



Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News - January 2025 - Happy New Year!



**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new one has come.
2 Corinthians 5:17**

Welcome from Reverend Robin Brenchley



Welcome to 2025!

As I write this note to you all, I find myself wondering how we have already come to 2025, a quarter of the way through the 21st Century. I can clearly remember working the night of the Millenium Celebrations as if it was only yesterday!

But the passing of time is not always a bad thing. The start of the Covid pandemic is now 5 years behind us and it is surely no coincidence that numbers at our Friday evening youth group continue to grow.

We ended last year with a series of sermons looking at some of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled, and this month we start a series on Ephesians. We're aiming to finish the series sometime in June so won't be going into quite so much detail as Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones who famously took several years to preach his way through the book. Nevertheless, I know there will be much for us to get our teeth into.

At the same time there is much else going on in the church, with a 'Freedom in Christ' course planned to start in February. This will be on Sunday afternoons to allow those who struggle with coming out on dark evenings to participate. More details will be available soon.

Many have noted that we are a growing church, but numerical growth is not the 'be all and end all', and we aim to be a church of disciples, of believers gathered together and helping each other become more like our saviour Jesus Christ!

With that in mind, whether this is your first new year in this church, or you have been coming here for several decades (I know some of you have!), it may be that God is calling you to step out of the boat of your comfort zone to serve Him in a new and exiting way.

There are already many ministries in the church which would benefit from new members, whether that be the prayer meetings on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings, the worship team, the PA desk, the welcome team, serve tea and coffee after the services, flower arrangers, children's workers... I could go on. What is important is that we recognise that God calls each of us to a life of active ministry. Christianity is not a spectator sport.

And please do give prayerful consideration to the upcoming deacons elections. God may be calling you to this challenging and exciting role, or He may be asking you to nominate somebody else (provided you seek their permission first).

Thank you all for your continued prayers, and all that you do, *Robin & Marion*

Church Activities 5 to 31 January - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 5 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship and Holy Communion * Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
14:00 to 16:30	Pop In Social in the Glebelands Centre – hosted by Ferring Baptist Church. We would love you to join us.	All are very welcome.
Tuesday 7 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30	Afternoon House Group	Leader: Deanna Clark
19:15 start	Evening House Group	Leader: Marion Brenchley
Wednesday 8 14:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 9 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:00 - 16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
Friday 10 17:30 – 19:00	Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Saturday 11 9:30 – 11:30	Deacons Meeting	Leadership Team
Sunday 12 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 14 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30 -16:00	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout
Wednesday 15 14:30 -15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 16 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
Friday 17 17:30 - 19:00	Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Saturday 18 09:00	Men’s Breakfast at the Henty Arms	Gordon Rickwood
Sunday 19 10:30	Morning Worship	Rev Robin Brenchley
Afterwards	Sunday Young Explorers’ Club Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Karen Parsons
18:30 – 19:30	Evening Holy Communion	Rev Robin Brenchley

Tuesday 21 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30	Afternoon House Group	Leader: Deanna Clark
19:15 start	Evening House Group	Leader: Marion Brenchley
Wednesday 22 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 23 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:00 – 16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
Friday 24 17:30 - 19:00	Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Sunday 26 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Marion Brenchley
Tuesday 28 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30 -16:00	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout
Wednesday 29 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 30 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
Friday 31 17:30 - 19:00	Youth Group	Karen Parsons

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

Notices:

- The Church Motto for 2025 will be launched in Church on 5 January.
- On 5 January, the Church is hosting a pop-up social afternoon for the village at the Glebeland Centre. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to help.
- If you are able to join us for refreshments, chat, games, arts and crafts we would love to have your company and support. Also, please feel free to bring along any crafts with you.
- 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 contributing any that you have received over

Christmas. 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.

BMS Birthdays:



To all those in the fellowship blessed with a January birthday including:

14th – Anne Dorrington

16th – Julie Gifford

Thoughts for this month:

“True greatness is not measured by the headlines a person commands or the wealth he or she accumulates. The inner character of a person—the undergirding moral and spiritual values and commitments—is the true measure of lasting greatness.”

Billy Graham

Isaiah 40:31 But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

Soren Kierkegaard

O Lord we Give Thanks:

- For you, Our Heavenly Father who is always with us;
- For our brothers and sisters in our Church family who give us love, support and encouragement when we need it;
- For everyone who was involved in organising the Church decorations and the many Church activities over Christmas;

The start of a New Year offers a time of reflection on the past year and inspiration for the year ahead. Ending the year with a grateful heart for the past year is a powerful way to

refocus and renew your outlook on life. - whether this past year brought you success, fulfillment, and joy, or you faced grief, setbacks, and struggle, New Year prayers are a great way to give thanks for the past year, seek guidance for the coming year, and ask for God's blessings.

- **Thanksgiving Prayer:** Heavenly Father, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, we want to express our deepest gratitude for the past year's blessings. Thank you for your faithfulness, your love, and your constant presence in our lives. We acknowledge your sovereignty over the days gone by and the days yet to come.

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 undertake 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
 - Brenda Elliott
 - 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 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 Dabblers, for those organising it and that the village continue you come and enjoy the activities provided;
- 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 Explorers, 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;

January and the start of a New Year:

Guidance Prayer: Lord, we look toward you, our hope, our peace, and our comfort in this New Year. As we enter into the unknown of the coming year, we ask for your guidance and wisdom. Illuminate our path with your light so that we may walk in your ways and make choices that align with your will. Help us to seek first your kingdom and trust that all other things will be added unto us.

Renewal Prayer: Gracious God, we come before you seeking renewal in the new year. Renew our minds, our hearts, and our spirits. May we be transformed by the power of your Holy Spirit, leaving behind the old and embracing the new that you have in store for us.

Strength Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we face both known and unknown challenges of the coming year, grant us strength and courage. Help us to rely on your mighty power and to find our refuge in you. May we be steadfast in our faith, knowing that you are our rock and our fortress.

Prayer for Others: Lord, as we embark on this new year, we lift up to you, our loved ones, our communities, and the world. May your peace reign in our hearts and in the hearts of all people. Bring healing where there is brokenness and reconciliation where there is division.

Taken from Christianity

Worthing Soup Kitchen (WSK):

Thank you so much for all your donations. WSK were able to put on Christmas Lunches for 100 people and to go out to those who were able to travel. Plus our donations went into hampers for those in temporary accommodation.

We will be continuing to assist WSK in 2025.

Blessing:



May the New Year year bring you joy, peace, and abundant blessings.

May the New Year bless you with unwavering faith that guides your steps, illuminates your path, and fills your heart with hope and strength throughout the year ahead.

As we embark on this new year, may our family and friend bonds grow stronger, our love deepen, and our moments together become cherished memories. May joy, unity, and happiness reign within our family and fellowship circle throughout the year ahead.

Wishing you a year filled with opportunities, good health, and prosperity.

Contacts:

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

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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.