

## ***Message from our Vicar:***

It seems that we have been too long without flowers and colour and now we have it all at once – colour, new life and the new fire of Easter!

It has been a wonderful first Easter in the Parish. I love this season, even more than I love Christmas.



I cannot put into words the joy and gratitude I felt when I visited St Columba and Holy Trinity on Holy Saturday and saw in each place the golden beauty of the flowers all around. I felt a deep gratitude for the hard work and labour of love made manifest in the floral arrangements and Easter Gardens.

I noticed that, in each place, the character of the Easter Garden is different, beautiful in its own way and very much reflective of the people who worship there.

Different though they are, each place tells the same story of the empty tomb. If Jesus is risen, then we have all have a dignity and a purpose.

We all matter -  
and so does the whole of creation.



This season offers such hope and possibility for transformation and change. Daring us to believe that in all sorts of human situations it is possible for things to be different.

The prayer for the week ahead professes the same:



*Risen Christ,  
You filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.*

**Tea at 3: Have you wondered what happens at 'Tea at 3'?**

This started as a group of people who met online during the Covid pandemic and it's still serving a purpose of chatting to people who prefer to meet from the comfort of their own home. The topics are varied, sometimes catching up on what's been happening, current news, books/films/TV - in fact, it can be anything!

The group is currently facilitated by Revd Ann Burr who ensures that everyone gets a turn to speak if they wish - or indeed, can just listen.

If you are tempted to join and have a tablet or laptop but are not confident in their use, contact Pete and Sue who will try to help you get connected or give the Parish Office a call on 01329 232688. Anyone is welcome to join!

**The next 'Tea at 3' meeting will be on Monday 22nd April at 3pm - please join us!**

Paul Docherty writes:

A few weeks ago, Bidy Mayo, the Chief Officer at Citizens Advice Fareham or one of her colleagues, spoke at all the Sunday Masses in the Roman Catholic parish to thank parishioners for their contributions to the Christians Together in Fareham Covid Emergency Fund. Bidy realised that the fund was a joint effort but, realistically, she and her team can't visit all the churches involved to say an individual thank you, so I offered to circulate her notes which, as well as saying a huge thank you to all the churches, explain how the fund has been used.

Bidy's talk – slightly paraphrased ...

“Thank you for contributing to the Christians Together Covid Emergency Fund which raised £21,000 from several churches to help people in Fareham stay in their homes. Every penny raised went directly to the clients. We at Citizens Advice, Fareham helped over 493 clients with housing issues last year, many of whom would now be homeless without access to the funds we received from the Christians Together fund.

To give you an idea of how the fund has been used, the money has helped to pay for:

- Rent arrears where clients had hit a short-term emergency but were able to manage their full rent going forwards.
- Bankruptcy application fees for clients in serious financial difficulties. These fees can be more than £690 per person.
- Application fees for debt relief orders which cost £90 per application. One off-debts of elderly people in financial hardship.

Citizens Advice is really grateful for the close working relationship we have developed with Christians Together in Fareham and hope that we will continue to receive your support as we look for ways to fund the service going forward and so that we can help the community of Fareham.“

*The Christians Together Covid Emergency Fund originated in our parish as the Covid Emergency Fund, organised by Richard Healey, before being launched to the rest of CTiF.*

## *What happened last month at ....*

### Little Fishes

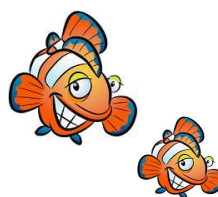
On 6th March, Little Fishes made cards, flowers and pictures for their Mummies and others who care for them. They enjoyed turning their handprints into plants and we sung a special song during our praise time to say thank you to our Mummies.



There were lots of 'good luck' shamrocks made in Little Fishes on Wednesday 13th March as they heard about Saint Patrick ready for his feast day on 17th March. Potato printing is certainly a messy favourite! We talked about how Saint Patrick used the shamrock to explain about the Trinity.



