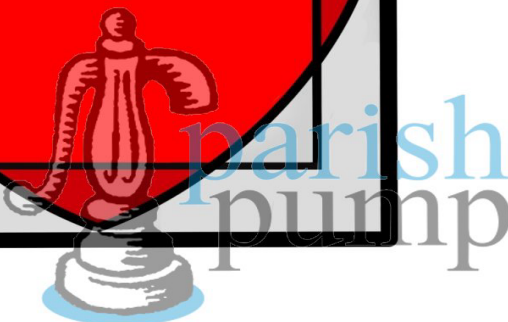
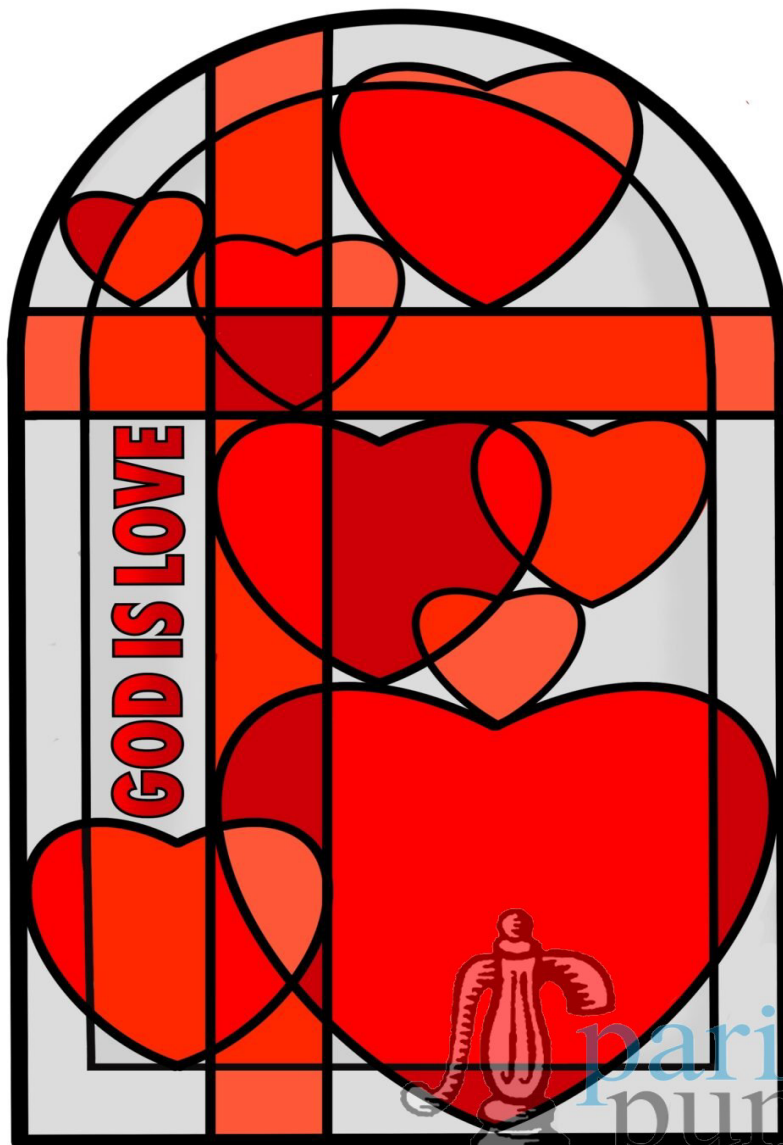




Ferring Baptist Church

Fellowship News - February 2025



***God is love,
Whoever lives in love
lives in God
and God in them
1 John 4:16***

Welcome from Reverend Robin Brenchley



Have you, like me noticed that the sun is rising a little earlier each morning and staying up a little later each evening?

I have to confess that once the joy and excitement of Christmas is over, I find myself looking at the calendar and wishing for warm summer evenings, and I know I'm not alone!

But we have to be careful not to wish away the precious days and weeks that God has given us. Each one of them can be wonderful if we are willing to follow His lead.

I had one such day this week where I started at the school leading collective worship (that's 'school assembly' in old money) and then headed off to St Barnabas House for communion with Deanna (she sends you all her love) and finished with a meeting regarding a request for baptism (more about this on Sunday).

