

# FAREHAM

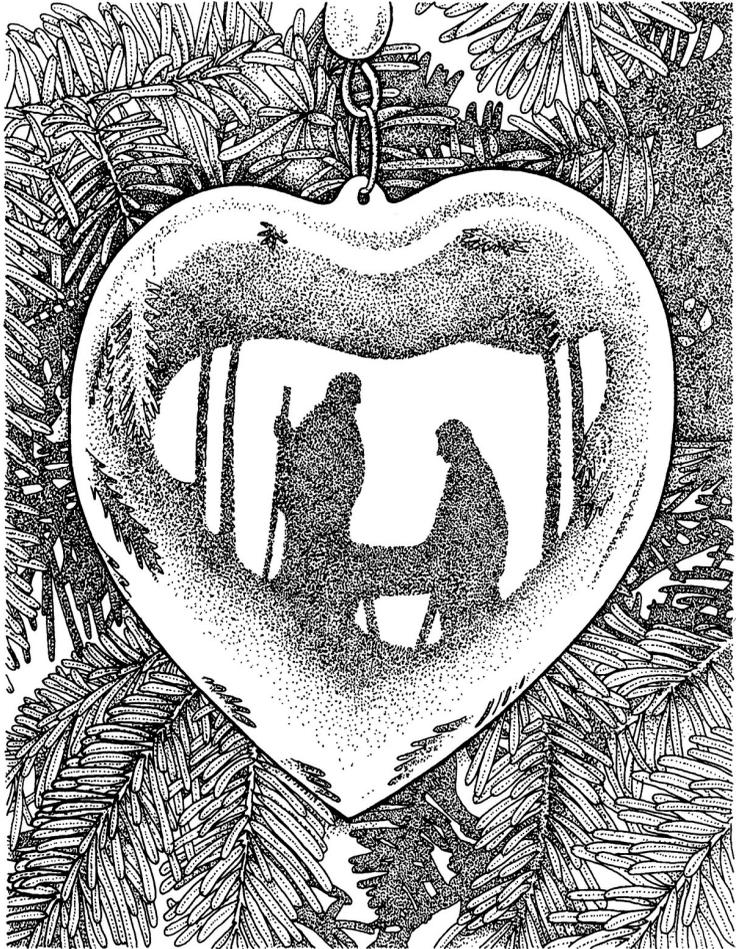
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December 2016 &  
January 2017

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Fareham Methodist Church  
Magazine

Registered Charity No. 1127814

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EDITOR: To be appointed  
Fareham Church website: [www.farehammethodist.org.uk](http://www.farehammethodist.org.uk)  
Circuit website: [www.esanddcircuit.org.uk](http://www.esanddcircuit.org.uk)

### SERVICES FOR THE MONTH

Dec

4th	10.30	Rev Claire Simpson	Holy Communion 2nd Sun Advent
11th Dec	10.30		Christmas service led by our young people 3rd Sun Advent
18th Dec	10.30	Andrew Wilcock	4th Sun Advent
	18.00		Carol Service
24th	23.15	Revd Claire Simpson	Midnight communion
25th	10.30	Revd Claire Simpson	Christmas morning

Jan 2017

1st	10.30	Revd Claire Simpson	Holy communion café church
8th	10.30	Fareham Team	
15th	10.30	Pam Stone	All age worship
	18.00	Revd Claire Simpson	Iona Holy Communion
22nd	10.30	Pam Davey	
29th	10.30	Revd Claire Simpson	Healing Service

Feb

5th	10.30	Revd Claire Simpson	Holy Communion
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### LOCAL PREACHER'S AND TEAM APPOINTMENTS

11th Dec	Tracy Cooper	10.30	Petersfield
1st Jan	Andrew Wilcock	10.15	Stubbington
15th Jan	Tracy Cooper	10.30	Bedhampton
	Andrew Wilcock	10.30	Portchester
29th Jan	Andrew Wilcock	10.45	Havant
5th Feb	Andrew Wilcock	10.00	Emsworth
	Tracy Cooper	10.30	Lee on Solent

