

FAREHAM eFOCUS

**Fareham Methodist Church
eFocus May 2024
Registered Charity No 1127814**

Dear Friends,

There are few things worse than reading a book and finding that a page is missing. It is worst of all when it is the last page. Few of us would even start to read a book if we knew it would be cut short, yet, with Jesus, we sometimes do something very similar, celebrating his resurrection, and the gift of his Spirit at Pentecost, but virtually overlook his Ascension, which this year is May 9th. The Ascension, however, is of the utmost importance: it marks a new stage in the ministry of Jesus and a new stage in the history of humankind. Jesus did not come down just to walk the earth and be friendly; he came down to lift us up that we might share with him in his kingdom. At Christmas we celebrate 'God made flesh'; at Ascension we celebrate our humanity being raised to God. Jesus became human that we might share in the divine!

One reason why the Ascension might be overlooked, perhaps, is that our account of the Ascension is caught in a time-warp, reflecting the cosmology of days gone by. God is seen as 'up there' and so Jesus is portrayed as vanishing up into heaven, the disciples staring bewildered into the sky (as one of my college tutors would have said it is "*up theology*"). Such language serves to obscure the underlying message of Ascension as surely as the cloud hid Jesus from the Apostles' sight.

Yet, if the details of what happened are a mystery, the significance is clear enough. This was a watershed moment for the Apostles when they realised, for the first time, the full magnitude of who Jesus was. They had followed him during his ministry, believing him to be the Messiah; they had rejoiced at his resurrection, greeting him as the risen Lord; but now they recognised that he was the Son of God, the King of Kings and Lord of all.

When on earth, Jesus, like all humans, was restricted by space and time. There was no way that Jesus could be in two places at once: if he was in Jerusalem he could not be in Nazareth; while he was in Galilee he could not be at Bethany. After the resurrection it seems to be a little different as he suddenly appears in the room with the disciples or in the garden to Mary. But he still seems to be in one place at a time. A new stage is marked by the Ascension: it is summarised in the words, 'Remember, I am with you always' (Matthew 28:20).

Jesus is freed from the restrictions of space and time; he is now available to us wherever we are. He is here and with us now. Some churches begin their services by saying, 'The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.' It is sad that we do not acknowledge the wonder and the full meaning of this great truth: The Lord is here. Above all, don't forget what Ascension Day means, for it reminds us that Jesus is greater than words can begin to express, sovereign overall. It gives us the complete picture, without which our faith is infinitely the poorer.

Jesus came down that we might be raised up on high.

Every Blessing



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Services for the Month
May 2024

5 th May	10:30 am. Revd. Mark Noakes. Holy Communion. 6 th of Easter.
12 th May	10:30 am. Revd. Canon Richard Atkins- Greig. 7 th of Easter.
19 th May	10:30 am. Revd. Pauline Crispin. Pentecost. All Age Service. Church Anniversary.
26 th May	10:30 am. Mrs Barbara Noakes Trinity Sunday.
	6:00 pm. Revd. Pauline Crispin. Holy Communion. Healing Service.

Tea and Coffee Rota
for May 2024

5 th May	Edith Livingstone and Liz Avison.
12 th May	Cath Stevenson and Judith Bramall.
19 th May	Ian Bagshaw and Walter Metcalf.
26 th May	Elizabeth Wilcock and Terry Ferguson.
2 nd June	Lynda Haydon-Jones and Rae Shepherd.

Meet and Greet Rota
For April 2024

5 th May	Volunteer needed.
12 th May	Volunteer needed.
19 th May	Heather Murphy.
26 th May	Jenny Chalmers.
2 nd June	Lin Woodhams

