



Fairland News

February/March 2019



Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham

No. 559

**Fairland United Reformed Church
Wymondham**

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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**

The following letter is written by Rev John Potter:

Dear friends

This is the month of Valentine’s Day so it’s a timely reminder for some of us that it’s nearly time to head off to the florist. I begin to wonder if St Valentine is actually the patron saint of over-priced red roses! Or am I just getting old and grumpy? Officially, he is the saint of Love, Young People and Happy Marriages. From what I could find out on the internet, very little is known about this third century character and much of what is told about him is likely to be more fable than fact.

Putting all that sort of ‘official saint’ stuff to one side, as the Reformed branch of the church believes that everyone who has died in faith is a saint, isn’t it still a good idea to celebrate the power of love once a year? Well that’s if you can avoid the gaudy commercialism. In the version of Greek that the New Testament was originally written in there are four different words with differing meanings that get translated into English as ‘love’. The main one we deal with at church is ‘agape’ that has the sense of wanting the very best for someone else. It’s one of the foundational principles of our faith; “love your neighbour as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). This is something that the world really needs to hear and celebrate, especially as by the time you read this the divisive and acrimonious debates over Brexit will be in full flow. Perhaps celebrating the love that can bring people together, rather than dividing them, is a good thing after all.

John

The following is an excerpt from a letter of thanks received from the charity ‘Starlight’:



‘I would like to thank everyone at your church so much for your wonderful donation of £75 in lieu of Christmas cards. We are so grateful for your kindness which will help to brighten the lives of seriously ill children across the UK..... Your kind gift means that more children will get the opportunity to have fun, give precious respite from their daily hospital routine, and to simply enjoy being a child again. We all value your support.

Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome – what is it?

In all of our bodies there is a substance called ‘collagen’ which is present in just about everything that holds us together. In rare cases the body doesn’t make collagen correctly and it becomes fragile and stretchy. This means that any of a person’s joints bend beyond the range they are supposed to and may go out of alignment or even dislocate very easily. There are often several other significant complications associated with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, but common symptoms include fatigue and severe long-term pain. An associated difficulty with joint dislocations is that several of our major joints, such as shoulders and knees are only held together by tendons and ligaments. Once these are stretched by a dislocation, they remain stretched, making the joint less stable, and many dislocations just increase this instability. Ehlers-Danlos is the result of a genetic fault which cannot be corrected and there isn’t a ‘cure’, only treatment of symptoms by those medical professionals who understand the condition. If you wish to find out more, please look at: <https://www.ehlers-danlos.org/what-is-eds/>

I hope this helps to inform you of a little of what Daniel has to cope with, and helps you to understand that, because almost all of his joints are now so unstable, when you meet him it’s best just to say “hello” to avoid causing him pain through physical contact.

John

Wymondham Mayor’s Civic Reception

I received an invitation to attend the Mayor’s Civic Reception on January 19th. This was, of course, to represent our church and the invitation included another guest so Elizabeth came with me. The Reception was held at The Dell and it proved a very congenial venue for the occasion. We were greeted by the Mayor Councillor Tony Holden and as we entered we immediately recognised familiar faces from Wymondham. As you would guess more by Elizabeth than me!

We sat at round tables and there was much conversation as we received a glass of wine and chatted together. We were also entertained by a young man with a guitar for background music. Eventually the Mayor made a speech and reviewed the various activities and developments in Wymondham that have

taken place recently. It was a very encouraging and positive account of the community spirit that exists in Wymondham. He finished his speech by presenting the annual Citizen's award for outstanding work for the community during the past year. This was given to Barry Rooks for the work he has done in setting up The Shed – a place of welcome for men who are alone or just feeling they need company and support from others. It is equipped with many tools and work materials and as they share together on projects the men are helped to develop confidence in themselves. We were pleased to congratulate Barry on receiving this award.

The rest of the evening was spent enjoying some excellent food and company. We are fortunate to be part of the town of Wymondham.

Jennifer Shakesby

Frederick Camroux

Many weeks have past since Dad died and we have celebrated birthdays, Christmas and the routines of daily life has changed but continued. Dad's funeral gave family and friends the opportunity to reflect on his life making us smile and remember Dad in his prime. His seat in church may be empty and his contributions to the hymns silent but his presence is there.

On behalf of all the family I would like to thank all those who sent their good wishes and attended the funeral. The music and flowers were lovely , the refreshments so well organised and such a warm atmosphere. A gloomy occasion which glowed with love. John , Ian and Martin were a great trio and Dad would have been very proud of his family. A big thank you for your donations to the Macular Society, we raised £405.

