



# NEWSLETTER

June / July 2018

No. 256

**Dorset Gardens Methodist Church**



## Manse Musings

**Pentecost 2018**

Dear Friends

I write this on the eve of Pentecost. What an exciting day this has been. In the morning Dermot, Ann & Richard (two circuit stewards) and myself travelled to Horley to learn about the stationing and re-invitation processes. Whilst we were sat in the Methodist Church at Horley, the now Duke and Duchess of Sussex were making their marriage vows to one another in front of millions of spectators worldwide. During this afternoon I believe there was a major football match between a team from London and one from Manchester - enough said on that matter.

All the events of the day have required good communication skills. The Chairs of District, John Hellyer (South East) and David Hinchliffe (Channel Islands), both had important information to pass on to the listeners. Important because the information will affect those ministers on the move or seeking re-invitation. Also, the circuit officers who need to consider prayerfully how to complete Circuit profiles and communicate to a potential new minister that the Brighton & Hove Circuit will be a good appointment.

Marriages too require good communication skills, not just those conducting the marriage ceremony. For the rest of their lives the married couple will need to learn the art of communication: when to speak and when to remain silent, and the art of reading the non-verbal communication too!

When we think about football, we might think it's all about the feet, but good communication both on and off the pitch, and in the training sessions in between matches, is vital. The manager, trainers and players all need to understand what is being

communicated in terms of strategy if the best football is to be played on the day. If the game isn't going well, the supporters have their own way of communicating their displeasure.

The Book of Acts tells us that something amazing happened on that first Pentecost following the death and resurrection of Jesus. Those who had ears to hear, heard in their own tongue a story most amazing, a story that changed the course of history, a story that travelled across the nations and continents, a story that is still being communicated today. The story is that of the Love of God, made known in Christ Jesus, and propelled throughout the centuries through the indwelling of God's Spirit in ordinary men and women and children.

The question now is: 'how will you communicate the story of God's love?'

Shalom,

**Deborah**

Dates  
for your



**Wednesday 6 June 2018**

7.30 pm, Church Council

**Saturday 28 July 2018**

3 pm to 5.30 pm

**Cornish Cream Teas at the Manse**

*Donations for the work of Action for Children and  
Matthew Rusike Children's Home in Zimbabwe.*

**The "Really Wild" Holiday Club**

Monday 30 July to Thursday 2 August 2018

## Pastoral Care



Please pray and think of our friends who need our support at this time:-

**Deaths:** Brian Fane, David Hewitt.

**In Nursing, Care & Rehabilitation Homes:-**

Frankie Gee, Peggy Henderson, Marian Jackson,  
Stella Lawson, John Marchant, Gwen Mosdall, Fred Trott,  
Jessie Wise.

**Please continue to pray for:-**

Joy Gale, Sheila Morgan.

**Congratulations to:-**

Ken Smith who celebrates his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 5<sup>th</sup> June.  
Len Wicks who celebrates his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on 6<sup>th</sup> June.  
Riziki Millanzi celebrating her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 26<sup>th</sup> July.  
Gwen Mosdall celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 31<sup>st</sup> July.

**Remembering Friends Around the Country and Abroad:-**

John Allen, Peggy Allen, Sue Dale, Bob Fiander,  
Elsie Gendre, Martin Grundy, Linda Inniss, Michael & Esther  
Kennerley, Stephen Lodge, Andrew Mills, Margaret Savage,  
Sandra Walton, Karen Wares, Ruth Watts, Paul & Margaret  
Winter, David Yates.

**Thank you, Lord, for the care and love received for these  
our friends, may they continue to receive our love,  
support and prayers.**

# Money Matters

Offertries		
Date	am £	pm £
25 March	1162.00	
1 April	1871.31	26.95
8 April	173.81	
15 April	129.70	38.00
22 April	235.24	
29 April	203.20	
6 May	190.25	
13 May	284.88	
20 May	183.50	*
27 May	254.70	
<b>Retiring Offertries Benevolent Fund</b>		* 10.00
<b>Standing Orders</b>	<b>Mar:</b> <b>Apr:</b>	1130.00 1130.00



Many thanks, as always, to all who have contributed!

## Flowers



Flowers are important to us, and I don't just mean from the botanical seed production aspect. We enjoy looking at them, smelling them, arranging them, growing them. Some go on rambles to fields and hedgerows seeking out unusual wild specimens. Some spend a lifetime cultivating as many different varieties of a particular species. Some know all their latin names. Many are used in cooking. Many are used for medicinal purposes - I recently saw on the TV that they are using daffodil flowers and leaves to make a drug to help control Alzheimer's. Invertebrates and animals rely on them for food. Some, though brightly coloured, are considered weeds when growing in our carefully cultivated gardens.

We give flowers to each other for different reasons; as a thank you when invited for a meal, as a gift for a birthday or anniversary, to say sorry to someone we love, to cheer someone who is ill, to express our sorrow when someone has died.

At Dorset Gardens we have flowers in our Sanctuary and our Chapel; they add beauty to the area and help to express our adoration to God. Some people find they help to focus on prayer. The flowers are often donated by church members to celebrate a special occasion or in memory of loved ones. On the ground floor there is a calendar where you can enter your date and reason for giving flowers should you wish; you can arrange the flowers yourself or ask someone to do them for you.

