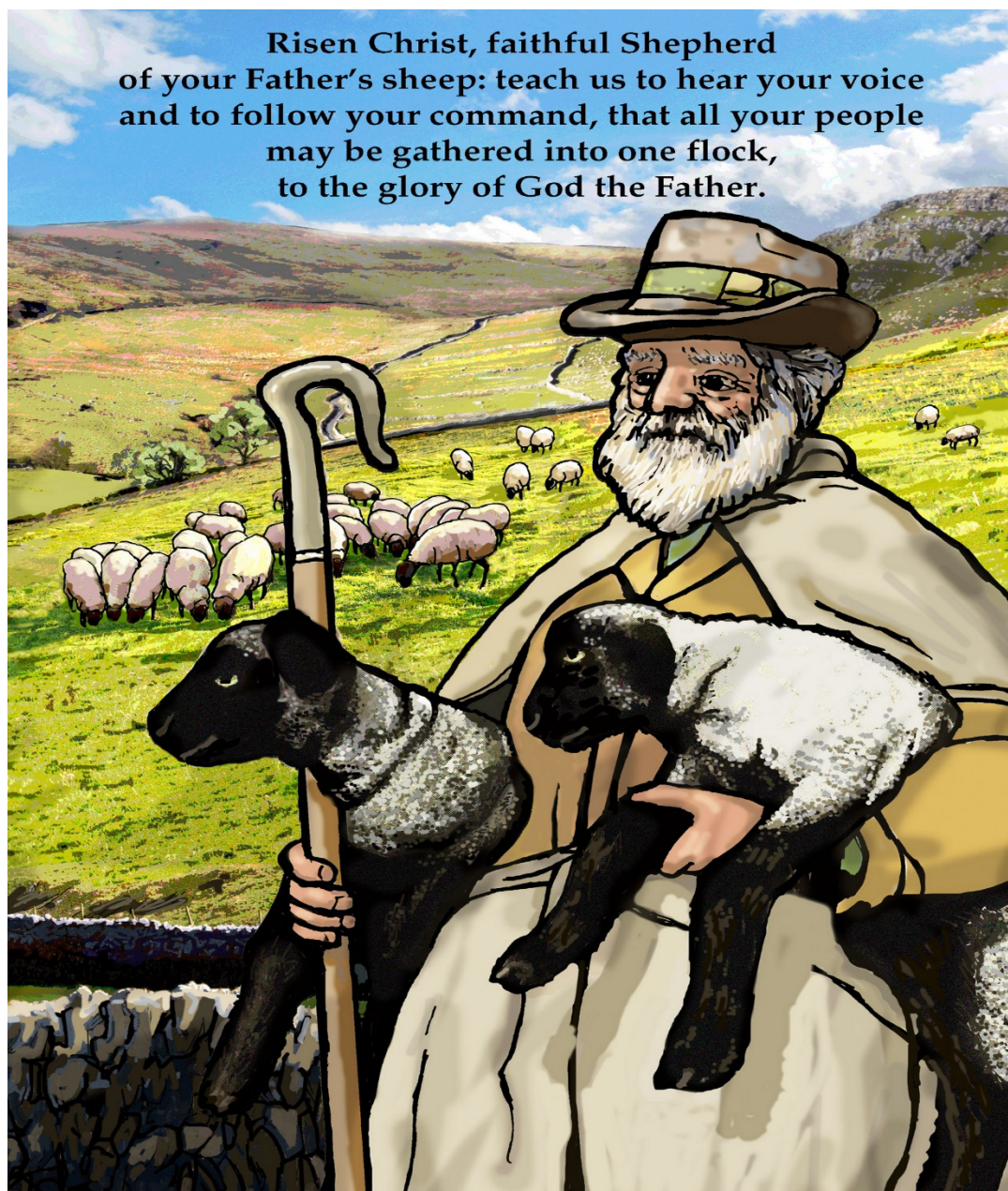




# Ferring Baptist Church

**Fellowship News – 4 to 31 May 2025**



Risen Christ, faithful Shepherd  
of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command, that all your people  
may be gathered into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## ***Welcome from Reverend Robin Brenchley***

