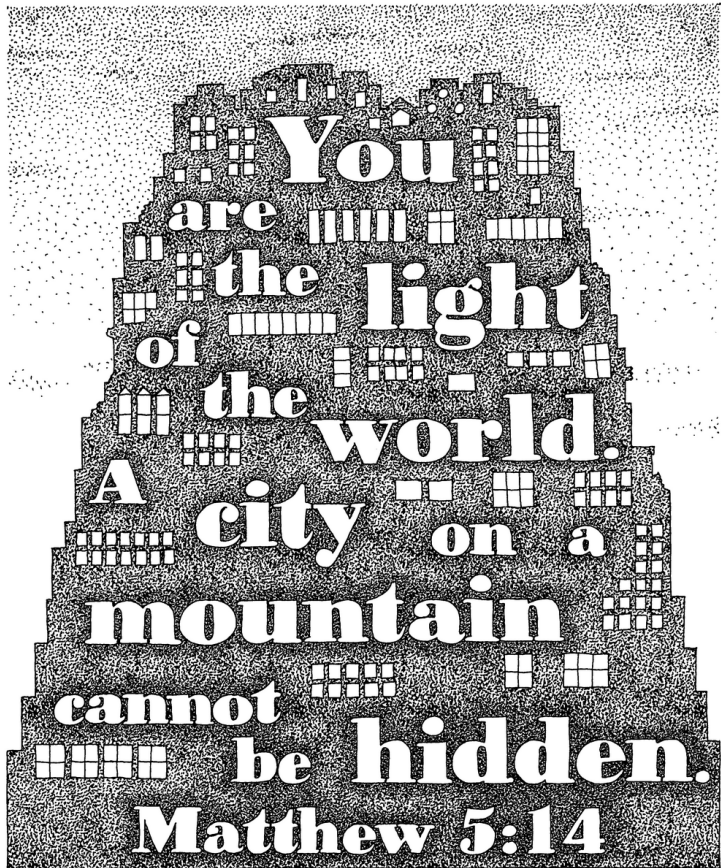
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October
2016

Fareham Methodist Church
Magazine



Registered Charity No. 1127814

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SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

OCT

2nd	10.30 am	Revd Claire Simpson	Family Holy Communion and Harvest Festival
9th	10.30 am	Rev Dr Andrew Wood	
16th	10.30 am	Mrs Imelda Temple	
23rd	10.30 am	Ms Tracy Cooper	
	6.30 am	Rev Claire Simpson	Iona Holy Communion
30th	10.30 am	Mr Gerry Williams	

NOV

6TH	10.30 am	Rev Claire Simpson	Holy Communion
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LOCAL PREACHER'S AND TEAM APPOINTMENTS

9th Oct	Portchester 6.30 pm	Fareham Team
23rd Oct	Lee on Solent 10.30	Andrew Wilcock
30th Oct	Trinity Portsmouth 10.30	Andrew Wilcock

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

Dear friends, The month of October is typically a fairly quiet one - liturgically speaking anyway! September and October are usually the months when churches will pick a Sunday to celebrate harvest and ours is at the beginning of October this year. My own reflections on the season of harvest always bring me back to two thoughts. Firstly, there's a real sense of thankfulness for all that God has given us and provides for us. It is good to be reminded of that. But, secondly, there is then a real challenge to be good stewards of all that God has given us and provides for us. Throughout October, as well as celebrating the season of harvest, we are also focusing as a church community on the theme of 'Stewardship' (see vestry jottings for more details).

It strikes me that 'stewardship' is a bit of a churchy word, isn't it? I wonder what it might mean to the non-churchgoer, or a person without faith, out there beyond the life of the church? My dictionary tells me that it is a formal word often relating to the responsibility of looking after property. Others might say that the word is related to being a steward in different contexts – such as on a mode of transport; at a sporting event; in a church setting; or a shop steward representing the views of workers in a trade union. I guess in all these instances there is an element of leadership and a responsibility to oneself and to others to discharge your duties competently and fairly. As Christians, we are aware that we are **all** called to exercise stewardship and be good stewards in a world that belongs to God. This call is rooted in the stories of creation we find in the opening chapters of Genesis where humankind is given the responsibility of dominion over the created order – to fill and subdue it; till it and keep it. These thoughts are echoed again in the words of Psalm 8 when the psalmist says of humankind 'you have given them dominion over the works of your hands; and have put all things under their feet'. This call is rooted in our faith in Christ who is the treasure of our faith and says 'follow me', and in the Spirit who enables the gifts and fruit of God to be evident in our lives.

