



Fairland News

June 2018/July 2018



Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham

No. 555

**Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham**

Named Minister	Rev Ian Fosten
Church Secretary	Mrs Jennifer Shakesby secretary@fairlandurc.org .uk
Treasurer	Mr John Butcher jwbutcher@talktalk.net
Asst Treasurer	Mrs Jill Brown jillbrown78@yahoo.co.uk
Bookings for Fairland Hall and Fairland Church Centre	Mrs Jill Brown

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



Our Communion Collections in June and July 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 so far to Jill Brown, our Assistant Treasurer, **before** this service so that the total amount can be handed over to Pat on 1st July. Thank you.

The following letter is written by Rev Ian Fosten:

Dear All

This will be my last contribution the NAURC church newsletters as I retire at the end of June. And to answer those kind enquirers who ask, 'What will you do in retirement?' I will say that as well as giving proper (rather than snatched) time to the next two generations of Fostens and the Seagull Theatre, I shall be co-editing the URC Prayer Handbook and writing more than I have been able to - and will be able to ensure that the most useful and widely applicable pieces end up on the woefully neglected website - www.fosten.com - look it up if you are interested.....

Having got that bit out of the way, what I really want to write about is not an ending, but the promise of beginning.....

I found last weekend, which included Pentecost Sunday, truly inspirational. For a start I was (via the dubious magic of Amazon Books), and after a 30 year separation, re-united with a slim volume by John V Taylor called 'A Matter of Life and Death'. I shall end this piece with a quote from the book, but for now I simply want to record that three decades ago this book confirmed what, somehow, I knew intuitively, that the Holy Spirit was not a slightly weird add-on to the first two persons of the Trinity, but was marvellously God's way of continually blowing us into life in all its fullness.

Then, no sooner had the parcel with the book dropped through my letterbox, than that royal wedding came on TV. Whilst I'm not a dewy-eyed royalist I've never heard of a better option (just consider a Donald Trump equivalent roosting in Buckingham Palace - see what I mean), but even so I was hugely impressed by the event. From the exuberant crowds in the glorious sunshine, the intimate glances and hand holding of the wedding couple, the careful beauty of the cellist's playing, to the what's-not-to-like vitality of the gospel choir, I caught a real sense that there was something game-raising about this event. And then, when the preacher, Rt. Revd. Michael Curry , Bishop of New York , hit his stride and proclaimed the world changing power of love - if we will let it happen - I realised that we had broken free of convention, formality and a cultural identity of low spiritual expectations. Instead, we had truly tapped into something transformative - a wave that must be ridden if, as Christian communities, we are to make useful sense in our world today.

It's time for me to move on. I've been richly blessed to share part of this journey with you - thank you for having me ... but, as promised, I'll leave the last word with the late John V Taylor;

The essential gift of [the Holy Spirit] is aliveness - coming alive towards other people, coming alive to the glory and tragedy of the world, coming alive towards the reality of ourselves, coming alive to our responsibility in society, local and worldwide; above all, coming alive towards the scriptures and the life of prayer, alive to the presence of Jesus Christ and the vast, embracing love of God.

John V Taylor : A Matter of Life and Death

God bless you and, maybe, I'll see you around some time

Ian

Secretary's Report AGM - May 20th 2018

During this last year I believe that our community here at Fairland has continued to be a strong witness to the love of God. We have endeavoured to share that love with all who come on to our premises and with those we meet in and around our town. This does not mean we are always successful and we must not become too complacent. We must never forget that whatever we do is in His name and in His service.

We have been pleased to receive into membership Percy and Ros Crowe, Betty Browne, Brian and Gwen Courtney and Pat Marshall. John and Shirley Adams decided to transfer their membership to Weybourne Methodist church. Sadly Percy, Dorothy Evans and Philip Harwood have died this year. We were pleased that Percy was here long enough for us to get to know him as a friend and we specially appreciated his contribution to worship by playing the organ. Dorothy had been unwell for a number of years but attended our church quite regularly when she first moved to Fairland Court. Philip had had a long connection with our church but had lived in Hethersett and became a member

of the Methodist church there. Over the last few years he had been coming with Juliet very regularly to our morning worship and again he will be missed so much by us. This means that we still have 38 members on our roll with at least 4 friends attending who are not members. It is interesting that although we have had quite a few changes our membership is still the same number as it was at least 10 years ago.

