Fareham Methodist Church

Newsletter March/April 2017

Minister: Rev Claire Simpson Tel: 01329 828706 Email: revclaire72@btinternet.com

Dear friends,

Amidst the dross of many of the things that circulate around the internet there has been a really lovely story making the headlines as I find myself writing this letter to you – the first in the 'new look' church newsletter. It's about a teacher in the United States who begins a lesson with his students by greeting them when they line up outside his classroom each with a unique handshake. A handshake that is individual to each student and in some cases it incorporates a series of moves before the hand is taken. After the handshake the children enter the classroom, sit down and are ready to learn. The video taken of him greeting the class in this unique way has 'gone viral' with millions of viewers and so the teacher in question is now doing a series of radio and television interviews. In the interviews he is invariably asked 'Why do you do it? What's behind the idea?' And his response is the same. He says (and I paraphrase) 'I want each of my students to know that they matter to me and that I matter to them. It's a way of encouraging their self-worth and building relationships so that they are in the best possible place to learn what I have to teach them'.

They matter to me and I matter to them. As we are embarking on the season of Lent through to the celebration of Easter, I wonder how we might feel? Do we have a sense in which we know that we matter to God? As Jesus begins the walk to the cross of Calvary he enacts and fulfils what he preaches; that each of us, each person matters to Him. So much so that He was willing to die by reaching out his hands upon the cross so that we might have abundant, eternal, everlasting life. And if we know this to be true then we know more than anything that He matters to us and we pursue a relationship with Him not just for our own benefit but for others too. If we matter to God and God matters to us then we are emboldened and empowered to do something with this commitment to learn and grow in faith and be fruitful disciples. The teacher of the class that I have just referred to is building a relationship with his students that means they will grow in knowledge and as people they will, hopefully, know they are valued and will go from that school with a passion to make a difference wherever life takes them.

During this season of Lent and the celebration of Easter may we walk with Christ because He has called us and loves us and may we in that knowledge be filled with a passion to make a difference wherever God has placed us. With love, Claire

Vestry Jottings: Many thanks to Linda Press and Jenny Chalmers who have taken on the newsletter also continued thanks to Alan Sargent for printing it.

The Annual Church meeting is fast approaching and we look forward to seeing everyone there. We will be agreeing the stewards and electing our church representatives for the next year to Church council; if you are interested in offering, please let Claire or myself know if you would like your name to be put forward.

With Easter approaching we invite all to share in the Maundy Thursday evening communion service on April 13th at Fareham. The following day Good Friday, April 14th, we are invited to join with Churches together in Fareham for the Walk of Witness, we meet at 10am at the Podium and proceed from there. Details are available on the poster in Church.

If the stewards can help in any way please ask. Maggie, on behalf of the Stewards team

From the Circuit: The Accreditation Service for Shirley Haynes as a Local Preacher will take place on Sunday 2nd April 2017 at 3pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Southsea, followed by refreshments.

Gosport Live at Home Scheme: Bridgemary Methodist Church is holding a Spring Fayre in aid of this scheme on Saturday 25th March from 1pm to 3.30pm. For details see poster on the Notice Board.

Prayers: Please remember the following in your prayers, as they prepare and conduct services around the Circuit: Tracy Cooper on March 12th & April 30th, Andrew Wilcock on March 5th, 12th, 26th, April 16th & 30th, Fareham Team on April 9th.

Church Flowers: The Church Flower Provider's list on the Corridor Notice Board has a good number of spaces left for this year. If you would like to donate flowers/money for flowers, please choose a date and sign up, or contact Irene or Mary.

A silver bowl has been found at the back of the flower cupboard. Does anyone remember the family of Jill Longman whose inscription appears on the bowl? Are there still family connections with our Church?

Thanks: The Pickerings would like to thank you for your prayers, get well messages & beautiful Church flowers received when Tony was unwell. They have been much appreciated. We would also like to express our appreciation of the way people helped by keeping the Sunday Refreshments going in our absence.

Southern Domestic Abuse Service wrote us a lovely letter of thanks for all the new toys we donated from our Toy Service on 27th November. The letter is on the Notice Board. Alison Humby

Una and Scott Peters would like to thank people for their cards, prayers and best wishes received recently while they are unwell.

Thank you for the flowers, cards, messages and visits received while I was unwell. They were much appreciated. Lynda Thomas

Action for Children: Thanks to all who helped to raise money over the Christmas period. £310 were donated through the Christmas card board, £40 were raised from the Christmas Quiz and £83 worth of cards and diaries were sold. Catherine Stevenson

Active Kids Vouchers: Brownies are collecting these vouchers again to benefit all the Church Youth Groups with equipment. Please collect your vouchers when shopping in Sainsbury's and put them in the box at the back of Church by the hymn books. Alison Humby

Items for the May/June Newsletter should be sent to vicandlinda.press@btinternet.com or placed in the box in the welcome area by 12 noon on Sunday 23rd April.