The Camroux family

Flower Rota

3 February	Netta Darkins
10 February	Elizabeth Portsmouth
17 February	Evelyn Thompson
24 February	Sheila Eaglen
3 March	Eileen Long
10 March	Netta Darkins
17 March	Jennifer Shakesby
24 March	Roz Ross
31 March	Marian Morgan (Mothering Sunday)
7 April	Sheila Eaglen

Please note there are dates available during April/May

Flowers from the communion table have been given to:

Kathleen Crossman; Tom and Mary Gray; Irene Fitches; Roz and Wolfgang Ross; Maureen Sewell and Betty Browne.

An Unexpected Christmas Moment

On Christmas Eve at 3.30pm, our son James took us to the Cathedral in Norwich to share in the Christmas Procession with Carols. Our grandson, Edward, is at the Norwich School and has been a chorister for three years. He had to be there in good time and we had good seats in the nave from where we could see all that was going on. Alan estimated there were 2,000 people in the congregation.

The Christmas decorations were beautiful and during the service a large arrangement of Christmas greenery was lowered from the ceiling of the nave and the large red candles amongst the holly were lit. It was then raised again and I wondered how many times this happened during the many services at Christmas.

Many people took their seats, and walking confidently among them was a large brown and white cat who walked calmly down the nave going towards the crib. All the figures and animals in the nativity scene had been worked in gold fabric and were placed among the most pristine golden coloured straw I

have ever seen. It was beautiful and the cat headed straight for the warmth of the straw where it pawed the crisp bedding and where it began to play, chasing the crisp, dry pieces and where it was fun to play. Several visitors took photographs and there were many smiling faces among the congregation - this doesn't happen often during the Christmas story and particularly in the grandeur of Norwich Cathedral. Our moment of amusement ended when the caretaker gathered up the cat in his arms, along with some straw, and took him away. I understand the cat belongs to the Dean!

The service was beautifully taken with the great and the good taking readings and we the congregation enjoyed singing several of the old and much loved carols. The last reading was taken by a young girl who was out of sight but whose young, confident voice moved me greatly. The words of the Epilogue by Howard Thurman are as follows:

A voice proclaims

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

Anne Alston

Dear Netta

Thank you so much for the lovely yellow roses you gave us at the beginning of January.

They lasted really well and were a lovely oasis of beauty in the chaos of having the kitchen taken out ready for the rebuild.

Thank you once again

Wolfgang and Roz Ross

Communion Collections

The chosen charity for January and February 2019 is **Hope and Homes for Children**



Hope & Homes
for Children

This charity was started in 1994 by Mark Cook, a retired British Army Officer, when he read about the plight of a group of children, struggling to survive in an orphanage in Sarajevo at the height of the Bosnian War. This charity is now a global expert in the field of deinstitutionalisation. By closing institutions, supporting children into loving, stable families and working with governments to tackle the root causes of family breakdown, they are working towards a day where orphanages have been eradicated for good.

For more information see their website www.hopeandhomes.org

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Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue has been chosen as our charity for March and April

Norfolk based, Norfolk Lowland Search and Rescue (NORLSAR) work throughout Norfolk and lowland Great Britain - the environments can be both urban and rural.

NORLSAR assist in response to search and rescue requests from the police, providing specialized search and rescue capabilities to help find missing people. NORLSAR have the capability to assist police during extreme weather conditions, together with partner agencies.



NORLSAR uses trained people and dogs to search any terrain found in lowland Britain. We use a wide range of techniques and equipment backed up with the latest missing persons data and methodologies.

Primarily NORLSAR searches as foot teams and all Search Technicians must complete the basic training course prior to becoming live members and on the team's callout list. We then encourage members to put any other skills to good use following the completion of their basic course. We offer individuals the opportunity to improve personal skills this can include team leading, navigation, dog handling, mountain biking, water safety and water rescue.

Unfortunately, despite expectations from the public, Search and Rescue within the United Kingdom receives no government funding so please support this charity via our collections on 3rd March and 7th April.

www.norlsar.org.uk

Communion Collections

Two more ‘thank you’ letters have been received from recent recipients of our collections. These letters are now on our noticeboard - excerpts are below:

‘Thank you for supporting **Make-A-Wish UK**. We are very grateful for your donation of £96. It will help us to continue granting life-changing wishes to critically ill children, like George.

George, aged four, was diagnosed with Batten disease, a rare and fatal form of childhood dementia, which in the year since his diagnosis, has stolen his speech and is attacking his movement, memory and many other things. Mum Claire says, ‘To say it’s devastated our family is an understatement. It’s difficult for doctors to give us a timeline, but George is not going to get better.’ George loves school, getting muddy outdoors, and is a mini-thrill-seeker - he has even starred in posters in Westminster calling on ministers for greater awareness of his condition. His mum Claire helped to create a wish full of adventure to help George express himself. The result was an adventure-filled wish to go tobogganing in Austria.

On the wish, Claire recorded a video while tobogganing down the mountain. She asked, ‘Are you having fun, George?’ and he replied, ‘Yes!’ For the first time in over a year, George spoke, and she was delighted.’ I think it was a result of all of his senses firing at once from the excitement. It was such a magical moment that I will never forget, and the wish brought that out of him.’

