

Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News February 2026

¹⁰Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Mark 1:10-11



Welcome by Rev Robin Brenchley:

Hello and welcome to our February Newsletter!

The other day I was sitting in the back hall of the church and there was lots going on all around me. I was there to help with the Explorers Youth Group and every part of the room was in use.

Some girls were sitting in a corner playing with something that used to be called 'silly putty' when I was a child. At the other end of the room a couple of girls were working with Karen on the new notice boards and a couple were doing some colouring, whilst in the middle of the room some boys were playing football (with a very soft ball).

All of them were doing something different, and yet all were at Explorers Youth Club (and having a thoroughly good time of it too).

And later I got to thinking that this is in many ways such a helpful picture of the Church.

All Christians, wherever and whenever they lived or now live (and indeed those who will come later), together form 'The Church', that wonderful entity that Jesus created.

But within that we have our denominations, creed and traditions, and within those our individual fellowships, each of which we sometimes confusingly refer to as the church!

And within each fellowship we will have various ministries, be that praying, youth work, safeguarding, looking after the buildings and gardens, doing the flowers, welcoming people at the door, leading worship, working on the sound desk leadership, running small and not so small groups, making teas and coffees, preaching and so many more.

But no matter what we are doing, we are all 'The Church'. We are all called by Jesus and it is that that unites us in love.

Some of us like to be busy and seem to collect ministries as if they are going out of fashion, others have done a full life's work and are wanting to take things a little easier.

Sometimes the busiest of us need to learn to let go and remember that it is our relationship with God that is of primary importance, not what we do for Him. Indeed, sometimes what we do 'for Him' can get in the way of our relationship with Him.

For others, we might need to look again and Moses, who had already had two careers; first as a prince of Egypt and then as a shepherd before, at an age when many would be considering retirement, God called him into ministry.

But in all of this, what is of primary importance and cannot be forgotten, is our relationship with God, through Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit. If we seek after that first, He will let us know what He does and does not want us doing, and as we are learning on Sunday mornings, supply us with the power to do it!

Church Activities 8 to 28 February 2026 - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 8 10:30 -11:30	Morning Worship *# Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 10 14:30 - 16:00	Afternoon House Group	Trish Aze
Wednesday 11 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 13 17:00 – 18:00	Young Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
18:00 - 19:00	Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Saturday 14 9:30 - 11:30	Deacons Meeting	Leadership Team
Sunday 15 10:30 - 11:30	Morning Worship* # Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
18:30 – 19:30	Evening Holy Communion	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 17 14:30 - 16:00	Women's Fellowship	Sally Gilbert
Wednesday 18 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 19 14:00 – 16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson and Julie Appleton
Friday 20 17:00 – 18:00	Young Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
18:00 - 19:00	Explorers Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Saturday 21 09:00 – 11:00	Men's Breakfast	Gordon Rickwood
16:30 – 18:00	Lighthouse	Karen Parsons, Julie Appleton
Sunday 22 10:30 - 11:30	Morning Worship* # Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 24 14:30 - 16:00	Afternoon House Group	Trish Aze
Wednesday 25 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Friday 27 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:

- Please save the date for the World Day of Prayer 2026. Our sisters in Nigeria invite us to join them on Friday, 6 March. More information to follow.
- Ferring Women's Breakfast event will be on Saturday 7 March. There is a sign-up sheet available in the Church entrance.
- Judy Cook and her father Peter will be visiting the Church on Sunday 17th May. Further details will follow.
- Apologies that there was no Fellowship News last week. The next edition of will be out in time for Sunday 22 February. Fellowship Bulletins will be used to communicate anything urgent.

New Year – New Opportunities:

All Church Ministries continue to be very busy and huge thanks to all the volunteers that we have. We are recruiting for the following volunteers to give more flexibility to allow volunteers to have some rest and relaxation.

Worship Team

If you can sing or play an instrument and would like to improve your skills in this area then please speak to Marion or Robin.

Audio Visual Team

The Audio-Visual Team are currently recruiting for more volunteers. The equipment has been updated, is more user friendly and training will be given. Please speak to Simon Stuart if you are interested in helping.

Pastoral Care Team

There are several people who are very grateful to receive visits etc from our Church Pastoral Team. If you are unable to come to Church and would like to have a visit locally then please do get in touch with either Robin or Marion.

The Team would also welcome more volunteers. If you would like to join this Ministry, please speak to Marion.

