



Fairland News

February 2018 / March 2018



Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham

No. 553

**Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham**

Named Minister Rev Ian Fosten
17 All Saints Road
Lowestoft NR33 0JL
Tel (01502) 562768

Church Secretary Mrs Jennifer Shakesby
'The Pedlars'
38 Bentley Road
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Tel (01953) 788983

Treasurer Mr John Butcher
176 The Avenues
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Asst Treasurer Mrs Jill Brown
78 Norwich Road
Wymondham NR18 0SZ
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Bookings for Mrs Jill Brown
Fairland Hall and
Fairland Church Centre

Services are held every Sunday at 10.30 am
On the first Sunday of the month, the Service includes **Holy Communion**

This month's Minister's letter is written by Rev Ian Fosten:

Dear All

We live in what feels (to me at any rate) a time of immense and often baffling social change. Some of the change is driven by advances in technology, some feels more like the pendulum swing of fashion, whilst other changes are more about growing awareness of how things have probably always been, yet have never been fully acknowledged or accepted before. In this latter category we find the whole area of human sexuality and same sex marriage.

For some time now UK law has recognised the right of same sex couples to be married. At the 2016 General Assembly the URC agreed that it should be appropriate for local URC congregations to host same sex marriages, but that it would ultimately be for such congregations to decide if they wished for their building to be officially registered for this purpose. As a congregation, the members of Fairland URC voted in support of extending the possibility of marriage to same sex couples and so the Elders feel that the time has come for us to follow on from that decision and recommend to Church Meeting that we now go the further step and get our building registered for this purpose.

The Elders recognise that this is something which has been tricky elsewhere, and about which some people still feel a degree of strangeness. That said, we feel that there is a stronger pastoral and missional impetus to take a positive step in this direction. I am writing about this now because the matter will be brought to the Church Meeting on March 25 and I would very much hope that before then every member will give this matter their careful and prayerful attention in order that we shall come to that meeting calm and thoughtful and, hopefully, arrive at a genuine consensus as to the way forward.

If between now and the meeting any member or friend would like to talk through the issues involved I shall be very happy to do so.

Meanwhile, yesterday the first crocuses appeared and the bees in our hive decided that they were back in business for another year - the seasons and the world moves on - may we notice and delight in all the blessings of the approaching Spring.

God Bless

Ian

Communion Collections

The charity chosen for **January and February** this year is '**Nelson's Journey**' - a Norfolk charity which supports children and young people up to their 18th birthday who have experienced the death of a significant person in their life, offering one to one support and opportunities to meet other children of a similar age who have also experienced a bereavement.



At our last Church Meeting we had decided to support a local girl, Emily Parr, with our Communion Collections in **March and April**. Emily wrote to our Church, asking if we could help with sponsorship funds to support her participation in the London Marathon, raising money for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Emily has a benign brain tumour so can't run, but was going to do the marathon in her wheelchair.

Unfortunately we have since heard that Emily is unwell at the moment so has decided to defer her entry until next year and will contact us again then.

In the meantime, several members of our congregation on Sunday 27th January asked whether we could support one of the homeless charities, having listened to Barbara Searle, who led worship on Homeless Sunday. It was suggested that we choose St Martins Housing Trust to receive the collections on 4th March (when Barbara will again be with us) and 1st April.

The following information is taken from their website at www.stmartinshousing.org.uk



Our Mission: A single approach isn't enough to fit everyone's needs, which is why we have a diverse range of services, from emergency hostel accommodation, to residential care for people with complex needs, to training courses to enable people to build up their skills and self-esteem.

Our Services: To maximise independent living and prevent homelessness in our community by offering a hand up – housing, support and care – to the most vulnerable. To enhance understanding and compassion towards homeless people in our community through education and advocacy.

Thank you to everyone who sent their Christmas greetings to each other in December via our Communal Christmas Card. and made a donation to charity. The following letter of thanks has been received from our chosen charity - 'Smile Train':



Dear Mrs Brown

Thank you to the members and friends of the Fairland URC Wymondham for your donation of £104 and helping to change the world one smile at a time.

Smile Train provides free cleft surgery and comprehensive cleft care to children in developing countries. Through training local doctors and empowering partner hospitals around the world, we advance a sustainable solution and scalable model to treat clefts, drastically improving children's lives, including their ability to eat, breathe, and speak over time.

Millions of children in developing countries suffer with untreated clefts, but the surgery is simple and the transformation is immediate. Donations from Fairland URC Wymondham will change the world for the boys and girls whose families are too poor to afford lifesaving and life-changing cleft repair surgery.

Thank you again for your support and if you have any questions about our work then please contact me and I will be happy to help.

