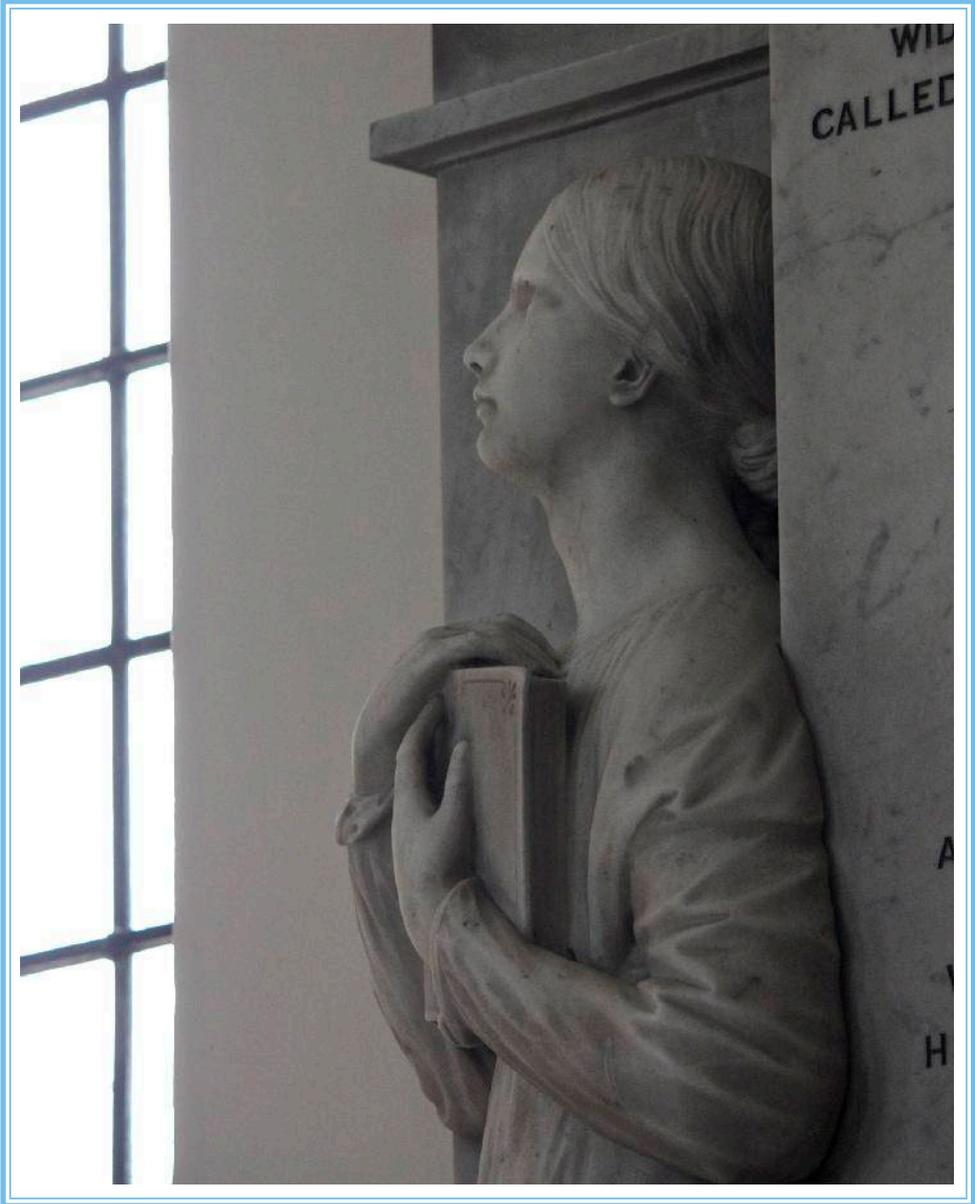


Issue 26: Famous Families in Fareham



Welcome

Thank you to everyone who has made a contribution for this issue with the theme of *Famous Families in Fareham*

