

FAREHAM

eFOCUS



Fareham Methodist Church
eFocus December 2021
Registered Charity No 1127814

MINISTER: The Revd. Claire Simpson
Telephone 01329 828706
E-mail: revclaire72@btinternet.com

EDITOR; Lin Woodhams
E-Mail Fareham.focus@gmail.com

Fareham Church Website
www.farehammethodist.org.uk

Circuit website: www.esanddcircuit.org.uk

Services for Month of December

12 th Dec.	Revd. Claire Simpson Christingle Service 3 rd of Advent
19 th Dec.	Gathering for Worship Carol Service 4 th of Advent
24 th Dec.	Revd. Claire Simpson Classic Carol Service with readings and carols with URC Holy Communion
25 th Dec.	Christmas Day Service at URC
26 th Dec.	No service URC open 1 st of Christmas
2 nd Jan	Revd. Claire Simpson Holy Communion 2 nd of Christmas

Thursday Prayer Circle Dates

The Thursday Prayer Circle has restarted. It is held on the FIRST Thursday of each month at 10.30 am (unless advised of a change!).

All are welcome and as the Coffee Centre is open you are welcome to bring a drink into the Sanctuary with you. You can just drop in for 5 minutes or stay longer. Do bring any of your concerns and we will pray with and for you. Or just come and sit and listen – no pressure.

2nd Dec will be led by Claire Simpson

6th Jan. 2022 will be led by Bob Temple

3rd Feb. will be led by Jill Race

3rd Mar. will be led by Julie Kettle

7th April will be led by Claire Simpson

I have to get May covered but I shall have everyone for the summer months which is good. I hope to resolve the May issue before Christmas.

Bobby

VESTRY JOTTINGS

Our Christmas season has begun with sad tidings with the passing of Eric, Antony and Karen. Our thoughts and prayers go to their families and friends.

On a happier note, the Advent ring will be installed as well as the Christmas tree. We have our gift weekend to look forward to as well as Christingle and Classic Carol service with readings and cards, Christmas Eve service at 7pm, Christmas Day at URC and Boxing Day no service.

This year we will have our post box. Please remember to put surnames on the envelopes. Also, if you haven't seen someone in church for a while please post cards to them via Royal Mail.

On behalf of the stewards, a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas to everyone.

Brenda
On behalf of the stewards

Thank you

Margaret Temple was delighted to receive church flowers recently.

Thanks for the kind thought. Blessings
Margaret

A bit of fun – thank you Andrew

Me behave? Seriously? As a child I saw Tarzan almost naked. Cinderella arrived home after midnight, Pinocchio told lies, Aladdin was a thief, Batman drove over 200 miles an hour, Snow White lived in a house with 7 men, Popeye smoked a pipe and had tattoos, Pac Man ran around to digital music while eating pills that enhanced his performance, and Shaggy and Scooby were mystery solving hippies that always had the munchies. The fault is not mine! If you had this childhood and loved it.

Did this bring a smile to your face?

Flower Ministry

A list of dates for flower providers in 2022 will be on the notice board in the corridor from 5th December.

Please put your name down for any special dates in your family or friends.

If you are able to put in the flowers yourself, we can arrange a suitable time on the Saturday for you to get access to the church or I can organise to arrange the flowers on your behalf.

Please pass any gifts of money to the flower fund to one of the stewards or to myself. If you feel you would like to help with flower deliveries, please let me know.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the Ministry of Flowers in the past year it is greatly appreciated.

Irene Russell



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Bobby and Patrick wish everyone a healthy, peaceful, and joyous Christmas season and a truly happy and healthy New Year. We are donating to Andover Mind (a Dementia group) instead of sending Christmas cards this year.



*To my friends at Fareham.
Wishing you Peace and Joy as we
celebrate Christmas.
Love and blessings from Marion.*

Meg and Nigel send Christmas Greetings to all our friends at church. We'll be sending a donation to charity

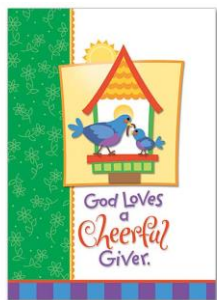
Una and Scot wish to send Christmas greetings to everyone, with a wish for a brighter, healthier New Year. They will not be sending cards this year but giving a donation to Operation Smile.

Operation Smile is a long-standing, non-profit organization that has been helping children diagnosed with a cleft palate for almost four decades. Their vision and mission statement is "every child suffering from cleft lip or cleft palate deserves exceptional surgical care."

