



Fairland News

April 2018 / May 2018



Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham

No. 554

**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
Tacolneston NR16 1DL
Tel (01953) 788983

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176 The Avenues
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Asst Treasurer Mrs Jill Brown
78 Norwich Road
Wymondham NR18 0SZ
Tel (01953) 603979

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

Writing in 1952, the Anglican clergyman and academic, JB Philips (do you remember his ground-breaking translation of the New Testament?), wrote a book with the title, 'Your God is too small'. With fresh memories of the horrors of fascism and mindful of the dreadful, world-ending potential of atomic weapons, JB Philips was powerfully motivated to set out his understanding of God made known in Jesus. He considered contemporary expressions of Christianity and found that they lacked even enough credibility to speak to the honest questions of teenagers in his church youth group, much less the rigorous searching of post-war intellectuals and other who had long given up on the irrelevant, inadequate piety of parish evensong and school assemblies.

Always rooted in scripture, Philips nevertheless sounded a clarion call for a faith which, rather than reinforcing undemanding religious culture, or self-centred individuals' anxiety about their eternal destiny, addressed the real, big questions about life - its meaning and purpose - which the post-catastrophic conflict world was asking.

Re-reading 'Your God is too small' nearly seven decades later I am struck by how relevant and urgent his quest still is. I also realise how the title of his book can helpfully be seen as the guiding impetus behind the words and works of Jesus. Confronted by, sadly, an all too familiar tendency to divide humanity into 'us' and 'them', and by custodians of God's truth who had reduced it to a set of hoops to jump through and burdens to bear, Jesus challenged his hearers and opponents to expand their understanding of how broad, deep and inclusive was the love of God.

Whist I find JB Philips words faithful to Jesus and most definitely spirit-fuelled, clearly the established churches of his day were less ready to take them to heart. As the invited workers from the Caribbean and elsewhere arrived on these shores, white British congregations made it very clear that the god they worshipped each Sunday was not big enough to admit people of colour into their services. It doesn't take a huge step of imagination to apply that 'small deity restraint' to some of the negative choices we Christians make today when confronted by people whose life circumstance and experience, sexual orientation or spiritual journey is less conventional than our own.

On Easter Day we shall hear and celebrate a Bible story through which God declares that his loving purpose breaks free from prejudice, self-interest, tired conventions, and all those other limitations we place on His creative Spirit at work in the world - in fact, not even death itself was big enough to confine Him:

The Lord is Risen! Let us live His Risen Life!

Have a big and happy Easter.

Ian

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Communion Collections

Our Communion Offering in **April** will be for St Martin's Housing Trust. St Martins works as a part of the broader movement in Norwich and the surrounding area - working with other voluntary organisations, housing associations, community and church groups to raise awareness of homelessness as one of the principal contributors to social exclusion.



Our collections in May and June will be given to the Vidiyal Trust - a charity we have been supporting regularly for a few years in various ways, including saving our loose change. Rev Pat Atkinson, founder of this charity, will be leading our morning worship on 1st July and updating us on how the money raised is being used in the different projects in India. Please give any money you have collected to Jill Brown, our Assistant Treasurer, **before** this service so that a final amount can be handed over to Pat on 1st July. Thank you.

The following letter has been received from Nelson's Journey - the charity we supported with our Communion Collections in January and February:



Dear Mrs Brown, members and friends of Fairland URC

We couldn't do it without you!

Last year, 950 bereaved children and young people from Norfolk were referred to Nelson's Journey for support. Without the financial contributions of our generous supporters, we would be unable to provide the services that help young people to see a positive future for themselves following the death of a special person.

We are very grateful for your support of our work with Norfolk's bereaved children. Please accept this letter as a receipt of your contribution of £73.00.

We do not receive national Government funding for our work. Much of what we spend on our services has been raised locally in Norfolk. The financial contribution made by the communities we serve allows us to provide a range of services and resources to focus on the specific and individual needs of bereaved children in the county.

Over the last twenty years, Nelson's Journey has provided support for thousands of bereaved children. Thanks to the support we receive from the community, we are able to develop and grow our services, and become more effective in what we do.

Thank you so much for your generosity and support for Nelson's Journey. If you ever have any questions about our work, please do get in touch.

Thank you so much for making this donation in support of our work. It is greatly appreciated.

With best wishes
Simon Wright
Chief Executive

www.nelsonsjourney.org.uk

Flower Rota

1 April	Juliet Harwood (Easter Sunday)
8 April	Evelyn Thompson
15 April	Eileen Long
22 April	Madeleine Morgan
29 April	Sheila Eaglen
6 May	Ruth Dunning
13 May	Mia Young
20 May	Mary Gray
27 May	Ann Scott
3 June	Ann Sprules

(There is one vacant date available on 17th June)

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

Ros Crowe; Jenny Jones; Irene Fitches; Joan Wade and Judith Roberts.

