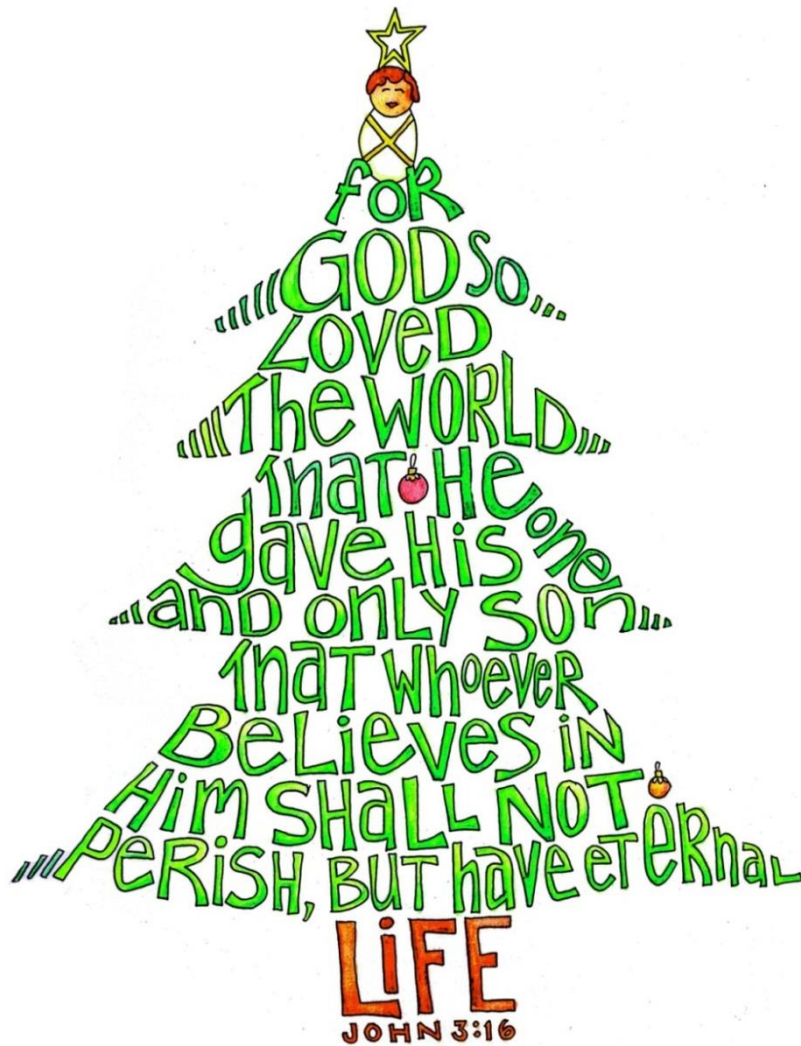


FAREHAM

eFOCUS



Fareham Methodist Church
eFocus December 2020
Registered Charity No 1127814

Dear friends,

For many of us the Christmas and New Year period will feel different as we are not able to meet with friends and family in the usual ways even if we are able to 'bubble' as per the government's rules for Christmas this year. A couple of books that I am reading during Advent have plenty of poetry and food for thought in them as we approach this Christmas season. I do have a fondness for the poetry of John Betjeman (especially during December) and one of his poems 'Advent 1955', though written 65 years ago, feels relevant as we face a different Christmas this year. The poem as a whole is pretty long and the middle section, which I have not quoted below, contains Betjeman's cynicism about the superficial and material side of Christmas.

However, the poem begins and ends with words that I think we can relate to as we continue our journey through Advent towards Christmas:

The Advent wind begins to stir
with sea-like sounds in our Scotch fir.
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,
and in between we only see
clouds hurrying across the sky.
And rain-wet roads the wind blows dry
and branches bending to the gale
against great skies all silver-pale.....
For now we feel the world spin round
on some momentous journey bound –
Journey to what? To whom? To where?
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,
your world is journeying to the birth
of God made Man for us on earth.'.....
'The time draws near the birth of Christ'
a present that cannot be priced
given two thousand years ago.
Yet if God had not given so
he still would be the distant stranger
and not the Baby in the manger.

May you know the truth of the priceless gift of the Christ child in your hearts this Christmas and as 2021 begins.

Love, Claire

Christmas Post Box

John, Claire, Ben and Sam send their love and good wishes to everyone for a safe and very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.



Ruth and Antony send best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all at Fareham Methodist Church. In lieu of individual cards, they are sending a donation to Action for Children.

Pat and Tony wish all their friends at FMC a happy and peaceful Christmas, and as usual have made their donation to Action for Children instead of sending Christmas cards. Thank you. Pat and Tony.



Ian is sending a donation to 'Macmillan Nurses - Cancer Support' instead of local cards. He wishes everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year and thanks all who have helped, and are helping and supporting, him through the difficult times since he lost Garry and Covid 19 changed all our lifestyles.



