



# Ferring Baptist Church

## Fellowship News - December 2024

*I will sing<sup>e</sup> of the LORD's great love forever;  
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known  
through all generations.*

*I will declare that your love stands firm forever,  
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.*

*Psalm 89:1,2*



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## *Welcome from Reverend Robin Brenchley*



Hello and welcome to December!

What a year 2024 has been, and what a wonderful Christmas season we still have to look forward to.

This year has had some real highlights, with the Holiday Club being my personal favourite. On a related matter Friday evening Youth Club goes from strength to strength, with ever more young people attending.

We will be continuing our current series on the prophecies fulfilled in Jesus until Christmas Day. I have been fascinated by how beautifully the scriptures entwine and how the New Testament completes the Old and I hope you too have enjoyed the series.

As for the New Year, we will be looking at Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones famously took several years to preach his way through this book, but I think we will content ourselves with spending the first half of 2025 with this fascinating book.

Before that though, we have Christmas. Please do check the diary pages for information on all that is going on, starting with our joint service at St Andrews this Sunday evening as we celebrate 1<sup>st</sup> Advent together. After that there will be various Christmas themed services concluding with our Carols by Candlelight on Christmas eve and our Christmas Morning worship. We have guest musicians and more planned!

Thank you all for your continued prayers, and may God continue to bless you, Robin

***Church Activities 1 to 31 December - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:***

<b>Sunday 1</b> 10:30 Afterwards	<b>Morning Worship and Holy Communion *</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
18:00 - 19:00	<b>First Advent Service – joint service at St. Andrew’s Parish Church</b>	Rev Shirley Tupper, St Andrews Church
<b>Tuesday 3</b> 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30	<b>Conversational Bible Study</b>	Philip Tout
<b>Wednesday 4</b> 14:30	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	Everyone welcome
<b>Thursday 5</b> 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:00 - 16:00	<b>Dabblers</b>	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
<b>Friday 6</b> 17:30 – 19:00	<b>Youth Group</b>	Karen Parsons
<b>Sunday 8</b> 10:30 Afterwards	<b>Morning Worship</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Tuesday 10</b> 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30	<b>Afternoon House Group</b> Ferring Baptist Church	Leader: Deanna Clark
19:15 start	<b>Evening House Group Social</b> TBC	Leader: Marion Brenchley
<b>Wednesday 11</b> 14:30	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	Everyone welcome
<b>Thursday 12</b> 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
19:15 – 21:00	<b>Church Meeting</b>	Church Members
<b>Friday 13</b> 17:30 - 19:00	<b>Youth Group Grand Christmas Finale**</b>	Karen Parsons
<b>Sunday 15</b> 10:30  Afterwards	<b>Morning Family Worship including Communion and Sunday Young Explorers’ Club</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
18:30 – 19:30	<b>Evening Holy Communion</b>	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Tuesday 17</b> 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary

14:30 - 16:00	<b>Conversational Bible Study***</b>	Philip Tout
<b>Wednesday 18</b> 14:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
<b>Thursday 19</b> 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:00 – 16:00	<b>Dabblers****</b>	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
<b>Saturday 21</b> 09:00	<b>Men's Breakfast at the Henty Arms</b>	Gordon Rickwood
<b>Sunday 22</b> 10:30 Afterwards	<b>Morning Worship and Carol Service*</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Marion Brenchley
<b>Tuesday 24</b> 18:30 Afterwards	<b>Candlelight Carol Service</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Wednesday 25</b> 10:30 Afterwards	<b>Christmas Day Morning Service</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
<b>Sunday 29</b> 10:30 Afterwards	<b>Morning Worship</b> Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Phil Gilbert

*\*Young persons' activities are available - please ask for details on arrival. All leaders are DBS cleared in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy*

*\*\*Youth Group – will resume on 10 January 2025*

*\*\*\*Conversational Bible Study will resume on 14 January 2025*

*\*\*\*\*Dabblers will resume on 9 January 2025*

### **Notices:**

- The Fellowship News (hardcopy) will now also be available in larger print as requested by several of you.
- The Christmas Card postbox will be available in the Church entrance from 1 December. There will also be room on the noticeboard for cards to be displayed.
- On the 7th and 8th December, St Andrews is holding their first Christmas Tree Festival and Ferring Baptist Church will be including a tree. There will be 39 Christmas Trees, each one decorated by a local individual, group or business. Jenny, and Karen will be working with Church groups and the plan is that the Tree will reflect the activities of our Church.
- A Freedom in Christ Course is planned to start in February on Sunday afternoons. FBC held a course on this two years ago which was very well attended and received good feedback. Further details and a sign-up sheet will be placed in the Church entrance in due course.

***BMS Birthdays:***

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

To anyone blessed with a December birthday

***Thought for this month:***

December is a time to reflect on the blessings of the past year and to embrace the opportunities of the coming one.

Oprah Winfrey

***O Lord we Give Thanks:***

- For you, Our Heavenly Father who is always with us;
- For our brothers and sisters at St Andrew's Church and the work that they do in the community;
- For our lovely Church building;
- For our Welcoming team;
- For our Pastoral care team;
- For our Worship and Audio Visual Teams;
- For our Youth Club which is attracting more young people and providing a safe area for our Young People to have fun, learn about Jesus and enabling their families to get to know our Church;

***Thank you:***

Grateful thanks to all my dear brothers and sisters for all the prayer support and precious visits while I have been ill.

