



Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News – 22 December 2024 to 5 January 2025

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6*



Church Activities 22 December 2024 to 5 January 2025 - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 22 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship and Carol Service* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Marion Brenchley
Tuesday 24 18:30 to 20:30	Candlelight Carol Service	Rev Robin Brenchley
Wednesday 25 10:30 Afterwards	Christmas Day Morning Service Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Sunday 29 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Phil Gilbert
Sunday 5 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship* Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Robin Brenchley

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

St Andrews Christmas Tree Festival:



Congratulations to the Ferring Churches Men's Breakfast who came joint second in the St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival – well done to our own Gordon and Jenny Rickwood.

1,000 people visited St Andrews over the festival weekend.

Notices:

- On 24 December, we have our Carols by Candlelight which is always well attended by our Village as well as our Church Family – volunteers are required to help with welcoming people, serving teas, coffees and general helping in the kitchen. If you are able to bake/bring mince pies that would also be very welcome. If you are able to help then please let Robin know.
- On 5 January, the Church is hosting a pop-up social afternoon for the village at the Glebeland Centre.
We need volunteers to help with the setting up, welcoming at the front door, serving the teas and coffees, chatting to the visitors etc. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered.
Also, if you enjoy a game of scrabble, cards, Rummikub etc - please come along and support the event. We would really appreciate your company and support.
- 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 the New Year.
- Stamps - please remember that Jenny Rickwood is still collecting used postage stamps for 2 charities and would value you keeping yours as the Christmas cards arrive. There is a box to put them in on the foyer notice board. Please cut a good 1/2 inch of envelope around each stamp. Many thanks.
- Sunday Morning Coffee Rota - Lorraine will be compiling a new Sunday morning coffee rota for January onwards in the coming weeks. Currently we take a turn preparing and serving coffees and teas once every couple of months and we would love additional volunteers. If this is something you think you could do, please do get in touch with Lorraine and I'll add your name to the next rota.

Many thanks. Lorraine (Goodwin)

lorraine.goodwin@googlemail.com or 07907072552

Thoughts:

- As Mary cradled the newborn Savior, she cradled a world reborn, where faith can move mountains and love can conquer all.
- In the embrace of the Holy Family, we witness the perfect balance of love, faith, and obedience, inviting us to cultivate harmony in our own lives.
- The star that guided the wise men reminds us that even in the darkest nights, a glimmer of hope can lead us to the light of salvation.

Youth Club – Grand Christmas Finale

Thank you for our helpers who have helped this year and our extra volunteers who helped on the event night plus those praying for us -greatly appreciated. We had 25 children and their families. All had a good time.

Worthing Soup Kitchen - Christmas Appeal

Thank you to all who have been giving food donations to the Worthing Soup kitchen. Your prayers and support have been greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Happy Christmas 🎄 Shout WSK



Prayer Pointers:

- We pray that you will comfort those who find Christmas time a difficult time due to bereavement, health issues etc.
- We 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)
 - Sheila Palmer
 - Karen Parsons and her mum Betty
 - Janet Stuart (Simon's mum)
 - Kelly and Simon Stuart
 - Cliff and Maureen Warden
- We pray 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;

Prayer for Christmas Eve:

Loving God, giver of life and creator of love,
we pray for those who have no gifts to open this Christmas, for parents who
will struggle even to feed their children,
for children who will have little reason to smile. May we who celebrate
Christmas become agents of Good News for them.

We pray for those who do not look forward to this time of year,
because of family circumstances, difficult memories and
loneliness. Lord Jesus, who came into our world, be close to them.

May we who celebrate Christmas, truly represent
you to those on our own doorstep.

We thank you for the reminders of Christmas,
for the truth that you have made yourself thoroughly at home in our
midst, that we may call you Emmanuel, God with us.

Keep us conscious of your loving and living presence, and make us
channels of your grace, not just on Christmas Day,
but every day. May we and the church in which we worship become
ever more truly God's gift to the world.

(from the Baptist Union website)

Prayer for Christmas Day:

Lord Jesus Christ,
On this Day we thank you for coming to earth, to live as one of us.
We thank you for all the presents we have unwrapped.
We thank you for the gifts we have been able to send.
We thank you for the happiness this day brings,
And for all the good food we are ready to tuck into.
But we pray for those who are less happy about today,
For those who are hungry or lonely, away from home or sad, ill or unhappy.
Be near to them, and show us how to be as loving and caring,
As the Jesus whose birth we celebrate today.

(from the Baptist Union website)

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL



Contacts:

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

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

Emails: minister@ferringbaptist.org.uk OR contact Maureen Warden at secretary@ferringbaptist.org.uk

Website: 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 by Wednesday each week.