3 Ketts Close
Wymondham

Thank you so much for the lovely pink roses brought to me by Elizabeth.

Flowers are a symbol to me that life goes on despite what we are going through in our everyday lives.

Sincerely

Judy Roberts

Christian Aid Week: 13th - 19th May 2018
Building God's Kingdom

‘Many people in our world today are hungry, thirsty, or without shelter. This year, Christian Aid Week falls within Thy Kingdom Come, an ecumenical global prayer movement throughout the 11 days between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Thy Kingdom Come invites Christians to pray for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit so that we become effective witnesses to Jesus’ love in the world.

This is one of the stories featured on the Christian Aid website:

Vilia and her family lived in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit Haiti in 2010. Her home was destroyed, and her mother was killed. Vilia went back to her hometown in the south of Haiti with her husband and seven children. But life was a struggle, and they had nowhere safe to stay. Christian Aid’s partner KORAL realised how dire Vilia’s situation was, and reached out to help her. We built her a new home, one safe and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters. On that terrifying night in 2016 when Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti, Vilia’s house was the only one in her area sturdy enough to survive. One by one, her neighbours fled to her house and she welcomed them in. Fifty-four people sheltered safely from the hurricane in Vilia’s house – she potentially saved fifty-four lives that night. ‘I formed a chain of solidarity so that we could eat together, share with each other and sleep together, until they went back to their own homes, or found a shelter,’ she said. Vilia is incredibly grateful for the help she’s received, and she’s used her new home to help others. Faced with incredibly difficult challenges, Vilia finds her strength in God: ‘I stay connected with God, I pray. I pray every time something like this happens. You have to put your knees on the ground, pray and call out to God. Only God can do anything in these situations. There’s nothing that our God cannot do.’

Percy Crowe

On the following pages, Rosamund ‘Ros’ Crowe has written about her husband, Percy - a well-loved member of our church - who died recently. His Thanksgiving Service took place during a week of very bad weather and several of our members - and members of other local churches - would have liked to attend but were unable to leave their homes. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ros and her family at this time.

Ros has written a resume of that service and his daughter, Angela, wrote the poem which follows.....

Percy Ernest Bales Crowe O.M.

Percy's Thanksgiving Service, said Ian Fosten, was his 'Desert Island Hymns' as it included the hymns which reflected the aspects of his life.

1. Family - 'For the beauty of the earth'

Percy was born in New Hainford in 1937. He lived alongside grandparents and aunts and uncles. Self-sufficient in vegetables, fruit and eggs, they were very popular in the war, with relatives. He had a happy, country childhood and thoroughly enjoyed his National Service in Mildenhall and Geilenkirchen. He had 2 children, 4 step-children and 3 wives. His second dark-haired wife Barbara shared great joy with the birth of Vivienne. Twenty-nine years with Rosamund - six new grandchildren especially Vivienne (Scottish) Heather and Daniel (Spiv). All the family came to Ros's 70th birthday in his last week and he really enjoyed the party!

2. Animals - 'God whose farm is all creation'

His love of animals - especially dogs (5) and chickens. He won a pig in the church tombola and raised the piglets!

3. Percy the Gardener - 'The Gardener's Hymn'; 'God's Garden' (poem)

His grandfather built him a greenhouse - nurturing his life-long love of horticulture. Green-fingered, he would spend hundreds of hours pricking out seedlings of flowers and vegetables. A greenhouse of cucumbers were wiped out with mosaic virus! Made redundant again, he took on five local gardens.

4. Love of Life - 'I love the sun'

Percy got up with the sun - weathered by the elements - Norfolk to the core. He could name the birds' singing, wild flowers, Norfolk sayings (unlike his grandchild!)

5. Percy the Baker - 'We plough the fields and scatter'

Percy's parents wanted him to work for Norwich Union. He didn't! He went to Buxton Mill and learnt all about grains and milling. As a grain buyer he went to farms all over Norfolk and Suffolk. He worked at Sunblest bakery for 16 years - sometimes going home white from head to toe!

6. Percy the Organist - 'Nunc Dimittis'

His grandfather paid for his organ lessons at St Stephens, Theatre Street. At ten he started playing at Hainford C of E - his feet didn't reach the pedals! He played at school, in the RAF and was choirmaster at Marsham C of E. As Rev Alison said 'he played the piano under protest'. A competent campanologist ringing peals throughout Norfolk. He had a card which reads 'North Repp 1953, 5,000 peals in 3 hours - P Crowe tenor bell). He loved to talk to fellow organists and was an organist for 70 years! He extemporised on a hymn at the end of

worship. He loved the liturgy of the C of E so his Thanksgiving Service concluded with the Nunc Dimittis - ably led by Mike and Ian. His eldest granddaughter gave him the nickname O.M. (Old Man)!