Jonathan Roberts
Community and Events Manager, Fundraising



All are welcome to join our '**Walking The Way**' discussion group which meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, starting at 10am. We are using '**The A-Z of Discipleship**' by **Matthew Porter** which looks through 26 aspects of discipleship that will help believers to grow deeper in their faith.



Our next meeting will be on 7th February and there will then be a break until 18th April as we will be holding a Lent Course on a Monday on 19th & 26th February; 5th, 12th & 19th March.

Flower Rota

4 February Ruth Dunning
11 February Evelyn Thompson
18 February Sheila Eaglen
25 February Joint Service at Methodist Church

4 March Elizabeth Portsmouth
11 March Netta Darkins (Mothering Sunday)
18 March Jennifer Shakesby
25 March Roz Ross

1 April Juliet Harwood (Easter Sunday)

Gifts of flowers from the Communion Table have been given to:

Jim and Diane Mullins; Fred Camroux; Ann Hallam; Kathleen Crossman; Pam Rayner; Heather Whitham; Jill Buckenham and Ann Scott.

Kathleen Crossman would like to pass on her thanks and appreciation for flowers received from the Church

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Thank you so much for the flowers I received on Sunday. It was a lovely surprise and I am enjoying looking at this splash of colour on these dark winter days.

Ann (Scott)

* * * * *

A card has been received from Percy Crowe with the following message:

Many thanks for the gift you gave me for playing the organ. It's really nice to play for the hymns. I very much appreciate the biscuits - they are really delicious. Rosamund is enjoying them too.

Christian greetings.
Percy

On 17th December, Brian and I were overjoyed to be admitted into the church membership of Fairland URC. We have experienced such fellowship, warmth and friendship by all since joining you. It's like being members of a large family. Thank you to Ian, Jennifer, Ann and everyone for making us so welcome.

Gwen and Brian

Women's World Day of Prayer 2018



All God's Creation is Very Good!

The interdenominational movement of the Women's World Day of Prayer invites everyone to attend one of over 5,000 services being held on **Friday 2nd March** with the title 'All God's Creation is Very Good!'

We will join an estimated 3 million people around the world that day in a service which has been written this year by the women of Suriname in South America. Starting in Samoa as the sun rises, and ending as the sun sets off the coast of American Samoa, the service will have been translated into more than 95 languages and 1000 dialects as we are reminded that we have responsibilities in caring for this wonderful world we live in. With its vast rainforest and wealth of resources, Suriname asks us to pray for conservation and the protection of wildlife, through an awareness of pollution, misuse and abuse, as well as for the situation in Suriname and concerns for the future.

This is not simply a day of prayer for women, but for everyone who cares about our world and those who live in it.

This year our service in Wymondham will be held at **Hope Church** in Ayton Road at **12 noon** on Friday 2nd March. Please note the earlier time this year which, it is hoped, will be more convenient for those with young families who need to collect their children from school later in the afternoon. The service will be followed by a lunch of soup and a roll and all are welcome to stay for this.

For details of other services in your area and for further information please visit the WWDP website: www.wwdp.org.uk

THE ANNUAL FAIRLAND URC
MIND AND BODY OLYMPICS



In the last newsletter we promised to publish some of the limericks submitted by the 'Mind and Body' Olympians so here they are! Trevor couldn't choose a winner. Can you?!

There was an auld man frae Dundee
Who wanted to go on a spree
He flew oot to Spain
But came hame again
They couldn't understand him, you see.

The preacher at Fairland United
Was most acutely short sighted
To roars of applause
He read out the scores
When Norwich beat Sheffield United.

A boy from Spooner Row named Fred
Thought he could easily build a shed
He tried and tried
Till all the nails died
So he whittled wooden spoons instead.

There once was a lady called Nellie
Who wobbled about like a jelly
She could not move far
Could not fit in the car
So stayed at home and watched telly.

A daring wee man from Dundee,
Was surfing one day in the sea
When a huge wave came over
And swept him to Dover
Where he stopped for a nice cup of tea.

There was a young lady from Trowse
Who lived in a very old house
She got a huge fright
One cold windy night
When out of her bed jumped a mouse!

There was an old lady from Fylde
Whose husband had got her quite riled
She clouted his lug-hole
His teeth flew down the plug-hole
And now he sups sops like a child.

There was an old fellah from Wacton
Who was laying a gas pipe in Bacton
When a dirty great clang
And a ruddy huge bang
Blew him over the fields to Aslacton.

