



Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News – December 2025



Welcome by Rev Robin Brenchley:

Hello Everyone and welcome to our December Newsletter!

And as I write 'December', I am shocked at just how quickly this year has flown past – it seems only a few short weeks ago that I was writing something very similar in our newsletter last year.

But, no matter how quickly it has come round, December is a month to be welcomed. For one thing, it has the shortest day (the 21st) which means that by the end of the month the evenings are getting lighter and summer is already on the way – although it will be a while before it gets any warmer.

More importantly, and certainly more to the point for the church, there are several events this month that we have been looking forward to. Next Saturday, the 6th December, we have the Christmas lights switch on outside the Co-Op in Ferring Street, and I am sure like me you will be praying for some better weather than last year when we had to shelter in the village hall from a storm. Do come along and join us, the Salvation Army band, the Terry Clough Choir as well as children from Ferring Primary School in singing Carols to mark the occasion.

Then on Sunday 7th, in addition to our regular Sunday morning service at 10.30am, we have been invited to a joint Advent Service at St Andrew's Parish Church at 6pm, where we will join together in singing some advent hymns and traditional carols.

The next week, on Sunday 14th, we have our all age family service at 10:30am, when I will be joined by a very special guest who will be helping me to lead the service.

Then on Sunday 21st our regular evening Communion service is moving to 10:30am to make way for our Carols by Candlelight Service which will take place at 6:30pm. (Please note this is a change from recent years when this service has been on Christmas Eve).

And then on 25th December we will come together at 10:30am to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All in all, it promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable month and I do hope you will be able to join with us as we spend the month looking forward to, and celebrating Christmas.

But if, for some strange reason we don't see each other between now and 25th December, may I wish you a Very Happy Christmas!

God bless you all!

Robin

Church Activities 30 November to 31 December - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 30 November 10:30 - 11:30	Morning Worship – 1st advent* # Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 2 December 10:30 - 12:00	Women's Fellowship	Sally Gilbert
Wednesday 3 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 4 14:00 – 16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson and Julie Appleton
Friday 5 17:00 – 18:00	Young Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
18:00 - 19:00	Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Saturday 6 9:30 - 11:30	Deacons Meeting	Leadership Team
16:30 - 18:00	Lighthouse	Karen Parsons
17:00 – 17:30	Ferring Christmas Lights switch on Ferring Street.	Rev Robin Brenchley Rev Shirley Tupper
Sunday 7 10:30 - 11:30	Morning Worship – 2nd advent & Holy Communion*# Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
18:00 – 19:00	Joint Advent Service St Andrews Parish Church	Rev Shirley Tupper Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 9 Midday onwards	Afternoon House Group Christmas Social**	Trish Aze, host Christine Beales (see Trish for details)
Wednesday 10 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 11 19:15 – 21:00	Church Meeting	Church Members
Friday 12 17:00 – 18:00	Christmas Parties: Young Explorers Youth Group**	Karen Parsons
18:00 - 19:00	Explorers Youth Group**	Karen Parsons
Saturday 13 09:00 – 11:00	Men's Breakfast	Gordon Rickwood
16:30 - 18:00	Lighthouse**	Karen Parsons
Sunday 14 10:30 - 11:30	Christmas Family Service* # Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 16 10:30 – 12:00	Women's Fellowship**	Sally Gilbert
Wednesday 17 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome

Thursday 18 14:00 – 16:00	Dabblers**	Pauline Parkinson and Julie Appleton
Sunday 21 10:30 - 11:30	Morning Communion Service* # Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
18:30 – 20:00	Carols by Candlelight with special guests	Rev Robin Brenchley
Sunday 25 10:30 - 11:30	Christmas Morning Worship * # Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Sunday 28 10:30 – 11:30	Morning Worship* # Refreshments and Fellowship Time	The Deacons
Tuesday 30 14:00 – 16:00	Afternoon House Group	Trish Aze
Wednesday 31 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone Welcome

** Young persons' activities are available - please ask for details on arrival.*

All leaders are DBS cleared in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy

*** Last meeting before Christmas. Return dates will be in the next Fellowship News.*

Notices:

- The next edition of Fellowship News will be out in time for the 21 December. Fellowship Bulletins will be used to communicate anything urgent.

