

FAREHAM

eFOCUS



Fareham Methodist Church
eFocus January 2021
Registered Charity No 1127814

Dear friends,

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very 'happy new year'. I say that with some trepidation this year more than most because very few of us feel 'happy' with the situation we find ourselves in. Just as Christmas presented some challenges to each of us and our families and friends, so too does the new year with another lockdown as we continue to live through the Covid-19 pandemic and its effect on our day-to-day life.

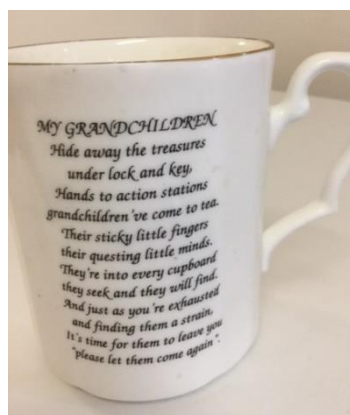
Often quoted at this time of year is part of a poem written by Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957) called The Gate of the Year. The poem came to prominence when King George used it as part of his Christmas speech on Christmas day 1939 when he quoted the following lines:

I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.'

At the time that King George was addressing the nation; the country was just 3 months into a war that would last a further 5+ years. Then, the darkness and the unknown were very real for so many in our country and across the world, and war was endured for many months and years to come. Even after the war ended life continued to be restricted and hard for so many. So, too, we find ourselves in a difficult situation and the future is unknown and uncertain for at least a few more months as we begin this new year. Yet, we can hold onto a justified hope in vaccines that are becoming licensed for use and available to the most vulnerable in our communities first and then to the wider population. Whilst we wait in patient hope for this and better days to come we can take hold of the courage to get through each day and week knowing that we are never alone. We can put our hands, our lives, into the hands of God trusting that God is with us.

I wish you a hope-filled new year. Stay safe and well and may you continue to know the truth of Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, God with us.

With love,
Claire



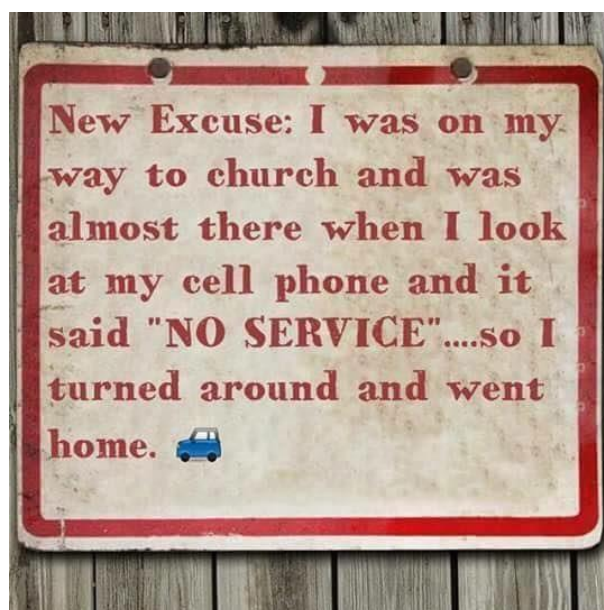
Mary's lockdown discovery

My Grandchildren

Hide away the treasures
under lock and key,
Hands to action stations
grandchildren've come to tea.
Their sticky little fingers
their questing little minds.
They're into every cupboard
they seek and they find.
And just as you're exhausted
and finding them a strain
It's time for them to leave you
"please let them come again"

Whilst sorting through my kitchen cupboards I found this mug with an amusing, yet poignant message. Relevant for these difficult times do you think?

Thank you Mary



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Vestry Jotters

Well here we are 2021.

We would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

It was lovely to welcome Lin and Chris into our church family.

Later this year Jill Race will be retiring as a church steward. She has worked tirelessly with the team, combining her steward duties with being church organist. **Thank you Jill.**

This leaves the team short, any volunteers?

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Acts of Kindness donations. Thank you especially to Lin for organising everything.

Our quiz night was a huge success; thanks must go to our question setters, Andrew, Claire and Matthew.

Brenda
On behalf of the stewards.

URGENT Please read new secretary needed for CTF in 2021

Dear All,

I hope you have all managed to enjoy some time with your families over Christmas even though it will have been much curtailed by our Tier 4 status.

I am writing to you because in a few short weeks Jeremy will be stepping down from part of his role as Secretary of Christians Together in Fareham (I am happy to report that he is intending to continue as our Webmaster) so we urgently need to find a replacement for the secretarial aspects of the role.

