

"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

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



Folkestone Baptist Church
LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE, MAKE DISCIPLES

Edition 232

15th December 2024

Christmas: only the beginning

As we contemplate the excitement of Christmas, the expectation as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, our saviour, we are reminded about the sorry that surrounds us. For many the world is not a safe place. Violence, persecution and suffering are present everywhere; not only from fellow human beings directly but also as a secondary consequence of the abuse of God's earth, the earth that we are expected to steward, and the resultant climate change resulting in extremes of weather. Those that suffer most are, the most vulnerable, those that are least able to resist. As we look around us, the feeling of hopelessness abounds, and we ask Why? Why is all this happening? Why all this suffering? This was not God's plan, but Humans thought they could do better than God and decided to leave Him on the side line and not involve Him in their game of life, even when it has been obvious that their plans have failed. God stands by watching and shaking Head in sadness, waiting to rescue us from our own folly, to pull us out of the mess that we have created. In Isaiah (45:8) God reminds us that He created the earth and, He reminds us in Isaiah 11:9 and Habakkuk 2:14 that the time will when His full knowledge of His glory will fill the earth like the waters cover the sea. That time is coming, and the birth of His Son, Jesus, Immanuel is the definitive sign that this plan has been put into place. Then and only then can we look forward to the time (Rev. 21:4) when death and suffering will cease and we will be in the presence of the Lord forever.

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: Montgomery Way.
Capel: Satmar Lane.

Local: Pray: the Winter Shelter, the volunteers and those making use of its services.

National: Pray London City Mission's Webber Street Shelter that it will be operational very soon.

International: Continue to pray for Syria. Pray that the HTS will respect human rights and the freedom of belief. Pray for the situation on the Golan Heights and Gaza. Pray that the cease fire will hold in Lebanon. Pray for Romania and the elections and Christians in the Balkan states.

FBC CHRISTMAS POST BOX

Last Chance

Sunday 22nd December.

Post Sorter required.

Walk of Kings

Saturday 4th January 2025

Start Anywhere; Finish Dymchurch Methodist Church by 1200 noon.

Light Lunch and a Service
Book lunch by 29th December.

Get sponsors for your walk and raise money for the Rainbow Centre

Castle Hill Christmas Services @ FBC (17th, 18th)

BMS Prayer News

Give thanks for all those individuals, churches who faithfully support BMS World Mission. Thank God for the faithfulness of the 24:7 Partners. Pray and give thanks for community fund raisers. Thank God for the 10 000 members of the BMS Birthday Scheme.

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.



Christianity Magazine

The up side of never throwing things out is that you keep some really useful stuff. The magazine rack near the kitchen now contains the last five years of Christianity magazine, donated by a kind hoarder who no longer can read. Please do borrow a copy. There's some great articles.

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.

Boxing Day – No Lunch

New Year's Day – No Lunch

8th and 15th January 2025 – 12 noon to 3pm soup and sandwiches

Normal service will resume on Thursday 22nd January.

Notices

December

19th Thursday: *Christmas Lunch*. Christmas

Craft event 5pm. Christingle 5pm

20th Friday: Funeral: Anne Tolputt Thanksgiving service at 11:30

22nd Sunday: Pop up Nativity 10:30 Harbour Arm Carols 5pm. Harbour Arm Carols

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 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 18th December - Psalm 46

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'.