Glebelands Pop In Social - 4 January 2026

- 4 January - the Church is hosting a pop-in social afternoon for the village at the Glebelands Centre. We need volunteers to help with the setting up and to chat to our visitors etc. Please let Karen know if you are able to help.
- Also, if you enjoy a game of scrabble, cards, Rummikub etc - please come along and support the event. We would really appreciate your company and support.

Quotes for December:

- We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. – Duane Hulse.
- The manager of a department store put this notice in the window: 'If you need it, we have it.' But in the window of a rival, a sign appeared, stating: 'If we don't have it, you don't need it.'
- Love is a fruit in season at all times and within reach of every hand. — Mother Teresa

Birthdays:



To all those in the fellowship blessed with a December birthday especially those in the BMS scheme:

12th Linda McBrien

19th Sally Gilbert

30th Anon

If you would like to join the Birthday Scheme please speak to our Birthday Scheme Coordinator Jenny Rickwood.



WSK Update – Thank you:

Khristina McCormack, the CEO has written to thank everyone for their donations to Worthing Soup Kitchen. It is greatly appreciated. Khristina said that we have really helped to put food on many tables for the families in our community who are struggling and are vulnerable.

As we did last year, we are trying to ensure that those families are able to enjoy Christmas. The following items are examples or the items on the usual list.

- Christmas puddings, mince pies, chocolates, crisps etc;
- Tinned Ham;
- Christmas condiments;

Please note that if the crate is not by the front door it can be located just inside the kitchen door.
Many thanks, Karen



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 brothers and sisters at St Andrews that they will continue to serve in our local community;
- 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, Defender of Our Faith that they will lift up Christianity whenever possible;
- We pray for our King as he navigates his journey with treatment for cancer. We pray that his health is restored;
- We pray for the Princess of Wales that she will navigate through life after her cancer treatment and know that you are always with her, providing comfort, love and support;
- 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:
 - Judy and Stewart
 - Marilyn Ford
 - Sue Alton
 - Brenda Elliott
 - Val & Ron Boot and family
 - Kelly and Simon
 - Chris, Wendy and Jason
 - H Kitchen
 - Khristina

- Pat May (Pauline's sister)
- Sheila Palmer
- Lorna Sivyour and family
- Cliff and Maureen Warden
- John Wigley
- John, a friend of Mary and Philip
- 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 and the staff and those living in Hope Home;
- We pray for the continuing safety for Jaco and Corrina Loenen (with Pioneer) in Australia. We also pray that their packing up progresses well, that Jaco is granted a UK visa and they are able to arrive in the UK in mid-January:
- We pray that our Church will be successful in our assistance to Worthing Soup Kitchen food parcels/community pantry and through you Lord we are able to help those vulnerable families in our community to enjoy a Christmas meal together.

Prayer for Christmas 2025:

Dear Father,

Christmas is coming. It's all such a rush – planning, shopping, spending, wrapping, posting, stressing! What's it all about? Lord, help us, in all the rat-race busyness, to make time to focus on that baby at the centre of it all. That baby who is Your Son, who was with You in the beginning and who, with You, created all things; that baby who brings life and light and hope and salvation; that baby who was and is Jesus, God, made man.

Lord, we thank You for that baby-gift to us – the greatest gift there has ever been. Thank You that because He came, grew up, lived, died and rose again, there is light in the darkness of this world's mess – light that can never be put out, that evil can never overcome. Jesus is the Light of the World. Putting our trust in Him, we thank You Lord, for Christmas – for Your grace and love for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks
out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough,
they were usually avoided, or overlooked.

Then one night...
an angel visited.

Don't be afraid! I have
good news that will be a
great joy for everyone!

What?!

Earlier today, the Saviour,
Christ the Lord, was born
in Bethlehem.

Why's he telling us?
We're just shepherds.

You will know him
by this sign

He'll be in
a palace or the house
of someone rich.

He will be lying in a
feeding trough.

What?! The Saviour
is like one of us?

Suddenly the sky was full of
angels singing

Glory to God in
heaven for He gives peace on
earth to His favoured people!

So the shepherds decided
to go down into Bethlehem
to see what they had
been told about...

