

FAREHAM

eFOCUS



Fareham Methodist Church
eFocus March 2021
Registered Charity No 1127814

Vestry Jottings

Here we are with British Summer Time just around the corner.

I have some good news and some bad news! The good news is that Church will be open on Easter Sunday (for the moment a one off). As before please let Linda Foster know if you are interested in coming as we still have to social distance so numbers will be limited. The service will also be on Zoom.

The bad news is, there will be no Walk of Witness on Good Friday and no service on the beach.



We thought that it might be a nice idea to show our appreciation to some of our local key workers i.e. care home and nursing home staff.

On the 3rd of April Church will be open between 10-12 pm for donations of small tubes of hand cream for personal use.

Also we will be dressing the cross, so please bring a bright spring flower to help dress the cross.

Brenda
On behalf of the stewards



A Mood Lifter?

A computer 'whizz kid' of international renown died and applied to go to Heaven where he had an interview with St Peter.

"I have a problem..." said St Peter. "Although in life you were a relatively decent person, after Windows 95 your Windows 97 and Windows 2010 caused nothing but frustration and chaos to countless numbers of people worldwide; therefore I'm not sure whether or not you should be admitted or go to Hell. As I'm fair, honest and just I'll show you both places and you can decide." "Fair enough" said the applicant and with that they both promptly vanished and re-appeared in Hell.

The applicant was amazed to find the place a picture of paradise. There were beautiful beaches, palm trees, young couples being flirtatious and so on. St Peter then took them both back to Heaven where everything was very tranquil with people floating about on clouds and looking very content.

"Right..." said St Peter, "you've seen both places; now it's time to make your choice."

"Well, Heaven seems to be pleasant enough..." said the applicant, "but after seeing Hell I think that I'll go there." "Righty ho." said St Peter, sending him on his way!

About a week later, St Peter decided to pay a visit to Hell to see how the new member was getting on. He found him tied to a pillar, waist deep in putrid water, constantly harassed by small devils.

"I can't understand it..." cried the new member, "last week everything looked fantastic. I never knew that all this mayhem went on behind the scenes and is set to last to eternity."

St Peter replied, "Well, unfortunately, what you saw was the screensaver!"

Thank you Ian



The answers to the Bible quiz in February eFocus

A Bible Quiz

Did you know that there are 66 books in the Bible? 39 in the Old Testament, and 27 in the New Testament. The following story contains 35 of them, carefully hidden in the text.

It was on a railway journey from Bury St. Edmunds to Newmarket that I met her, she was a novelist named Marylu Kennedy. She was writing a story centred on horse racing, the sport of kings, and so she was venturing to the town. A humble woman; I soon discovered that Marilu was a most interesting person. Not only was she a novelist but she was an accomplished musician with a passion for blue grass music, hence her interest in the banjo. "Elementary," she said mimicking Sherlock Holmes when I asked her how difficult it was to play; "but" she continued "at the level I play at no one judge's whether you are doing a good job or not. However, when you write a novel and stray from the truth they will soon let you know!" She added "I have to admit, it usually takes a lot of research. On one occasion when my story was set in a brewery, I worked in one for a month to learn about the brew system, so that I could get my facts right about the process."

We chatted on about her work and she said that with the correct research the writing process was relatively easy, but did admit that when reading from her works on stage she often suffered from nerves. "There you are on your own hoping that the audience are totally on your side. Before every performance I have to visit the john." As she used the US name for the toilet, I asked Marylu if she was an American, as I couldn't discern an accent. She said that she was not but got used to the term at the World Blue Grass Convention in the States.

After a while she asked me what I did, I'm retired I told her but since lock-down I have been writing an on-line quiz. I told her that something in my genes is responsible for this somewhat lonely task, when she asked "How do you know what level to set them at?" I said from answers received from previous quizzes, although it is apparent that some folk get into a jam essentially through reading the question incorrectly. Incidentally there are those able to answer all the questions; while others only answer a small number, so the skill is to try and cover both scenarios. For instance it was quite a revelation to discover that while some thought a science round was OK others would actually lament at ions and other such areas even being included, I suppose that they prefer the subject to be more 'normal'. A child for example may not be able to answer as many questions as an adult would, but if in a general knowledge section you include a question or two on Harry Potter they are able to compete really well.