So at this time of year we might reflect and again (and again!) give thanks to God for the richness of the world and all its resources; but we might also reflect on our place in this world, the place where God has set us, and how we do our bit to be a good steward of it. How do we use the time, talents and treasure we have at our disposal to care for creation⁴ to share his love and further his Kingdom?

With love Claire

Vestry Jottings

I am writing this having just returned home from the service led by Pam Davey, who without knowing followed the recent thoughts of the stewards. We have been considering stewardship. We realise many may have joined us since the last promotion of Church Stewardship and may be considering what it means and how their skills may be offered. To this end we are distributing a booklet to ask everyone to consider and complete as able. There are many jobs within a church and some we may not have thought of, please take a few moments to consider where you may help and then hand the completed booklet to a steward. Many thanks in anticipation.

We would also like to thank Linda Brooks for all her work in running the Clothes Bank. It has been decided that the time is right to close this and the remaining clothes will be distributed to worthy causes.

I would like also to thank Sheila and her team for the Harvest display and to all who have decorated windowsills.

If we can help in any way please let a steward know

Maggie
on behalf of the stewards

Mini Market

We are in urgent need of items to sell , in good condition , for the Church Stall we can sell anything except electrical goods.

May we express a sincere thank you for all the items you have donated, it helps to raise money for the Church.

Many Thanks

Janice & Brenda

International Bible Reading Association IBRA

It's the time of year when we shall be placing an order for the IBRA Notes for 2017.

If you would like a copy of these notes, please have a word with us before October 30th.

Graham and Sheila Dyer

CHURCH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

We will again be holding a Cake Stall at the Christmas Tree Festival . We would be grateful for any gifts of home- made biscuits and cakes, large or small. Please bring these to church on Wednesday afternoon 30th Nov from 3pm, or on Thursday Morning 1st December.



Used Stamps for the Bible Society

We have just received a letter from the Bible Society thanking us for the Used Stamps parcel which we've just sent them. We were able to send them a huge amount this time including a Collection. So thank you to everyone who has contributed and supported this very worthwhile and vital work.



Jill Race

Shoe Box Appeal

This Christmas we are again planning to work with "Rotary" who will be delivering to Albania, Montenegro, Moldova, and Romania at a cost to us of only £1.00 per box. Leaflets giving all the details are available upon request from me.

There will, as usual, be a box for your gifts. Items suggested are socks, gloves, hats, toiletries, stationery, educational and activity items, small toys, etc. These will be used to supplement packers' boxes. Gifts of money are also very welcome.

Grateful thanks for your continuing loyal support.

Una Peters

A Special Thank you

I would like to say a very big thank you to all the church for accepting me at your services and showing me what a Christian should be like. You and especially Claire, have lifted me out of the depths of despair and helped me see that when disasters happen, there are always those who hold out a helping hand. The church in Fareham is not the building but the people who use it. Thank you all once more for your lovely support

Sunday Morning Refreshments

We are now about to prepare the new Sunday morning refreshment rota for 2017.

This is an opportunity to thank our loyal team which has served the congregation so well this year.

We are looking for one or two new helpers to join us. Volunteers are given three or four dates each year to make coffee and tea after morning service and should your date prove difficult, it is always possible to swap with another person on the list. Do you think that you might be able to help? If so, have a word with Tony or I and we shall be glad to answer any questions. The buzz in the church foyer after service demonstrates the value of the team's effort!

Action for Children



Thanks to all who supported the Coffee and Cake in my garden. We raised £143.50. Thanks also to Mini-market for their donation. I have diaries for 2017 for sale at £2.50 and a selection of Christmas cards between £2.80 and £1 for a packet of 10.

