

# FAREHAM

## eFOCUS



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Dear friends,

The first part of November is traditionally a time for remembrance. I wonder if for many this year remembering feels particularly difficult for a number of reasons. I am aware that, because of restrictions in place, many families who have lost loved ones have not been able to have funerals and thanksgiving services in the way that they would have wanted to. We know this is true for folk in our church community. The wider pandemic means that we are also aware of the loss and grief in our nation and the world as we seek to live through the virus and its impact on so many. We also remember at this time of year all those who have lost their lives in war and turmoil; those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the greater good and freedom of others.

Our remembering this year has a particular weight to it and we seek to offer comfort and support wherever possible to those who we know who are remembering loved ones at this time. One of the readings that we usually have at the annual Service to Remember Loved Ones is the traditional Jewish Prayer of Remembrance. As we take a moment to pause and remember in our own way the words of this prayer may be helpful:

In the rising of the sun and in its going down, we remember them.

In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter, we remember them.

In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring, we remember them.

In the blueness of the sky and in the warmth of summer, we remember them.

In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn, we remember them.

In the beginning of the year and when it ends, we remember them.

When we are weary and in need of strength, we remember them.

When we are lost and sick at heart, we remember them.

When we have joys we yearn to share, we remember them.

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us, as we remember them.

With love,

Claire



## Vestry Jottings

I hope that everyone is coping. The Sunday services are a great help to those who can't do Zoom.

The Christmas season will be upon us soon and it will be so different from other years, but the Christingle, Nativity and Carol Service will take place in some form.

Due to the government announcement the Gift service which was to be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> November will be postponed for the time being.

We will keep you up to date via the weekly notices.

Sadly there will be no Christmas card post box, but as an alternative we can use the Focus to pass on greetings.

Stay safe.

Brenda  
On behalf of the stewards.



An observation from Ian

***A wooden plaque, made around 100 years ago but in some disrepair, found its way into 'The Repair Shop' one of my favourite television programmes.***

***When restored it read "Today is the day we worried about yesterday and all is well".***

***How apposite is this today?***

Thank you Ian

Ordering Christmas cards for everyone is too difficult but if you want to support action for children you can order on line at [www.charitycardsonline.com/actionforchildren](http://www.charitycardsonline.com/actionforchildren) or 'phone 01934 522920.

Catherine

## Calling All Crafters and Messy Church folk

An idea to cheer at this peculiar time.

A friend of Marion sent her a hand-made card because she could not visit. Marion so taken with the idea, duplicated the card herself and sent one to Una. Both have agreed that the idea should receive wider acclaim. So, with their permission:

Take a nice piece of card and fold in half

Cut out the shape of a teapot (quirky, posh, or ordinary – your choice)

Decorate the front cover (and may be the back if you are so inclined)

On the inside of the front cover print / write the poem

*I'd love to come to see you*

*And have a cup of tea*

*But since we cannot meet right now*

*Have one or two on me.*



On the inside of the back cover write your greetings etc. and fasten 2 tea bags carefully!

Or if you can change the poem you could fasten 2 coffee bags now that coffee can come in bags too.

It seems such a lovely way to keep in touch with folk when we cannot go to see them. I wondered if Messy Church children would like to make some to send to Grandparents etc. I was thinking of the posh teapot in Beauty and the Beast that they might remember.

Or a cheeky little fat one.

Over to you all.

Thank you Bobby



Neville and Maggie wish to thank everyone for their kind words of support following the death of Neville's father. Your thoughts have meant a lot to the whole family.

Many thanks. Maggie

I've just heard that Gina from Homefayre passed away last week. Many of you knew her from Mini market. We will remember Gina fondly as she trundled into church with her trolley. She was a very generous lady and I will miss her. R.I.P.

Brenda

### Returning to Worship in the Church Building

I have been to 3 services in church now. I was very unsure about coming back into the building and at first said that I wasn't ready. But I must admit I felt very safe. I was anxious that things would be very different without being able to chat with other people and it did feel a little empty. It was so much more conducive to worship for me than being at home. There is something about being in a sacred place.

Although the Zoom services did play a big part in keeping my faith going when we were unable to come into the building. It will take a while to get used to not having the organ and being able to sing with gusto (although those who used to sit near me might disagree!) I must admit to singing quietly beneath the mask though. It is also good to see some people I haven't seen for so long especially Claire even if it must be from a distance.

Let's hope that it won't be too long before we are all able to see each other again.