If you have a contribution that you would like to be considered for a future magazine article, limiting it to 250 words, please email ideas to:

htmagazine@htscf.org.uk

Our February issue will be called *Colours in Church*

Future Events

NOVEMBER

Breakfast and Prayers	Saturday 5th November at 8.30am
PraiseMakers	Sunday 6th November 4-5pm (25 minute service followed by tea)
All Souls service	Sunday 6th November at 6pm
Who let the Dads out?	Saturday 12th November at 10am
Godly Play	Sunday 13th November at 9.30am service
YOUTH Group - Parent Free Zone	Sunday 13th November 5pm-7pm (URC)
Djembe drumming	Saturday 19th November at 10.30am
Fairtrade stall - Christmas cards	Sunday 20th Nov after 9.30am service
People Alone Circle	Tuesday 22nd November at 2pm
Messy Church	Thursday 24th November (Doors open 3.30pm Event 4pm-6pm)
Richard Wharton's ordination at HT	Sunday 27th November
Lunchtime Concert	Tuesday 29th November 12.30pm-1.15pm (bring lunch, tea & coffee available)
<i>Stokes Bay Strummers</i>	

DECEMBER

Breakfast and Prayers	Saturday 3rd December at 8.30am
PraiseMakers	Sunday 4th December 4-5pm (25 minute service followed by tea)
Godly Play	Sunday 11th December at 9.30am service
YOUTH Group - Parent Free Zone	Sunday 11th December 5pm-7pm (URC)
Djembe drumming	Saturday 17th December 10.30am
Fairtrade stall	Sunday 18th Dec after 9.30am service
Christmas Jumper Sunday	Sunday 18th December
Christmas Eve	Services at 3pm, 7pm and 11.30pm
Christmas Day	Services at 8am and 9.30am

Front Cover Photo taken by Julie Wharton.

Who let the Dads out?

**A group for dads, father figures
and their children.**



**Next
*Who let the
Dads out?***

**Saturday
12th November
10.00am-12 Noon
Holy Trinity Hall**



Michael and Lesley Cooper



Michael was born in Leamington Spa and spent his childhood in Warwick. His father was in the Royal Engineers and, being an architect, was involved with rebuilding the city of Coventry after the war. Michael's earliest memory is of an air raid and he remembers his dad returning after the war as a stranger. Michael's mum was a strong church-goer and took her three children to matins and made sure they said their prayers and read the Bible. His dad did not have a faith and was deeply affected by his war experience but never talked about it.

In 1957, the family moved to Park Gate and Michael transferred to Price's School in Fareham. As a teenager, he thought about being ordained as a priest but Bishop Lancelot Fleming suggested that he got some life experience first. So Michael signed up with the newly formed VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) and flew to Borneo

to work in a church school for 12 months. On his return, Michael went to study for a BA degree in Bible Studies, English and Greek at St David's College Lampeter. He then went to Westcott House Theological College and was ordained deacon in 1965 with priesthood following in 1966.

Lesley was born in Birmingham before moving to Worcestershire. Her father was a chartered electrical engineer who was kept in England during the war as he had an important job in the power stations. The family moved to East Cosham when Lesley was 5 years old as her father had a job with the Central Electricity Board. At 11, Lesley went to Northern Grammar in Portsmouth before moving to Seale-Hayne Agricultural College to study for a National Diploma in Dairying.

Lesley also did VSO when she left college and went to Kenya for 16 months where she taught at an agricultural college. On her return home, she applied to do a farm secretarial course which was based at a farm institute where they had an outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Lesley's mum was worried that her daughter would feel isolated so asked Michael, the new young curate at the Church of the Resurrection in Farlington, if he would write to Lesley. Lots of letters followed.

When Lesley returned home, the couple went to the pub with a group after Evensong and their first date was a meal at a Chinese in Cosham High Street. Michael proposed after only 10 days and they were married in 1968 on Michaelmas Day during parish

Michael and Lesley Cooper

communion on a Sunday morning.

Lesley and Michael felt that they were being called to work overseas and attended the College of the Ascension, an Anglican missionary college in Selly Oak, for three months before sailing to Pakistan where Michael was to be assistant priest at Lahore Cathedral. Lesley found she was carrying their first son, Tim, who was born in the Holy Family Hospital in Rawalpindi in 1970. Her midwife was a sister she had known from the catholic missionary college in Selly Oak! Tim currently lives on the Isle of Wight with his wife and four children.

After two years, the Cooper Family were evacuated by the RAF due to Pakistan and India going to war.

Mauritius, with its lovely climate and integrated community, was their next destination and it was here that Benjamin was born. He now lives in Sheffield with his family of 3 children.

A spiritual turning point for Michael and Lesley came after they returned to the UK, both suffering ill health. One Saturday morning, Michael asked God for a clear sign and received the gift of speaking in tongues. Lesley had a similar experience and both had a new and personal relationship with Jesus. Michael describes this as God moving from his head to his heart. They became closer to God and closer as a family with a third son, Dan being born.

