



Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News – January 2026



Welcome by Rev Robin Brenchley:

Hello and welcome to 2026!

I do hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Marion and I have just come back from a few days break following the usual busy-ness of December. I have to say that I think our Christmas services were among the best we have had at FBC and I want to go on record with my thanks for all that made the services possible. You are all tremendous!

Personally, 2025 was a mixed year for us, with some low points but also incredible highs, and as we move into 2026 I would like to thank each of you for your love and support over the past 12 months. I know that I am not alone in looking back at the year with mixed emotions and I pray that each of us will be able to find our strength in God.

This coming year looks to be thoroughly exciting, and this Sunday we start by looking at our motto for the year, taken from Acts 1:8, *“you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

This will be both the beginning of, and form the background to, our next series of sermons where we will be looking at the Holy Spirit. Who He is, and what He has done, what He is doing and what He wants to do. I am very excited about this and am looking forward to seeing what we will discover together and where He will lead us as we study the scriptures on Sunday mornings.

As always Marion and I aim to be available to every person in the fellowship and will be aiming to visit everyone in FBC in the coming months. Having said that, if you have an urgent issue and would appreciate a visit sooner, please do get in touch.

Church Activities 4 to 31 January 2026 - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 4 10:30 - 11:30	Morning Worship and Holy Communion* # Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
14:00 – 16:30	Ferring Baptist Church is hosting the Glebelands Centre Afternoon Social Pop In	Everyone is welcome. Come and enjoy tea and cake and a chat and/or a game of Scrabble etc. Your support will be greatly appreciated.
Tuesday 6 10:30 - 12:00	Women's Fellowship	Sally Gilbert
Wednesday 7 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 8 14:00 – 16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson and Julie Appleton
Friday 9 17:00 – 18:00	Young Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
18:00 - 19:00	Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Saturday 10 9:30 - 11:30	Deacons Meeting	Leadership Team
16:30 - 18:00	Lighthouse	Karen Parsons
Sunday 11 10:30 - 11:30	Morning Worship *# Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 13 14:30 to 16:00	Afternoon House Group	Trish Aze
Wednesday 14 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 16 17:00 – 18:00	Young Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
18:00 - 19:00	Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Saturday 17 09:00 – 11:00	Men's Breakfast	Gordon Rickwood
16:30 - 18:00	Lighthouse	Karen Parsons
Sunday 18 10:30 -11:30	Morning Worship *# Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
18:30 -19:30	Evening Holy Communion	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 20 10:30 – 12:00	Women's Fellowship	Sally Gilbert
Wednesday 21 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome

Thursday 22 14:00 – 16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson and Julie Appleton
Friday 23 17:00 – 18:00	Young Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
18:00 - 19:00	Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Sunday 25 10:30 - 11:30	Morning Worship* # Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 27 14:30 - 16:00	Afternoon House Group	Trish Aze
Wednesday 28 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 29 17:00 – 18:00	Young Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
18:00 - 19:00	Explorers Youth Group	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:

- Following the sad news of the death of Elizabeth Bone, one of our Dabblers, some flowers were sent to her husband, Michael, for which he thanks us. He also thanks us for all the friendship and kindness expressed to her during the years, which meant a great deal to them both.
- Please note that one of our members, Brenda Elliott, is moving from Scotch Dyke to Greystoke Manor, Greystoke Road.
- Please save the date for the World Day of Prayer 2026. Our sisters in Nigeria invite us to join them on **Friday, 6th March**. More information to follow.
- The next edition of Fellowship News will be out in time for the 18 January. Fellowship Bulletins will be used to communicate anything urgent.

Quote:

Life is too short for us to do everything we want to do; but it is long enough for us to do everything God wants us to do. – Anon

Smile Lines

Bibles that are falling apart are generally owned by those who are not.

Up and down

A psychiatrist was training some young clergy who were interested in doing counselling. Deciding to test them, she asked: "How would you diagnose someone who visits your church, walks back and forth, screaming at the top of his lungs one minute, and then collapsing in a pew to weep uncontrollably the next?"

A young man at the back of the room raised his hand and ventured: "A football coach?"

Message from Philip Tout:

On loan?

Philip Tout has mislaid his copy of "Kissing the face of God". This is a hardback book of prints of the work of the US artist Morgan Weistling.

If you have it on loan, please return it. Many thanks. Philip

Birthdays:



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

**14th Anne Dorrington
16th Julie Gifford**

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



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, that they will lift up Christianity whenever possible;
- We pray for our King as he navigates his journey with treatment for cancer. We give thanks that the treatment is being reduced;
- 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
 - Norma and Mike Brazier
 - Pat May (Pauline's sister)

- Sheila Palmer
- Cliff and Maureen Warden
- John and Pat Wigley
- John (a friend of Mary and Philip)
- Neil (a relative of Mary and Philip)
- Linda (Karen's friend)
- 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 that Judy will have a good home assignment in the Spring and is able to visit our Church;
- We pray that Jaco Loenen is granted a UK visa and the family 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 that through you Lord we are able to help those vulnerable families in our community.

Prayer for the New Year, 2026

Dear Father, Lord of all time,

Here we are! Another New Year! So many mixed emotions for different people, for different reasons. For some, the reluctance to leave a year which brought joy and happiness; for some the relief of leaving behind a difficult year; for some, sadness at moving into a year where a loved one has never been; for some, apprehension and insecurity about what might lie ahead in this world of polarisation, conflict and confusion about what is true.

