

FAREHAM

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March 2019

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Fareham Methodist Church Magazine

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www.farehammethodist.org.uk

Circuit website: www.esanddcircuit.org.uk

Services For the Month

3rd March: Revd. Claire Simpson - HC
6 p.m. 1st Sunday Revd. Claire Simpson

10th March: Mrs. Tracy Cooper

17th March: Ms. Lynne Matthews - All Age
Worship

24th March: Local Arrangement
6 p.m. Revd. Claire Simpson - Iona HC

31st March Revd. David Rice - Church with

Dear friends,

On Wednesday 6th March the season of Lent begins. There are two opportunities to mark the beginning of Lent in this part of the Circuit with Ash Wednesday services taking place at Lee-on-the-Solent Methodist Church at 2 p.m. and at Stubbington Methodist Church at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend as we begin the Lenten journey through to the events of Holy Week and the cross.

I wonder if you have given any thought to how you might approach each day of Lent? Lent is an opportunity to take a 'step back' from our ordinary routines and offers us the potential to do something differently which will sustain us in our journeys of faith. Some of you will have signed up for the Christians Together in Fareham Lent Bible Studies. They will be a good source of study and fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ from neighbouring churches. My default position for Lent is to buy a book (or two!) and set time aside each day to focus on the themes of the Lenten season. However, this year I am going to use the Christian Aid resource 'Count your Blessings'. Their theme for 2019 is 'Rise up against climate change' and the resource particularly focuses on the islands of the Philippines. It is a booklet with an activity and prayer for each day with the opportunity to raise some money if you so wish. Booklets (including copies suitable for children) are available from Linda Foster if you would like one. If you choose to raise some money through using the resource you can pass it on to Linda after Easter and it will be added to the other amounts raised throughout Christian Aid week in May.

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Whatever you choose to do I pray that this coming season of Lent will be time set aside to grow in faith and an encouragement to be prepared for the journey of Holy Week and the joy of Eastertide.

With love,

Claire

Vestry Jottings

There isn't much to report this month. Just a couple of dates for your diary.

The ACM is after the service on Sunday 17th March followed by lunch.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday the 6th March with services to be held at Lee-on-the-Solent at 2.00 p.m. and at Stubbington at 7.00 p.m.

To all Pastoral Visitors.

The next Pastoral Meeting will be held on Monday 4th March at Church at 7.30 p.m.

Sally Bland - Pastoral Secretary

A Quick Note From the Editor

I just want to remind everyone about the new release dates. The Focus will now come out on the last Sunday of every month. The new deadline will be 12 p.m. on **Thursday 20th March**. May I also remind everyone to use the **fareham.focus@gmail.com** email address and not my personal one as if it isn't sent to the Focus address it will not be added into the Focus. Will you also ensure that it is in either **WORD, PUBLISHER or EXCEL** format as I can't use PDFs or transfer from some emails. Any information sent not in these formats will not be included as I do not have the time to retype them due to taking on extra hours at work. I'm sorry for any inconvenience caused.

I'm sorry to repeat myself two months in a row but I'm still having documents sent to me that I can't work with.

I hope you enjoyed the story corner last month; it's something we hope to keep going. If you have any stories / poems that you have written and would like to share please send them in.

Finally I would like to send a very, very big thank-you to Ian Bagshaw for making sure that what the readers see is correct (*except for things that I miss - Ian*). If it wasn't for him you would not have a focus if that makes any sense. Also my thanks go to Meg and Nigel Cox for putting it together in time for the Sunday service.

Thank you

Rox Garrett

80th Anniversary Celebrations - May 17th and 19th 2019

On Sunday, May 19th 2019, there will be a special service to mark the 80 years that Fareham Methodist Church has worshipped on this site. This will be followed by Sunday lunch cooked by Jill and her willing team. On Friday, May 17th, a special party is being planned with games, music and food which will, at times, reflect on our life through the eight decades. Please put the date in your diary and come along to this event for the whole church family. There will be more information in the next Fareham Focus. Many of you will have photos and articles relating to the life of the church since 1939. Mark Brooks and Bob Temple would love to hear from you as they will be organising displays in the Library and in Westbury Manor.

Garry Bagshaw

The next **Film and Food evening** will be on **29th MARCH** at [6 p.m.](#) Details to follow on flyers. Hope to see you there.

Jill and Garry

Waltham Chase Methodist Church is hosting a Music Event with 'Tonic', a mental health charity, on Saturday 16th March at 7 p.m. Please see the poster on the notice board.

Visit My Mosque Day

I am writing to invite you and your family to visit my mosque: Al Mahdi Centre, on Saturday 2nd March 2019 for Visit My Mosque Day.

Visit My Mosque Day is a national initiative, where mosques up and down the country open their doors to provide an insight into what goes on in the mosque and to give people a better understanding of what it means to be Muslim.