***Hello and welcome to this month's Fellowship News.***

***April has been both an exceptionally busy month and a difficult time for me and my family as we faced the death of my mother Pat, and I want to start by thanking you all for your love and support over these past weeks.***

***I have never felt more supported, and it has been a clear reminder to me of what drew Marion and I to Ferring Baptist Church in the first place - the warmth of welcome and the love and support that is offered to each and every person who comes the the doors of the church.***

***And this of course, is exactly as it should be. Only this week I was reminiscing with someone about our first holiday as a family, when we travelled down to Cornwall and stayed near Helston. On the Sunday we attended a local church and immediately felt welcome, almost as if we had come home, which in one sense we had, because each one of us bears the deposit of the same Holy Spirit, proof of our salvation and a deposit of things to come.***

***Over this month we will draw our study of Ephesians to a close, but there is still much to be looked at and studied before we move on to our next series.***

***Can I please take this oportunity to remind you that we are gearing up to this year's Holiday Club and if you feel you would like to be involved then can I invite you to speak to me after one of the services.***

***In the meantime, let's enjoy the warm weather and sunshine.***

***God bless you all,***

***Robin***

***Church Activities 4 to 31 May - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:***

<b>Sunday 4</b> 10:30 Afterwards	<b>Morning Worship and Holy Communion</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Phil Gilbert
<b>Wednesday 7</b> 14:30 -15:30	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	Everyone welcome
<b>Thursday 8</b> 14:00 – 16:00	<b>Dabblers</b>	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
<b>Friday 9</b> 17:30 - 19:00	<b>Young Explorers and Youth Group</b>	Karen Parsons
<b>Saturday 10</b> 09:30	Deacon's Meeting	Leadership Team
<b>Sunday 11</b> 10:30 Afterwards	<b>Morning Worship</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Tuesday 13</b> 14:30 – 16:00	<b>Afternoon House Group</b>	Trish Aze
<b>Wednesday 14</b> 14:30 – 15:30	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	Everyone welcome
<b>Friday 16</b> 17:30 – 19:00	<b>Young Explorers and Youth Group</b>	Karen Parsons
<b>Saturday 17</b> 09:00 – 11:00  10:00 – 15:30	<b>Men's Breakfast at the Henty Arms</b>  Lydia Prayer Group	Gordon Rickwood
<b>Sunday 18</b> 10:30 Afterwards	<b>Morning Worship</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>18:30 – 19:30</b>	<b>Evening Holy Communion</b>	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Wednesday 21</b> 14:30 – 15:30	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	Everyone welcome
<b>Thursday 22</b> 14:00 – 16:00	<b>Dabblers</b>	Pauline Parkinson and Julie Appleton
<b>Friday 23</b> 17:30 – 19:00	<b>Young Explorers and Youth Group</b>	Karen Parsons
<b>Sunday 25</b> 10:30 Afterwards	<b>Morning Worship</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Marion Brenchley
<b>Tuesday 27</b> 14:30 – 16:00	<b>Afternoon House Group</b>	Trish Aze

<b>Wednesday 28</b> 14:30 – 15:30	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	Everyone welcome
<b>Friday 30</b> 17:30 – 19:00	<b>Young Explorers and Youth Group</b>	Karen Parsons

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

### **Notices:**

- **\*\*BMS Birthday scheme. \*\***

As a church we support the Baptist Missionary Society World Mission, we as individuals can contribute to this work too by being a “blessing on our birthday”.

On our own birthday members of the birthday scheme receive a card, a newsletter with stories of BMS projects and a gift envelope. In return we gift back a donation which is used to support BMS Health Workers who give aid, hope and the good news of Jesus to some of the world’s most marginalised people. Our “little” goes a long way and by donating in celebration of your birthday these workers have our own personal support at least once a year.

If you would like to join the Birthday Scheme please speak to our Birthday Scheme Coordinator Jenny Rickwood so she can add your name to the Birthday list.

- The next edition of Fellowship News will be on the 18 May. Fellowship Bulletins will be used to communicate anything urgent.
- If you would like to receive the Fellowship News by email then please contact Karen - Karen1.parsons@uwclub.net. Thank you.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

- July 6th - Pop in Social at the Glebelands hosted by Ferring Baptist Church. 2 to 4:30 - everyone welcome.
- August 5th – 8th Holiday Club - further details soon.