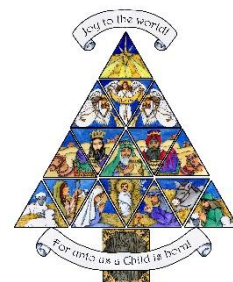


'We are sending our Christmas Greetings to the church family and friends. It has been so good to see some of you in person recently but we know that has not been possible for everyone. In lieu of sending cards we are donating to Action for Children. With our best wishes to you all, Kevin and Linda'

*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.*



Christmas Greetings to all my Church friends. I will be sending a donation to Action for Children. If anyone wants to send them a Christmas donation, I will collect any cash and send it all off together. Or you can donate online to actionforchildren.org.uk/donate where you can gift aid. To donate by card by phone call 0300 123 2112



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



In lieu of Christmas cards I have donated to the Gurkha Welfare Trust.
To my church family Best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Brenda

A very Happy Christmas to you all. This year I am sending a donation to Water Aid in lieu of Christmas cards.
Best Wishes
Sheila Dyer

Trevor and Julie would like to send greetings to all our friends from church. May God bless you all this Christmas and throughout the year to come.

Happy Christmas to my Fareham Methodist Church family, have a peaceful and enjoyable time! I am donating to the homeless charity Shelter instead of individual Christmas cards this year.
Lots of love, Sarah Brooks

Jean and Gerald Everitt wish everyone in the Fareham Methodist Church family a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



I wish all my Church Family a happy Christmas and trust that the new Year will bring better tidings than the one we are closing the door on. I will be donating to the Rowans Hospice. Tony Jackson

Chris and Lin would like to wish All our Church family a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. We will be donating to the Headway Charity.

Twas the night before Christmas
He lived all alone
In a one bedroom house
Made of plastic and stone

I had come down the chimney
With presents to give,
And to see just who,
In this home, did live.

I looked all about,
A strange sight I did see,
No tinsel, no presents,
Not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle,
Just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures,
Of far distant lands.

With medals and badges,
Awards of all kinds,
A sober thought
Came through my mind.

For this house was different,
It was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier,
Once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,
Silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor,
In this one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle
The room in disorder,
Not how I pictured,
A true British Soldier.

Was this the hero,
Of whom I'd read?
Curled up on a poncho,
The floor for a bed?

I realised the families,
That I saw this night,
Owed their lives to these soldiers,
Who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world,
The children would play,
And grownups would celebrate,
A bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom,

Each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers,
Like the one lying here.

I Couldn't help wonder,
How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve,
In a land far from home.

The very thought brought,
A tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees,
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened,
And I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
This life is my choice.

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
My life is my God,
My country, my corps"

The soldier rolled over,
And drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it,
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,
So silent and still,
And we both shivered,
From the cold nights chill.

I did not want to leave,
On that cold, dark night,
This guardian of honour,
So willing to fight.

Then the soldier rolled over,
With a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "carry on Santa
It's Christmas Day all is secure".

One look at my watch,
And I knew he was right,
"Merry Christmas my friend,
And to all a good night".

The Poem was written by a Peacekeeping soldier
stationed overseas. Christmas will be coming
soon, and credit is due to all of the service men
and women for our being able to celebrate these
festivities.

THE PRAYER TREE

The Prayer Tree will be making a welcome return to the Welcome Area. Anyone who would like the Prayer Circle to pray for them, or others, please write your request on the leaves in the basket and hang it on the tree. From January 2022 these will be collected each month when the group meets. This month we have the Christmas Prayer Tree erected for Advent and all prayers hung on the tree will be used during the service on Christmas Eve.



CHRISTMAS SUNDAY LUNCH December 19th at 12.15 p.m.approx.

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 to a charity. If you would like to make pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be very good – thank you.

The Menu

Starter: Soup or Prawn cocktail

Main Course: Roast turkey, sausages, Roast Potatoes, Selection of Vegetables.

Puddings: Variety

There will be a list for you to sign. Please come along and enjoy a Sunday Lunch!

If you can help before the meal in the kitchen and serving that will be good. We really need people to stay after the meal please until about 2.30 to help Colin with the dishwasher. We would really appreciate your help. Thank you, Jill Groom.

Editor's Note

The weather has become quite chilly, but it makes it feel a lot like Christmas. Things are once again a little uncertain but hopefully the scientists will come up with some information very soon. One thing for certain Jesus was born on Christmas Day and we can celebrate his birth whatever happens.

Thank you everyone who has contributed to the eFocus this year. I have enjoyed putting it together and may it grow and grow. Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



Next focus January 1st

As True Today as when they were Written?

1. The darkest places in hell are reserved for those who maintained their neutrality in times of moral crisis...
2. In dangerous times there is no sin greater than inaction!



"Rejoice with me, for I have found
the coin which I lost!"
Luke 15:9

Date - Wednesday 12th January 2022

Time - from 3:30pm

Venue - Fareham Methodist Church

Games and Activities

Worship

Meal

