



Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News - 5 to 31 May 2024

**Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit,
who is in you, whom you have received from God?**

You are not your own;

1 Corinthians 6:19



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Welcome from Reverend Robin Brenchley



Hello, and welcome to our monthly newsletter.

Am I alone in wondering where the beginning of this year went, May already? But no matter how fast time seems to be moving, I am sure we will all welcome the lighter evenings and warmer weather that this month heralds in.

This month we will be continuing our series on the book of Romans, with a break for Pentecost on the 19th when we have Clive Langston as visiting preacher in the morning, and our very special Joint Pentecost Praise with our brothers and sisters from St. Andrews at 6.30pm.

Thought for this month:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Psalm 51:10 (ESV)

The beginning is always today

Mary Shelley

Church Notices:

- **We have a vacancy in the Church Garden Ministry.** We would be very grateful for a volunteer to ensure that grounds in which our lovely church sits, look tidy before our Church Services on Sundays. If you can help, please speak to Robin or Marion.
- **Save the Date – Joint Pentecost Praise with St Andrews Parish Church – 19th May, 18:30**
- **Save the Date – Holiday Club.** The Holiday Club will run from 6th to 9th August, 10 am to 12 daily. On the Friday evening there will also be a short service and buffet. More details will follow.
- **Save the Date – Holiday Club Volunteers.** We have held the first planning meeting and have a great theme for this year's Holiday Club. If you would like to help with Holiday Club then you are invited to a meeting on 7 May at the Church at 7:15 pm. Please note that in addition to the Holiday Club times stated above volunteers are required to attend a start up meeting on 5th August at 2pm for around two hours. For volunteers the Holiday Club days start at 9 am for prayer, worship and preparation. We hope that as many as possible can help us.
- **Save the Date** – our very special Judy Cook will be visiting our Church on Friday 20 September in the afternoon. More details will follow.

Church Activities 5 to 31 May - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 5 May 10:30	Morning Worship and Holy Communion* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley,
Tuesday 7 14:30	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout
19:15 - 21:00	Holiday Club Meeting	Holiday Club Team and anyone wanting to volunteer.
Wednesday 8 10:00 – 15:00	Mobile COVID Vaccine Van in carpark	
14:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 9 14:00 -16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
Friday 10 17:30 -19:00	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
Saturday 11 9:30 to 11:30	Deacons Meeting	
Sunday 12 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Worship* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 14 14:30	Afternoon Home Group Ferring Baptist Church	Leader: Deanna Clark
19:15	Evening Home Group 7 Glen Gardens, Ferring	Leader: Marion Brenchley Host: Lyn Jenkins
Wednesday 15 10:00 – 15:00	Mobile COVID Vaccine Van in Church carpark	
14:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 17 17:30	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
Saturday 18 9:00	Men's Breakfast at the Henty Arms	Gordon Rickwood
Sunday 19 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
18:30	Joint Pentecost Praise with St Andrew's Parish Church	Rev Shirley Tupper Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 21 14:30	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout
Wednesday 22 14:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome

Thursday 23 14:00 -16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
Friday 24 17:30 – 19:00	Youth Group	Lyn Jenkins, Karen Parsons
Sunday 26 10:30 am Afterwards	Morning Worship* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 28 14:00	Afternoon Home Group Ferring Baptist Church	Leader: Deanna Clark
19:15 start	Evening Home Group 7 Glen Gardens, Ferring	Leader: Marion Brenchley Host: Lyn Jenkins
Wednesday 29 14:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 31 17:30 pm	Youth Group	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*

BMS May Birthdays:



Norma Drew (5)
Sue Robinson (8)
Lizzy Kitchen (22)
Peter Dorrington (23)

O Lord we Give Thanks:

- That His Majesty, The King is now able to resume official Royal Public engagements
- For a great poem from our Poet in Residence, Janet Reading – page 6
- For Christine's granddaughter Emily who is feeling a lot better and is back at School
- For the lovely area that we live and worship in
- For all those that serve in the Church and make it such a wonderful time of Fellowship
- For the musicians that make our Worship time such a joy every Sunday
- For Robin, Marion, the Deacons and Ministry leaders for their leadership, spiritual and pastoral care
- For our Youth Club which is attracting more young people and providing a safe area for our Young People to have fun, learn about Jesus and enabling their families to get to know the Church

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 have further treatment to restore their health.
- In the lead up to Pentecost Sunday, we pray that the Holy Spirit will build and encourage our faith through your Word.
- Loving Saviour we bring to you our whole Church family asking for your peace, your grace, your healing and encouragement;
- We especially pray for comfort and healing for:
 - Wendy Fogg;
 - Viv and Tony Hayes;
 - Cliff and Maureen Warden;
 - John Wigley;
 - Sylvia Mepham;
 - Kelly and Simon Stuart;
 - Our lovely cleaner Chris;
- 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) in Australia;
- We pray that our Church will be successful in our assistance to Worthing Soup Kitchen food parcels/pantry;
- We pray for the Friday Evening Youth Group that they continue to grow in the local community and help to support the families/community;
- We pray that we receive more children in Church on a Sunday;
- We pray for those considering volunteering for the Holiday Club.

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

The Charity is delighted that we are supporting them and say huge thank you to our congregation for their kind donations. 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 required.

Crate for Donations can be found in the Church entrance.



Shout. | **Worthing Soup Kitchen**

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

LET'S GET FIT!

The Olympic Games will soon be here,
Participants training hard.
They want to do their very best
To be fit they must be on their guard.

Every day they'll strive in the hope
That one day they will win a gold.
They must listen to their coach or trainer
And do as they are told.

We can boost our fitness as well,
By eating sensibly and exercising too.
It's a good thing to be healthy -
As much as we are able to do.

But what about our spiritual life-
Are we spiritually fit-train each day?
Do we strive towards our goal
Resisting temptation along the way?

We have a trainer too,
In fact, we've the very best.
If we listen for God's voice throughout our life
He'll help us withstand any test.

Age is no barrier to our training,
We can face this race of life until it's run..
Then one day by the Grace of God
Jesus will say "Good servant, well done!"

JR

Spiritual Spring Clean – how do we go about keeping our Faith Lives on track?

Spring is a time to start fresh—to wash windows, sweep the doorstep and purge your closet.

Sometimes our spiritual lives need a deep clean, too.

As you refresh your space at the start of this new season, don't neglect the space inside—your very soul, the core of who you are.

There are many articles on how to go about this. The article below gives ideas on how to keep our Faith on track.

The Just shall live by faith

How do we go about keeping our faith lives on track? Joseph Fernandes [Baptist Union] delves into the Bible to highlight 12 areas every Christian might consider



Mark 11:22-24

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, Be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Living by faith involves praying, speaking our faith, and believing we receive them when we pray. The following 12 points provide biblical wisdom on how to live by, and go about fighting the good fight of faith.

1) Believing by faith:

This is choosing to trust in God's Word as stated in the Bible as true, even though we will never understand everything. There is a need to mediate in the Word so that we can live it out.

John 8.31: *Then Jesus said to those who believed Him, If you continue in my Word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free.*

2) Thought life through faith:

Life involves decision making and the more we line up our thoughts with God's Word, the more our decisions and our actions will line up to God's will for our lives.

2 Corinthians 10:5: casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

3) Hearing by faith:

Knowing what the Word says is important because it gives us the basis for our faith.

Romans 10:17: So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

4) Praying by faith:

We communicate with God through prayer. Through it we can worship, praise and thank, petition, speak to God about all things, ask for forgiveness and hear what He has to say to us.

Hebrews 4:16: Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

It is helpful to remember that the purpose of prayer is to help us do His will and not for Him to do ours.