6th May to 2nd June 2024

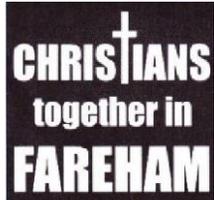
<p>6 Monday 9:30 Mini Market in Coffee Bar</p>	<p>7 Tuesday 9:45 – 11:45 Parent and Toddler Group. 2:00 Tuesday Ladies Club</p>	<p>8 Wednesday 3:30 Messy Church</p>	<p>9 Thursday 9:30 Thursday Coffee Centre 7:30 Singing group Rehearsal</p>	<p>10 Friday</p>	<p>11 Saturday</p>	<p>12 Sunday 10:30 Junior Fun Church Morning worship led by Revd. Canon Richard Atkins-Greig.</p>
<p>13 9:30 Mini Market in Coffee Bar</p>	<p>14 9:45 – 11:45 Parent and Toddler Group</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9:30 Thursday Coffee Centre 7:30 Singing group Rehearsal</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 10:30 Morning worship led by Revd. Pauline Crispin. All Age Service. Church Anniversary. 12:15 Sunday Lunch</p>
<p>20 9:30 Mini Market in Coffee Bar</p>	<p>21 9:45 – 11:45 Parent and Toddler Group 2:00 Tuesday Ladies Club</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 9:30 Thursday Coffee Centre 7:30 Singing group Rehearsal</p>	<p>24 6:30 Fourth Friday Games</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 10:30 All Age Worship Morning worship led by Mrs Barbara Noakes. 6:00 Holy Communion. Healing Service. Led by Revd. Pauline Crispin.</p>
<p>27 9:30 Mini Market in Coffee Bar</p>	<p>28 9:45 – 11:45 Parent and Toddler Group</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:00 Thursday Coffee Centre 7:30 Singing group Rehearsal</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 10:30 Junior Fun Church Morning worship led by TBA</p>

Distributing hymn books on Sunday
for May 2024

5th May Christine Fielding.
12th May Helen Hill.
19th May Blake Webb.
26th May Rach Davies.
2nd June Christine Fielding.

Flower Rota for May 2024

5th May Ian Bagshaw.
12th May Linda Foster.
19th May Lynda
Haydon-Jones.
26th May **Volunteer Needed.**
2nd June. **Volunteer Needed**



A few weeks ago, we told you that Rev Henry Kendal had been appointed as the new vicar of St John's. We are now delighted to be able to announce the date of his induction service: it will be at 6pm on Tuesday 14th May.

Please pray for Henry and Jane as they prepare to move to Fareham and take up their ministry among us, and for us as we get ready to welcome them.

Jeremy Hicks

VESTRY JOTTINGS

This is my last Vestry Jottings as I retire “hand in hand“ with Mike as stewards. I’m handing over Vestry Jottings to Audrey who I am sure will do a great job.

There was a wonderful service for Gwen, firstly in church and then the crematorium for the family.

A big thank you to the Brooks family, Mark, Linda, Sarah and Joseph who led our worship last Sunday.

We could do with a few names on the list for prayers of intercession.

There are also a few gaps on the Meet and Greet list and the distribution of Hymn Books rota. These can be found on the notice board in the corridor. If you put your name down and then find that you can’t make it, please let Rach. Davies know.

Brenda
On behalf of the stewards



Christian Aid Week 12th – 18th May

The feedback from Christian Aid Week 2023 was extremely positive - £5 million was raised and helped many projects including the Malawian pigeon pea farmers who were featured last year. Jen and Esther achieved their highest-ever prices, and many people benefited from start-up business loans which were not available from banks.

The focus this year is on Burundi, where Christian Aid is working with local communities on the issues that are important to them, including climate adaptation and resilience; peace building and reconciliation; and gender justice.

On Sunday 12th May the congregation from Fareham United Reformed Church will join our morning worship. There will be a large red bucket for donations or the opportunity to take a CA envelope to be returned the following week. Please see the poster with details of giving on-line through our e-envelope or scanning the QR code if that is easier.

There will be a Christian Aid stall in Fareham Shopping Centre from Monday to Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm. Collectors are still needed. Please let me know if you can spare an hour to help with this.

Many thanks,

Linda Foster

Christian Aid Week – 12-18 May 2024



Aline's Story

'They forgot I was a human being. It filled me with sorrow.'

Aline never gave up. Pushed to the brink of survival, she pushed back.

Through a Christian Aid-funded project Aline learnt about Village Savings and Loans Associations.

She was determined to form her own to help herself and others around her.



Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help people around the world push back against poverty.

