

Sunday celebration – 21st October 2018 – starting with tea / coffee at 10.15

Welcome to our celebration this morning, and a very special welcome to Chris and Hannah's family and friends who are joining us for Rowan's dedication. If you are here for the first time – we hope you enjoy your morning with us. If you have any questions, there's some information which might help on the back page of this newsletter or please feel free to ask the welcome team, who will be happy to help or point you in the right direction.

Last week, Richard was looking at Genesis 1 and 2 as the next part of our new series on the Big Story of the Bible. He talked about the fact that Genesis was written by Moses to help the people he was leading understand more about the God they worshipped. Their God was the God who created the heavens and the earth – nothing was too difficult for Him. And today we rejoice that their God is our God. God, our heavenly Father, is the same now as he was then, and He is still at work among His people to bring life, joy, peace and freedom.

This morning we want to give our thanks to God for everything He so generously gives us – for His provision, for His care on a daily basis, for His amazing love and acceptance of us, (despite how often we muck up!), for answered prayers and especially, that He invites us all to be part of His wonderful worldwide family. That's an invitation that Chris and Hannah have taken up, and it's the family into which they are dedicating Rowan today. Let's join with them and their families and friends to pray that God will bless him and keep him all the days of his life. **NB Chris and Hannah have invited us to join them for a light lunch after the service – you are all very welcome and, if you'd like to bring a small contribution, please bring cake!**

As part of the service we are also having a special offering for the Fareham Food Bank as a practical way of saying thank you for all that God has given to us. He is extravagant in His giving; let's be generous in ours, and let's share what we have with those who are in significant need.

On that note, thank you for those who gave to our Indonesia offering last week - we have passed the money on to Tear Fund, who partner so well with local people in the nations where they work. And thank you too for all your support for *The School in the Quarry*. James has just returned from Sierra Leone and there are some exciting developments in the project! If you would like to know more, please chat to James, and continue to remember him in your prayers as God is moving mightily through the work he is undertaking on several different fronts.

May the Lord bless you this week

Caroline

Please would those who have been asked to be in the prayer team for FCC gather for a few minutes after church this morning in the prayer room so we can briefly run through some guidelines with you.

Next Saturday – 27th October – Monthly FCC PRAYER BREAKFAST – starting at 9.00 in Room 7, finishing with breakfast for anyone who would like it in Cafe Imbizo. Be great to see you there!

Let's thank God for:

- Chris and Hannah and little Rowan – for the joy of having them in the FCC family and for the ways they so faithfully serve in the church, especially with the life group they lead, Chris's willingness to become a trustee, and their care for those in and around Imbizo.
- More answers to prayer – including Noori's jaw; Richard's replacement at work which, hopefully, means he will be able to hand the project on well; a good start for the new staff and volunteers in Imbizo.
- The young people in the Wednesday night who are keen to find/grow in their faith and for Martin and Gabi who so faithfully lead them.
- For the ideas that Shane and the traders of West Street have had for building more of a community feel in this end of the town and for their plans for November 25th and the Christmas lights switch on.

Let's pray for:

- The Alpha course as the "Holy Spirit day" approaches and that all the people who have been coming along are able to be there on that day.
- For the Fareham Food Bank's work and for the provisions they need to support those struggling with poverty in Fareham. And for those people who are sleeping rough as the nights get colder and longer.
- For Tim and Dani who are the new leaders of the New Forest Community Church (the closest church to us in our Salt and Light sphere!).

FCC Matters:

- **POTENTIAL BASS PLAYERS:**

One more opportunity to let Mark know if you would be interested in learning to play bass. He will be offering some "lessons" on a Monday evening if anyone would like to come along. If you are interested please drop an email to markn@farehamcommunitychurch.com and let him know your current level (from "Professional in a rock band" to "I can just about manage A-G"). He has heard from a few people, so he will be arranging a get together soon.

- **Any Questions:**

If you had any questions out of Richard's talk last week on Genesis, we'd love to get together for a chat. If you would let us know if you have any evenings free in the week beginning Sunday 28th October, then we will try to make a date for us all to meet. Good answers not guaranteed, but we should be able to provide good coffee!!

Further Afield:

- **KST+**

If you appreciated the KST taster morning we had recently with Nicky Wileman you would really enjoy this!
"Digging into Ephesians: Being God's People in a Broken World"

With Aled Griffith, the leader of Reach Church, Nottingham, and former principle of King's Bible School.

Brief details:

Saturday 24th November. Starts at 9.00am and finishes with dinner at 6.30pm.

The Riverside Centre, Derby, DE24 8HY.

Let Mark know if you would like to come as he is wondering about taking a car full. And I am hoping to go too!

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