### **Smile:**

#### **Already well connected**

The telephone rang in the church office of the church that the MP attended when visiting his constituency. An eager voice inquired: “Do you expect the MP to be in church on Sunday? If so, I was thinking of coming along.”

“That,” said the clergyman, “I cannot promise. But we do expect that God will be there, and we fancy that that should be incentive enough for a reasonably large attendance.”

## Don't look back

The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah, she turned into a pillar of salt. One youngster nodded in a knowing fashion. "My mummy looked back once while she was driving," he confided, "and she turned into a lamp post."

## Thoughts:

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Romans 12:12

## BMS Birthdays:



To all those in the fellowship blessed with a May birthday including:

3<sup>rd</sup> Lawrence Kenward

5<sup>th</sup> Norma Drew

8<sup>th</sup> Sue Robinson

22<sup>nd</sup> Lizzy Kitchen

23<sup>rd</sup> Peter Dorrington



## Poem:

Nigel Beeton writes in *Parish Pump*: May sees the eightieth anniversary of VE Day – Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945. In my own family, a great uncle (Keith Emmerson) had died in Italy in March 1944, and my wife's uncle (Alexander Rae) had died in Belgium in October. These recent bereavements muted the celebrations, to say the least. This year, we have 80 years of peace in the UK to celebrate, though once again the shadows of war darken the sky...

### The bells rang out in England

The bells rang out in England  
And songs of heartfelt joy,  
But 'midst the cheers were bitter tears  
For each lost man and boy.

The six long years of fighting  
Had such a dreadful cost  
In blood and sweat and mortal threat  
And countless lives were lost.

It now, at last, had ended –  
In Europe's shores at least;  
Our people brave feared not the grave  
To slay the Nazi beast.

The lessons learned stayed with us  
For eighty peaceful years.  
Yet now, again, some brutal men  
Are raising wartime fears.

We should be celebrating  
This coming VE Day;  
Yet not at ease, but on our knees  
For lasting peace, we pray.

*By Nigel Beeton*



### ***Prayer Pointers:***

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill the Church with His presence and guidance;
- We pray for our World, that these wars and destruction that we see around us will cease and that peace talks will bring a lasting settlement. We know that you are the Prince of Peace;
- We pray for all those who have lost loved ones or been severely affected by war;
- We pray for our Prime Minister and his Government, for wisdom and right direction, that their decisions will be made for the good of the many. We pray for Christians in high authority, that their Godly influence will be felt and acted upon;
- We pray for our King and Queen that they will increasingly know how much you love them as they serve our country;
- We pray for our King as he navigates his journey with treatment for cancer. We pray that his health is restored;
- We thank you for our growing congregation and we pray that you will cast your protection around all Church members and attendees;
- 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:
  - Brenda Elliott
  - Val & Ron Boot and family
  - Mary Brenchley
  - Robin and Marion and family as they mourn Robin's mother Pat
  - Karen Parsons and her brother Steve on the passing of their mum Betty
  - Chris and Wendy Fogg
  - H Kitchen
  - Pat May (Pauline's sister)
  - Sylvia Mepham's sister Maggie Downing
  - Sheila Palmer
  - Janet Stuart (Simon's mum)
  - Kelly and Simon Stuart
  - Cliff and Maureen Warden
- We pray that you will be with the many Missionaries in the World to protect them as they bring the basic supplies - food, medical supplies, and shelter to people;
- We pray for Open Doors, Mission Aviation Fellowship etc to bring your Gospel of Hope and Healing in difficult places;
- We pray for Judy Cook in Thailand and all of 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/community pantry;
- We pray for all the Church activities and meetings taking place here - Dabblers, Bible studies, Afternoon Housegroup, Youth Group, Sunday Explorers, for those organising it and that the village continue to enjoy the activities, get to know you and that we provide the answers that they are searching for.