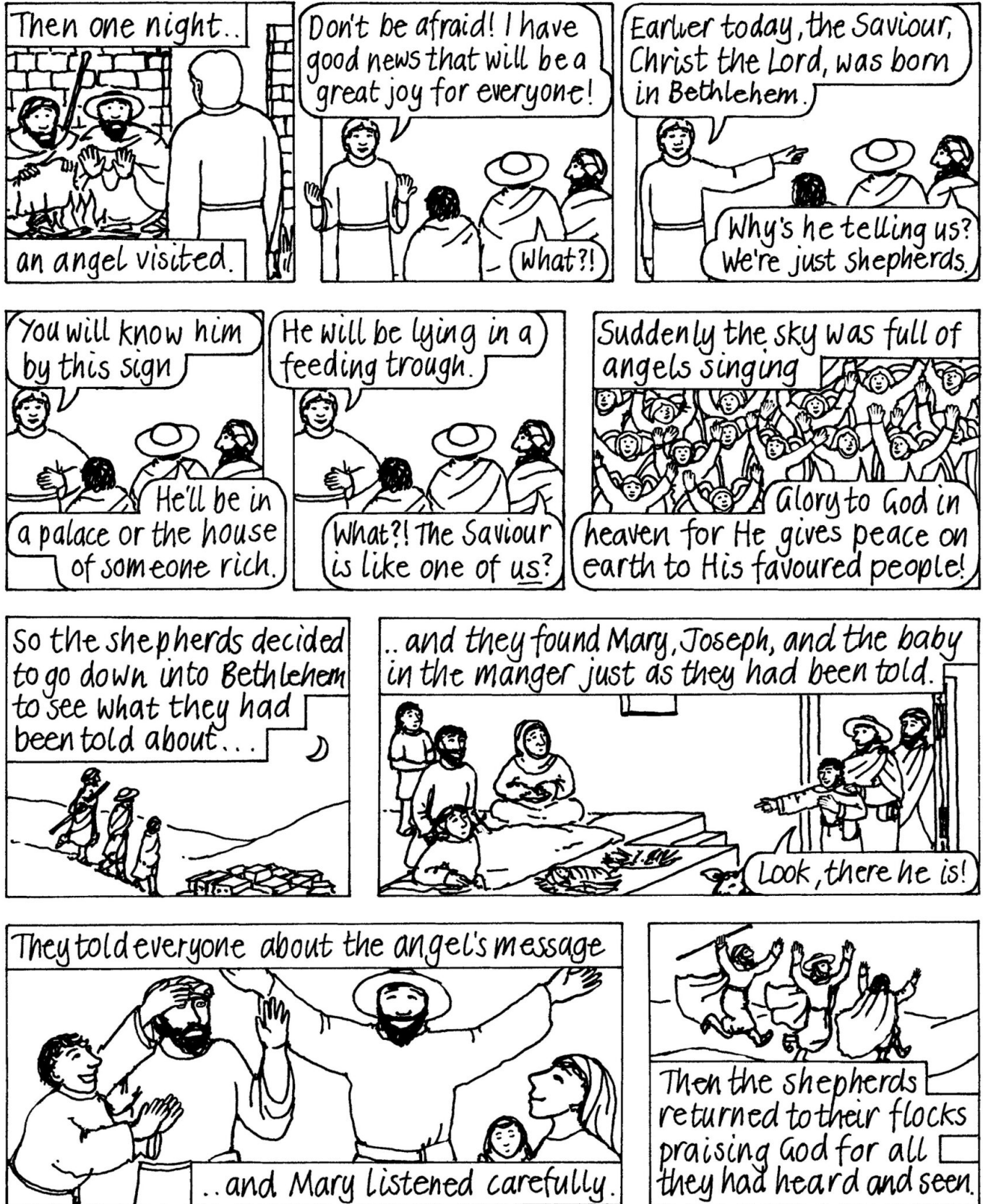
.. and they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby
in the manger just as they had been told.

Look, there he is!

They told everyone about the angel's message

.. and Mary listened carefully.

Then the shepherds
returned to their flocks
praising God for all
they had heard and seen.



Fellowship News Contacts:

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Church Secretary is Paul Gilbert - phone number : 01903 503679

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.

