



Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News

3 to 31 March 2024

Nearly Spring and New Beginnings

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

Yet not I, but through Christ in me



Welcome from Reverend Robin Brenchley



Hello, and welcome to Spring 2024!

This morning, we had a wonderful time of worship at the church at the World Day of prayer service – if you missed it you can catch up on the website or via our YouTube channel – and it was so encouraging to be worshipping and praying alongside Christians from at least 10 other churches, all united in common purpose, to pray for peace. As The psalmist says;

1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

2 It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.

3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.

For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. [Psalm 133]

Oddly enough, as I left the church, I only just avoided a shower of hail, welcome to spring indeed! And that made me think. In the days and weeks ahead, which will I remember, the hail at an odd time of the year, and worry; or will I remember the wonderful service I had just left, and rejoice? And that is a choice each of us must make. As Paul told the Philippians;

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

[Philippians 4:8-9]

Thought for this month:

“I see Jesus in every human being,” said **Mother Teresa**, “I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus.”

For Mother Teresa, it was Jesus who inspired her to serve.

BMS March Birthdays:



A very happy birthday to:

Philip Tout (7th)

Rae Cloke (16th)

Church Activities 3 to 31 March - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated

Sunday 3 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Communion Service* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 5 – Thursday 7th	SEBA Ministers' Conference (Robin & Marion away Tues-Thurs inclusive)	
Tuesday 5 2.30 pm	Afternoon Home Group 6 Middle Onslow Close, Ferring	Host: Lesley Sumner Leader: Deanna Clark
7:15 pm	Evening Home Group 7 Glen Gardens, Ferring	Host: Lyn Jenkins Leader: Marion Brenchley
Wednesday 6 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 8 5:30 pm	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
Sunday 10 10:30 am Afterwards	Mother's Day Morning Service* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 12 2:30 pm	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout Everyone welcome
Wednesday 13 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 14 2:00 pm	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
7:00 pm	Post Alpha Discussion Group	Phil Gilbert, Rev Robin Brenchley
Friday 15 5:30 pm	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
Saturday 16 9:00 am	Men's Breakfast at the Henty Arms	Gordon Rickwood
Sunday 17 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Service* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
6.30 pm	Evening Communion	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 19 2.30 pm	Afternoon Home Group 6 Middle Onslow Close	Host: Lesley Sumner Leader: Deanna Clark
7:15 pm	Evening Home Group 7 Glen Gardens, Ferring	Host: Lyn Jenkins Leader: Marion Brenchley
Wednesday 20 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 21 7:15	Church AGM	Church Members
Friday 22 5:30 pm	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
Sunday 24 10:30 am	Morning Service Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley

Tuesday 26 2:30 pm	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout Everyone welcome
Wednesday 27 2:30 pm	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 28 2:00 pm	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
17:30	Fellowship tea of bread and soup & Holy Communion	Rev Robin Brenchley
Friday 29 ** 10:30	Service of Reflection	Rev Robin Brenchley
31 March 10:30	Easter Sunday	Rev Robin Brenchley

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

*** In respect of Good Friday – there is no Youth Group*

**A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.
John 13: 34- 35**

Give Thanks:

- For the lovely area that we live and worship in
- For our Church family and fellowship time
- For the musicians that make our Worship time so good every Sunday
- For Robin, Marion, the Deacons and Ministry leaders for their leadership, spiritual and pastoral care
- For all the kind food donations to Worthing Soup Kitchen – they are very appreciative

Thank you:

Pat and John Wigley send their thanks for your cards, prayers, love and support while John has recently been in hospital. Please continue to keep John in your prayers.

God Moments:

“Resolve never to criticize or downgrade yourself, but instead rejoice that you are fearfully and wonderfully made.” Elizabeth George

Earlier in the year, we said that we would like to start a “God Moments” section and listening to Maeve on Sunday reminded me that we had not and as I had one on Wednesday, I thought now was the time to start this section off.

Wednesday morning and after the funerals of two lovely men, I was feeling a little miserable. Clearing up in the Kitchen I started to clean my bamboo chopping board – I noticed that it was engraved in the corner - strange I had never noticed that before. Two love hearts and “Handmade with Love”. I thought so am I:

Psalm 139: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" – each one of us is carefully handcrafted.

The Healing Mission daily blog then arrived with the title - 'Rejoice in the Lord always.' **Philippians 4.4**

Ask God to give you the
ability to look beyond
your own personal
circumstances today
and see the wonder
of your God who
you know, loves you
through and through.



Paul speaks about his frequent times of hardship and of going without. This letter to the people in Philippi was written when he was in prison. What did he have to rejoice about?