On 20th March, Little Fishes made their own palm leaves and donkeys as they found out about Palm Sunday. They used them to wave during their Praisetime as they sang 'Sing Hosanna'.



The Easter fun continued for Little Fishes at their session during the holidays. On 3rd April we welcomed our usual Little fishes attendees plus their older siblings who all seemed to enjoy completing some Eastery crafts. They made Easter basket pictures, Easter gardens, Easter egg scratch arts and a collage of the empty Easter tomb. A big thank you to the helpers who enabled us to run during the holidays.

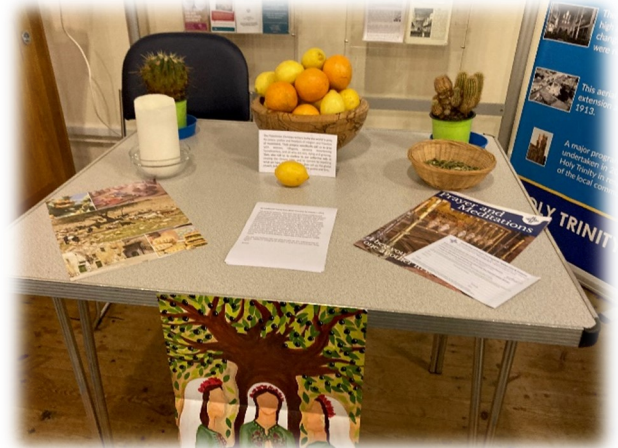


Little fishes welcomed in the spring on the 10th April, their second week of the Easter holidays. Children made birds in their nests, fluffy lambs made of cotton wool and the older children made chicks, rabbits and lambs from foam kits. During Praisetime, children looked at the buds which are appearing on the plants; they will soon come alive again with colour. We encouraged everyone to go on a spring walk using all their senses to spot signs of spring.



## World Day of Prayer

On 1st March, our parish hosted the World Day of Prayer for Christians Together in Fareham. The service had been prepared over a year ago by Christian women in Palestine so it was particularly poignant given the current conflict. We set up prayer stations to show some aspects of Palestine including the relevance of olive trees where the trunk, branches and leaves symbolise three generations of a family.



**FAREHAM AND GOSPORT BASICS BANK**  
*Local people supporting local people*

**Tinned beef (minced,  
casserole, chilli con carne,  
Irish stew)  
Tinned chicken  
Ham/Spam  
Tinned carrots**



**PLEASE ADD TO YOUR  
SHOPPING LIST**

**Tinned sweetcorn  
Tinned tuna  
Deodorants (men and women)  
Chocolate bars  
Washing powder/liquid**

## Nutty Knitters

The Nutty Knitters have been raising money for the charity, 'New Forest for Ukraine'. Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of Bob Holman in providing the chocolate eggs, the knitted chicks and felt bunnies have raised an incredible amount - £705!

Well done to all of them and a thank you to Tricia King for all her organisation. Thanks also to both congregations and our premises hirers for buying so many!

The Nutty Knitters meet every Friday morning in St Columba church.



## FAREHAM SENIOR CITIZENS' LUNCH CLUB

**This Lunch Club has been providing food and friendship for the lonely elderly in Fareham town since 1957.**

**We meet every Monday, except Bank Holidays, at Holy Trinity Church on West Street.**

**We provide a freshly cooked nutritious two-course meal with tea or coffee on arrival and after lunch at a cost of £6.**

**Transport can be provided for those who have difficulties with mobility.**

**For more information, please contact the Club on 07443 893862.**



Gillian E. Jones. "For A Friend Who Helped Me."

*A person who will listen and not condemn,  
someone on whom you can depend.  
They will not flee when bad times are here.  
Instead, they will be there to lend an ear.  
They will think of ways to make you smile  
so you can be happy for a while.  
When times are good and happy thereafter,  
they will be there to share the laughter.  
Do not forget your friends at all,  
for they pick you up when you fall.  
Do not expect to just take and hold.  
Give friendship back; it is pure gold.*

At the Friendship Group we always try to help and support each other, no matter how big or small an issue might be, we share good times and times that aren't so good, but the most important thing about the times we spend together is that we always have a laugh! The poem I think really sums us up, I hope you enjoy it.