Dear friends, The glut of Christmas advertising for both produce and presents is now well and truly upon us. Everywhere you turn there are adverts and promotions on the television, radio, the computer homepage, in magazines and through the letterbox. The bombardment brings out the ‘Bah Humbug’ in me! Despite being married to Mr Christmas, I would still much prefer to put up the tree in our house on Christmas Eve and not sing Christmas carols until we actually get to Christmas. But I know I am swimming against a (yule)tide of Christmassy expectation. Whilst I am happy to smile at the 2016 John Lewis advert (foxes and a dog dancing on the present of a newly installed trampoline in a back garden - just in case you haven’t seen it for yourself and are interested) I’m left wondering how much truth there is in the cosy extended family Christmas scenes with food and gifts aplenty and smiles and fun that is being had by all. The pressure to be happy and have the perfect Christmas is felt by many. Sometimes this is because the world tells us that we have to do everything to excess and have the best of everything just because we can. Sometimes that pressure is felt because it will mean glossing over troubles and sadness; pain and brokenness for at least a few days anyway. How far we have come from the real and true story of what Christmas is all about. One of the newer hymns in our hymn book (No. 220) puts it simply in the fourth verse:

‘Songs that paint a cosy Christmas  
miss the truth of God above!  
See how God, rejected, homeless,  
came a child with wide-eyed love.’

These are the words that get to the heart of the meaning of Christmas and they are words that all of us need to hear again this Christmas. For those of us who have suffered loss and disappointment and are dealing with difficult circumstances, these are the words to strengthen us and remind us that God came in Jesus Christ to share our humanity and He understands our pain and suffering and our joys and sorrows. In verse 5 of the same hymn quoted above it says:

‘Here’s good news: our God is with us,  
Friend for life, in joy and need!  
In rejection, pain and trouble  
Jesus is our Friend in deed.’

The truth is that Jesus comes as Emmanuel and so He is with us always. May each of us know this in our hearts and may this be the message we share with others at this special time of year.

With Love Claire

## **CHURCH NEWS and Activities**

On behalf of us all I would like to thank Ruth for all her hard work as the Editor of Focus and wish both Ruth and Tony all the best. This is her last edition and we continue to look for a volunteer to take over please contact either myself or Claire if you are interested.

I would also like to thank Jean Petter for updating the Church Directory, this is a long process and we can help Jean by giving her our updated details as they occur, Jean can then keep the 'live' copy up to date.

We are now in the season of Advent, a busy time for all. Thanks to everyone who will help in church activities during the next few weeks. We look forward to an enjoyable Christmas and thank everyone who started the season by donating toys last week.

Please let the steward team know if we can assist in any way.

### Advent Bible Study

There will be a series of three Advent Bible Studies led by Rev Claire Simpson and Pam Stone (Circuit Pastoral Worker), using some of the material from 'Ready and Waiting' by Nick Fawcett, at Gosport Methodist Church on Thursdays 1st, 8th and 15th December. Folks are welcome to bring a packed lunch from 12noon onwards if they wish (drinks will be provided) and the studies will be from 1-2pm. Claire

### Cafe Church

**10.30, Sunday January 1st 2017.** Croissants, bacon rolls and toast and marmalade will be served from 09.45 onwards. Tea, coffee and fresh fruit will also be available. There will be a sign-up list in the Welcome Area from December 11th so that it will give us a rough estimate of the amount of food to prepare.

Birthday wishes to two of our nonagenarians Lynda Thomas and Cyril Fielder who both have December birthdays. God Bless you both.

### **Shoe Box Appeal**

Many thanks to all who were involved in this year's "Shoe Box Appeal". Rotary collected 43 boxes from us, together with a cash balance from donations, and sundry gift oddments to supplement their other boxes as necessary. Your response was greatly appreciated. A small amount of toothbrushes etc, were held back for Jill's next trip to the Ukraine.

For Christmas 2017 Mrs Linda Press has kindly offered to take over from me and continue the good tradition for our Church and we thank her very much

Una Peters

### **Return of the Heroes!**

Following the success of the Heroes holiday club in August this year, we are planning to repeat the scheme with a new theme from 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> August 2017. To keep in touch with the children and families involved we are inviting them to a Return of the Heroes party at our church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January from 2.30-4.30pm. Please keep this venture in your prayers.