What a wonderful morning that was; and I was left feeling very privileged indeed to be doing what I do. But the truth is, each and every day can be just as wonderful if we are attentive to what God is wanting to do in and through us.

What is the secret? There's no real secret to it. Marion and I simply try to start off each and every day by praying with each other. We pray for family and friends, as well as the church and what we have planned for the day, and we thank God for the many blessings he has given us. There's no script or formula, we just spend time talking with our Father in heaven who loves us and wants the very best for us.

I hope to see you soon, *Robin*

Church Activities 2 to 28 February - all held at the Church unless otherwise stated:

Sunday 2 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship and Holy Communion * Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
Tuesday 4 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30	Afternoon House Group	Leader: Deanna Clark
Wednesday 5 14:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 6 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:00 - 16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
Friday 7 17:30 – 19:00	Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Saturday 8 9:30 – 11:30	Deacons Meeting	Leadership Team
Sunday 9 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
13:00 to 15:00	Freedom in Christ 1	
Tuesday 11 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30 -16:00	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout
Wednesday 12 14:30 -15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 13 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
Friday 14 17:30 - 19:00	Youth Group - Valentine's event – God Loves You	Karen Parsons
Saturday 15 09:00	Men's Breakfast at the Henty Arms	Gordon Rickwood
Sunday 16 10:30	Morning Worship	Rev Robin Brenchley
	Sunday Young Explorers' Club	Karen Parsons
Afterwards	Refreshments and Fellowship Time	
13:00 – 15:00	Freedom in Christ 2	
18:30 – 19:30	Evening Holy Communion	Rev Robin Brenchley

Tuesday 18 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30	Afternoon House Group	Leader: Deanna Clark
Wednesday 19 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 20 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:00 – 16:00	Dabblers	Pauline Parkinson, Julie Appleton
Friday 21 17:30 - 19:00	Youth Group	Karen Parsons
Sunday 23 10:30 Afterwards	Morning Worship Refreshments and Fellowship Time	Rev Robin Brenchley
13:00 to 15:00	Freedom in Christ 3	
Tuesday 25 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
14:30 -16:00	Conversational Bible Study	Philip Tout
Wednesday 26 14:30 – 15:30	Prayer Meeting	Everyone welcome
Thursday 27 10:00 – 12:00	Church Office Open	Maureen Warden, Church Secretary
Friday 28 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:

- Found – a keyring and key were found in one of the food donation bags by WSK. If you have lost one then please speak to Karen.
- Freedom in Christ starts on 9 February, everyone is invited please put your name on the list in the foyer if you would like to attend. Marion and Robin will be buying the accompanying book and therefore need to know how many to get. There will be time for lunch either bring a packed lunch to Church or a quick visit home. The course starts at 13:00 each Sunday.
- The next edition of Fellowship News will be 16 February. Fellowship Bulletins will be used to communicate anything urgent.

Dates for your Diary:

- March 1 - Ferring Women's Breakfast. Guest Speaker – The Revd Shirley Tupper – further details to follow.
- March 7th - World Day of Prayer at St. Richard's Church, Maybridge at 10.30 am, and at All Saints Church, Findon Valley, at 2.30 pm.
- March 20th - Church AGM and Deacons' elections
- July 6th - Pop in Social at the Glebelands hosted by Ferring Baptist Church. 2 to 4:30 - everyone welcome.

BMS Birthdays:



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

4th Thurza Smith

11th Stuart Robinson

Jenny Rickwood

27th Ruth Steer

Smile:

Father

My family was at the dinner table when my five-year-old daughter startled us all by announcing to my three-year-old son: "Dad is not your real father." My son hotly denied this.

"No, he's not," she insisted. "God is your heavenly father." Then pointing to my husband, she added: "That's only our homely father!"

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 the Gaza ceasefire deal and for the hostages being released.

Thank you:

Lesley sends her love and thanks for all those who supported her, sent cards, and prayed for her during her recent move. She is settling in well.

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 our Government as they lead our Country, give them wisdom Lord and guide them in their decision making;
- We pray for King Charles, Princess of Wales and anyone currently receiving treatment for cancer;
- 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
 - Val & Ron Boot and family;
 - Mary Brenchley
 - Pat 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 protect them as they 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;

February Prayer:

Dear Lord,

February can be a trying month, but there are special associations too and we thank you for the hope they bring.