Another busy time at the Friendship Group, with books and bric-a-brac, the sale on 5th March went really well. Everyone enjoyed the meal at Holy Trinity, the sticky toffee sundae was rather sweet but delicious none the less.

Mark Venables and the band of ukulele players joined us on the 19th March, it was a really enjoyable afternoon and the members raised £76 for a local charity.

We dedicated the afternoon to Yvonne Francis one of our dear friends who sadly passed away, she was a lovely member of the group and loved to dance, so we all agreed that an afternoon of music was a fitting tribute to her. The photo demonstrates just how much Yvonne enjoyed dancing.






With a brunch on the 26th, an Easter raffle and Easter eggs all-round the afternoon was a huge success.

On the 2nd April everyone enjoyed games of bingo, when I opened up the church to prepare for the afternoon, the church was filled with the most amazing smell of spring flowers, so many displays around the church it was just a beautiful experience.

A roast lunch on the 9th which included roast turkey, roast potatoes and veg followed by a fruit sponge and custard.

**There is so much to look forward to in the coming weeks, if you would like to come along, please ring me on 07307 890840, Eve.**

**Friendship Group - Schedule for April 2024, *may be subject to change:***

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Event:</b>	<b>Cost:</b>	<b>Location and Time:</b>
2nd April	Bingo		St Columba
9th	Lunch		Holy Trinity
16th	Fish and Chips.	£2 subs £4 for bus users	St Columba 13:30
23rd	Titchfield Players "Act Your Age" 	£2 subs £4 for bus users	St Columba 13:30  <b>Everyone welcome</b>
30th	Time for a chat and a quick quiz.	£2 subs £4 for bus users	St Columba 13:30

**On 23rd April Titchfield Players will be performing "Act Your Age". If anyone would like come along to see this free performance you would be most welcome, you do not need to be a member of the group.**



Once again at our MU meeting we were given an insight into life in another country. This time our speaker, Mrs Rachel Hicks, transported us from a dull March afternoon in Fareham to the bustling city of Mumbai (Bombay) in India.

Rachel was only a baby when her parents moved to Mumbai so that her father could to take up a teaching post at a boys' school there. The family had a flat within the school compound and they soon became very much part of the local community. Rachel told us about her life, growing up in a multi-cultural, multi-faith society. She introduced us to the sights, sounds and colour of life in this lively city. Since there are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Parsees as well as Christians living there, it seemed to Rachel that there were always festivals being celebrated with music, dancing and fireworks the order of the day.

As she was only a child, Rachel accepted the poverty that was all around them. She said that there were always beggars, many of whom were children, forced to beg by adults who then took any money the children were given. When going out, Rachel's parents carried nourishing biscuits to give to such children rather than giving them money and there was always a hot meal ready for anyone who came knocking at the door of their flat.

As Rachel described her life in India, it was obvious that it was a very happy time for her but, when she was 11, her parents decided to come home so that she could continue her education in England. Hers was a very different childhood to the one most of us have known, but it has given Rachel a very tolerant and outgoing attitude to life and people.



**The St Columba School's Easter Service** went well with a good number of parents, grandparents and carers attending. The children are getting used to the microphones and sang really well. Unfortunately we didn't have many parents stay for refreshments but we are going to carry on offering refreshments after school services.

**Lego and Craft:** This activity has been going really well run alongside the Table Top Sale; we had 17 children last Easter weekend. Some were families that had been a number of times before, together with some new families. The Easter activities for this event were decorating stones and making flowers for the Easter garden.

**Planning for the CTIF Holiday Club** is going well and a poster is out advertising the event. Please could you consider if you'd be able to volunteer to help. Please contact Sally Dewberry on 02393 073672 if you can offer help, thank you.



