

FAREHAM

eFOCUS



Dear friends,

September sees another Methodist Church year begin so I start by wishing you all a very happy new year. This year, the church year begins in strange times as we are moving through the easing of lockdown and beginning to think about reopening our church building to some of our user groups and for members of our worshipping community. We are still in a period of transition and we continue to monitor the situation closely as we move forward. As a church community in recent months we have found other ways to worship and have been creative in keeping in touch with one another and our local community and this will need to continue for some time to come as things remain uncertain.

As a new year begins we continue to trust in God for all that is to come. Church life will continue to feel different but we are being encouraged to seize this time as an opportunity to see the possibility of new things happening in our midst. The Methodist Church of Great Britain is beginning a Year of Prayer as we seek to wait on God for wisdom and guidance for the future. If you are able, please do go onto the Methodist Church website and have a look at the prayer resources and the things that are happening that can be joined via Zoom and Facebook. One of the prayers on the Methodist Church website for the start of this connexional year is printed below. It is a good prayer to focus on for the future and for all that lies ahead.

God of love, God for all,
your purposes are more beautiful than we can
possibly imagine.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit.
Help us to let go of all that holds us back.
Open our lives and our churches to new seasons of
humility and faith, of change and growth.
Shake us up with the Good News of Jesus and show
us the way.
Amen.

With love,

Claire

Vestry Jottings

Sunday the 4th October saw the re-opening of the church building. The weather could have been kinder and things were certainly different.

A huge thank you to Mike and Peter. It isn't until you are in church that you see all the paraphernalia that they have to manage.

Thanks also to Maggie and Claire for all their hard work.

Our Harvest collection was well supported. We were able to supply goods to two Fareham charities.

Stay safe.

Brenda



WEIRD FACTS

A cockroach will live nine days without its head before it starves to death.

The flea can jump 350 times its body length – it's like a human jumping the length of a football field.

The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds.

Some lions mate over 50 times a day.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Elephants are the only animals that cannot jump.

A cat's urine glows under a black light.

An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Starfish have no brains.

Polar bears are left handed.

Thank you Bobby Watson

Ride and Stride 2020

On Saturday 12 September, Ride & Stride took place on a warm and sunny day, providing perfect conditions for the Hampshire & Islands Historic Churches Annual Ride & Stride event. It involves visiting participating churches, participants are sponsored or make donations: some sort of transport is required, either on foot, or with a dog or dog(s) or on horseback, or as to ourselves, by bicycle. The bicycle I rode was in the ownership of Jean Everitt for many years, a 1950s Phillips Lady's Bicycle, rides as well as the day it was new, and is a joy to ride.

Deciding to take part once again on her bicycle, my sister Cheryl made the journey down from Guildford, and together we decided on a relatively conservative route, mainly because we thought that there was the possibility of late withdrawal by local churches if Covid problems could not be overcome. Andrew Wilcock rode separately from us, basing himself in Suffolk, Long Melford I understand, and hopefully enjoyed the same sunny weather as ourselves.



This year, Covid 19 caused difficulties at the planning stage due to problems of mixing, maintaining social distance, providing refreshments, toilets, and numbers of participating churches - but no problems on the day.

Ride and Stride is a non-denominational charity which raises funds towards the upkeep of some 900 historic church buildings from the 8th to the 20th Century. Since 1988, HIHCT has provided grants and loans in excess of £540,000 to help repair, restore, and maintain churches, their contents, and churchyards. More than 300 churches, chapels, and meeting houses, in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have benefitted.

We decided to start from Trinity Methodist Church, then to Titchfield St Peter to enable us to undertake the pleasant ride out via Meon Shore to St Faith at Lee-on-the-Solent, then to the nearby Lee Methodists, before doing the pleasant ride on to Elmore and the reserved cycle/pedestrian paths to Stokes Bay and St Mary at Alverstoke. Then followed a surprise ride to within inches of the sea at Little Anglesey, before turning onto the cycle track formed on the route of the old Stokes Bay railway branch line, closed in 1915. Turning into Stoke Road, we came to Christ Church passed in Stoke Road and passed Gosport Methodists before walking the length of the pedestrianised Gosport High Street to arrive at Holy Trinity, Trinity Green, Haslar Road. The final section was along the cycle track from the old Gosport Station to Fort Brockhurst where we visited St Columba URC and St Thomas the Apostle near Fort Brockhurst, and then along Rowner Road to St Mary the Virgin - we were very grateful for the cycle lane. We finished at St John in Upper St Michaels Grove.

Overall we cycled a bit over 20 miles, and visited 13 churches, it was a very pleasant and trouble free ride.

For me, three churches stood out particularly: first, St Peter Titchfield, the oldest church in Hampshire, dating back to the 8th Century. Second, St Mary's Alverstoke, dating from the 12th Century, is listed as a building of special architectural historical interest, including aspects likely to be found at a sea coast location. And thirdly, Holy Trinity, Haslar Road, Gosport's Waterfront Church. It dates only from 1696, but from that date it has had only 16 Vicars commencing with the Rev William Ogilvie in 1701. The Rev Richard Bingham served for 66 years, making the biggest individual contribution. The church's greatest treasure is the Handel Organ.