Since that time, the Coopers have shared their experience with others through their moves to different parishes: North Hayling, Carisbrooke

on the Isle of Wight, Hart Plain Ecumenical Church and finally St Mary's, Portchester. During the 1990s, they led three faith-sharing excursions through SOMA (Sharing of Ministries Abroad) to Nigeria, central Zimbabwe and Maseno North in Kenya.

Over the years, Michael has served on numerous diocesan boards and committees and school governing bodies and for four years was Rural Dean of Fareham. Lesley led the Lydia Prayer Fellowship on the Isle of Wight and helped run a pre-school at Hart Plain and Sunday School.

Lesley and Michael retired in 2006, moved to Fareham and started attending Holy Trinity Church. Michael is still called to preach and lead services to support the clergy team and Lesley feels called to be an intercessor, using her gift of intercessory prayer. She is also part of the Holy Dusters and both support Messy Church and the Little Fishes Go Big teams.

Both Lesley and Michael welcome the opportunity to meet with others, study the Bible and have discussions and have enjoyed being part of house groups. They attend the monthly prayer breakfast and Michael recently supported the new initiative 'Who let the Dads out?' on a Saturday morning and would encourage other men out there to come along – the next one is November 12th at 10am.

Michael and Lesley take their caravan to the New Wine Christian Festival every summer and would gladly tell people more about this.

Donna Irving

What is your passion?

Passion for local history



In 1912 Mr Ernest Birks bought a small piece of land at the front of 136 and with his own hands, Mr Birks built a shop using some very unusual resources for the walls; old bed-ends embedded in concrete. Initially the shop was stocked with furniture requisitioned from his own home. However, not only was Mr Birks resourceful, he was also a master cabinet-maker and a master upholsterer. Working at the back of the shop Mr Birks soon had some new furniture to sell. He also undertook repairs to the antique furniture owned by many of the well-to-do people who lived in and around the Fareham area. With business flourishing, Mr Birks then bought the back garden of No 136, building himself a wooden workshop to continue with his crafts: cabinet-making on the first floor and upholstery on the ground floor. During this period his two sons had joined him in his workshop and later a third son joined the business too. Such was the quality of his furniture, Mr Birks and his sons had to work long hours to keep up with demand, and it was not unknown for him to sleep in his workshop overnight to start work early next morning. He died in 1935, and after his death a fire destroyed the workshop. Undaunted, the eldest son, William, borrowed the money to build a new workshop – this time from bricks and mortar. The business continued successfully until

1939 when the two younger brothers were called up for active service during World War II and William Birks, went to Vosper's where his woodworking skills were put to good use in the building of motor-torpedo-boats. The business struggled on in the hands of William's grandmother and mother. What sales they did achieve were delivered to the customers by handcart pulled by off-duty sailors from HMS Collingwood. After the war had ended, the three brothers tried to rebuild the business. Two soon left to seek their fortunes elsewhere. In 1955, William, the remaining brother, was joined by his own son, Douglas. Unfortunately, factory-produced goods - cheaper and more readily available – were quickly becoming the norm. The Birks family found it difficult to compete, and the costs too heavy to bear, so were forced to look elsewhere for supplies. They were determined that the high standards that had been set in the past would not be greatly compromised and Douglas set about finding a family-based producer that could meet those demands. As it happened, such a company found them – Ercol. These were prosperous years for Birks and the business went from strength to strength. The premises adjacent to the original store were acquired and the shop extended. The garden that had been sold many years before was repurchased and this became a car park for the shop. In 1968 William Birks died, leaving his son Douglas to carry on. Birks still sell high-quality furniture to this day.

Adapted from an extract from the book *'Fareham Revisited'* printed with permission from Michael Stephenson. Available on Amazon Kindle for £6.99

Memorials in Holy Trinity Church

We all take them for granted but have you ever stopped to ask yourself, why were those monuments created and placed on the wall? Well, I do not have the definitive answer because probably only those people who commissioned the works know the answer for sure. All the monuments date back to before 1950 with the majority dating from the 19th century.

A basic monument which consists of the basic stone adorned with the upturned flaming cones would cost about £12 at the time (the equivalent of about £1,000 in today's money). This price was hand written alongside the earliest burial records for Holy Trinity. I do not have any available information to indicate how much the engraving or erecting of the monument onto the church wall was.