## Open Table dates for 2024:

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month in Holy Trinity church hall  
West, Street, Fareham, PO16 0EL  
5pm refreshments for 5.30pm service  
Every 1 in 3 - Bring & Share meal



14th April

Easter

Holy Communion

12th May

Spirit

Bring & Share Meal

Safe sacred space for LGBTQIA+ Christians  
& all who believe in an inclusive Church



Open Table has now been meeting for around two years in Holy Trinity Hall on the second Sunday of the month at 5pm. We welcome people from around our area – Portsmouth, Southampton, Bishops Waltham, Havant and of course, Fareham and Gosport. We start with refreshments at 5pm then have a service of Holy Communion on two months out of three and a Bring & Share meal for the third. The service is ecumenical and attracts people from different traditions to share in a supportive and friendly environment. A collection is held each month to cover the hall rental and the excess is donated to a charity chosen from within the group.

Everyone is welcome to join us – in the words of the hymn: “*Come as you are, that's how I want you.*”

# PFZ

Parent Free Zone

## Youth Group



Sunday 14th April 2024, 5pm–7pm  
(Held 2nd Sunday of each month)  
at Fareham United Reformed Church,  
Osborn Road South, PO16 7DG



The young people, aged 8 years old and over,  
enjoy games and other activities as well as a meal  
and time to chat.

Sessions are free but you need to book a place:

Please email [jean.antcliffe@outlook.com](mailto:jean.antcliffe@outlook.com) or text 07484 727777



WORSHIP @ GOSPORT WATERFRONT BAPTIST CHURCH

FRI 19 APRIL | 6.45-8.30PM

# Rip Tide

## YOUTH SERVICE

*For ages 11-18*

**GAMES - WORSHIP - DISCUSSION - PRAYER**



Please scan the QR Code or visit  
<http://www.urgosport.co.uk/rip-tide> to register &  
complete a parental consent form.

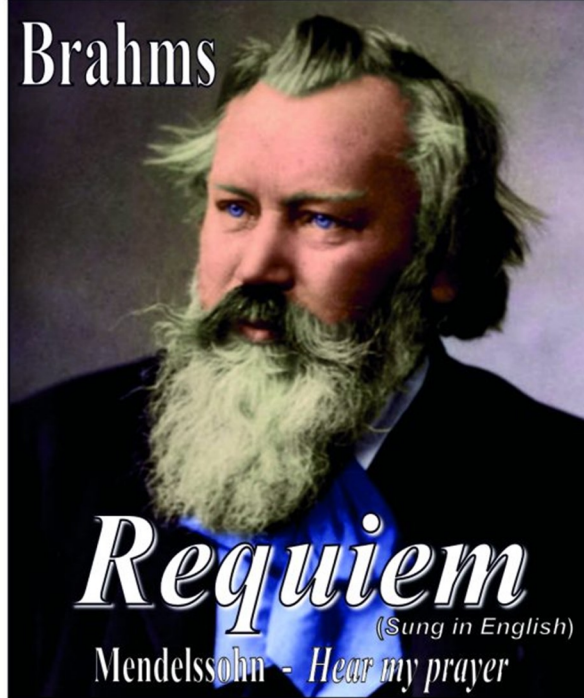
For further info please email  
[tony@gosportwaterfrontbaptistchurch.org](mailto:tony@gosportwaterfrontbaptistchurch.org)

FREE ENTRY FOR ALL

GOSPORT WATERFRONT BAPTIST CHURCH, 102 GROVE ROAD, ELSON, GOSPORT PO12 4JN  
[www.gosportwaterfrontbaptistchurch.org](http://www.gosportwaterfrontbaptistchurch.org)  
Free parking in Green Lane Car Park PO12 4JU