‘On behalf of **SERV Norfolk Blood Bikes** may I extend our thanks to you and all the members of Fairland United Reformed Church for your generous donation of £90. This will be of significant help funding our monthly running costs for the bikes and cars currently allocated to service the needs of our local hospitals and the East Anglia Air Ambulance service.

As an example, this money could fund approximately 9 days fuel for one bike, but however the money is used, please be assured that the money you have raised will be well spent. None of our members, committee members, or Trustees receive any payment for giving up their time to help the patients of our local NHS hospitals. Our running costs per month are currently £3,800 so your donation has made a valuable contribution in meeting that target.

Without donations such as yours we would not be able to provide our voluntary service to our local hospitals and the EAAA.

Once again, thank you for your interest and support of our charity.’

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



Wednesday 13th February at 1pm for 1.30pm

“Mamma Mia 2”

Starring Amanda Seyfried, Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan

In 1979 young Donna, Tanya and Rosie graduate from Oxford University -- leaving Donna free to embark on a series of adventures throughout Europe. On her journeys, she makes the acquaintances of Harry, Bill and Sam -- the latter whom she falls in love with, but he's also the man who breaks her heart. In the present day, Donna's pregnant daughter, Sophie, dreams of renovating a taverna while reuniting with her mother's old friends and boyfriends on the Greek island of Kalokairi



Wednesday 13th March at 1pm for 1.30pm

‘Abigail’s Party’

Starring Alison Steadman and Tim Stern

‘Abigail's Party’ is a classic play of its time - devised and directed in 1977 by Mike Leigh. It is a suburban situation comedy of manners, and a satire on the aspirations and tastes of the new middle class that emerged in Britain in the 1970s. It's not about a party which is being held next door, it's about two couples and a neighbour having a get together. The drinks are flowing. Alison Steadman plays the arrogant host. It all descends into a massive climax when something very seriously goes wrong.



Refreshments served during the intervals

February/March/April

3 February	Rev John Potter (includes Holy Communion) <i>Joint Service with Methodists</i>
10 February	Mr Peter Fitches
17 February	Mrs Ros Crowe
24 February	Rev Martin Camroux
3 March	Rev Malcolm Wright (includes Holy Communion)
10 March	Mr Robert Ogden
17 March	Mrs Barbara Searle
24 March	Mrs Angela Butcher (followed by Church Meeting)
31 March	Rev John Potter (Mothering Sunday)
7 April	Rev Bill Sewell (includes Holy Communion)

World Day of Prayer

1st March 2019

Come – Everything is Ready!

Everything is ready and the invitation is for everyone - men, women and children of all ages to join this Day of Prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. The preparation for the day is vast. An international committee is based in New York and there are national committees in each participating country. Regional conferences meet to consider the service and then local groups make their plans. Finally, on Friday March 1st 2019 people will gather to celebrate the service prepared by the women of Slovenia.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

The service in Wymondham will be at 12 noon at the Methodist Church. All are welcome.

Dates for your Diaries

Details of these events can be found within the newsletter

February

1 February (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
4 February (10-12)	'Monday Monday Café' (Church Centre)
6 February (10-12)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
8 February (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
11 February (10-12)	'Monday Monday Café' (Church Centre)
13 February (1 for 1.30)	Fairland Flicks 'Mamma Mia 2'
14 February (2.30)	Elders' Meeting (Pabulum Lounge)
15 February (10-12)	Singing Café (Church Centre)
18 February (10-12)	'Monday Monday Café' (Church Centre)
19 February (1 for 1.30)	Pabulum Picture Palace
20 February (10-12)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
22 February (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
25 February (10-12)	'Monday Monday Café' (Church Centre)
27 February (10-12)	Monthly Coffee Morning (Church Centre)

March

1 March (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
1 March (12 noon)	World Day of Prayer (Methodist Church)
4 March (10-12)	'Monday Monday Café' (Church Centre)
6 March (10-12)	'Walking The Way' (Church Lounge)
8 March	Pabulum's 10th Birthday celebrations
11 March (10-12)	'Monday Monday Café' (Church Centre)
13 March (1 for 1.30)	Fairland Flicks 'Abigail's Party'
15 March (10-12)	Singing Café
18 March (10-12)	'Monday Monday Café' (Church Centre)
19 March (1 for 1.30)	Pabulum Picture Palace
20 March (10-12)	'Walking The Way' (Church Centre)
21 March	Lent Lunch at Fairland (Church Centre)
22 March (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)
25 March (10-12)	'Monday Monday Café' (Church Centre)
27 March (10-12)	Monthly Coffee Morning (Church Centre)
29 March (10-1.30)	Pabulum Café (Church Centre)

Items for inclusion in **April/May** newsletter (to be available on 31 March) should be given to Ann Scott **by 25 March please.**