



Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News – 4 to 29 February 2024

2024 Church Motto

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Philippians 4:8



Welcome from Reverend Robin Brenchley



Hello and welcome to February's edition of our Fellowship News. Our editor has been hard at work and I'm sure there is something for each and every one of us to enjoy in the following pages.

As usual, if you have any comments or suggestions, please do get in touch and do let Karen know if you have anything to include in a later edition.

Thoughts for the Month:

Look thy last on all things lovely,
Every hour.

Walter de la Mare

John Wesley's 'rules for life':

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can!”

What does it mean that we should think on whatever is lovely (Philippians 4:8)?

In [Philippians 4:8](#), the apostle Paul teaches believers how to overcome anxiety and worry and experience joy and contentment in the Christian life. His prescription begins with understanding the tremendous power of our thought life. When we learn to [guard our hearts](#) through right thinking—focusing on things that are good, beneficial, and pleasing to God—our renewed attitudes and outlook will spill over into transformed actions and behavior ([Proverbs 4:23](#)).

Paul presents a list of worthy, God-pleasing virtues to occupy our minds, including the instruction to “think on whatever is lovely.” What does it mean to think about whatever is lovely? The original Greek word translated as “lovely” is only found here in the New Testament. When used to describe things, it means “pleasing, attractive, giving pleasure.”

One Bible commentary explains that the word for “lovely” in the original language “is a rare word referring

to things that attract, please, and win other people's admiration and affection. Such thoughts bring people together in peace rather than separating them in fighting and feuding" (Anders, M., *Galatians—Colossians*, Vol. 8, Broadman & Holman, 1999, p. 262). Another commentator expounds, "The basic meaning of the word is 'that which calls forth love, love-inspiring,' and here it has the passive sense of 'lovely, pleasing, agreeable, amiable'" (O'Brien, P. T., *The Epistle to the Philippians*, Eerdmans, 1991, p. 505).

When we think on "whatever is lovely," we are dwelling on things that inspire us and others to love one another. Thankfully, the Bible contains many passages to help us meditate on this particularly worthy virtue. Perhaps the most outstanding is the Bible's "Love Chapter," [1 Corinthians 13](#). Here the apostle Paul commends the "more excellent way" of love. All other spiritual gifts pale in comparison to the greatest, which is love. Believers gain nothing—indeed, *are* nothing—without [love](#).

Filling our minds and hearts with God's love brings us together in unity and peace because His "love is patient and kind . . . not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!" ([1 Corinthians 13:4–8, NLT](#)).

Jesus Christ is our greatest inspiration for thinking on whatever is lovely: "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions" ([1 John 3:16–18, NLT](#)). Jesus also said, "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" ([John 13:34–35, NLT](#)).

Meditating on ideas that inspire unity, peace, and love for other people aligns with the Lord's teaching about the greatest commandments in the law: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" ([Matthew 22:37–40](#)).

Paul further illustrated how loving others fulfills every requirement of God's law: "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law" ([Romans 13:8–10](#)).

Stewing on trivial, spiteful, bitter, or damaging notions about other people will only hinder the process of letting "God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think" ([Romans 12:2, NLT](#)). Then again, if we constantly fill our minds with love-inspiring, peace-motivating thoughts, if we set our hearts to think only on whatever is lovely about another person, to value what is attractive and pleasing about them, we will become [peacemakers](#). We will be well on our way to practical holiness, putting on our new nature, getting to know God and His Son, Jesus Christ, and becoming more like Him in thought and deed ([Colossians 3:10](#)).

BMS February Birthdays:



A very happy birthday to:
 Thurza Smith (4th),
 Jenny Rickwood (11th),
 Stuart Robinson (11th),
 Ruth Steer (27th).

Church Activities 4 to 29 February - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 4 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Communion Service* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 6 2.30 pm	Afternoon Home Group 6 Middle Onslow Close	Host: Lesley Sumner Leader: Deanna Clark
7:15 pm	Evening Home Group Ferring Baptist Church	Leader: Marion Brenchley
Wednesday 7 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 9 5:30 pm	Young Peoples' Games Evening	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
Sunday 11 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Service* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 13 2:30 pm	Conversational Bible Study The theme is the Return of the Lord Jesus – "The Rapture"	Philip Tout Everyone welcome
Wednesday 14 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 15 2:00 pm	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
Friday 16 5:30 pm	Young Peoples' Games Evening	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
Saturday 17 9:00 am	Men's Breakfast at the Henty Arms	Gordon Rickwood
Sunday 18 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Service* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
6.30 pm	Evening Communion	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 20 2.30 pm	Afternoon Home Group 6 Middle Onslow Close	Host: Lesley Sumner Leader: Deanna Clark
7:15 pm	Evening Home Group Ferring Baptist Church	Leader: Marion Brenchley

Wednesday 21 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 23 5:30 pm	Young Peoples' Games Evening	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
Sunday 25 10:30 am	Morning Service Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Mrs Maeve Whitchurch
Tuesday 27 2:30 pm	Conversational Bible Study The theme is the Return of the Lord Jesus	Philip Tout Everyone welcome
Wednesday 28 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 29 2:00 pm	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
Friday 30 5:30 pm	Young Peoples' Games Evening	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons

**Young persons' activities are available - please ask for details on arrival. All leaders are DBS cleared in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy*

Give Thanks:

At Ferring Baptist and in the wider community we have a lot to be thankful for, Praise The Lord:

- Give thanks to Our Lord for his never-ending love for us;
- Give thanks that we have been given the opportunity to make regular food donations to Worthing Soup Kitchen Food Parcels for those in need and/or vulnerable in our community;
- Give thanks for Robin and Marion and the Diaconate;
- Give thanks for the very talented Worship Team and those in the Audio-Visual team who support them;
- Give thanks for our brothers and sisters at St Andrew - may they be blessed in all that they do in their Church family and the wider community;
- Give thanks to those who contribute to the Fellowship News each week/month.