He died as he wished - very peacefully at home. Daffodils in his boots, ivy on his worn spade and flowers in his watering can - carried by his 'girls' - surrounded his willow coffin.

Thank you for your cards, prayers and love. He would be very happy to know how being part of Fairland's family would bring me such comfort and healing.

Rosamund

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Legacy of Laughter

Life handed him a few hard knocks;
Sometimes his luck was bad.
He had the usual ups and downs
As most of us have had.

Grief had its day along his way,
Great fortune passed him by,
But he always came out a winner
With a twinkle in his eye.

This legacy of laughter,
A gift from some forebear,
Was all the weapon that he had
To fight life's pain and care.

But he kept his sense of humour
And laughed away the tears,
And he went on spreading chuckles
All round him down the years.

And I know I'll find him waiting
When I join him by and by,
Likely joshing with the angels,
With that twinkle in his eye.

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

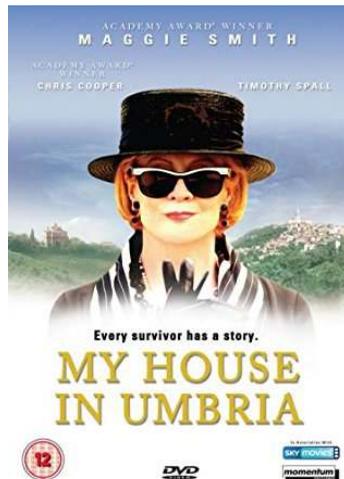


Wednesday 11th April at 1.30pm for 2.00pm

'My House in Umbria'

Starring Maggie Smith and Chris Cooper

Based on the acclaimed novel by William Trevor, this is a charming, evocative drama about a group of travellers in Italy who find solace and friendship after being thrown together by tragedy.



Wednesday 9th May at 1.30pm for 2.00pm

'Paddington 2'

An all-star cast plus (the voice of) Ben Wishaw as Paddington

Settled in with the Brown family, Paddington the bear is a popular member of the community who spreads joy and marmalade wherever he goes. One fine day, he spots a pop-up book in an antique shop -- the perfect present for his beloved aunt's 100th birthday. When a thief steals the prized book, Paddington embarks on an epic quest to unmask the culprit before Aunt Lucy's big celebration.



Refreshments served during the intervals

April/May/June 2018

1 April (Easter Day)	Rev Robin Pagan (includes Holy Communion)
8 April	Mr Robert Ogden
15 April	Rev Ian Fosten
22 April	Rev Peter Paine
29 April	Mr Keir Hounsome (with Traidcraft Stall)
6 May	Rev Bill Sewell (includes Holy Communion)
13 May	Mr Kevin Mitchelson
20 May	Rev Ian Fosten (followed by Church Meeting)
27 May	Rev Martin Camroux
3 June	Rev Ian Fosten (includes Holy Communion)



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 Wednesday 18th April.



Do you have any odd bits of wool you no longer need? If so, please pass them on to Gwen Courtney so they can be used to make up squares for blankets to be sent out to Africa. If you would like to make a square yourself, please have a word with Gwen, who will let you know the details. Thank you.

Items for inclusion in **June/July** newsletter (to be available on 27 May) should be given to Ann Scott **by 21 May please.**

Dates for your Diaries

Details of these events can be found within the newsletter

April

2 April	Bank Holiday (No Pabulum Café)
6 April (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
8 April (1pm)	Lunch Out - at Glen Lodge
9 April (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
11 April (1.30 for 2)	Fairland Flicks 'My House in Umbria'
12 April (2pm)	Elders' Meeting (Church Lounge)
13 April (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
16 April (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
18 April (10-11)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
20 April (10-1)	Singing Café (Church Centre)
23 April (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
25 April (10-12)	Monthly Coffee Morning (Church Centre)
27 April (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
30 April (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)

May

2 May (10-11)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
4 May (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
7 May (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
9 May (1.30 for 2)	Fairland Flicks 'Paddington 2'
11 May	Pabulum Day Out
13/19 May	Christian Aid Week
14 May (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
15 May (10-12)	Christian Aid Coffee Morning (Church Centre)
16 May (10-11)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
18 May (10-12.30)	Singing Café (Church Centre)
21 May (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
25 May (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
28 May (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
30 May (10-12)	Monthly Coffee Morning (Church Centre)

June

1 June (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
2/3 June	Wymondham Open Gardens Event - Pabulum Garden Open