This will be a fun day for all the family. We have planned some exhibits including an Adhan and prayer demonstration, henna stall, craft and children's activities, photo booth, discussion corner and poetry recitation.

Of course - free refreshments will be provided!

The event will be from 1.45 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Free parking is available on site.

If you would like to attend, please register at www.almahdi.org.uk.

Kindly take note of the dress code below:

- Gents - long sleeves and trousers
- Ladies - long sleeves with long skirt / trousers and head covering.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me or email: info@almahdi.org.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you there!

Marketing the Church as an Entertainment

Venue

Our treasurer recently suggested to the Church Council that we should be looking at alternative ways of finding income, as described elsewhere in Fareham Focus. One option we have suggested considering is to market the Church as a small entertainment venue.

At the end of 2019 Fareham's Ferneham Hall will be closing for approximately two years and, apart from the Ashcroft Arts Centre, there is no other entertainment venue in the centre of Fareham.

Previously, some local groups have used the Church for concerts e.g. Solent Sounds, but these are very few and far between. Other one-off events on the premises have been very restrictive and normally only happen when a member of the Church family has been involved.

When we carried out the alterations to the Church in 2007 the Church Council at the time made the statement that the Sanctuary should not be hired out; one of the main reasons the folding doors were installed.

Notes;

The Church will comfortably seat 150 people, although we have had 200 seated on some occasions.

The Property group does not believe that we need an entertainment license, but if in doubt this will only cost £100 a year.

We would need to carry out a few improvements to the sound and probably lighting, although specialist requirements could be hired in for specific events.

We would like your views on the following for discussion at the next Church Council...

Should we market the Church, including the sanctuary as an entertainment venue for specific events, e.g. Concerts, Films, Children's entertainers etc.?

If we do not market the Church, how do we react if contacted from someone who wishes to "hire" the Church for an event, due to the venue availability issues within Fareham Town?

Please let members of the Property and Finance Group, (Peter Moody, Mike Petter, Linda Foster, Nigel Cox, Antony Hollinghurst and Michael Shepherd), members of the Church Council have your thoughts, or send an email to

access@farehammethodist.org.uk

Christian Aid Week: 12th - 19th May



This year we are beginning Christian Aid Week with a 'Big Brekkie Quiz' for all ages on Saturday 11th May 10.00 a.m. - 12noon. Look out for details of this Quiz and other fund raising activities in next month's Focus.

You are invited to Afternoon Tea!



Come along to help the First Sunday Team celebrate
its First Year of Sunday services!

Where?At Church

When?.....Sunday 3rd March at 5.15 p.m.

Then please do stay for the First Sunday service of

Church with Choices Services in 2019:

As last year, these services will be on the fifth Sunday of a month. This year these are:

31st March - Mothering Sunday

30th June - Focus on Refugees: as suggested
at Worship Consultation

29th September - theme to be decided

29th December - Christmas theme

If you have any ideas for or would like to be involved in an activity for our services this year please talk to any of the stewards or to me.

Linda Foster

Coffee Centre will be closed for all school holidays this coming year. These dates are:

THURS 11 APRIL

THURS 18 APRIL

THURS 30 MAY

THURS 25 JULY

ALL OF AUGUST

The Mothers' Day Runaways Service

This offers a safe space for those who find Mothering Sunday difficult. Whatever your story, whether you're grieving the loss of a mother, the loss of a child, or a baby through miscarriage, whether you're struggling with infertility or childlessness, singleness or a difficult relationship, whether you never even knew your mother or any other reason why you might find Mothering Sunday painful, this quiet, reflective service has been designed with you in mind.

It will be an informal gathering, where you will be guided through an hour long service including liturgy, poetry, music and stories acknowledging the bittersweet emotions surrounding Mothering Sunday, offering the space to grieve, teaching us how to lament and inviting the God who loves us into our stories of struggle.

The Mothers' Day Runaways Service will be held on:

Sunday 31st March 2019 at 4 p.m.

St Johns The Evangelist Church

**Families, Friendship, Fun,
Food and Faith in Fareham**



Wednesday, March 13th 2019

Dusty Drawing



See us on Facebook!

**Join us for games, sport, challenges, craft, wor-
ship and a meal.**

Fareham Methodist Church, Kings Road,

Fareham PO16 0NU

3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

SUNDAY LUNCH 17th March
at 12.15 p.m. / 12.30 p.m. approximately

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 **the church funds** 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 paté

Main Course: Chicken breasts in gravy or BBQ sauce,
Sausages, 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!

If you can stay to help until all the washing up is done please sign the helpers list. It then means that those of us who have been at church since 8.45am can slip away before 3pm!