If people want additional or other cards I am willing to put in a joint order for all. I will put the brochure on the board in the welcome area.

Editor of Focus

Due to the fact that Tony and I are transferring our membership to Horndean Methodist Church with effect from January 2017, I will be giving up the job of Editor of Focus Magazine with the Dec/Jan issue being my last. This will then leave a vacancy for a job which I have found very interesting, quite time consuming, but one that can be carried out in my own free time, at home, filling up those rainy days with something worthwhile!

Below is a job description. I will be happy to meet with anyone interested and to go through what needs to be done on a monthly basis, for 10 months of the year.

1. Prepare a blank master copy of Focus for the month in Microsoft Publisher.
2. Receive service plan and rotas for the month and type into draft Focus.
3. Extract graphics eg Front Page and children's page from Parish Pump and copy into draft Focus.
4. Receive Minister's letter, vestry jottings and other submitted Content. Read and amend if necessary and copy into draft Focus.
5. Access post box in welcome area and type in word ready to copy into draft Focus (this is currently done by Linda Press who emails it to me each month).
6. Complete Focus, moving information where necessary and adding topics of interest.
7. Pass to another to proof read, then make any final changes and print off.
8. Pass on to other team members for photocopying and collation.
9. E mail final copy for uploading onto church website.

Please do speak to Claire, Maggie or myself if this is a job that you have the computer equipment and skills to do. I will be happy to do



Wednesday, October 12th 2016

Salt and light



**Join us for games, craft, worship and a meal.
Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road,
Fareham PO16 0NU
3.30pm – 6.00pm
See us on Facebook!**

Worship Consultation Meetings

This is just a short reminder that ALL members of the congregation are eligible to attend this meeting which is held once a quarter shortly before that quarter's Church Council Meeting. It is not a decision making meeting but it does discuss the whole range of worship in our church and the personnel involved. It can make recommendations for the Church Council's consideration. It is an ideal forum from which to keep our Minister informed on how we perceive all preachers and worship in our church. It forms a reflection on the spiritual health of our church family.

The meetings are held on evenings agreed by those present, appreciating that no one date is going to be convenient for all. They start at 1930, are held at The Manse and are invariably lively, constructive and good humoured even though we are not always in agreement. It is an opportunity, an open invitation, to comment on the conduct and arrangement of past and planned services.

Included are the inputs of all who administer our services - church stewards, preachers, worship leaders, music groups, lesson readers, prayer leaders, communion and door stewards and the sound operator as well as our general congregation.

If, for whatever reason, you have observations to make but are unable to attend please do not hesitate to ask anyone who is going to attend the next meeting to pass on your observations. They will be treated in the same way as if you were delivering them in person.

Claire and the rest of the regulars look forward to your presence or other means of input.

(Ian Bagshaw - on behalf of the Worship Consultation Meeting)

SUNDAY LUNCH 16th October at 12.15 p.m.

This is open to all members of the congregation and all family and friends. There is no set charge for the meal we just ask for donations to MHA Live at home scheme 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

Soup or pate

Chicken breasts in gravy or Barbecue sauce sausages
Roast potatoes, vegetables

Puddings a variety

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

I have completed my Faith and Worship course. I would like to thank everyone in Fareham Church for their support and prayers over the last 3 years and especially Joan Padley, my tutor.

Tracy Cooper

Many congratulations Tracy what a great achievement! Also good luck and God Bless you as you begin to serve as a Local Preacher.



*The harvest produce was taken to the old
people's bungalows*

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Sign on a door in Istanbul:

American dentist – 2nd floor. Teeth extracted by a new Methodist.

*Where did Parish Pump find this? I have never seen this on our list
of duties!*

CIRCUIT and DISTRICT NEWS

It was great to attend a very lively Circuit Service at Petersfield on 4th September, welcoming a new year and new staff and celebrating the moving round of existing ministers and staff within the circuit.

Claire, along with a team, had I understand, planned the service and it was great to see a large church overflowing, not just with people but with enthusiasm and joy. In fact people were dancing the conga down the aisles at the end, led, if I remember by some of our Fareham folk. We were “ marching in the light of God ,oh!”