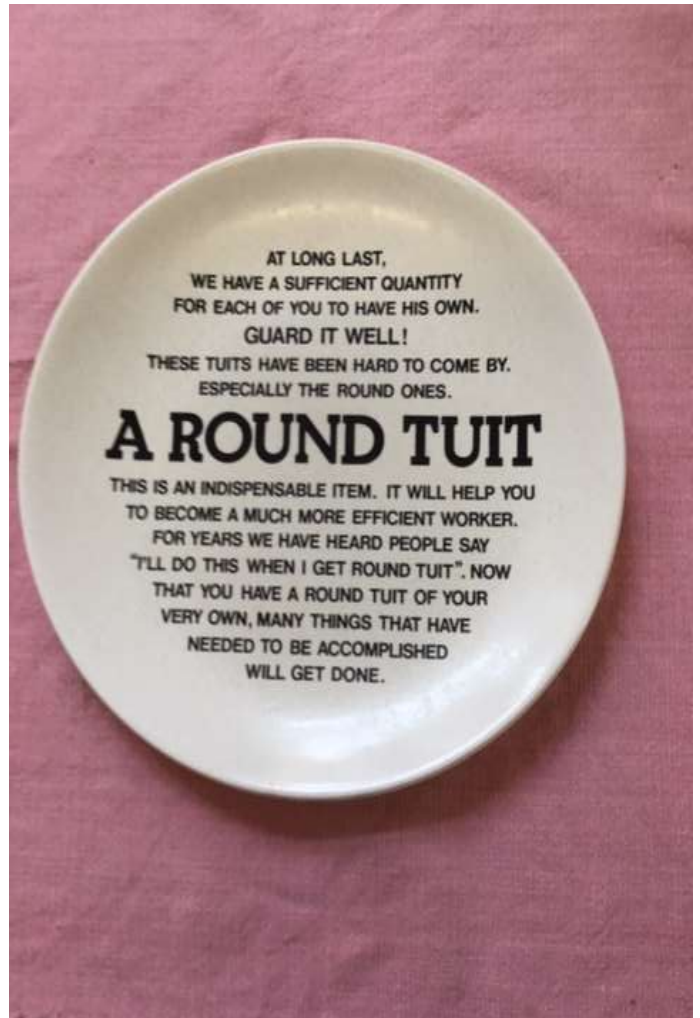
Many thanks to all those making it possible for some worship to return to our church building.

May God bless us all as we come to terms with things changing for every one of us.

Julie

The attached picture is of a display plate in my (Mary's) kitchen.

I'm not sure if it inspires me or just amuses me. At least it is a more everyday message than using the word procrastination!



Thank you Mary


Just a little quiz question from Ian.

*Q With reference to performance, what is the difference between an amateur musician and a professional musician?*

Answer next month – Keep reading .....



Hi Crafters



A couple of you have been asking me if QA needs us to start knitting mask extenders again. I have, through Jo Gregory, been asking the question and we now have a reply. According to John Mills in his role as Chaplain, there are spare supplies of mask extenders at present in the office. He will ask if and when more are needed. There is an increased number of Covid cases being admitted; if anyone feels like sewing a few wash bags, these he feels will be welcome. We make them from cotton fabrics with a draw string top, I try to make them bright so that they are recognised by the patient and possibly raise a smile.

If you want to help please let me know, I will again set up the run to Jo's for delivery.

Many thanks for all your help, this is a message we hoped not to make but it's happened.

Much love

Maggie

### Lonsdale Street Methodist Church

On Sunday morning at 7.50 (11-10-2020) I was honoured to take part in the first Zoom worship service of Wesley Church, Melbourne.

I joined 24 members of the congregation and the Minister, Alistair Macrae. This was a 6 pm Sunday evening service. He led the service from his car; presumably the car was quieter than his home! An interesting part of the service was 10 minutes of discussion when the worship participants were divided into groups of 4 or 5. In line with the theme of the service I told my group about my running and we also discussed the Covid restrictions and how they had affected our personal lives and our need and desire to worship together.

We began to talk about the Rev. Draper being a member of the Fareham Church and eventually building the Wesley Church in Lonsdale Street but soon our group time was over and we rejoined the service again.

Thank you Mark

### AMAZON SMILE

People can continue to support the church by nominating us as a chosen charity when using Amazon Smile. It won't cost any more but Amazon will make a donation to the church every time something is purchased. Use the link below to set up your Smile account, search for Fareham Methodist Church and nominate this as your chosen charity. Each time you use Amazon be sure to use the Amazon Smile site for ordering and the church will benefit.

Thank you for your continued support.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1127814-0> ”





## Christingle Giveaway at Fareham Christmas Market.

From 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December there will be a Christmas Market in Fareham. We have supported this event in the past with a Christingle making station which has been really popular. Current restrictions mean that we cannot do the same this year so instead we will be handing out DIY kit bags so that they can be made at home.

We aim to be at the market from 10am to 2pm on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and from 12 noon to 2pm (maybe 4pm) on 6<sup>th</sup>. We will also have a bag preparation day on either 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> – where we will put the red tape round the orange and put all the items in a bag.

If you are able to help for an hour or so please contact Liz Dunning  
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## Note from the Editor

We are once again in a lockdown but it does give us an opportunity to think about Christmas and how it will be this year.

Thank you Julie and Jill for the kind donations to the Act of Kindness food bank. We are as you would expect busy but at least there is help out there should people need it. If you have anything to donate please give me a ring and I will collect it - 07840778063.

As you know Messy Church has been compiling activity packs each month for our Messy Church children to have and this keeps them in touch with the Church.

Just a couple of lovely comments received when delivering these packs.

“It is great to have the pack and to have everything which is needed to complete the activities contained in the pack. Really pleased it was this way”

Also another family were happy to have the packs and said they had completed most of it.

All the children who came to the door were very chatty and it was lovely to see them.

I haven't been helping long at Messy Church and it is great how we can continue a connection with them through these unusual times.

Please keep sending in the posts for the eFocus . Deadline date next month will be December 5<sup>th</sup>. (Should be out of lockdown!!)

Keep safe. Lin