Paul was consumed with the wonder of God. He had a remarkable ability to look beyond his own personal circumstances and see the wonder of his God whom he knew loved him through and through. How can we catch this? As you begin to pray, take your eyes off your own circumstances for a while and seek to catch the eternal truths that the Bible reveals to us. Father God calls us his children; so great is his love for us that he gave us his own Son; Jesus revealed to us what God is really like; he was so passionate about us that he died in order that he might carry the punishment for all we have done wrong; the Holy Spirit loves us enough to want to be so close to us that he lives in us. Ponder these truths – there must be something here that causes you to rejoice at the wonder of God.

Taken from The Rev John Ryland and The Christian Healing Mission, full copy available at www.healingmission.org | www.encounterprayer.net

And to finish, a meditation arrived - **You belong to God:** "You are not what you do, although you do a lot. You are not what you have collected in terms of friendships and connections, although you might have many. You are not the popularity that you have received. You are not the success of your work. You are not what people say about you, whether they speak well or whether they speak poorly about you. All these things that keep you quite busy, quite occupied, and often quite preoccupied are not telling the truth about who you are. I am here to remind you in the name of God that you are the Beloved Daughters and Sons of God, and that God says to you, **"I have called you from all eternity and you are engraved from all eternity in the palms of my hands. You are mine. You belong to me, and I love you with an everlasting love."** Amen

{Extract taken from "You are the Beloved" by Henri J.M. Nouwen}

Please send contributions on your God Moments to Karen.

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
- We pray for our Royal Family especially our King and the Princess of Wales as they recover from surgery and have further treatment as required. 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 especially pray for:
- Jurg Klemenz;
- The family and friends grieving the passing of Sadie Rees;
- Norma on the recent loss of her sister Audrey;
- Cliff and Maureen Warden;
- John Wigley;
- Kelly and Simon Stuart;
- We continue to pray for Judy Cook as she leads the staff and children at Hope Home
- We pray for the continuing safety for Jaco and Corrina Loenen (with Pioneer and MAF) – they have now returned to Australia;
- Pray that our Church will be successful in our assistance to Worthing Soup Kitchen food parcels/pantry;
- Pray for Worthing Soup Kitchen that they will continue to meet the growing demand for their services;
- Pray for the Friday Evening Youth Group and the Sunday Children's activities - that both continue to grow in the local community and help to support the families/community.
- Pray that the joint Easter Youth Club and Sunday Children event will be successful, that children and parents come to know Our Lord and that everyone has fun in doing so.

Food Donations required for Worthing Soup Kitchen (WSK) Food Parcels and Pantry

Crate for Donations can be found in the Church entrance – a huge thank you to those who have already given donations. The Charity is delighted that we are supporting them and say a huge thank you to our congregation. I have just received an update from the Charity that the Soup Kitchen is very much in demand as people who are found rooms for the night have no cooking facilities and food parcels are still very much in demand.

We thought that readers of the Fellowship News might like to know some of the services that Worthing Soup Kitchen offer:

Homeless People – WSK are partners with Turning Tides and on a Sunday homeless people can go to St Clare's Day Centre to have a shower etc and a hot cooked breakfast.

Soup kitchen is open in the evenings and for those vulnerable homeless people unable to travel hot food is delivered to them.

Temporary Accommodation – those going into temporary accommodation might need furniture, bedding etc and WSK will help find people who are able to help. Food parcels are also delivered.

Outreach Work – hot meals are delivered to families and there is also a midweek warm up session where meals, a chat, plus help and advice is available.

Café Hub – is open seven days a week and profits are used for the other services. The Café is also used as part of their outreach work.

Updating skills - those people trying to get back into employment can go to the rear of the café hub where there is a room with IT where people can receive help on completing job applications, CVs and take courses to increase their IT skills. Other courses are also available on more general skills.

Community Fridge is open every Friday for those in need.

Food parcels and pantry

Future plans – include a shop to help raise further funds for the above services. The Charity has also been donated a local allotment to grow their own food.



Can you help?

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

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

Seeking God's Peace:

Breathe your peace within me, Lord
peace such as only you can give.
When I fret about tomorrow,
when I worry about my loved ones
when I question whether I can cope
when my stomach feels knotted and panic rises within me
help me to hear your still small voice
rebuking the wind and waves
stilling the storm
calming the roiling waves
and in place of turmoil bring tranquillity
in place of chaos, quietness
in place of a troubled, anxious spirit
rest for my soul.
Amen.

[taken from Baptist Union – written by Nick Fawcett]



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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 this newsletter is the latest at the time of pressing send