Thank you:

Thank you everyone, for your love, messages and especially for your prayers, over what is a challenging time and without any answers so far, as to.....why, this has happened. We look forward to being back within the Fellowship, but meanwhile, our love and blessings to you all. We are keeping in touch by the "home viewing" online.

Val and Ron Boot

The Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you
 Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
 The Lord turn His face toward you
 And give you peace

Church Notices:

World Day of Prayer - Friday, 1st March, 2024, at 10.30 am [note change of time]

This year the service has been prepared by the Christians in Palestine. In view of the present situation there we encourage you to join us on this occasion.

We are hosting the service and are therefore, looking for donations of cakes/biscuits as we shall be providing refreshments after the service. We shall also need volunteers to serve the coffee/tea.

Please see Julie Appleton if you can help. Many thanks.

Save the Date – 2nd March 2024 – Ferring Women’s Breakfast - Speaker Sheila Leech

Further details will follow.

BMS Day of Prayer - 4 February:

With this e-Newsletter there will be electronic details of the BMS Day of Prayer and there will also be prayer posters on Church Noticeboards.

It is a significant day for BMS and you are encouraged to participate in prayer if possible.

Prayer:

What a friend we have in Jesus
All our sins and griefs to bear

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit
O what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged

Take it to the Lord in prayer

Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness

Take it to the Lord in prayer

Prayer Pointers:

- We pray for all those in need in our world especially those caught up in war, conflict, living in captivity, persecution and those living in poverty. Lord we pray that, peoples' minds are changed for the better and turn back to you;
- We pray for our Royal Family especially our King and the Princess of Wales as they recover from surgery, pray for healing for them and for the Other Members of the Royal Family as they cover extra duties;
- We pray for our leaders in Government, we ask for wisdom as decisions are made on our behalf;
- Loving Saviour we bring to you our whole Church family asking for your peace, your grace, your healing and encouragement;
- We continue to pray for:
 - Jurg Klemenz and his family and friends now grieving the loss of Gwyneth;
 - The family and friends grieving the passing of Sadie Rees;
 - Cliff Warden;
 - Deanna Clark;
 - Ron and Val Boot;
 - Brian Mephram;
 - Kelly and Simon Stuart;
- We pray that you bless Robin and Marion in their leadership, the Deacons, the Worship Team and that you grant them your wisdom;
- Continue to pray for Judy Cook, Hope Home and particularly the donations sought for the additional land that they require;
- Jaco and Corrina Loenen (with Pioneer and MAF) are on the last part of their Home assignment, pray that they accomplish all that they want before they go home to Australia;
- Pray for the Young Peoples' Games Group and the Sunday Children's activities - that both continue to grow in the local community and help to support the families/community.

Food Donations required for Worthing Soup Kitchen Food Parcels

We are delighted to inform you that Robin and the Diaconate have given approval for the Church to have a collection point for food donations which will be used in the Worthing Soup Kitchen Food Parcels. A box is near to the Church entrance.

The Charity deliver over 130 food parcels each week to families in need and vulnerable from Lancing to Littlehampton, plus operate a pop up food bank at the Lovett hub in Maybridge Square where food parcels can be requested in advance and collected.

In addition, the Charity, help those going into temporary accommodation with furniture etc and then give them ongoing support.

Rather than overload you with information, we will spread information about the Charity over several newsletters. For now, we can confirm that they have full Charity status.



Can you help?

**Our foodbank is running low and
we are in urgent need of:**

- Tinned meats
- Tinned meals
- Chopped tomatoes
- UHT milk
- Rice
- Jars of sauce
- Squash
- Sandwich spread
- Tea
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Snacks
- Biscuits

Volunteers required

Karen and Lyn are co-ordinating this initiative with the Charity but to be successful we will need your help. Most of the time, the Charity will collect from the Church but there is likely to be times when we may need to go to Maybridge Square to drop our donations off. If you are able to provide some cover when required please let Karen or Lyn know.

Please pray that our Church will be successful in this new venture. The Charity are extremely grateful to us for our assistance.

Contacts:

Minister - Rev Robin Brenchley: 01903 249996 (Day off: Monday)

Address: Greystoke Road, Ferring, W. Sussex, BN12 5JL. Tel: 01903 503679

(Church office is usually open Tues and Thurs 10:00 am -12:00 noon)

Emails: minister@ferringbaptist.org.uk

OR contact Maureen Warden at secretary@ferringbaptist.org.uk

Website: www.ferringbaptist.org.uk

YouTube/Facebook: Ferring Baptist Church

Note from Karen (Editor):

Editing the Fellowship News is a privilege and one which to truly reflect our fellowship will benefit from your contributions and dates for the diary etc so please send to Karen1.parsons@uwclub.net by Wednesday each week.

The information contained in the newsletter is the latest at the time of pressing send