We are united by hope. Together we hope everyone will have the joy of living a dignified life, free from poverty.

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can make a difference.

Join us:

Give:

- At your church - there will be envelopes and a collecting bucket
- Scan the QR code on this poster
- On-line - through our e-envelope:
[Fareham & Portchester CA Group - Christian Aid Fundraise](#)



Pray:

We absolutely believe in the power of prayer, so pray for the work of Christian Aid

Get involved:

If you would like to get involved locally email ca@thehickses.org.uk

If you would like to know more about Christian Aid go to www.christianaid.org.uk

Stories Food Messy Church Crafts Fun

Easter Celebrations at Messy Church

Once again, we had an amazing afternoon and a delicious meal. As you can see by the photos.

Creating hatching chicks with pegs, decorating eggs and baking Easter cookies. They also went fishing! There was an egg race in the large hall.

We must thank the amazing ladies who serve tea and coffee in the afternoon and Kitchen team who prepare the tasty meal.

Easter Celebrations



Messy Church

God is with us always!
Wednesday 8th May 2024
 from 3:30pm - Fareham Methodist Church

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit" - Acts 2:4

Games and Activities - Worship - Meal

Children need to be accompanied by an adult



held for Christian Aid Week
EVERYONE IS WELCOME, GET A TEAM TOGETHER

QUIZ AID

held for Christian Aid Week
EVERYONE IS WELCOME ,GET A TEAM
TOGETHER OR COME ALONG ON YOUR OWN TO

BRIDGEMARY METHODIST CHURCH

GREGSON AVE
PO13 0PP

SATURDAY 4th MAY

2 PM.

TEA AND CAKE, RAFFLE AND LOTS OF FUN

COST £5

CONTACT JEAN 02392 342301



Friday Night games are on the 24th May.
Everyone is welcome between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm. Enjoy being together
to play tabletop and/or more energetic games, as you prefer and have a
relaxed chat with refreshments.

Kevin and Linda Foster



FUNDRAISING

We need a team of people to fundraise for money to complete electrical work at the back of the church building. This is a great opportunity for the church to become Eco-Friendly, i.e. installing Solar Panels at the same time.

There will be a meeting for half an hour after the Church Anniversary Service on the 19th May.

Giving your time is as valuable as money.

Maggie

SUNDAY LUNCH 19th MAY at 12.15 p.m. approx.

This is open to all members of the congregation, family, and friends. There is no set charge for the meal we just ask for donations to charity. If you would like to make a pudding of your choice and bring it along that would be appreciated – thank you.

The Menu

Starter: Soup or Pâté.

Main Course: Gammon, Sausages, Roast Potatoes, Vegetables.

Puddings: Variety.

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

There will be a list in the Welcome Area for you to sign. Please come along and enjoy a lunch!

Thank you. Jill Groom Phone: 07999558524



MESSAGES FROM THE CHURCH FAMILY

Thank you for the flowers from Church that Liz and Brenda delivered to me on Sunday. I was very touched.

Elizabeth Wilcock

Thank you for the lovely bright flowers that were delivered recently. I was hospital visiting, so Emma took them in. Jed is doing well at the moment, but it is a long, hard treatment journey.

Margaret Boyd

Sylvia Savage would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers from church and to Irene for delivering them.

Deadline for next month's efocus – 30th May 2024



The Prayer Tree

The Prayer Tree is now in the Welcome Area. Anyone who would like the Prayer Circle to pray for them, or others, please write your request on a leaf and hang it on the tree. These will be collected each month when the group meets.

THURSDAY PRAYER CIRCLE DATES

The Thursday prayer group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.

All are welcome to join us, for five minutes or for as long as you wish. We will pray with or for you or you may prefer to just listen and pray silently. Our prayers will include any from the prayer tree left during the month.

2 nd May	Bob Temple
6 th June	Julie Kettle
4 th July	Rev. Pauline Crispin



THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP

At our next Bible study group, we are starting to look at the women in the Old Testament.

If you would like to join our small but friendly group on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 10:00 am. Please pop in or if you would like more information, it will be great to speak.

Audrey Mann