Ruth Elvery



Methodist Women
in Britain

Methodist Women in Britain

The Southampton District Celebration Day is to be held at Portchester Methodist Church on Wednesday 19th October 10am for 10.30am to 3.30 pm.

The theme for the day is "Story and Song" and the speaker is Anne Browse, the Connexional MWIB President. The cost for the day is £3 to include drinks. Please bring your own lunch.

Pat Croker

13 September 2016 Extract from Prayer and Worship by Revd. Judith Rossall

Proverbs 12:10-22 "Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to advice." (v. 15)

Background: How often have you looked at the book of Proverbs and how helpful have you found it? Since the book of Proverbs is a very particular type of literature, here are a few suggestions about how to approach reading this book today.

In her book, *Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs*, Ellen Davis writes, "The proverbs are spiritual guides for ordinary people, on an ordinary day, when water does not pour forth from rocks and angels do not come for lunch". If there are times this week when Proverbs does not feel very 'spiritual' and where the advice given seems a little obvious, you may find it helpful to reflect on the place of down to earth advice in a life of discipleship. Included in the word of God is advice for ordinary days - what does this tell us about how God values the ordinary? Davis also reminds us that Proverbs were written at a time when Scripture was heard rather than read since most people were illiterate. They were meant to be pondered individually, not read as a list. Proverbs, then, perhaps more than any other book, invites us to read slowly and ask which verse particularly speaks to us. And then to ponder that verse throughout the day.

Our proverbs for today commend both patient hard work and careful speech. Neither are particularly exciting, perhaps they do not even seem that relevant to discipleship, but they are part of the stuff of life.

<http://methodist.org.uk/prayer-and-worship/a-word-in-time/2016/11-17-september-2016/tuesday>

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Acceptance

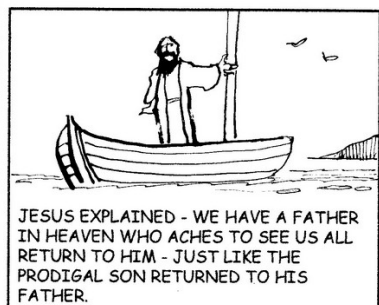
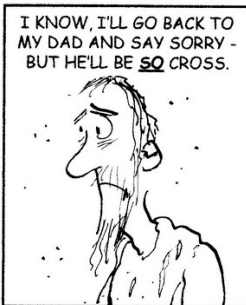
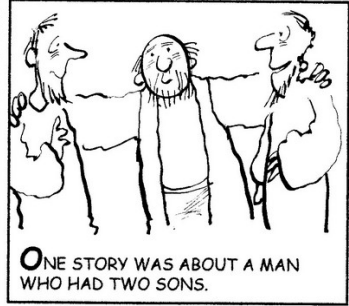
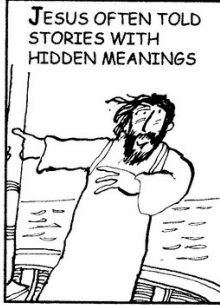
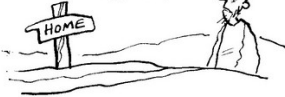
Like many people I love to gaze up into the awesome canopy of the star filled universe on a clear dark evening, mesmerised by Gods creation. However there are days when bright clouds drifting across a brilliant azure sky lend a sense of depth to that deep void. That beyond the bright blue there are trillions of galaxies with billions of stars, planets and other heavenly bodies drifting back to the beginning of time, the beginning of God's creation; you can't see them, but you know they are there! You can't see God's love either, but you know that it is there and that it is real because it touches us in ways both beyond human comprehension and in personal, spiritual interaction. It is a case of accepting that everything, including us, belong to God and that His love is part of His creation.

A. Stargazer

An Alzheimer's Poem by Owen Darnell

Do not ask me to remember.
Don't try to make me understand.
Let me rest and know you're with me.
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.
I'm confused beyond your concept.
I am sad and sick and lost.
All I know is that I need you to be
with me at all cost.
Do not lose your patience with me.
Do not scold or curse or cry.
I can't help the way I'm acting.
Can't be different though I try.
Just remember that I need you,
That the best of me is gone.
Please don't fail to stand beside me,
Love me 'til my life is done.