### **WSK Update:**

As a Church we support the Worthing Soup Kitchen. Thank you very much for your food donations - it really does make a difference to how much the WSK are able to help those more vulnerable in our community. The following items are required please:

- Tins of Ham, Tuna, Spam etc;
- Tinned Meals such as Spaghetti Bolognese, Meatballs, Pies;
- Tea;
- Coffee;
- Sugar;
- Jams and spreads etc for sandwiches;
- Jars of Sauce;
- Pasta;
- Rice;
- Squash;
- Long Life Milk;
- Cereals;
- Biscuits;
- Snacks;
- Boxes of washing powder (they divide the box up);
- Toiletries.

WSK have opened a new shop at 147 Montague Street – please drop any non-food donations into there. The food pantry is not moving.

Thank you very much. Karen

### **Fellowship News Contacts:**

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

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

Church Secretary is Paul Gilbert - phone number : 01903 503679

Emails: [minister@ferringbaptist.org.uk](mailto:minister@ferringbaptist.org.uk)

Website: [www.ferringbaptist.org.uk](http://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](mailto:Karen1.parsons@uwclub.net) by Wednesday each week.



*Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers the difference a person can make.*

### **Barnabas – a very likeable disciple**

This month we remember St Barnabas, whose real name was Joseph, a wealthy Levite from Cyprus. However, he was better known by his nickname which means ‘*Son of Encouragement*’ (Acts 4:36). Throughout Acts we see him encouraging others in different ways.

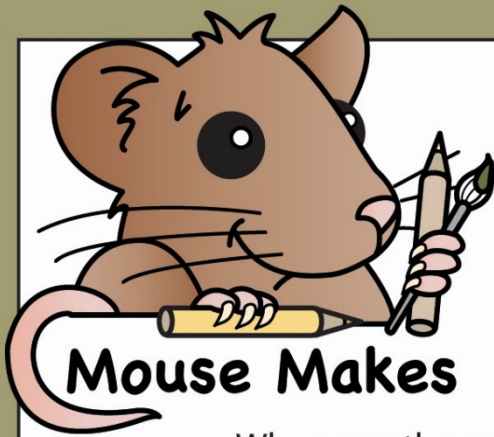
Barnabas was an example of *generous giving* (Acts 4:36-7), when he sold property and offered the money to the church for those in need. In the midst of a caring and sharing community, he was singled out as a symbol of generosity. Are we known as somebody who is generous to those in need around us?

Barnabas later *encouraged a new Christian* in the person of Paul (Acts 9:27). After Paul’s conversion and knowing his reputation, Barnabas came alongside him and brought him into the fellowship of the church. Are we ready to help those who are new in the faith to find a place in our church?

Finally, Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch where he ‘*saw the evidence of the grace of God*’ (Acts 11:23). It was a church which brought Jewish and Gentile believers together for the first time. Like Barnabas, do we rejoice when we see God doing new things in people’s lives? Are we also willing to embrace these things and facilitate change?

Encouragement is one of the spiritual gifts in the New Testament (Romans 12:8). It can be greatly undervalued, but it is crucial in growing the church. Like Barnabas, will we nurture gifting; strengthen the doubters and those tempted to give up; show generosity to God’s people and beyond the church; alongside strengthening people to move beyond their own comfort zones to help those in need?

Let’s be prepared to ask the following questions: ‘*Are there people alongside us who will encourage us?*’ and ‘*How can we be encouragers to others?*’



## MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate  
did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife  
who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11



People carried the sick into  
the streets so that when Peter  
came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

How long had Aeneas  
been paralysed for?

years

Acts 9:32-35

Where had Tabitha's body been laid?  
in the

Acts 9:36-42

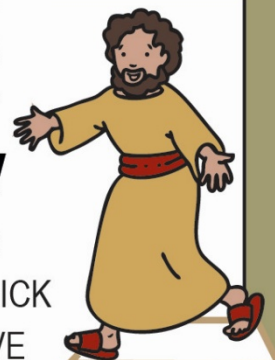


"And the word  
of God  
continued to  
increase,  
and the number  
of the disciples  
multiplied  
greatly."  
Acts 6:7

E L P R A I S I N G M H  
B E A U T I F U L M I T  
S A R W S A P P H I R A  
A P A C R I P P L E A B  
N I L W O N D E R S C I  
A N Y P W D I R A I L T  
N G S R A A E R L C E H  
I H E A L E D O I K S A  
A K D Y K N F O V I L L  
S K P E T E R M E D E B  
L I E D L A M E I G H T  
G S I G N S S H A D O W

After Jesus  
ascended into  
heaven, the  
Holy Spirit  
came upon  
the Apostles  
and Peter was  
able to perform  
many miracles  
in Jesus' name.  
**See the book  
of ACTS**

PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED  
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK  
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE



Find the words from the questions too!

