

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:6



Folkestone Baptist Church
LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, MAKE DISCIPLES

<http://www.folkestonebaptistchurch.org/>

Edition 231

8th December 2024

Same old story

Children love to hear stories told over and over again. This time of year, dads everywhere will tell again jokes as stale as last year's Brussels Sprouts. Pantomime dames will shout "Oh not it isn't!", carols will be played on loops in shops. And once again the story of the birth of Jesus will be told and acted out. For once, people just want to hear and tell again the old, old story.

As a preacher I'm always wanting to find new, fresh and exciting ways to tell the story. It is however, essentially the same story. The good news of how God sent his son to save the world. The enormously good news that God is extending good will to all people.

Some will hear the story for the first time this year. Others will hear it in a way that finally makes sense. For this is God's story, he is still writing it on human hearts. This story has the power to bring hope to the despairing, comfort to the grieving, peace to troubled souls. In order for them to hear it, we have to keep on telling it. I will have the chance to tell that story from 'up front' at school assemblies, carol services, Christingles and even a funeral in the next two weeks. Like Paul I would ask "Pray for me that whenever I open my mouth words may be given me..." (Ephesians 6:19)

But may we all keep telling the story to our friends, neighbours and family, both in what we say and how we live.

Prayer points

Pastoral:

In Hospital:

At home: Edith, Gloria, Madeleine, Ruth.

Continuing recovery: Carole.

Friends and Family:

Tom B's mother is unwell. Tom B's sister has recovered.

Pray for the Church Finances and the Church Leadership Team.

Roads around FBC: Tyson Road. Capel: North Downs Way.

Local: Pray: ministers in all Churches as Advent and Christmas is the busiest time of the year.

National: Pray for the groups campaigning against the Assisted Dying Bill. Pray for the NHS as all sectors are feeling the strain.

International: Pray for the situation in Aleppo in Syria. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) a rebel Islamist group supported by Türkiye has taken control. Pray for the cease Fire in Lebanon and the situation in Gaza. Continue to pray for Yemen, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Ukraine.

FBC CHRISTMAS POST BOX

Now Open

Sundays 8th, 15th and 22nd

Post your Church Christmas Cards Here

BMS Prayer News

Praise God for the establishment of the Intercultural Learning Centre and the new Director Aniu Kevichusa. Pray for mission workers Dave and Michele Mahon supporting the ILC in Peru. Pray for the collaboration with the International Baptist Theological Study Centre in Amsterdam; Baptist Church Trust Association in New Delhi and BMS Kolkata. Pray for Christians in the Global South.

Events Occurring in December

11th Wednesday: Little Acorns Christmas Nativity Play

12th Thursday: Girl Guides Nativity (5:30- 7:00pm)

13th Friday: Community Christmas Party with Ann McGovern

19th Thursday Christmas Lunch (19th)
Castle Hill Christmas Services (10th, 11, 17th, 18th)

Regular Church Events

Tuesday: House Groups: Check times
Relaxation & Christian
Meditation @2.00pm for coffee,
3pm start

Wednesday: Prayer Pause 12pm

Thursday: Community Lunch 12pm
Music Practice: 7:45pm
House Group (10:30 am) and
Messy Vintage (2:30pm)
alternate weeks in Capel

Sunday: Church Service 10:30 am
1st Sunday – All Age Service
3rd Sunday - Communion

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QR Code and Card Payments

For one off donations and hall bookings; scan this QR code with your phone to make a direct gift.



Carols by Candlelight: 15th December – 6pm

We are looking for a little help with the candlelight service please. If you can help set up the church after church on Sunday morning, 15th December, please let Chris know. Also, refreshments after the service please. To both go buy the mince pies & milk and to help serve afterwards. Again, please talk to Chris if you can help. Thanks so much.

Prayer Box

If you would like prayer for someone or something; please leave a request in the prayer box (near the Dover Road entrance). All requests will be dealt with in confidence

Thanksgiving Service for the life of Anne Tolputt will be on Friday 20th December at 11.30am at Hill Road, followed by a committal service at **Capel**. All are welcome to honour Anne and to give thanks to God for her life.

Thursday lunches after Christmas.

There will be no Thursday lunch on Boxing Day or New Years Day. There will be a light lunch of soup and sandwiches from 12noon - 3pm on 8th & 15th January. Normal service will resume on Thursday 22nd January.

Notices

December

- 15th Sunday:** Community Carols by Candlelight – 6pm
- 19th Thursday:** Christmas Craft event 5pm
- 20th Friday:** Funeral: Anne Tolputt Thanksgiving service at 11:30
- 22nd Sunday:** Harbour Arm Carols 5pm
- 25th Wednesday:** Christmas Day Service

January

- 4th Saturday:** Walk of Kings 12 noon

Christingle - it's back

Come and make your own Christingle and tell again the story of Jesus the light of the world. For all the family. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. If you're coming to the church Christmas Lunch, then why not stay on the for Christingle? 19th December. 5pm.

Pop Up Nativity

10.30am, Sunday 22nd December. Dress Code: Nativity!
Break out the table cloths and tea towels. Come as your favourite Nativity Character. All age service for children and adult's. Small prize for the best costume.

Prayers at Noon: Come to the church and pray together at 12 noon, or pray for the church where you are. Wednesday 8th December - Psalm 45

Salvation Army
Christmas Day Lunch
Served 12:30
Donations welcome

Churches Together Folkestone
Harbour Arm Carols

22nd December 2024
5pm

Contact Information

Pastoral matters:

Pastors:

Chris and Katy Ruddle 01303252916; 07808 728670
Email: info@folkestonebaptistchurch.org

Pam Barr (Capel) 01303 489006

Room hire/use:

FBC: Chris Ruddle 07808 728670
Capel: Pam Barr 01303 489006

News Letter: David Smithard

Email by Thursday please.
galafrei@icloud.com

Weekly news sheets and sermons are now available on our website.

Full fibre broadband at Hill Road

Wifi: 'WorshipWifi'; password: 'alphaandomega'.