Hope to see you all soon, Love Deanna.





## ***Prayer Pointers:***

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill the Church with His presence and guidance;
- We pray for all those in need in our World especially those caught up in war, conflict, living in captivity, persecution and those living in poverty. We pray for an end to these situations and may those affected come to know you, your love, peace and grace;
- We pray for the leaders of our World that they will reflect and where there are Wars, change direction, talk and desire Peace;
- We pray for King Charles as he also continues his journey back to health and we ask that he is restored to full health;
- We thank you that the Princess of Wales is continuing her journey of healing and recovery and is able to commence some public duties. We ask you to be by her side in her journey ahead, providing your loving touch, healing and wisdom as she goes forward;
- We thank you for our growing congregation and we pray that you will cast your protection around all Church members and attendees;
- Loving Saviour we bring to you our whole Church family asking for your peace, your grace, your healing and encouragement;
- We especially pray for comfort and healing for:
  - Deanna
  - Mary Brenchley
  - Norma Drew
  - Chris and Wendy Fogg
  - Trevor Jones
  - Tony Hayes
  - H Kitchen
  - Pat May (Pauline's sister)
  - Karen Parsons and her mum Betty
  - Janet Stuart (Simon's mum)
  - Kelly and Simon Stuart
  - Cliff and Maureen Warden
- We pray for Our Daily Bread, the many blessings that you bestow upon us and that you will be with the many Missionaries in the World to bring the very basic supplies - food, medical supplies, and shelter to people;
- We pray for Open Doors, Mission Aviation Fellowship etc to bring your Gospel of Hope and Healing in difficult places;
- We pray for Judy Cook back in Thailand and all of the staff and children at Hope Home;
- We pray for the continuing safety for Jaco and Corrina Loenen (with Pioneer and MAF) in Australia;
- We pray that our Church will be successful in our assistance to Worthing Soup Kitchen food parcels/community pantry;
- We pray for the Friday Evening Youth Group that our numbers continue, that we provide a safe area for them to have a fun time together and that they start to know you, continue to ask questions about you and that we provide the answers that they are searching for.

- We pray for our new Sunday Family Morning Worship, that the families and especially children will come to learn about you, your love for them, and make their first experiences of attending Church a positive and happy one;
- We pray for everyone involved in the new Morning Family Worship Services.

## **December:**

As we look back at the last twelve months and reflect on life's ups and downs, one thing is clear – God's faithfulness and His unfailing love for us, unchanged from the beginning of time, permanent as the heavens. It's a wonderful testimony echoed in the much-loved words of the hymn-writer Thomas Chisholm:

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not.  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

That's the confidence with which we say farewell to one year and prepare to step out into another. No one knows what it will bring – laughter or tears, health or sickness, triumph or disappointment. What we do know is that, whatever it brings, whatever we face, God will be with us in it, to the end of time and beyond.

### **Reflect:**

In what ways has God blessed, strengthened and guided you over the past year? Have things worked out as you expected? How has God shown himself to be faithful?

### **Pray**

God of the past, thank you for the way you have worked throughout history, calling and leading your people, speaking your word and honouring your promises through Christ. Thank you for your part in *my* history, for having guided, blessed, forgiven and encouraged me as I journey through life. God of the present, thank you for being at work today, recognised or unrecognised, continuing to move in countless lives including my own, your presence a daily source of help and inspiration. God of the future, thank you for all you have yet to do, for the assurance that each day you will go on working out your purpose until it is finally fulfilled. Thank you that I can look forward in confidence, knowing that whatever life may bring, whether for good or bad, your love will always surround me, holding fresh blessings in store. For your great faithfulness, yesterday, today and tomorrow, receive my praise. Amen.

### **Remember**

Come into his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Offer thanks to him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his unfailing love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:4, 5

### **Close**

Grateful for all you have done, Lord, rejoicing in all you are doing, I commit myself afresh to you, assured of everything you yet will do, of your love that will not fail. Amen.

Nick Fawcett, devotional and reflective writer and former Baptist Minister.

## **Worthing Soup Kitchen - Christmas Appeal**

### 🌟 Donations Needed 🌟

Shout WSK are creating Christmas food hampers for local families in need, filled with Christmas dinner essentials and some extra treats. 🍌

Shout WSK will be providing the ham, turkey 🍗, potatoes 🥔 and vegetables 🥕 and would like to ask for donations of the trimmings 🍽️ we need:

- Stuffing (packets)
- Gravy (packet or jar)
- Cranberry Sauce
- Christmas Pudding or other Pudding (non-perishable)
- Tinned Custard
- Biscuits and Chocolates
- Squash
- Milk
- Christmas Crackers

Thank you and Happy Christmas 🎄

Shout WSK

### **Contacts:**

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

Address: Greystoke Road, Ferring, W. Sussex, BN12 5JL. Tel: 01903 503679

(Church office is usually open Tues and Thurs 10:00 am -12:00 noon)

Emails: [minister@ferringbaptist.org.uk](mailto:minister@ferringbaptist.org.uk) OR contact Maureen Warden at [secretary@ferringbaptist.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ferringbaptist.org.uk)

Website: [www.ferringbaptist.org.uk](http://www.ferringbaptist.org.uk)

YouTube/Facebook: Ferring Baptist Church

**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](mailto:Karen1.parsons@uwclub.net) by Wednesday each week.