I know that Jeremy is very willing to talk to anyone about what is involved so please do think about this and PRAY very hard that someone - maybe even you - will step forward. I wish you all a healthy and Happy New Year Lucy.

Lucy Docherty
Chair: Christians Together in Fareham

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If you are at all interested or know of someone who is please contact Jeremy Hicks on email secretary@farehamchristians.org.uk. I do have the job description and job advert so please contact me if you would like to look at them.

MAINTENANCE V INNOVATION

My daughter has the habit of throwing away anything that looks to be past its "best before" date and buying new. This struck me as I listened to the latest sermon from Duke University, a fairly regular thing I do after zooming in to our own Fareham service. The preacher took the above title as the theme for her sermon. Maintenance involves care; it involves examining the value of what needs maintaining. Innovation ignores the value of what is to be discarded. This applies to our relationship with those around us.

Do we care for any of our acquaintances who do not come up to our standards? Or do we try to help them through their difficulties?

Do we throw out customary behaviour if it does not seem to work or try to adapt it?

However, I thought of our introduction of Messy Church and that really did blossom, mainly because it appealed to a group for whom the normal Sunday Worship had no stimulus.

I leave you to ponder on how this could affect your behaviour.

Thank you Eric.

Just wanted to use the Messy Church Logo as we haven't used it for months - Lin



Ten Points on which to ponder as 2020 disappears

1. The most stupid thing that I bought in 2020 was a '2020 Year Planner'.
2. The message in 2019 was to stay away from negative people but in 2020 to stay away from positive people.
3. The world was turned upside down. Old folk were sneaking out of their homes while their 'children' were screaming at them to stay indoors.



4. One morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat and it was obvious that she thought her cat understood her. I went indoors, told my dog, and we had a good laugh.



5. Every few days I tried on my jeans just to ensure that they fitted. Pyjamas had you believe that all was well in the Kingdom.
6. I was unable to establish from all the advice given whether or not baths or showers could be taken or were we restricted to just washing our hands?
7. Who'd have thought that the expression "I wouldn't touch them with a (two metre) barge pole" would become national policy?

8. I found myself practising social distancing using the biscuit cupboard as my yard / metre stick for reference!



9. I also found myself hoping that the weather would be good for my weekly trips to the dustbins.



10. Never in a lifetime would I have imagined going into a bank wearing a mask and asking for money!!

Final thought:

If you think that it's bad now just think on that in 20 years, or so, time the country is going to be run by people who were home schooled by parents who turned to alcohol.

Thank you lan

I felt this was very funny and we all need to have a little laugh these days - Lin

Note from the Editor

Happy New Year.

I know 2021, at the moment, has not been like anything we have known but the bright side of things is the VACCINE. So we must look ahead and get through this lockdown.



Thank you very much for all your kind donations to the food bank of the Act of Kindness. We received 42 shopping bags from the church. Act of Kindness fed over 6,000 people in the last 40 weeks and over Christmas distributed 3,000 presents and hampers to people locally. We continue to help people who are in need, vulnerable and elderly. Please if you know of anyone let me know or contact Act of Kindness on 07726577761. These are a few pictures I took on the day you gave donations.



Can you recognize the people behind the masks?

I wish to thank everyone who has provided pieces for the eFocus and may it continue. I believe we will have happier news every month, as Spring arrives which will provide us with that much needed lift. Keep Safe my friends.

Garry and I picked this up in the USA a few years ago in a little museum shop near to Hemingway's house. It is displayed in our downstairs cloakroom:

**This is the beginning of a new day.
You have been given this day to use as you will.
You can waste it or use it for good.
What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it.
When tomorrow comes this day will be gone forever.
In its place is something that you have left behind... let it be something good.**



It also reminded Ian of his Grammar school Headmaster's favourite hymn.

So here hath been dawning another blue day: Think, wilt thou let it slip useless away?
Out of eternity this new day is born; into eternity at night, will return.

Behold it afore time no eye ever did: so soon it forever from all eyes is hid.
Here hath been dawning another blue day: Think, wilt thou let it slip useless away?

Amen

A Quirky Crossword!

Draw a grid of open squares, five horizontally and four vertically as shown:

	1	2	3	4	5
1					
2					
3					
4					

Clues Across:

1. *To strike or hit.*
2. *A tool for making holes.*
3. *A discredited puppet*
4. *A warming drink*

Clues Down:

1. *A popular vegetable*
2. *Name given to female sheep*
3. *Domestic and commercial birds*
4. *Large expanses of water*
5. *Often dropped by Cockneys*

Solutions will be in February eFocus.

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