Dabblers:

DABBLERS - meets fortnightly and was set up to give anyone with a portable hobby the opportunity to come together to have company and share their skills. Over the years we have had painters, card makers, knitters and crocheters but anything goes. Some years ago we decided to open up the afternoon to anyone who just wanted to come for a chat and a cuppa. We also have an informal quiz which is very popular. So if you are at a loose end on our next Dabblers session on February 19th, why not come along and see what we are up to? Its just £1 a session.

Quote:

God uses men who are weak and feeble enough to lean on him
Hudson Taylor

Smile Line:

God made us

A little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap reached up to touch his wrinkled cheek. "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"Oh," she paused. "Grandpa, did God make me too?" Her grandfather assured her that He had. Feeling his wrinkled cheek again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't He?"

Thank You from Lesley Sumner:

Lesley thanks everyone for your love and support and especially your prayers while she has recently been ill. Lesley is now out of hospital and enjoying being back home.

Birthdays:



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

**4th Thurza Smith
11th Jenny Rickwood**

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 our brothers and sisters at St Andrews that they will continue to know your love and guidance as they serve you in our local community;
- 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
 - Lesley
 - Marilyn Ford
 - Sue Alton
 - Brenda Elliott
 - Val & Ron Boot and family
 - Kelly and Simon
 - Chris, Wendy and Jason
 - H Kitchen
 - Hazel
 - Keith and Jan
 - Khristina
 - Norma and Mike
 - 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)
- Byron (a friend of Robin and Marion)
- 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.

WSK Update – Thank you:

Thank you to everyone for their kind donations. WSK collected a very large amount this week and send their thanks to you all.

WSK is finding demand increasing and are putting their main focus into helping the vulnerable in our communities. For that reason you will notice (as some of you have) that their café is not always open. It is being used to offer hot meals etc to vulnerable people but has reduced the overall opening times to reduce overheads.

Food donations currently required are:

- Cereals, Biscuits, Crisps;
- Jams, chocolate spread and spreads etc for sandwiches;
- 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 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

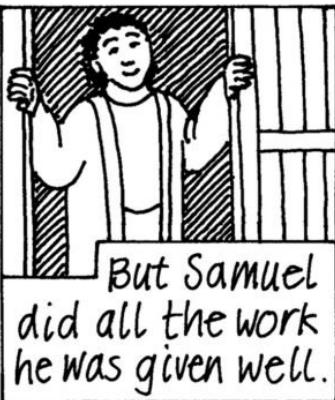
A short story from the Bible

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli..

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.

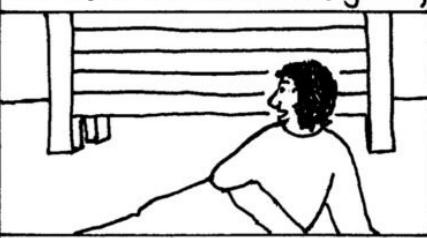


The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



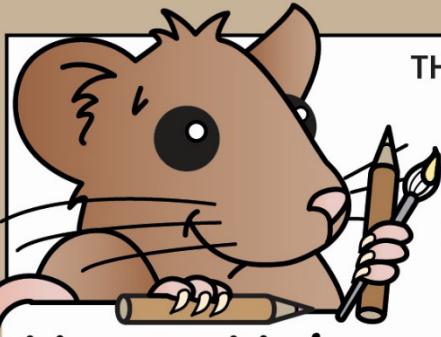
Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.





Mouse Makes



Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13

SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power
and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Worship the Lord your God
and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:
Put God **first**
Worship **only** Him.

1

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

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into?

What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him?

What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do?

What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

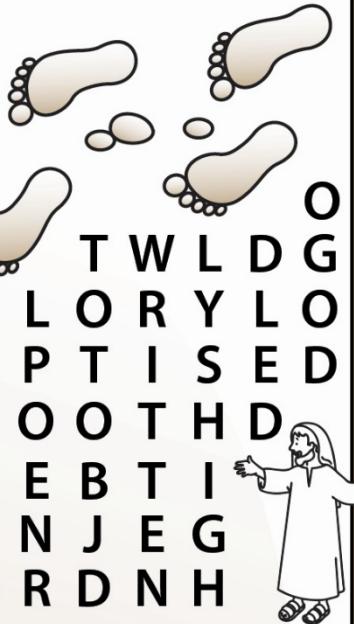
"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible
Learn God's word.



THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:
"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:
God cares, **trust**
Him do not test Him.





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.