5) Speaking by faith:

2 Corinthians 4:13: And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak

To speak by faith means to say what God says about us in any given situation. This results in a good confession, also known as a confession of faith. Some of them are:

Romans 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

1 Corinthians 1:30 But of Him I am in Christ Jesus, who became for me wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification and redemption

2 Corinthians 5:17 I am a new creation in Christ, old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:20 I am an Ambassador of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:21 I am the righteousness of God in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3 I am blessed with all spiritual blessing.

Ephesians 2:6 I am raised us together, and He made me sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

1 Peter 2:24 By His stripes I am healed.

1 John 4:17 As He is so am I in this world.

6) Seeing by faith:

Instead of focusing on our abilities and disabilities, we are asked to focus on God's provision and promises.

Proverbs 4:21-23 says *My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*

This can be done by listening to gospel music which reflects biblical teachings, placing meditation scriptures at places where we can constantly see, speak and remember them.

7) Giving by faith:

Giving can involve time, money and can even mean encouraging words.

Luke 6:38: *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

8) Fasting in faith:

Jesus teaches about fasting, which is a discipline which helps to overcome temptations and the dictates of the flesh, enabling a Christian to walk in a higher level of faith. It also helps to bring our emotions under control and should be accompanied with prayer and the study of God's Word.

Matthew 6:17-18: *But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

9) Do all things in faith for the Glory of God:

We should look at work as part of our worship, do our best as we would do it unto the Lord, and with the fruits of our labour use it for His will and purpose.

1 Corinthians 10:31 *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

10) Worship, praise and thanksgiving through faith:

We worship God in all we do, give praise and thanksgiving in all things. While we wait to see our prayers manifested, and even when things happen the way we do not want them to, we can be confident that He will use all things for our good and His Glory and will bring us out successful in the end.

Romans 8:28: *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

Hebrew 13:15: *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.*

Philippians 4:4-7: *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

11) Living in Love, repentance when we fall and forgiveness by faith:

Matthew 22:37-40: *Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

Luke 6:27-28: *But I say to you, Love your enemies, do good to those that hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those that persecute and spitefully use you.*

Repentance is changing our minds to conform to, and allow ourselves to be transformed by God's Word. (Romans 12:2)

Forgiveness is a choice. We can and should forgive in love and faith, even though we may not feel like.

Ephesians 4:32: *And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

12) Saying in faith in times of trouble:

There will be seasons when we will go through difficulties and all may seem lost. There is therefore a need to keep faith alive by writing down our vision and hopes, and reviewing our minds constantly with the promises and provision of God.

Romans 12:1-2: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Ephesians 5:19: *speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*

Conclusion

God has given us our five senses, our minds and our hearts and wants us to use them, but when it conflicts, He wants us to make decisions, live and act based on what His Word and not based by our feelings hence the *Hebrews 10:38: Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.*

When we fall short we should not have guilt or condemnation because our right standing comes through faith and is not based on our works. I John 1:9.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Also Read *2 Corinthians 5:21: For God made him (Christ Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin, that we may be made the righteousness of God in him.*

On this life's journey we have to continue to live by, and fight the good fight of faith, (*1 Timothy 6:11-12: But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.*) till we meet our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and He will be able to say to us as in *Matthew 25:21: Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.*

Celebrating the presence of God:

Radiant God,
in Jesus, your Son,
you have made yourself known
to those who are near
and those who are far off.

***We give you praise
that no-one is beyond the reach
of your love
and that you desire everyone to be drawn to your light.***

We give you thanks
that your light shines
in all places and towards all peoples
and that your light
has shone in our hearts.

***Help us this day
to walk in the light of your Spirit
as we seek to live for your glory.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.***



Spirit of Freedom Blessing

May the God who created a world of wonder,
diversity and beauty
Send us out in the spirit of freedom
to bring creativity and life
to our communities
and to our world.

May the Christ-child who turned tables
and lifted up the lowly
Send us out in the spirit of justice
to be the voice for the voiceless
to our communities
and to our world.

And may the Spirit who stirs hope and brings
healing
Send us out in the spirit of peace
to bring reconciliation
to our communities
and to our world.

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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