Lord, help us to take time at the start of 2026 to refocus our hearts, minds and spirits – to tune into you, our un-changing God.

Help us to be calmed and encouraged by the promise of Jesus that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The safe Way. The ultimate Truth. The Life, your gift, to be with you for all eternity.

You promised never to leave us or forsake us. When we put our trust in you, through what Jesus did on the cross, we are secure, we are accompanied, no matter what the New Year brings.

We can go forward, safely. Thank you, in Jesus' name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

As a New Year begins:

A prayer by Karl Barth (1886 – 1968). This most prominent Protestant theologian of his time spent much of his life resisting the Nazi movement, and so knew a thing or two about entering a New Year undaunted by troubles all around him.

O Lord, our Father! at the turn of the year... our hearts are filled with sombre thoughts... our ears are deafened by the voices of the radio and the newspapers, with their numerous predictions for the coming year. Instead we want to hear your word, your voice, your assurance, your guidance. We know that you are in our midst, and are eager to give us all that we need, whether we ask or not.

...We ask for one thing only: that you collect our scattered thoughts, getting rid of the confused and defiant thoughts that may distract us, and thus enable us to concentrate on your limitless generosity to us. You were abundantly generous to us last year, and will be no less generous to us next year, and in every year to come. Fill us with gratitude to you.

WSK Update – Thank you:

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously before Christmas. John and Christine Bishop, from the Soup Kitchen had a lovely time at the Carols by Candlelight Service and were delighted to leave with a car boot full of donations.

John said that the main focus of their work is currently on families in temporary accommodation.

Food donations currently required are:

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

Please note that if the crate is not by the front door, it can be located just inside the kitchen door. Food donations are collected either weekly or fortnightly depending on how full the crates are. Many thanks, Karen

Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel chapter 1

A short story from the Bible

In the time before there were kings in Israel, there lived a rich man, Elkanah, and his two wives, Hannah and Peninnah.

Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.



Each year they travelled to Shiloh to worship God.



After the worship, they feasted.



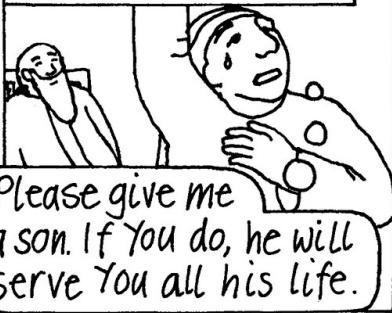
Elkanah always gave Hannah a special portion of food to show he loved her.



But Hannah was too sad to eat. She left the meal and went to pray.



She prayed silently.



Please give me a son. If You do, he will serve You all his life.

Eli the priest saw Hannah's silent weeping and praying and thought she was drunk.



I'm not drunk! I was just pouring out how I feel to God.

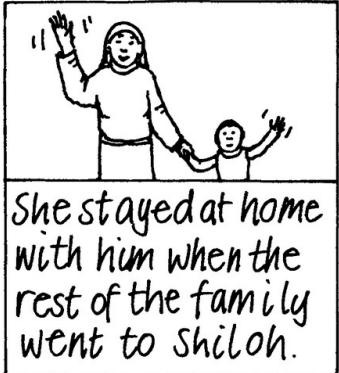


I'm sure God will answer your prayer.

Back home, Hannah had a son, and she named him Samuel.

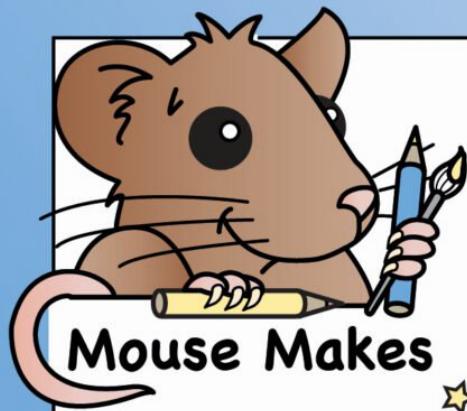


She stayed at home with him when the rest of the family went to Shiloh.



When Samuel was old enough, Hannah and Elkanah took him to Shiloh to live there and serve God.





DID YOU KNOW ?

Stars shine different colours, the colour we see depends on the temperature of the star. The hottest stars shine blueish-white, then yellowish-white, yellow, orange and the coolest stars shine red.

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Wise Men came from a land far away, they had seen a star that shone brighter than day.

The star was a sign of the birth of a king, so they followed that star to pay homage to him.

They found him in Bethlehem as the prophets foretold, they gave him three gifts: myrrh, frankincense and gold.

The star led to Jesus our saviour and king, let us join with the Wise Men and go worship Him!



Read the story of the Wise Men in Matthew 2:1-12

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

Can you find these words in the word search?

WISE MEN • MAGI
STAR • SIGN
JOURNEY • BETHLEHEM
VISIT • JESUS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • KING
GIFTS • GOLD • MYRRH
FRANKINCENSE
WORSHIP • JOY
EPIPHANY



A New Year's resolution-prayer – following in His footsteps

Almighty, eternal, just and merciful God, grant us the desire to do only what pleases you, and the strength to do only what you command. Cleanse our souls, enlighten our minds, and inflame our hearts with your Holy Spirit, that we may follow in the footsteps of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

St Francis of Assisi, 1182 – 1226



Fellowship News Contacts:

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YouTube/Facebook: Ferring Baptist Church

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.