In order to be compliant with present day needs in society we have produced a Safeguarding document for all who use our premises. We are now in the process of producing a Data Protection Policy for our church. We compiled a Mission Manifesto after being encouraged to do so by Synod. This enabled us to review the life of our church and to set some aims for future development. One outcome of this review was to rename our Wednesday worship. We now meet for discussion on the first and third Wednesdays of the month and the group is called Walking the Way in line with the URC initiative of the same name. There are usually about ten people attending with some being from the Norwich churches.

Church life and events have continued in the same pattern. Our monthly coffee morning is proving to be a good meeting place for church people and others from the community of Wymondham. The film afternoons are still popular. We held special coffee mornings, the Autumn Fair, a Lent Lunch, a social evening and 2 visits out to Glen Lodge for Sunday lunch. We also enjoyed two Bring and Share meals after Sunday worship. We have continued to enjoy sharing worship with the Methodist church and joining in with United services with the NAURC. We still support activities in the wider community: Foodbank, Windmill House, Browick Rd school and Wymondham Church Network. We delved into our archives and opened them up for Vintage Day.

It is still a joy to be so closely involved with the Wymondham Dementia Support Group. We were delighted for them that they won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and because of this Dianne and Trevor were invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Also we congratulate Dianne on receiving the Wymondham Civic Award for this year, a very well deserved honour for her. We had the Fairland Hall redecorated and the Small Hall has been developed as a lovely lounge for Pabulum carers. Their garden is such an asset to our buildings and now we have the lift in place. Unfortunately at present not

working as it should!

Our church is a small fellowship in comparison to some but it is only a place of welcome and true witness because every one of that fellowship is contributing to the good of the whole in whatever way they can. I'd like to thank the following people:

- the elders especially for their loyalty and commitment;
- John and Jill for looking after the finance;
- Jill for the bookings;
- Netta and Anne for the flowers;
- Ann for the Newsletter;
- Jill for the rotas;
- Kenny for all sorts of jobs;
- and Mike, Madeleine and Ruth for the organ.

Most of all I would like to thank Ian for the time he has been with us. We have so much appreciated his leading of worship, his listening ear, his sense of humour, his refusal to be too conventional, and his ability to help us to think outside the box and to be comfortable and accepting with the situation we are in. We will miss him very much but wish him a well earned rest and then many years of continuing to be creative especially through his writing and poetry and whatever else he wants to do. Thank you Ian from us all.

To conclude I would like to refer to the Wymondham Church Network prayer meeting held on Wednesday. This was an inspiring evening of prayer and song on the theme of "Thy Kingdom Come" and every church in Wymondham had representatives there. The closing part was prayer for each church and positive comments were made about each church and its witness. Fairland was praised for the generosity and love it shows to the community and comments were made that people found God's peace in our building. I hope and pray that this will continue to be so as we go into the coming days with God as our strength and support.

Jennifer Shakesby

The following message is from Juliet Harwood:

I would like to pass on a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to all at Fairland Church for the lovely flowers that I received following Philip’s passing. My thanks also for all the cards, love, support and particularly the prayers, which were so helpful, at a time when I felt unable to pray and knew that others were praying for us. It was wonderful to see so many who were able to be with us at the Crematorium and Methodist Church, making Philip’s final journey a wonderful celebration (onward Christian soldier).

With love and thanks

Juliet

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Juliet has also written the following article about Philip:

Philip Edwin HARWOOD

Philip enjoyed life!

During his childhood, Philip’s father worked a bread delivery round in the area surrounding Wymondham, and Philip delighted in going with his father “to help”.

Throughout his life Philip enjoyed camaraderie and fellowship: He served in the RAF (ground support), and whilst stationed at Buxton in Derbyshire, made life-long friends. Abroad he served in India and Burma. Mid-tour leave was extended and extended again! No complaints. When stationed with / near the Americans he enjoyed the fellowship over mealtimes – their food being superior!

Gardening was a passion for Philip, both at Wymondham and Hethersett. Growing fruit and vegetables, hoeing the soil, edging the lawn. He was happy outside, in all weathers.

The Fire Service was a major part of Philip’s life. Initially the National Fire Service on leaving school, and later the Norfolk Fire Service as a Retained Fire Fighter at Wymondham. He often spoke of the necessity for camaraderie, with your lives being dependent on your colleagues. Again life-long friendships developed.

A great sadness for Philip was the breakdown of his first marriage. He moved to Norwich, and was fortunate to lodge with Mrs Ong – an elderly Christian lady, whom Philip always described as the one who saved his life. She lived her faith and helped Philip through a very difficult period.

In Norwich he was employed as an Education Social Worker; working with children and young people, their families, colleagues within the Education Department and other agencies. He greatly enjoyed the work and friendships that developed.