To my Fareham church family. Christmas blessings to you all, good wishes and for 2021. This year I am sponsoring a guide dog as a Christmas present to myself instead of sending cards. Brenda



To all our church friends we wish you many blessings for Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021. We are supporting bipolar UK rather than sending cards this year. from Trevor and Julie.



I wish all my Church family a happy Christmas and an improved New Year. In lieu of cards I have donated to the Rowans Hospice. Tony.



Kevin and Linda send their very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. We have sent a donation to Christian Aid in lieu of sending cards to everyone.



Bobby and Patrick wish everyone a healthy and happy Christmas season. We look forward to a New Year when we hope that vaccinations will conquer Covid 19 and a brighter future for us all will come. We cannot see into the future but can only put our hand in the Lord's, trusting that he will give us the strength to cope with all that is to come. As we will not be sending quite so many cards this year we will be giving donations this time to the Alzheimer's Society and the Princess Royals Trust.



Christmas Post Box



John and Judith wish you all as happy a Christmas as possible, and a far better year ahead in 2021!

Dear Friends,
Wishing you all a happy Christmas and New Year! Instead of sending Christmas cards, I have sent a donation to Parkinson's UK. Sheila

Please can you include best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.
Lots of love Maggie and Neville.



Mary sends greetings to you all, and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Joan and Jeffery Padley send Christmas greetings and good wishes to all our friends at Fareham Methodist Church.



Jean and Mike Petter send everyone our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. During these difficult times this year our thoughts and prayers are with the whole church family.

Christmas Greetings, good health and a Peaceful New Year from Bill and Jenny Prince.



Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and an even happier New Year! With love from Jill and Malcolm.

Zoom Worship

Our way of worshipping has been totally different over the last nine months, with most of us zooming into Sunday service. For many weeks this was from the preachers' homes, but since September we have been successfully streaming worship from the Church. Have you wondered how this has been achieved?

The technical desk next to the Church Organ has increased in size, and now has a new computer and additional screen. thought you may be interested in finding out.

The system is still linked to the overhead projector so this can be projected onto the screen when appropriate.



A PTZ (pan tilt & zoom) camera and remote microphone have also been purchased; this gives us greater flexibility on what can be shown.



A second computer desk has also been set up, which is linked into zoom so that we can see and hear exactly what you are viewing at home and make changes in real time. The preacher also has a screen in front of them so that they can also follow the service via Zoom.



On Remembrance Sunday WIFI had also been installed and is available across the building, and network outlets are installed direct to the technical desk to ensure a stable signal.

The Tech Team arrives at about 9am on a Sunday morning to ensure that everything works before people start coming in at around 10am.

Despite a few hiccups, the number of people joining us each week (91 connections) shows that this is a success, and we will continue to provide the service on-line for the foreseeable future.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE ACT OF KINDNESS

On **Saturday 19th December between 10am-12noon** there is an opportunity for you to drop off food and household items in the welcome area at church that will then be distributed to people in need in our community through the local charity Acts of Kindness. Items that are particularly requested are listed below:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Tooth Paste
- Jam
- UHT Milk
- Cuppa Soup
- Meals in a tin
(Chilli Con Carne, Meatballs, Stew
anything in that vein)
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Tea
- Nappies size 6
- Pasta sauces

We are grateful for anything **that** you can donate but we do not require any Christmas produce as this collection will be distributed after Christmas due to quarantine measures that are in place.

If you have any spare carrier bags and egg boxes at home we would love to reuse these for you. As you can imagine we are getting through a lot of carrier bags!!

Thank you very much for your support.



wiseGEEK



Vestry Jottings

I hope everyone coped with our second lockdown and are looking forward to the relaxing of rules during five days over Christmas.

Church will be reopening on the 13th of December, so please remember to register if you want to attend. This also applies to our Christmas Day service which we will be sharing with our URC friends. It is important that you register every household for track and trace.

We are hoping to hold a quiz on New Year's Eve between 5.00pm and 7.00pm on Zoom, more details will follow.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Brenda
On behalf of the stewards

Sadly, this year there can be no **Christmas Tree Festival**

but,

..... we *WILL* be back!

Wishing you love, peace and joy this
Christmas time,

The Christmas Tree Festival team

Note from the Editor

We are nearing (to) Christmas and decisions being made as to whom we should mix with as our other two households. It is a very difficult time for all of us, but one thing is certain we can celebrate the birth of Jesus: that cannot be taken away from us.

Many families are also facing hardship through no fault of their own and so for the Church to once again be taking donations it shows what a big heart we all have.

Chris and I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year and we are giving to Act of Kindness in lieu of Christmas cards.

Thank you for your contributions this year and the next eFocus deadline will be January 5th. I am sure you will have some amusing tales to share.

Quiz question answer from last month's focus.

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

A Amateurs practise until they get it right; professionals practise until they cannot get it wrong!

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