Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News December 2026



Welcome by Revs Robin & Marion Brenchley

Hello and welcome once again to our monthly newsletter!

Once again, as we plan for the coming month and look through the diary at our planned events and services, we find ourselves thinking that it really is a most wonderful time of the year. The Advent Crown is now in place for tomorrow's service, and this is just the start of the decorations that will be added to the church in the coming weeks.

To quote another song, it's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas!

Over the coming weeks of Advent we will be looking at the various themes represented by the candles on the Advent Crown, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, and on Christmas Day, the centre candle representing Christ. Details of all our Christmas events and services can be found in the following pages and in our website online diary.

In other news, we're sad to say that after many years of faithful service, Lyn Jenkins is looking to retire from her flower ministry in the church. We have been richly blessed by how beautiful the church has looked, week on week, as a result of the hours of flower arranging Lyn has undertaken. If you think you might be up to the task of taking up this ministry, perhaps as part of a team, then please do speak to either Lyn or Robin.

Likewise, Karen, who produces this newsletter each month, also feels it is time for her to step aside from her editing ministry, to allow her to focus her time on the other roles she is involved with. If you think you may be up to editing this newsletter on a monthly basis, please do let Robin know.

Change is sometimes difficult, but a church, as well as being a family, is in many ways like a living organism - indeed Jesus refers to us as His body - and as such change is a necessary part of church life. I am sure you will want to join us in thanking both Lyn and Karen for their service.

In the new year we are looking to start baptismal classes as we already have two, possibly three people who are interested in baptism. If you would like to take part in this, perhaps just to find out more about believers' baptism then please do get in touch with us.

Merry Christmas and God bless you all, *Robin & Marion*

Church Activities 29 November to 31 December - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 29 **10:30 - 11:30**	**Morning Worship * #** Refreshments & Fellowship	**Rev Robin Brenchley**
14:30 - 16:00	**First advent service & refreshments**	**St Andrews Church** **Rev Shirley Tupper** **Rev Robin Brenchley**
Tuesday 1 December **14:00 – 15.30**	**Afternoon Housegroup**	**Trish Aze**
Wednesday 2 **14:30 – 15:30**	**Prayer Meeting**	**Everyone welcome**
Thursday 3 **14:00 – 16:00**	**Dabblers**	**Pauline Parkinson & Julie Appleton**
Friday 4 **17:00 – 18:00**	**Young Explorers Youth Group**	**Karen Parsons**
18:00 – 19:00	**Explorers Youth Club**	**Karen Parsons**
Saturday 5 **17:00 – 18:30**	**Lighthouse including a visit to the Village Christmas Lights and Service**	**Karen Parsons & Jane Melvin**
Sunday 6 **10:30 - 11:30**	**Morning Worship & Holy Communion * #** Refreshments & Fellowship	**Rev Robin Brenchley**
Tuesday 8 **10:30 – 12:00**	**Women's Fellowship**	**Sally Gilbert**
Wednesday 9 **14:30 – 15:30**	**Prayer Meeting**	**Everyone welcome**
Thursday 10 **19:15 – 21:00**	**Church Meeting**	
Friday 11 **17:00 – 19:00**	**Joint Youth Club Christmas Party**	**Karen Parsons**

Saturday 12 **09:00 – 11:00**	**Men's breakfast**	**Gordon Rickwood**
Sunday 13 **10:30 - 11:30**	**Family Carol Service * #** Refreshments & Fellowship	**Rev Robin Brenchley**
Tuesday 15 **10:30 – 12:00**	**Women's Fellowship**	**Sally Gilbert**
14:00 – 15:30	**Afternoon Housegroup**	**Trish Aze**
Wednesday 16 **14:30 – 15:30**	**Prayer Meeting**	**Everyone welcome**
Thursday 17 **14:00 – 16:00**	**Dabblers**	**Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton**
Sunday 20 **10:30 - 11:30**	**Morning Worship * #** Refreshments & Fellowship	**Rev Robin Brenchley**
Wednesday 23 **14:30 – 15:30**	**Prayer Meeting**	**Everyone welcome**
18:30 - 20:00	**Carols by Candlelight**	
Friday 25 **10:30 - 11:30**	**Christmas Morning Worship * #** Note: no refreshment time today	**Rev Robin Brenchley**

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

 # All leaders are DBS cleared in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy.

Notices:

Sunday 29 November, 14:30 - 16:00 First advent service & refreshments.

Joint service with St Andrews at St Andrews, Ferring.

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 December St Andrews Christmas Tree Festival

St Andrews is hosting its Christmas Tree Festival. 39 real trees decorated by local groups, businesses, and individuals. Ferring Baptist Church Youth Clubs has put an entry in so please vote for us.

For those not able to visit the Church, the Tree will be on display in the Church from Monday 7 December.