Philip and Juliet were married in 1977, and moved to Hethersett. Philip retired in 1985.

Following retirement, links with the Fire Service were re-established. He joined the Ex-Fire Service Association and later served as their representative on the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund, visiting sick members on a regular basis, and organising and delivering Christmas parcels each year.

Cycling became a big part of Philip's life. He enjoyed cycling the local country lanes for hours, watching the seasonal changes, particularly in Spring to see the primroses in the ditches around the fields. When cycling became unsafe, Philip continued with his love of walking, in later years enjoying the country lanes at Great Melton using his 'walker'.

Philip and Juliet enjoyed their holidays: in caravan; motorhome, cruising, holidays in Madeira, eventually buying into the time share scheme. The Goyt valley in Derbyshire became a very special place, walking the hills and around the two reservoirs of the Errwood Hall estate with all the beautiful rhododendrons in Spring-time. Philip also enjoyed touring Scotland, his particular favourite site being at Dunnet Bay, on the North East coast, walking and bird watching.

Modern technology was not enjoyed; but through Facebook Philip did enjoy keeping in touch with what the grandchildren were doing and the places that they were visiting. Also enjoying the photographs that came through of great-grandson, William.

Philip was a man of quiet, strong faith, who enjoyed the fellowship of both this church and Hethersett Methodist Church. When unable to attend the evening service at Hethersett, he enjoyed watching Song of Praise on the television, usually singing along with the congregations.

Philip: a man who loved life; who enjoyed the company of others; he loved the wonder of nature; a generous man of great integrity.

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Flower Rota

3 June	Ann Sprules
10 June	(Joint Service at St Peter's Jessopp Road)
17 June	Vacant
24 June	Sheila Eaglen
1 July	Carole Shildrake
8 July	Roz Ross
15 July	Jennifer Shakesby
22 July	Madeleine Morgan
29 July	Juliet Harwood
5 August	Elizabeth Portsmouth

(Please note there is a date available on 17th June)

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

Kenny and Sheila Eaglen; Judith Gbishe ; Juliet Harwood; Kathy Liversidge; Mary Gray; Clare Merryweather; Jill Buckenham (in memory of Bill); Anne Alston and Betty Browne.

Mary Gray would like to thank all the Church Members who wished her well for her Birthday and for the flowers that Netta gave her. They were beautiful and still lovely on the day.

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Netta kindly gave me some flowers on Sunday and her pretty arrangement included flowers from her garden and how good it is to cut them, a sign that summer is coming after such a long, cold winter.

Thank you

Anne

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Thank you for the flowers we received from Netta in March. It was a surprise.

from Sheila and Kenny



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

Wednesday 13th June at 1.30pm for 2.00pm

‘Darkest Hour’

Starring Gary Oldman

In May 1940, the fate of Western Europe hangs on British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, who must decide whether to negotiate with Adolf Hitler, or fight on knowing that it could mean a humiliating defeat for Britain and its empire.

Winner of Oscars for Best Picture and Best Actor 2018

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Wednesday 11th July at 1.30pm for 2.00pm

‘The Greatest Showman’

Starring Hugh Jackman and Zac Efron

Inspired by the imagination of P. T. Barnum, The Greatest Showman is an original musical that celebrates the birth of show business & tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation.

Winner of Golden Globe awards for Best Actor and Best Picture 2018

Refreshments served during the intervals

Dates for your Diaries

Details of these events can be found within the newsletter

June

1 June (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
2/3 June	Wyndham Open Gardens Event - Pabulum Garden Open
4 June (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
6 June (10-11)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
8 June (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
11 June (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
13 June (1.30 for 2)	Fairland Flicks 'Darkest Hour'
14 June (2pm)	Elders' Meeting (Church Lounge)
15 June (10-12.30)	Singing Café (Church Centre)
18 June (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
20 June (10-11)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
22 June (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
25 June (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
27 June (10-12)	Monthly Coffee Morning (Church Centre)
29 June (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)

July

2 July (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
3 July (10am onwards)	Coffee Morning at 5 Ketts Close
4 July (10-12)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
6 July (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
8 July	Church Meeting (after morning worship)
9 July (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
11 July (1.30 for 2)	Fairland Flicks 'The Greatest Showman'
13 July (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
16 July (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
18 July (10-12)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
20 July (10-12.30)	Singing Café (Church Centre)
23 July (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)
25 July (10-12)	Monthly Coffee Morning (Church Centre)
27 July (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
30 July (10-12)	'Monday Monday' Café (Church Centre)