*Memorial to Sophia Dickson,
daughter of Vice-Admiral Bigland*

Looking at the monuments about Holy Trinity's interior, especially the larger ones, one can see that these fine memorials would have cost significantly more money and were commissioned by wealthy individuals or groups of people. Many of them are in memoriam of the

Thompson family who had significant influence in the building of Holy Trinity. Others are dedicated to important people of the town of Fareham at the time, which include members of the Osborn, Borlase, Delme, Dickson, Barron and Wild families.

Some of these names are heard of in other parts of Fareham, underlining the fact that these were prominent people in the town's history. For example, Osborn Road and the Delme pub and roundabout.

There are other parts of the church and items inside that also bear the name of someone from Holy Trinity's past. These include chairs, a lamp, windows, a table, the screen and the lectern. The former east window which is now set out of sight at the west end is dedicated to the church's founder and first vicar Sir Henry Thompson. It is showing signs of its age but the Thompson crest is still clearly visible.

The next time you are in church and have some moments to spare, I would encourage you to look again at the many monuments. I have studied them on many an occasion but still find something further to intrigue and spurn me to delve a little deeper into the building's past.

The church is full of memorials, mostly to famous people, "And some there be which have no memorial..." so perhaps we should end by giving thanks to God for the thousands of ordinary people who have worshipped in Holy Trinity through the generations.

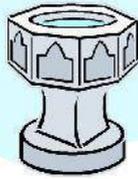
We must never lose sight of the fact that the church is not a building but people, famous and unknown, and that God's house is not His home unless there is a family living in it.

Steve Ellis

Parish Register

Baptisms

William Broadway-McPhee
Anaya Cooke
Isaiah Clyma
Albie Denham
Hunni Jenkins



Harmony Whittingham
Skyra Whittingham
Lyla Whittingham
Laney Whittingham

Wedding

15th October • Alex and Vikki Dunlop



Those who have recently died

Kate Jones
Jean Smith

If you would like to arrange a Baptism, Confirmation or Funeral please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment.

People Alone Circle



On Tuesday 26th July, 12 members of the People Alone Circle visited the Sir Harold Hillier's Garden Centre at Romsey (two escaped the camera!). We arrived at 11.30 and enjoyed a leisurely walk around some of the various areas of gardens and special trees set in 180 acres.

The weather was most kind to us with light cloud but no rain which made it ideal for walking around the grounds. The pond area was surrounded by lovely blooming cala lilies and an abundant selection of pond lilies on the water giving shelter to an

People Alone Circle

enormous amount of fish. The Bog Garden set in the moist soil around the pond has lush foliage including the *Gunnera manicata* with their very large leaves.

The Centenary Border, which is over 250 metres long, includes over 30,000 plants displaying a kaleidoscope of shapes and colours. The pinetum willow sculpture trail is a set of 5 impressive botanical willow sculptures created by renowned artist Tom Hare and installed in March of this year.

Amongst the other seasonal gardens, there was the Gurkha Memorial Garden that contains a selection of Nepal's unique flora, set between the Himalayan Valley and Jermyn's House. Created in 1997, with generous funding from the Kadoorie



Jermyn's House

Foundation of Hong Kong, the garden has been planted with a wild-collected material of known origin, including material collected by Roy Lancaster OBEVMH, Tom Le M Spring-Smyth and Tony Schilling. On the top level stands a traditional Nepalese resting-place, the Chautara, displaying the regimental regiments. A chautara is a four-walled roofless structure where weary travellers can rest while trekking across the foothills of the Himalayas. It is common in

Nepal for a chautara to be constructed in memory of a recently deceased loved one, and Hillier's is constructed in memory of Sir Horace Kadoories (1902-1995), benefactor to the Gurkhas and their homeland of Nepal.

When Sir Harold moved into Jermyn's House, the land around it was mainly fields and paddocks, all quickly used for nursery production, so it is understandable that he Jermyn's House planted some of his treasured possessions close to the house. The lawn at the side of the house was his private garden and here he planted the yew hedge to give privacy, as well as many other trees including *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, from the original batch of seeds received by the Arnold Arboretum from China and distributed in 1948.

The rooms inside Jermyn's House are used as the Gardens' administration offices, as well as a conference venue and for marriage civil ceremonies, civil partnerships, naming ceremonies, private functions and funeral receptions. We enjoyed a lovely lunch in the restaurant with the option of sitting inside or outside. After lunch, we were able to explore more of the gardens as well as visiting the garden shop, before returning to Fareham in the Community Transport Bus.

Judi Bushell

Thoughts from our Clergy



Families in the Bible

In the pages of our Bibles, we find a wide variety of family structures or ties which function in a number of different ways.