She then asked if I had ever written a quiz that was too difficult. I had to admit I had, one such quiz was so bad I, ahead of sending it out, decided to scrap it. "But have you ever posted one which gave you misgivings about going ahead?" she asked. Only one I answered, I thought it was quite easy, but I miscalculated the age of my audience. It was about a particularly popular children's comic; A hundred people let me know that they had never even heard of it! I asked her if she had heard of the publication and her answer: "Desperate Dan, I elevate to the highest position in comic characters", confirmed that she had.

We continued to chat and agreed that for the Europhile, monumental decisions had been made and in their opinion not for the better. On a lighter note we talked of Tommy Cooper and how his wearing of a fez raised the level of his comedy. We even talked about the pandemic and it seemed that her father may have contracted Covid, but his condition was not chronic. Lessons were being learnt about the disease and he was responding well to treatment.

All too soon we reached our destination and parted company. It is likely that we will never meet again, but I will look out for her novels. One was mentioned on local radio, 'The Heavens Above' is the true story of the 17th Century astronomer Jeremiah Horrocks, the news item said that it was being filmed with Timothy West taking on the title role. 'The last Brew' which I alluded to earlier, I have read since meeting her and, spoiler alert, it is about an old hag gaining control of a family business by killing those in line before her. On the sleeve notes there is a reference to Samuel Smiths Old Brewery in Tadcaster, where she carried out her research. The result of the journey for me is that I read her books, I wonder if at this very moment she is doing this quiz!

Ps. Alms houses are next on her list so if you live in one, she just might be visiting you!

Books in the script in order of appearance –

Mark – Luke – Kings – Nahum – Amos – Joel – Judges – Job – Ruth – Titus – Hebrews – Acts – Esther – John – Matthew – Genesis – Romans – James – Hosea – Numbers – Revelation – Malachi – Lamentations – Peter – Obadiah – Micah – Daniel – Philemon – Ezra – Chronicles – Jeremiah – Timothy – Haggai – Samuel – Psalms.

Books in the script alphabetically –

Acts – Amos – Chronicles – Daniel – Esther – Ezra – Genesis – Haggai – Hebrews – Hosea – James – Jeremiah – Job – Joel – John – Judges – Kings – Lamentations – Luke – Mark – Malachi – Matthew – Micah – Nahum – Numbers – Obadiah – Peter – Philemon – Psalms – Revelation – Romans – Ruth – Samuel – Timothy – Titus.

Books of the Old Testament in the script alphabetically –

Amos – Chronicles – Daniel – Esther – Ezra – Genesis – Haggai – Hosea – Jeremiah – Job – Joel – Judges – Kings – Lamentations – Malachi – Micah – Nahum – Numbers – Obadiah – Psalms – Ruth – Samuel.

Books of the New Testament in the script alphabetically –

Acts – Hebrews – James – John – Luke – Mark – Matthew – Peter – Philemon – Revelation – Romans – Timothy – Titus.





Messy Church@home

It is now a year since Messy Church was able to meet as usual. Therefore I thought it would be good to update you with all that we have been doing to keep in touch with our Messy church families during the pandemic.

During the first lockdown we emailed everyone with a reflection, prayers, and song links to YouTube and craft activities. We are not sure how well this went down as all schooling was also online.

In July and August we tried Zoom Worship but only 3 or 4 families took part as the younger children seemed to find this quite difficult.

So in September we thought that we would send out packs each month with a printed reflection, activity suggestions, and the materials for the craft activities, a recipe and a small bag of sweets or a chocolate bar. 5 of us have been delivering these to 21 families (41 children) since then these have been very well received and appreciated. The children look forward to having something tangible and it is good to have a chat with them and the parent/s on the doorstep – with masks and socially distanced of course!

If you would like to see what we are delivering each month, there is a Messy Church page on the church website, with all the details. You may like to try some of the recipes – next month it will be Hot Cross Cookies!

It is good that many of our volunteers are still involved and we have regular Zoom meetings to discuss the packs for each month. We hope and pray that before too long we will be able to meet up with all our families in person and have a big Messy Church celebration!

Jill Groom

Note from the Editor

February has whizzed by and we now have a somewhat fluid timeline of how things will be for us as we emerge from this terrible virus. I suspect you all have had the 1st vaccine injection and maybe some people may have had the 2nd. We all feel a little safer, but mindful not to break the rules.