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# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
John chapter 5 verses 1-18

Jesus was in Jerusalem for a festival, and he visited the pool of Bethesda. People said that an angel sometimes made the water ripple.

Sick people waited for the water to ripple, because they thought that the first person in would be healed.



Jesus went up to a man who had been sick for 38 years.

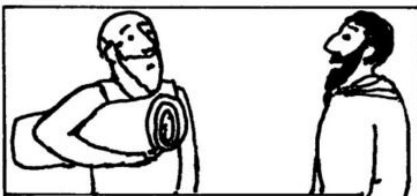


Do you want to be healed?

I've got no-one to put me in the pool, so I can never get in first.



Pick up your mat and walk!



He was healed! The man picked up his mat and walked around. But it was the Sabbath.

God had given the Law that the Sabbath day was a rest day (Ex 20: 8-11)... but to make sure it was kept, the Jewish leaders had made up rules, and then more rules so that anything that even might be work was banned.

The Jewish Leaders saw the healed man.



It's the Sabbath! You can't carry a mat, that's 'work'!

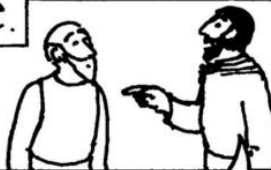
The man who healed me told me to carry it.



Which man?

I don't know.

Later, Jesus found the man in the temple.



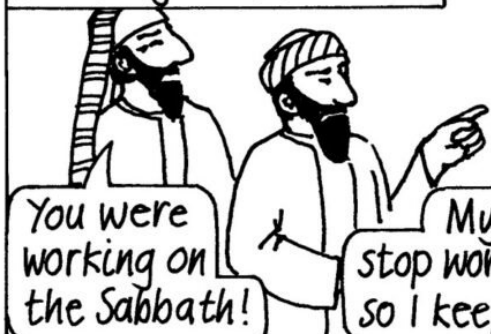
You are healed now, but don't sin any more, or something worse might happen to you.

Now the man knew who Jesus was...



he went straight back to the Jewish leaders to tell them.

and they went to Jesus



You were working on the Sabbath!

My father, God, doesn't stop working on the Sabbath so I keep on working as well

Not only does he disobey our Sabbath rules, but he says he is equal to God!



We definitely have to kill him.

## ***Mental Health Awareness Week - 12th – 18th May 2025***

In May we observe Mental Health Week, at a time when sadly many of us, as a nation, are struggling. Roughly one in four of us now experience a mental health problem every year.

According to the Health Foundation, for young people aged 10–24 a staggering 45% are experiencing mental health disorders.

While the medical profession is helping with medication and medical care, many Christians are also deeply concerned.

As one theologian, Professor John Swinton, has said: “Mental-health professions play a significant part in the healing process for people. Most people, however, are not acutely unwell... they live in ordinary communities, and work out their lives amid family, friends, society and church. It is there that the Church can offer important gifts and insights.

“The central intention of the Gospels is to enable people to come to know God, and to live with God for ever. Within this perspective, mental health is not the absence of symptoms or distress, it is assurance of the presence of a loving God who cares.”

There is plenty of emotional and mental pain in the Bible: just read the Psalms of lament, which express sorrow and desolation. (They include Psalms 3, 6, 13, 22, 28, 42, 44, 56, 57, 71, 77, 86, 88, 102, 120, 130, 137, 142.) Here you will find desolation and sorrow – but also hope and assurance that at the end of all things, God is still there for those who turn to Him.

The Bible assures us that God will “never leave you or forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). As Jesus told His followers: “I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you” (John 14:18)

The Bible reminds us that we should not be surprised by deeply painful times in our lives, as these are not outside the experiences of people who know God. However, it assures us that He will draw close to us (James 4:8) and that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28).

{Article from Parish Pump}.