Thank you

John Bramall



Sign seen on a church door:

THIS IS THE GATE OF HEAVEN.
ENTER YE ALL BY THIS DOOR.
THIS DOOR IS KEPT LOCKED
BECAUSE OF THE DRAFT.
(PLEASE USE SIDE DOOR.)

Thank you Edith Livingstone



I'm currently struggling my way through Professor Brian Cox's book entitled 'Forces of Nature'.

I love this quote from the first few pages of the introductory chapter:

"When you're finally up at the Moon looking back on Earth, all those differences and nationalistic traits are pretty well going to blend, and you're going to get a concept that maybe this really is one world and why the hell can't we learn to live together like decent people."
Frank Borman - Gemini 7 Apollo 8.

Thank you Ian Bagshaw

Bob Temple received a telephone call from John Field last Thursday [the 17th September].

John now 91 years old is enjoying life in Martock, Somerset with his daughter.

John was pleased to hear news of Fareham Methodist and the effect coronavirus has on the activities of our Church Family.

He particularly requested that I pass on his greetings to those who remember him and his many years of membership at Kings Road.

A request for help with Christians Together in Fareham recycling efforts.

Esme and John Vivian from the Parish Ecology Group (member of Green Christian) with others have been recycling for over 15 years Aluminium Foil and Plastic Bottle Tops. During the lockdown we have been continuing collecting and sorting and taking the proceeds to the QE II activity centre at the Hamble Country Park (formerly Manor Farm). and GH Recycling based at Hilsea for the tops. Proceeds go to the Multi Secloris Therapy Centre in Portsmouth.



We have bins at Sacred Heart Church, the URC and our public bin at the car park in Palmerston Avenue, Fareham. We are in need of help to continue to do the work and need somewhere to go as the church hall at Sacred heart has been closed so we have no place to go to sort the foil. We have a small team sorting the tops but need help here as well.

If anyone can help us with this recycling operation we would be most grateful please contact us via our email at john.vivian@ntlworld.com.



Thank you so much to those who have donated used stamps for the Bible Society. We sent off our last parcel in August. It contained used stamps and some of Brian's stamp collection. Please do keep collecting. The stamps are sold and the money is used for the Bible Society's important work.

Jill Race

Old Testament Places Word Search Game

This Bible word search game has 28 answers.

S	Y	D	O	R	B	D	B	A	B	Y	L	O	N	R
H	G	A	Z	A	D	E	E	I	A	C	X	E	E	U
E	X	M	Z	A	C	N	T	R	O	T	Y	I	D	H
C	N	A	S	E	M	O	H	Y	M	A	M	O	E	A
H	O	S	I	D	O	N	E	S	R	D	N	U	B	V
E	R	C	N	M	Z	U	L	S	P	E	D	Y	W	I
M	B	U	A	O	N	M	K	A	D	E	S	H	M	L
Q	E	S	I	P	W	O	E	T	H	I	O	P	I	A
O	H	C	I	R	E	J	Q	U	Q	O	W	Z	W	H
D	E	Q	U	G	O	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M
D	G	C	J	O	P	P	A	E	H	A	R	Z	O	B
I	Y	M	D	O	E	X	A	N	L	E	A	R	S	I
G	P	X	Y	H	Y	Z	B	M	O	A	B	X	W	M
E	T	W	W	J	U	D	A	H	W	G	P	N	O	G
M	D	A	B	Z	Y	A	B	E	H	S	R	E	E	B

Eden Havilah Ethiopia Ur **Babylon** Luz Bethel Assyria Kadesh Damascus
Sidon Tyre Megiddo Shechem Dor Joppa Jericho Jerusalem Hebron
Gaza Beersheba Sinai Egypt Edom Moab Israel Judah Bozrah

Bobby Watson received this from her facebook page from her family.

Must be careful... because people are going crazy from being in lock down! Actually I've been talking about this with the microwave and toaster while drinking coffee, we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention anything to the washing machine as she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly not to the fridge as he is acting cold and distant. In the end the iron straightened me out as she said everything will be fine, no situation is too pressing. The vacuum was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up, but the fan was more optimistic and hoped it would all soon blow over! The toilet looked a bit flushed when I asked its opinion and didn't say anything, but the door knob told me to get a grip. The front door said I was unhinged and so the curtains told me ... yep, you guessed it ...pull myself together!

A note from the Editor

Another month has gone by and life is still strange although for us in the South it seems easier than for people in the North. I was at church on the 4th and although it was a strange experience it was nice to be in the church. There are a few distractions when we are on Zoom – Poppy our cat does not like it and we are constantly waving a stick with a pompom on the end to entertain her!!



I have recently started doing shifts and fund raising with the Act of Kindness charity. The charity was asked by Fareham Borough Council to become a food bank. It operates at present from a hangar at Daedalus. There is a concern that come the end of the furlough scheme the need will become greater. My neighbours and friends and family have been very supportive which is great. I was wondering if there was anyone who would like to donate food for this charity. I am very happy to come and collect it if you email or text me on 0780778063. We are busy and supported by companies but there **is** always a need for more.

We are off to Devon for a few days which will be lovely. Hope you are all well. Thank you to all who contribute and will see you next month. Deadline will be November 5th

Lots of blessings
Lin



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