In February we remember how Jesus was taken, as a baby, to the Temple. Simeon took Him in his arms and by the power of the Holy Spirit, recognised Him as the Saviour you had sent as a light, to bring revelation to the whole world. And how this world needs your light and revelation in this new year, 2025.

Lord – as we notice more light in the lengthening days of this month, as we see the promise of the Spring in the bobbing heads of the beautiful snowdrops – help us most of all to recognise Jesus as our Light and to trust in Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of each new day. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Thought for this month:

Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible.

Corrie Ten Boom



'My First Sermon' by John Everett Millais

There is a story of two men talking about their new vicar. One says to the other, "This new one's not a patch on the old vicar. With the old one preaching I was asleep in five minutes. With the new one it takes all of ten." Some churches in times past employed 'sluggard-walkers' who had long rods and walked down the aisles, ready to wake up the faithful if they had nodded off during the sermon.

Sluggard-walkers are not needed for this month's painting, *My First Sermon* by John Everett Millais. It hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, which houses the art collection of our capital city. The Gallery is built on the site of an amphitheatre and was only completed in 1999, having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period. Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother's prayer book and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.

When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced *My Second Sermon* – a very different occasion, for Effie has now fallen asleep with

her hat by her side. Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children as in *Cherry Ripe* and *Bubbles*. But in 1864 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley, praised this second painting for reminding us of ‘the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.’

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.

The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon’s success. Let us pray that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us ‘out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.’

Editor: The Revd Michael Burgess considers the sacred in Art. If you use the illustration, please credit: John Everett Millais, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Valentine Day Prayer:

Praise to the One whose love stirs the ancient embers
Sparks the breath of prayer

Praise to the One whose love entices the wandering
Beckons the confused

Praise to the One whose love grows wings on the weary
Dreams hope in the discouraged

Praise to the One whose love soothes with the ointment of mercy
Transforms with the touch of compassion

Praise to the One whose love threads the energy of friendship
Stitches the strength of fidelity

Praise to the One whose love tickles the soul with laughter
Urges the heart toward joy

Praise to the one whose love embraces the untamed
Dances with the passionate

All praise to this Gracious One
All gratitude to this Beloved
All love to this Mentor of Friendship
All devotion to this Shaper of Hearts.

[taken from the Baptist Union website].



Mouse Makes

"Love is

love is _____
It does not, _____
it does not _____
it is not _____
it does not

others, it is not self -

it is not easily

it keeps no record of

Love delights in

it always

from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

The steadfast **love** of the Lord never _____;

His _____
never come to an end;
they are new every

Lamentations 3:20-23

I pray... you will understand...
the greatness of Christ's **love**,

how _____
and how _____
and how _____
that **love** is.

Ephesians 3:18-19

God is **love**.
whoever _____
in **love** _____
in God, and God _____
in them.

1 John 4:16

Give _____
to the Lord, for He is

his steadfast **love**
endures

Psalm 136:1

HOW DOES GOD LOVE ME?
God sent me a saviour:
He sent His one and only
Son into the world so
that we might have
eternal life through Him.
1 John 4:9
God gave me His spirit:
He has given you the
Holy Spirit to fill our hearts
with His **love**.
Romans 5:5
God called me His child:
See what great **love** the
Father has for us that He
would call us His children.
1 John 1:3

DID YOU KNOW?
Jesus told us to:
LOVE the Lord your God with
all your **heart**, all your **soul**
and with all your **mind**.
Matthew 22:37
LOVE your neighbour the
same as you **love** yourself.
Matthew 22:39

P T Y D E B P O P T E L T
E R D L N M A Y R F D G R A
A U G O D J T H O P E F U L
C S K V U U I K T S F L T O
E T P E R S E V E R E S H Y
K I N D E T N B C S N L F A
M N I Y S L T W T S D M U L
I G R A C I O U S E S K L I
H U M B L E S E L F L E S S