Kevin Foster

### **A Quiz for Christmas**

I have been given a quiz from another church for you to puzzle over this Christmas time. It concerns British Birds, so if you find a list of birds and have a (twisted?) imagination, you should find it fun to do. As usual it is for Action for Children. Mary Bailey





**Wednesday, December 14th 2016**

# **Special Message**



**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!**

**The next Messy Church will be on 11th  
January and will be on the theme “Listening to  
God”**

**CHRISTMAS SUNDAY LUNCH 11th December 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 to MHA. If you would like to make a festive pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very good – thank you.

**The Menu**

**Starter:** Soup or Prawn cocktail

**Main Course:**

Roast turkey, sausages,  
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!

We have been a bit short of helpers lately so if you can help with serving or helping in the kitchen please sign the list. We would really appreciate your help.

Thank you

Jill Groom

**Prayer Tree**

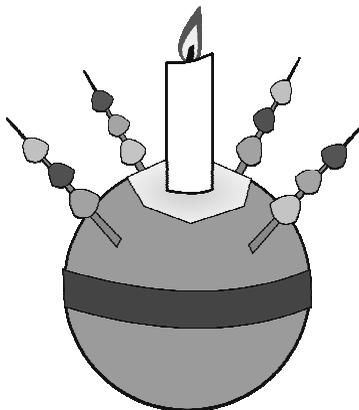
Tie a prayer on the Christmas Tree in the Welcome Area. You are invited to write your prayer and tie it onto the tree using the cards and ribbons provided. The prayers will be used at the Christmas Eve service at 23.15.

Garry

## TOPICS OF INTEREST

### Christians together in Fareham – Christingle Making

Christingle making will take place in the Shopping Centre on 17th December from 10:00am till 2:00pm. If you would like to volunteer please contact Edith.



Volunteers will be asked to wear an apron with a pocket and bring a sharp knife which can be kept safely in the apron pocket.

Edith Livingstone



Trinity Pre School Christmas Fayre  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
10.00am – 12.00pm



Festive fun for all the family including a Cakes stall, Tombola, Face Painting, Games, Children's Craft Table, Photo Booth and Human Fruit Machine.

## Christmas prayers of praise and confession

We praise you, O loving God,  
who gave your very self in human form,  
your majesty born into our poverty,  
your love lying in an out-house.  
We thank you that, amidst Bethlehem's noisy rush,  
we find in you  
a focus for our activity,  
a hope for your humanity,  
a love for all eternity.

But we confess that  
Christ's birth has gone unnoticed.  
Now, as then, we have not made room  
in our day to day lives.  
Now, as then, we have mislaid  
your message of reconciling love.  
Now, as then, we have ignored  
the stillness of your presence.



Gift-giving God, forgive us.  
Free us from our self-centeredness.  
Help us to accept your love so freely given  
that we may live  
as you have called us to live. Amen.

**The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have released the following statement in response to the recent Presidential election.**

The United States has chosen Donald Trump as its new President. Viewed from the United Kingdom, the campaign appeared more hard fought, bitter and divisive than ever before. The result will undoubtedly cause both great pain and great celebration throughout the United States and the wider world.

Many of the statements made by President-Elect Trump during the campaign will prompt grave concern. Much of what was said was profoundly at odds with the beliefs and values of our Church.

Our understanding of God's purpose is that all people are valued and should be treated with dignity and respect. This value is incompatible with the "off the cuff" comments made about women or in support of torture and mistreatment of prisoners; nor can it be reconciled with the more considered rhetoric directed at immigrants and people of different faiths.

The Churches view climate change as one of the greatest challenges facing humankind. Our brothers and sisters in Pacific Islands are already experiencing its consequences. We know that, even with the plans agreed at the Paris COP21 last year, many more people and species will be threatened. It is of profound concern that Mr Trump has indicated that he wishes to ignore the world's scientists and leaders, dismiss the threat of climate change and refuse to implement the Paris targets.