Saturday 5 December -Christmas celebrations

Christmas Fayre from 2.30pm to 6.30pm

Christmas Carols with Salvation Army Band & the Ferring Village Voices. Christmas lights 'switch on' approx. 5.15pm. This includes a service with Rev Shirley Tupper and Rev Robin Brenchley.

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

I will be compiling the new Sunday morning coffee rota in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to add your name to serve tea and coffee (approximately every 6-8 weeks) please speak to Lorraine (Goodwin). Thank you.

Stamps for Charity

Please remember to save the stamps from Christmas Cards for Jenny Rickwood. These need to be cut with at least a half inch surround of envelope or the 2 charities these support (Hedgehog preservation and Dog's Trust) will not hesitate to reject all stamps too closely cut. Many thanks for your loyal and regular support.

Calendars

Thank you to Mary and Philip Tout for providing Amazing Grace Calendars for the Church Fellowship, family, friends and community. They are beautiful and available in the Church entrance.

ART FOR COMPASSION – Thank you

Thank you to everyone for supporting my painting sale. Your generosity has enabled the Church to send £332 to Worthing Soup Kitchen.

Pauline

Khristina Mc Cormack, CEO of Worthing Soup Kitchen, sent a special thank-you to Pauline for her artwork and to the congregation for their donations.

Save the Date:

Sunday 3 January 2027 – we will be hosting the Afternoon Social Pop In at the Glebelands Centre. There will be tea, coffee, cake, chat and /or games/art. You are warmly invited to join us. All ages are welcome.

5 March 2027 - World Day of Prayer is celebrating 100 years in 2027 and the theme is United in prayer for Justice and Peace.

It will be held at St.Mary's Goring at 10.30 a.m.

Quotes:

Forget your mistakes but never what you learned from them. – Anon

Smile Lines:

Next year?

The grandson had just taken a photograph of his ancient grandmother who'd come to stay for Christmas and was celebrating her 89th birthday the same day.

"Grannie, I sure hope I'll be able to photograph you on your 90th birthday," he said.

"Why not?" his grandmother shrugged. "You look healthy enough."

Thanks

"Thanks very much for the beautiful jumper," said Charles, kissing his grandmother dutifully on the cheek.

"Oh, there's really nothing to thank me for," she murmured.

"That's what I thought, but Mum said I had to."

Happy Birthday:



To all those in the fellowship blessed with a November birthday especially in the BMS scheme:
12th Linda Mc Brien
19th Sally Gilbert
30th Marion Brenchley

If you would like to join the Birthday Scheme, please see Jenny Rickwood

Worthing Soup Kitchen:

There has been a radio appeal for toys, and a local business has offered to donate Turkeys. You might also see that a local lady Nicky Chisholm is trying to raise £5,000 in ten days to feed 500 families over the Christmas Season.

For us, Christmas is coming but families still need the usual staples. Khristina, CEO of WSK has suggested donations of tea, coffee, sugar, tinned meats, etc and/or Christmas treats for families such as Chocolates, Custard, Chocolate Yule Logs, Hot chocolate, and Christmas puddings. She sends her thanks to everyone.

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. We know that you are the Prince of Peace;
- We pray for all those who have lost loved ones, that you will walk beside them and provide them with comfort;
- We pray for all those in our military services, and doctors, nurses and other health care providers;
- 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 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 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 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 Judy Cook and the staff and those living in Hope Home; we especially lift up the little boy who has been hospitalised twice, that his health will continue to improve;
- We pray that Jaco and Corrina settle to life in York, that the local community support them and that Corrina is able to continue her translation work from the UK. We also pray for Jaco as he starts his new life in the UK;

- We pray for Open Doors, Mission Aviation Fellowship etc to bring your Gospel of Hope and Healing in difficult places;
- 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:
- We pray for all those who have lost loved ones, that you will walk beside them and provide them with comfort;
- We pray for all Youth Church activities that our young people and their families will come to know you Lord;
- We pray for all Church activities that everyone attending feels included, loved and gets to know you;
- We pray for all our Ministry leaders and helpers that you will guide them in the plans and work that you want them to do.

  Editor's Note: Last month Robin was asked not to put a list of those requesting prayer in the Newsletter. Several people have since said that they prefer a list so we will from this month be including a list for those that would like one.

  We especially pray for comfort and healing for:
  - Stuart Douglas
  - Simon Stuart
  - Pam Pavier
  - John Clarke
  - Diane Ackery's family and friends
  - Brenda Elliott's family and friends
  - Lesley
  - Marilyn Ford
  - Sue Alton
  - Val & Ron Boot
  - Chris, Wendy and Jason
  - H Kitchen
  - Hazel
  - Jennifer and her daughter Sam
  - Khristina
  - Norma and Mike
  - Graham (Carolyn's father)
  - Pat May (Pauline's sister)
  - Paulette
  - 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)

Fellowship News Contacts:

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

Address: Greystoke Road, Ferring, W. Sussex, BN12 5JL.
Emails: minister@ferringbaptist.org.uk
Website: www.ferringbaptist.org.uk
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. Many thanks.