Thank you - Jill Groom

World Day of Prayer

(formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)

Friday 1st March 2019

This year's service has been prepared by Christian women in Slovenia. The theme is 'Everything is ready'. As usual, there will be two services: 2.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. at St John's Church.

If you would like to take part in the service or need transport please let Linda Foster know.

Notes from CTiF meeting

In the run-up to Christmas, we had two Christingle making stalls, one in the Shopping Centre, and one outside Westbury Manor, as part of the festivities around the Christmas lights switch-on. The latter was particularly well-attended and we ran out of oranges! Both events were a great success in witnessing to children and families. £21.36 was raised for the Children's Society, even though we weren't trying to raise money.

In the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' the 'Raise Your Voices' service at Holy Trinity was really well attended. We ran out of service sheets though thankfully not of cake. It was commented that the service was superb and very moving.

Lent study groups 2019

Five weekly study sessions, starting in the week commencing 11th March.

Groups are offered on:

Monday 1.30 p.m., 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 4 p.m., 7.30 pm.

To register to take part, please pick up a flyer, fill it in and return it to Liz Dunning at the address on the flyer, by Friday 1st March please.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2019

Fed up with all the chaos and
uncertainty in our poor world today?
Feel that your voice isn't being heard?
Feel that you can't make a difference?



Discover how you can make a real
difference to people's lives.

Come and find us at Fareham Shopping Centre
Saturday 2nd March between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

ALBERT SIMS

This is the tale of Albert Sims who loved to sing the good old hymns.

In Albert's deep melodious bass he the king of heaven would praise.

A Christian soldier on to war he'd march, his hymn book to the fore,

and Satan's host would always flee at Albert's shout of victory.

One Sunday, 'twas the first in Lent, the choir o'er their hymn books bent,

When forth came unfamiliar notes quite alien to their die-hard throats.

The congregation, weak and quavering soon took it up, the minister favouring

His congregation with encouraging smile. But Albert, sat with lowering dial,

Was heard to mutter furiously, "The old hymns are good enough for me,

Why do we have hymn tunes new fangled? 'Tis summat the ministers wangled."

Rather than stand up for this, he'd sit. Sit he did, and had an awful fit.

They tried to save him, but in vain. He'd never sing on earth again.

St Peter said, now Albert lad, "thy music making weren't so bad.

Would'st like a harp, or happen a lyre?" He said, "Nay lad, just put me in the choir.

And let me sing the good old hymns". But very shocked was Albert Sims.

For heaven's choir weren't just Methodist but URC, C of E, and Catholic too.

With others, too numerous to mention, they all sang tunes of every kind.

Nobody ever seemed to mind; plain song, chant, and chorus martial,

Metrical psalms, to which Scots are partial. Slightly enlightened was Albert Sims.

Seeing all these were good old hymns, he joined in each with heart and voice.

So if you have hymn tunes new, don't moan and groan, or kick the pew!

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 13:00 Monthly Lunch Club	2
4 9:30 Mini Market	5 9:45 Parent and Toddlers Group	6	7 9:30 Coffee Centre 10:15 Prayer Circle 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	8	9
11 9:30 Mini Market 13:30 Lent Study Group 19:30 Lent Study Group	12 9:45 Parent and Toddlers Group	13 15:30 Messy Church	14 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	15	16
18 9:30 Mini Market	19 9:45 Parent and Toddlers Group 10:00 Lent Study Group 14:00 Lent Study Group 19:00 Ladies' Night 19:30 Lent Study Group	20	21 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	22 18:30 Fourth Friday Games Night	23
25 9:30 Mini Market	26 9:45 Parent and Toddlers Group 20:00 Ladies' Night	27 10:00 Lent Study Group 14:00 Lent Study Group 19:30 Lent Study Group	28 9:30 Coffee Centre 17:30 Brownies 19:30 Singing Group	29	30

Door Stewards

3rd March	Tony Jackson and Brian Cooper
10th March	Bessie and Daniel Taabu
17th March	Lynda Haydon-Jones and Lynda Young
24th March	Liz Haigh and Marilyn Woodrow
31st March	Tony Jackson and Brian Cooper

Refreshments

3rd March	Marilyn Woodrow and Colin Williams
10th March	Lynda Young and Elizabeth Wilcock
17th March	Pat and Tony Pickering
24th March	Jean and Mike Petter and Anne Isom
31st March	Irene Russell and Anne Isom

Flowers**Providers****Deliverers**

3rd March	Brenda Bennett	Tony Emberson
10th March	Joan Padley	Liz Avison
17th March	Eric Wheeler	Margaret Temple
24th March	Joan Moore FF	Irene Russell
31st March	Jean Petter	Mary Bailey

PRESS DATE All items for the April Focus should be emailed to

fareham.focus@gmail.com

by noon of **Thursday 21st March**

Fareham Focus is available on the Fareham Church Website