As he gathers together his first Disciples, we read that Jesus calls James and John to leave their Father as well as their boat (Matthew 4:22). In his own life, tradition often portrays Joseph as Jesus' adoptive parent rather than his biological one.

Beyond the biological family, the Bible paints a picture of a more profound range of relationships grounded in God's love. It points towards a relationship with all people. This relationship with all people is given particular expression in the church. Every member should be valued and welcomed, churches should aim to be a family to each other with all the love as well as the challenges that brings.

In Baptism, we are 'reborn' as 'Children of God'. There is a part of the service of Baptism known as 'The Welcome'. In it, the congregation say to the newly Baptised; "We welcome you in the fellowship of faith; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we welcome you". Baptism enables us to experience

a new and very real family with a new parent in God and new Brothers and Sisters in our fellow church members. I am lucky enough to come from a rather large biological family (my mum being one of 7 children) I have fond memories of houses filled with the laughter of my numerous Aunties, Uncles & cousins. Some are not as lucky as me and have very small families - perhaps families that have been broken apart and sadly many have no family at all.

A biblical understanding of family can be much stronger than any biological, social or cultural family ties. The family of God is so much bigger than any family any of us have come from. The church is the place in which this family is played out.

Like all families, we (the church) are not perfect, there will be squabbles and the occasional falling out but we are a place in which forgiveness and reconciliation is always offered.

'If only we could attract more families' is often a phrase used in churches - somehow we instinctively know that families are a source of growth.

We don't 'need' families; we 'are' a family. Many people in our world are searching for a loving family environment.

It's not us that need families to join us, it's us that is the family that others can join.

In the Words of Sister Sledge's famous song 'We are Family' they sing "Ev'ryone can see we're together. As we walk on by."

The Christian church is called to be the family of welcome to all people, grounded in the love of God shown to us in Jesus.

Services

Regular services at Holy Trinity		
SUNDAY	8.00am	Holy Communion
	9.30am	Family Communion
MONDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer
TUESDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer @ the Highlands Hub
WEDNESDAY	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	9.30am	Little Fishes
	10.30am	Holy Communion
THURSDAY	9.15am	Morning Prayer @ the Highlands Hub

We look forward to welcoming you to our church community

Mother's Union

..... often described as the best kept secret of the Church of England.

So who are we and what do we do?

We are women but not always - men belong as well

We are married but not always - some of us are single or divorced

We are mothers but not always - some of us do not have children

We are members of the Church of England but not always - some of us attend other churches

We are a world-wide organisation with members in over 80 countries

We meet together monthly

We support Mothers' Union projects in the UK and Overseas

We campaign for a 'family-friendly' society

We help families facing difficulties

We are an organisation rooted and grounded in prayer



If you'd like to know more, come along to our next meeting at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 15th November in Holy Trinity Church Hall. Together we'll hear Councillor Katrina Trott tell us about her life as a Councillor. We'd love to see you there.

Val Franks

Church Groups

There are many groups at Holy Trinity, if you would like to find out more, please contact the group leader or the Parish Office

Band • [Sue & Pete Hall](#) • 01329 233775 • thehall.family@virgin.net

Choir • [Contact Office](#) • 01329 232688 • office@htscf.org.uk

Circle Dancing • [Trisha Prosser](#) • 01329 235381 • patpro@talktalk.net

Flower Arrangers • [Sue Purcell](#) • 01329 280472 • spurcell@btopenworld.com

Gardeners • [Ed and Margaret Pearce](#) • 01329 238068

Holy Dusters • [Sylvia Coghlan](#) • 01329 232200

House Group • [Sue Craft](#) • 01329 220021 • sel.mec1984@btinternet.com

Junior Church • [Helen Cobb](#) • 01329 234750 • hmcathome@btinternet.com

Little Fishes • [Debbie Le Fevre](#) • 07841 189195 • deb.lefevre@ntlworld.com

Mothers' Union • [Judy Jacobs](#) • 01329 232855 • jejjey@ic24.net

PAC (People Alone Circle) • [Judi Bushell](#) • 01329 231405 • judibushell@gmail.com

Pastoral Care • [Sarah Bourner](#) • 01329 284306 • sarahbourner@hotmail.co.uk

Prayers for Justice and Peace • [Jenny Hellyer](#) • 01329 287757

Scouts • [Dave Humphrey](#) • dh1200gs@gmail.com

YOUTH Group • [Garry Roberts](#) • revdgarryroberts@virginmedia.com

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