**fP**  
Choir  
fareham  
PHILHARMONIC

# Brahms



## Requiem

*(Sung in English)*

Mendelssohn - *Hear my prayer*

accompanied by  
**Brian Moles - Organ**

with

**Lucy Braga - Soprano Alex Poulton - Baritone**

**Musical Director - Andrew Cleary**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Holy Trinity Church, Fareham at 7.30 pm**

**Tickets £15 accompanied u 16s free**

**<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/DDLU>**

email: [secretary@fpchoir.org](mailto:secretary@fpchoir.org)  
tele: 07966 867613 (voicemail)  
choir members or on the door

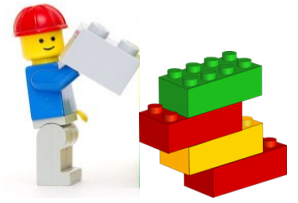


Registered  
Charity No.  
274026  
[www.fpchoir.org](http://www.fpchoir.org)

**Table Top Sale  
and Children's Easter Lego Activities  
at St Columba Church**



**Saturday 27th April  
10:00am - 12 noon**



**Entrance Fee - Donations to:  
Multiple Sclerosis Society, Gosport & Fareham MS  
Stalls | Charity Raffle | Tea & Coffee 70p | Snacks from 20p**

We are delighted to report that our Table Top Sale in February raised £407.78 for Fareham & Gosport Basics Food Bank, and in March we raised £411.67 for the Fareham & Gosport Branch, Parkinson's UK.

This money will be used to help kick start a new project of monthly sessions of music therapy, singing and playing simple instruments. This therapy can help improve breathing, strength of voice, movement of facial muscles, multi-tasking and mood, which are huge problems in Parkinson's.

It is so nice that the amazing money we raise is being used to help local people. Thank you to everyone for your support. *Rosemary*

# Fareham URC Quiz Night

Saturday 27th April

6pm for 6.30pm start

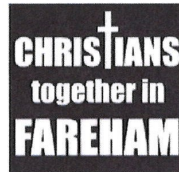
Come as a team of 6  
or come on your own  
and join a team.

Bring your own  
nibbles and drink  
- no alcohol

Tickets £5  
07879 685556



Christians Together in Fareham are arranging an evening of favourite hymns and songs covering a wide range from traditional to modern, chosen so that everyone will know the majority, whichever church you usually attend. Come and raise the roof at St John's, 6pm on Sunday, May 5th. The evening is in two halves with refreshments in between.



invite you to a

# Big Sing



**St John's Church**

**Upper St Michael's Grove  
Fareham PO14 1DN**

**6pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May**

*A time to gather and sing praise to God together,  
using music in a variety of styles and traditions*

*Refreshments served*

***All welcome!***



## Christian Aid's 70k in May Challenge

A 70km cycle ride to raise money for Christian Aid

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Join us!

For some or all of the route – details to be confirmed.

To register your interest, please contact Jeremy Hicks – email [ca70k@thehickses.org.uk](mailto:ca70k@thehickses.org.uk), or phone 07528 755967.

Support us!

Use the QR code, or visit the address below, to make a donation.



<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2024/fareham-portchester-ca-group>

**CHRISTIANS**  
together in  
**FAREHAM**

**HOLIDAY CLUB**

**BRIGHT SPARKS**

**RETURNS**

**29<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024**  
**9:45 am to 1:15pm**

**For Children**  
**in years R-6**

For further details and to book,  
use this QR code or go to  
[www.farehamchristians.org.uk/holclubreg.php](http://www.farehamchristians.org.uk/holclubreg.php)

Or, if needed, contact  
Debs on 07749 023776  
BOOKING ESSENTIAL

**ONLY £15 FOR THE WEEK**

### How to book a space?

You will need to complete an online registration form by simply using the QR code on the flyer above or by logging on to our page at:-

<http://www.farehamchristians.org.uk/holclubreg.php>

More information is on the flyer, and all details are now available on the web page.

If you have any News or Events publications which may be suitable for our Monthly Muse booklet, please send to the Parish Office by the end of each month. Thank You.