In a democratic society, votes bestow a right, and a responsibility, to govern. We respect and honour this, and recognise that we are all facing a new political landscape. The Methodist Church must always stand with our sisters and brothers in partner Churches as

Cont. from page 12

President-Elect Trump says that he will seek the common ground. We will pray for him and all who have the responsibility of leadership. We hope and desire that the United States will travel a peaceful, generous, faithful and just path.

We offer this prayer:

God of truth and justice,  
We give you thanks for the peoples of the United States Of America;  
and pray for Donald Trump, the Senate and Congress at a time of change and transition.  
Grant to its leaders,  
vision, wisdom and compassion.  
To its people,  
listening ears, generous hearts and a spirit of unity,  
to the world,  
a compelling vision of your kingdom that excites our imagination,  
deepens our love,  
and inspires us to build in every place communities of welcome that cast out division.  
In Christ's name,

Amen

Revd Roger Walton and Rachel Lampard  
President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

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Did you know?

*Did you know that our own Prime Minister Theresa May, is the daughter of a former Anglican Vicar in Eastbourne. She lost both her parents within a short period in her mid 20s and still remains a person of great faith according to the*

## *Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus*



The teacher asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favourite Bible story. She was puzzled by Kate's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. She asked her which story it was meant to represent. "The Flight to Egypt," was her reply.

Pointing at each figure, the teacher ventured: "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh," explained Kate happily, "that's Pontius - the pilot!"

## Parish Pump

### Farewell but not goodbye

Well here we are at my final edition of Focus. I have enjoyed producing it for you over the last three years, but I did not do it on my own. Thank you to all who have contributed interesting articles and information on forthcoming events. Thank you also to Alan Sargent who photocopies each edition, to Tony who has proof read, to Nigel and Meg who collate and staple and to Linda Press who has emptied and typed items from the post-box since we moved further away. Thanks also to Malcolm Race who uploads the content to the church website. I have tried my best to keep the information as accurate as possible. Please be kind to the next editor as it takes many hours of checking information and tussling with the computer which always knows best!!!!!!

Feedback is always good and praise lifts the spirit and makes the task seem easier.

A Happy Christmas to you all

Ruth Elvery  
Editor

# ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

## A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.



...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS



MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

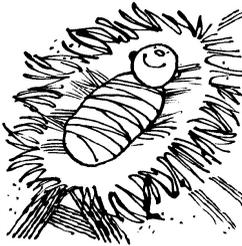
BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



SORRY... I'VE NO ROOM!

THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!

## FLOWER MINISTRY and Christmas wishes

Bobby and Patrick wish everyone every happiness for Christmas and the New Year. We hope and pray that the forthcoming year will bring a sense of inner peace to all of us when all the world seems to be in turmoil. Perhaps it is good that we cannot see into the future but go each day with our hand in the Lord's trusting in him that he will give us the strength and wisdom to cope. Instead of cards we are making a donation to Action for Children this year. "

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers that Mary kindly delivered following my recent operation and also for the cards good wishes telephone calls and e-mails, I am pleased to say I am now feeling much better.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, flowers and cards during the past few weeks, owing to my brother John's sudden illness and death. I really appreciated your care and concern.  
Jill Groom

We wish all our church friends a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year. As usual we will be making a charity donation in lieu of cards.

Meg and Nigel

Instead of individual Christmas cards - we are giving one card with loving wishes to all our Church family - plus a donation to Action for Children from  
Una and Scott

Sincere Christmas Greetings to you all.  
In lieu of cards I am donating to Action for Children.

Mary Bailey

We wish our Church Family a very Happy Christmas and a very Healthy New Year. We have donated to Action for Children  
Best Wishes from  
Janice and Vic.

Joan and Jeffery Padley send Christmas wishes to all friends at church. We shall make a donation of the cash saved to 'Sightsavers'.

Thank you for the church flowers and Linda for bringing them. Thanks also to Bob for the lovely warm shawl which is being well used.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year and thank you all for your kind thoughts and prayers. Shirley and Eric

Thank you for the flowers and for all the concern so many people have shown during Katie's illness and recent spell in hospital. Katie herself has been very touched, and has really appreciated the prayers, cards and good wishes.