Act of Kindness, as with all the charities have been working hard providing food parcels and home making items to a lot of people in our community who are in need not through any fault of their own. In fact the centre was on the ITV news recently. We have been sorting laptops out for the schools and families whilst home schooling. Loxtons IT Solutions very kindly helped us out by clearing data and ensuring the computers were fully working.

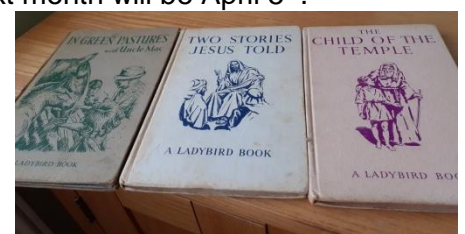
We are collecting Easter Eggs for our community, Schools, Care homes, and wards at Queen Alexandra hospital. If you would like to donate an egg or any food please contact me on 07840778063 and I will come and pick them up at a mutually agreeable time or you can drop them into any of our drop off points. The Act of Kindness (Solent) web site provides all the information you may require.

If some of you can remember when Chris and I became members of the church. Chris said in his speech that we became involved with our original church in the 50s and I made a face. Well I take it back whilst decorating our little study room I came across some Sunday school books for attendance right back to 1957, so I have to say he is right!!

Thank you everyone for your contributions for this month's efocus. Keep the church memories coming in as for the next few months hopefully we will have a portion of the efocus dedicated to this.

Deadline for next month will be April 5th.

Keep smiling.



FAREHAM METHODIST CHURCH MEMORIES

Church Fun

The fun wedding was one of the many fundraising events held when we were raising money for church improvements.



Iona.

Here our group is taking a breather during the day's pilgrimage round the island. There were other fun events too like the boat trip to Staffa Island.



Can you guess who are the church members?

Thank you Mary Bailey

The Methodist Society

At one period in the past, we were a very social Church. On the Church Anniversary in May many, especially young families, would meet at some open space (Hillhead and Itchen Country Park were popular) for picnic lunch and various activities. Rosemary Jackson organised weekends in June at a New Forest camp site and several others would join on Saturday for the walk and evening meal or Sunday for the service and lunch. In the Autumn, Marjorie organised weekends at one of the Methodist hotels; again these were popular with families.

Christine Hillam organised several Christmas parties with a theme so that we could “dress the part”.

Linda, Kevin, Mike and Jean dreamed up “the Supper club”. We would meet for a supper which they prepared with a picture quiz beforehand and a team activity afterwards, often devilish. I recall Mike setting the task of building a bridge out of spaghetti, to span 30cm and bear a certain weight.

Sadly these events are a thing of the past. But more recently we have had film evenings; a meal before the showing of a film.


What next? Who is going to think up something along similar lines?

Eric

I've just ploughed my way through this book, much of it being beyond my limited comprehension, but extracted what I thought were some very pertinent quotations. With hindsight, I think that they could be of particular interest to those on Lent Courses.

Ian Bagshaw

Quotations from 'Forces of Nature by Professor Brian Cox and Andrew Cohen

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1. "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.
 2. "Suddenly, from behind the rim of the moon, in long, slow-motion moments of immense majesty, there emerges a sparkling blue and white jewel, a light, delicate sky-blue sphere laced with slowly swirling veils of white, rising gradually like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery. It takes more than a moment to fully realize this is Earth... Home."
Edgar Mitchell, Apollo 14, in orbit around the moon, February 1971.
 3. "Oddly enough the overriding sensation I got looking at the Earth was, my God that little thing is so fragile out there."
Mike Collins, Gemini 10, Apollo 11.
 4. "This planet is not terra firma. It is a delicate flower and it must be cared for. It's lonely. It's small. It's isolated and there is no resupply. And we are mistreating it. Clearly, the highest loyalty we should have is not to our own country or our own religion or our home town or even to ourselves. It should be to, number two, the family of man, and number one, the planet at large. This is our home, and this is all we've got."
Scott Carpenter, Mercury 7.
 5. "Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves."
Carl Sagan
 6. "Does the fact that you're lucky to be alive make you feel irrelevant or valuable? I'll leave that to you."
Brian Cox

Love these quotes. Thank you Ian

Trinity Preschool is urgently looking for someone (cheap) who can help set up and manage a website for them. Anyone who is able to help, in the first instance please contact Peter Moody,

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