GOD • LOVE
PATIENT • KIND
GRACIOUS • PEACE
JUST • TRUTHFUL
TRUSTING • LOYAL
HOPEFUL
PERSEVERES
ENDURES
HUMBLE
SELFLESS
PROTECTS • DEFENDS

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

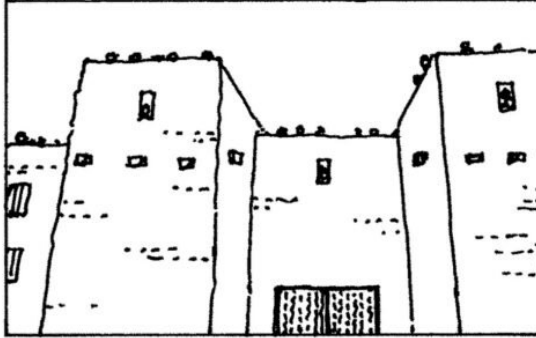
It can be read in the Bible in Joshua chapter 6 verses 1-27

Joshua led the Israelites across the river Jordan. They camped near the town of Jericho and prepared to fight.

The people in Jericho locked the town gates.



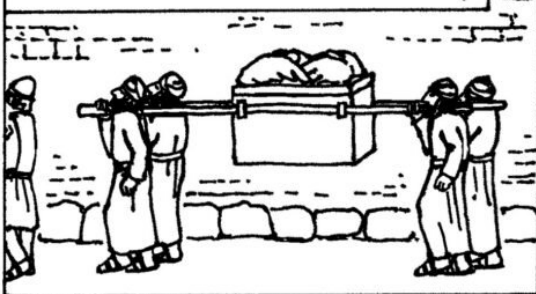
They thought they were safe.



God told Joshua what to do.



On the first day, the priests carried the sacred chest,



they blew trumpets, and walked round Jericho once.



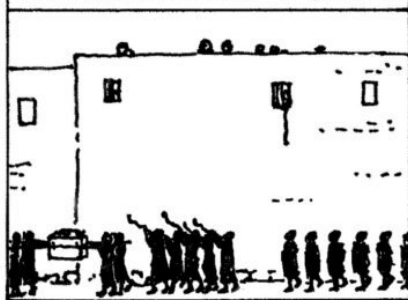
The army followed not saying a word.



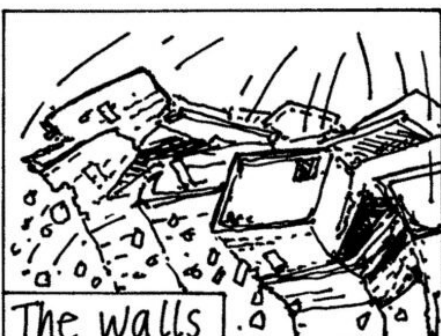
They did this for 6 days.



On the 7th day they walked round 7 times.

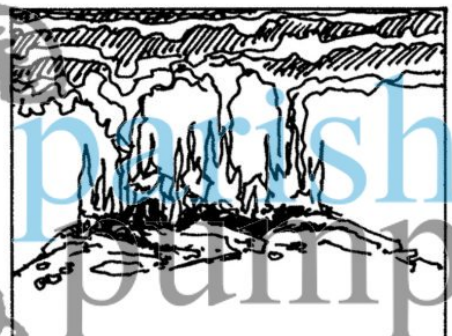


The army gave a victory shout!



The walls of Jericho collapsed.

The army rushed into the town and captured it.



Jericho was destroyed.

WSK Update:

We give thanks that after an event in Worthing attended by local Farmers and their produce, all of their produce was taken to WSK. We also give thank that the Brighton and Hove Albion Football team visited WSK and helped to highlight the work that they do in the media.



WSK has been in contact to thank us for our donations and to ask for the following items required urgently.

- Tins of Ham, Tuna, Spam etc;
- Tinned Meals such as Spaghetti Bolognese, Meatballs, Pies;
- Tea;
- Coffee;
- Sugar;

Previous list of items still needed:

- Jams and spreads etc for sandwiches;
- Jars of Sauce;
- Pasta;
- Rice;
- Squash;
- Long Life Milk;
- Cereals;
- Biscuits;
- Snacks;
- Boxes of washing powder (they divide the box up);
- Toiletries.

Thank you very much.

Fellowship News 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 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.