Judith and John Bramall

I want to wish all my church family a very happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. I have donated to the macular society and the British legion instead of sending cards.

Brenda

Jean and Gerald Everitt would like to wish all their friends in the Methodist family a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas

Kevin and Linda send our very best wishes to all church friends at Christmas. We shall be supporting Action for Children

Thank you so much for the beautiful church flowers delivered to me by Lynda Young following the recent death of my brother. Also for all your kind messages of condolence sent through cards, flowers, plants, e-mails and telephone calls. Liz.Avison.

Thank you for the lovely flowers handed to me by Dennis on Sunday. They were greatly appreciated. Lynda Thomas

Ruth and Tony Elvery along with Graham and Sheila Dyer wish you all a Happy Christmas and a good New Year. We have donated to Action for Children in lieu of cards.

## DIARY DATES FOR DEC/JAN

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>28</b> 9.30 Mini-Market	<b>29</b> 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 20.00 Ladies Night Grooms	<b>30</b>	<b>DEC 1</b> Christmas Tree Festival 10.00 to 17.00 10.15 Prayer Circle 13.00 Advent Bible Study Gosport 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	<b>2</b> Christmas Tree Festival 10.00 to 17.00	<b>3</b> Christmas Tree Festival 10.00 to 16.00
<b>5</b> 9.30 Mini-Market	<b>6</b> 9.45 Parent and Toddlers 10.15 Snug House Grp.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Coffee Centre 9.30 13.00 Advent Bible Study Gosport 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10.00 Trinity Pre School Fayre 19.00 Film at Holy Trinity
<b>12</b> 9.30 Mini-Market	<b>13</b> 9.45 Parent and Toddlers party 20.00 Ladies night at Bagshaws	<b>14</b> 15.30 Messy Church	<b>15</b> Coffee Centre 9.30 10.15 Prayer Circle 13.00 Advent Bible Study Gosport 17.30 Brownies Party 19.30 Singing grp	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>10.00</b> Christingles in Precinct
<b>19</b> 9.30 Mini-Market	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Brownie S.O.	<b>22</b> Coffee Centre 9.30	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>

*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..*

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>JAN 2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Coffee Centre 9.30 10.15 Prayer circle 10.00 Transport Grp. 17.30 Brownies	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>9</b> 9.30 Mini-Market	<b>10</b> 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	<b>11</b> 15.30 Messy Church	<b>12</b> Coffee Centre 9.30 19.30 Singing grp.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>16</b> 9.30 Mini-Market	<b>17</b> 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Coffee Centre 9.30 10.15 Prayer circle 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
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<b>30</b> 9.30 Mini-Market	<b>31</b> 9.45 Parent and Toddlers	<b>FEB1</b>	<b>2</b> 9.30 Coffee Centre 10.00 Transport grp 10.15 Prayer circle 17.30 Brownies 19.30 Singing grp	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

## **DOOR STEWARDS**

JAN

DEC 4 Liz Avison/Irene Russell 1 B and D Taabu  
11 Alan Sargent and Judith 8 S Bland/J Collins  
Bramall 15 L Haigh/L Haydon-Jones  
18 Pat Croker/Keith Sargeant/ 18.00 E Wheeler  
Sarah Brooks 22 L Avison/I Russell  
18.00 Eric Wheeler/Watsons 29 B and P Watson  
25 Special arrangement  
FEB 5 Penny Garrett/Sarah Brooks

## **REFRESHMENT ROTA**

DEC 4th Irene Russell and Tony Emberson  
11th Lynda Haydon-Jones and Rae Shepherd  
18th Sheila Dyer, Sarah Brooks and Meg Cox  
25th No refreshments

JAN 8 Jan. Margaret Boyd & Jenny Chalmers  
15 Jan. Margaret Temple, Sally Bland & Brenda Bennett  
22 Jan. Cath Stevenson & Judith Bramall  
29 Jan. Pat Croker & Mary Bailey

## **FLOWER ROTA**

DEC 4th Tony and Ruth Elvery  
11th Flower fund  
18th Christmas flowers  
25th " "

**PRESS DATE To be arranged when new Editor appointed.**

**Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website**