There was a young lass from Dover
Who got lost in a field of clover
She thought it was bliss
But there was no-one to kiss
So she soon went back to Dover

Urgent work needed at URC
We've got just the man, they agree
But ... when they searched to find Trevor
He'd escaped (being clever)
And was on a long walk ... 'cross the sea!

A supporter of fine Norwich City
Felt inspired to pen a short ditty
But ... he caused a deep frown
When he named Ipswich Town
But ... I cannot say more! ...(such a pity)

Here are the details of the next two 'Fairland Flicks' presentations in our Church Centre:



Wednesday 14th February at 1pm for 1.30pm

'Beauty and the Beast'

Starring Emma Watson and Dan Stevens

Belle (Emma Watson), a bright, beautiful and independent young woman, is taken prisoner by a beast (Dan Stevens) in its castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the beast's hideous exterior, allowing her to recognize the kind heart and soul of the true prince that hides on the inside.

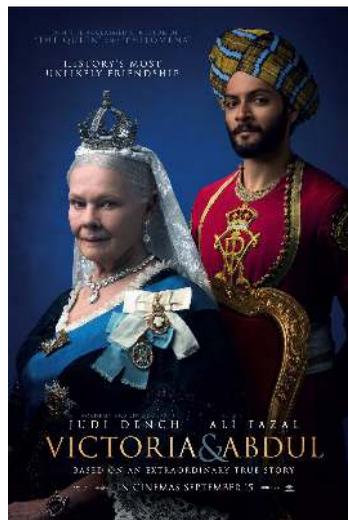


Wednesday 14th March at 1pm for 1.30pm

'Victoria and Abdul'

Starring Judi Dench and Ali Fazal

Abdul Karim arrives from India to participate in Queen Victoria's golden jubilee. The young clerk is surprised to find favour with the queen herself. As Victoria questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance that her household and inner circle try to destroy. As their friendship deepens, the queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes, joyfully reclaiming her humanity



Refreshments served during the intervals

February 2018 to April 2018

4 February Rev Ian Fosten (includes Holy Communion)
11th February Rev Mary Cousins
18 February Mr Peter Fitches
25 February United Service at Wymondham Methodist Church

4 March Mrs Barbara Searle (includes Holy Communion)
11 March Mrs Jenny Poltock
18 March Mr Ron Wade
25 March Rev Ian Fosten (followed by Church Meeting)
30 March Walk of Witness (starts 10am at Fairland URC)

1 April Rev Robin Pagan (includes Holy Communion)
(Easter Day)

(If you would like to join us for breakfast at 9am on Easter Day, please see Jennifer or Ann)

Prayer for Homeless Sunday

Loving God, in your house there is room for everyone.
Help us as we strive for a world where everyone has a home that truly meets their needs.
Give us the grace to welcome strangers and refugees.
Give us the insight to see where inequality hurts.
Fill us with courage to do our part.
Save us from being overwhelmed by the scale of the housing crisis,
and show us, O Lord, where to begin.

Amen

Items for inclusion in **April/May** newsletter (to be available on 1 April) should be given to Ann Scott **by 26 March please.**

Dates for your Diaries

Details of these events can be found within the newsletter

2 February (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
5 February (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
7 February (10-11)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
8 February (2pm)	Elders' Meeting (Church Lounge)
9 February (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
12 February (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
14 February (1 for 1.30)	Fairland Flicks 'Beauty and the Beast'
16 February (10-12.30)	Singing Café (Church Centre)
19 February (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
19 February (2pm)	Lent Course (Church Lounge)
22 February (12.30)	Lent Lunch (Methodist Church)
23 February (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
26 February (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
26 February (2pm)	Lent Course (Church Lounge)
28 February (10-12)	Monthly Coffee Morning (Church Centre)
1 March (12.30)	Lent Lunch (Fairland Church Centre)
2 March (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
2 March (12 noon)	Womens World Day of Prayer (Hope Church) followed by soup and roll lunch
5 March (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
5 March (2pm)	Lent Course (Church Lounge)
8 March (12.30)	Lent Lunch (Catholic Church)
9 March (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
12 March (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
12 March (2pm)	Lent Course (Church Lounge)
14 March (1 for 1.30)	Fairland Flicks 'Victoria and Abdul'
15 March (12.30)	Lent Lunch (Baptist Church - with 'Alive')
16 March (10-12)	Singing Café and Pabulum Panto
19 March (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
19 March (2pm)	Lent Course (Church Lounge)
23 March (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
26 March (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
28 March (10.30 - 12)	Monthly Coffee Morning (Church Centre)
30 March (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
30 March (10am onwards)	Walk of Witness - starting outside Fairland URC
1 April (9am)	Easter Day breakfast (Church Lounge)