The tale of the Prodigal Son



FLOWER MINISTRY

Thank you for the lovely flowers given to me at last Sunday service and regularly over the last two years, for my wife, who is a resident in a nursing home she loves the flowers and to see her stroking them makes me very happy.

Brian Cooper



Many thanks for the flowers delivered a couple of weeks ago by Liz, who stayed for a chat. The flowers lasted a whole week and were lovely. As I am unable to get out so much now, a chat is a real treat too and means such a lot.

Thank you

Lilwen Watkins

Jill and Malcolm Groom would like to thank you for the lovely flowers kindly delivered to us by Joan Padley to celebrate our 45th Wedding Anniversary. They were very much appreciated.

DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
3 9.30 Mini-Market	4 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 20.00 Ladies Night	5 10.00 Healing Group at Padley's 10.00 Naomi House Coffee am. 19.30 Pastoral meeting	6 9.30 Coffee am 10.00 Transport Enthusiasts 10.15 Prayer Circle 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	7	8
10 9.30 Mini-Market	11 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	12 Messy Church 15.30	13 9.30 Coffee am 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	14	15 Safe-guarding training 9.30
17 9.30 Mini-Market	18 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 20.00 Ladies Night	19 10.00 MWiB at Portchester	20 9.30 Coffee am 10.15 Prayer Circle 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	21	22
24 9.30 Mini-Market	25 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	26	27 9.30 Coffee am 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	28	29 6.30 at St John,s church hall— Christian Aid quiz and supper
31 9.30 Mini-Market	NOV1 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 20.00 Ladies Night	2	3 9.30 Coffee am 10.15 Prayer Circle 10.00 Transport Enthusiasts 17.30 Brownies 18 9.30 Singing grp	4	5

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..

Who Am I? by Deitrich Bonhoeffer

Who am I? They often tell me
I stepped from my cell's confinement
Calmly, cheerfully, firmly,
Like a Squire from his country house.

Who am I? They often tell me
I used to speak to my warders
Freely and friendly and clearly,
As though it were mine to command.

Who am I? They also tell me
I bore the days of misfortune
Equably, smilingly, proudly,
like one accustomed to win.

Am I then really that which other men tell of?
Or am I only what I myself know of myself?
Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,
Struggling for breath, as though hands were compressing my throat,
Yearning for colours, for flowers, for the voices of birds,
Thirsting for words of kindness, for neighbourliness,
Tossing in expectations of great events,
Powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,
Weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making,
Faint, and ready to say farewell to it all.

Who am I? This or the Other?
Am I one person today and tomorrow another?
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,
And before myself a contemptible woebegone weakling?
Or is something within me still like a beaten army
Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.
Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am thine!

DOOR STEWARDS

OCT 2nd Liz Haigh and Lynda Hayden-Jones and
 Bobby and Patrick Watson
 9th Bessie and Daniel Taabu
 16th Sally Bland and Janice Collins
 23rd Judith Bramall and Penny Garrett
 6pm Eric Wheeler
 30th
NOV 6th Penny Garrett and Mary Bailey

REFRESHMENT ROTA

OCT 2nd Pat Croker and Mary Bailey
 9th Liz Haigh and Liz Avison
 16th Shirley and Keith Sargeant and Peggy Long
 23rd Walter Metcalf and Pat Croker
 30th Marilyn Woodrow, Janice and Alan Sargent
NOV 6 Lynda Young and Elizabeth Wilcock

FLOWER ROTA

October. 2nd Tony Jackson
 9th Joan and Jeffrey Padley
 16th Garry Bagshaw
 23rd -----
 30th -----
November 6th ----- (volunteers/donations would be appreciated for these blank dates)

PRESS DATE

All items for the Nov. Focus should be emailed to ruthelvery@yahoo.co.uk by noon of 27th October. If this is not possible items can be placed in the box at church which will be emptied by the previous Sunday the 23rd.