For many years Sheila Morgan organised the flowers, week by week without fuss - fresh flowers beautifully arranged. Sheila now feels the time has come for her to give up this commitment and we all would like to thank her for all that she has done over the years.

The flowers are now arranged by a small team led by Lyn Maine. If you feel you would like to join the team, either on a regular basis or maybe just occasionally for special occasions such as Harvest or Christmas, do have a word with her. You don't need to be an expert and simple arrangements are not that difficult. You would be more than welcome and you may feel this is one of the talents with which you can serve the church.

*Rosemary Cuthbert*

## **Cornish Cream Tea**

**Saturday 28 July 2018**

**3 pm to 5.30 pm**



**At The Manse  
155 Surrenden Road, Brighton.**

**Donations for the work of Action for Children  
and the Matthew Rusike Children's Home  
in Zimbabwe.**

***Any offers of homemade jam will  
be gratefully received!***

## **Dolphin House Children's Charity**



### **Dolphin House & Dorset Gardens Adult Therapy Project**

The project was initially set up to offer mental health and emotional support to parents and carers of children at Turnerland Nursery and Carlton Hill Primary School. This was a joint venture between Dolphin House Children's Charity and Dorset Gardens Methodist Church. Revd Robin Selmes was able to secure the initial funding from April 2014 to December 2017 and offer a space at the church for the therapy to take place. Revd Deborah Cornish is now supporting the continuation of this joint project that we hope will provide this valuable, free service to even more parents and carers in the community.

We anticipated that over this initial period we would reach a total of 51 clients who would receive up to 12 sessions of 1-1 therapy each. In total, 43 adults have accessed the service since it began in April 2014. In three of these cases additional sessions to the 12 have been offered and delivered to meet individual needs. We have also been able to offer individual follow-up sessions to some clients, where there has been a need. These have been invaluable to check in and help ensure that the benefits received from this work are continuing to provide support in often chaotic lives.

In the last 18 months we have extended the project to meet the needs of parents and carers at Elm Grove Primary School.

In order that the project reached the proposed number of clients we also recruited volunteer therapists. We have been delighted that since summer 2015 a succession of three highly skilled and experienced volunteer therapists have participated in the project.

Nadja Woodason-Zeige initially volunteered for a period of 12 months and is now a paid therapist working on the project. Amalia McGavin volunteered for a period of 18 months, and we now have Rachael McKeown who started in September 2017. The work of these volunteers has been a credit to the service and a great many clients have hugely benefited from their work.

To communicate the good work this project is able to do, with the invaluable support of Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, we joined Revd Deborah Cornish and the congregation at a service on Sunday 22 April 2018.

*Ruth Lazarus, Project Manager & Alison Lucas, Trustee*

## Three Sundays and an Election

On Sunday 22 April, Deborah invited two representatives from the Dolphin House Children's Charity to speak to us during the morning service about the counselling work they conduct on our premises with the families of children attending local schools. The scheme started during Robin Selmes' time as Minister and is partly funded by the church. Since then it has had to be enlarged in scope because of the increasing number of heart-breaking cries for help from children and their families who struggle in dealing with the problems presented by modern life.

Deborah reminded us that providing financial support and a safe and caring environment where sensitive and confidential work can be carried out is an important way of showing how seriously we

take our mission to serve our neighbours in the local community. As John Wesley encouraged his followers...

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

Our visitors from Dolphin House sadly informed us about a real possibility that their wider work with children and families might have to be curtailed or even terminated because of the severity of the cuts imposed on local authorities by central government in Westminster. Unfortunately, Brighton & Hove City Council does not have access to a magic money tree, to use the Prime Minister's phrase. Together with other local authorities across the country our City has been denied the financial resources which could have enabled it to assist local charities in providing desperately needed services on its behalf.

Six years ago, as 2012 was coming to an end, I wrote a short piece for the newsletter wondering what the year 2013 would bring. I was worried about the impact of the latest cuts to public expenditure announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the burdens that would place on the voluntary sector, including our own church. The imposition of austerity over the past six years has devastated every aspect of the public sector from health to education, social care, the justice system, public protection, youth services, libraries, road repairs and much more. The housing crisis has deepened, the number of homeless people and rough sleepers has increased and, according to research conducted by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, an additional 400,000 children and 300,000 pensioners now live in poverty compared with 2012/13.

Contrary to the impression given by much of the media, subjecting the public sector to a regime of austerity was not the only economic policy available to the government following the collapse of the finance and banking sector. There were then, and there still are, alternative responses. Austerity was a deliberate political choice

that has led to a more divided society, one in which inequality of wealth is now greater than at any period since the mid-nineteenth century.

On Sunday 29 April, Stella Goddard spoke to us about being interconnected, not just in technological terms, but in following the pattern of Jesus in how to live and relate to each other. He provided us with so many examples during his ministry. A week later Deborah extended this in looking at true friendship, the way Jesus told his disciples they were no longer his servants, but his friends because they knew what his purpose was and shared fully in it.

The first statue of a woman to be erected in Parliament Square in London, a memorial to the suffragist Millicent Fawcett, has just been unveiled. In making our own political choices and decisions do we have the courage to follow in her footsteps? She campaigned to give a voice to the voiceless and power to the powerless; with God's help may we do the same! Please remember that tax cuts for businesses and already well-off individuals are invariably paid for by reducing aid and support for the poorest and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Am I *really* my brother's keeper?" In my view, a true friend of Jesus would unequivocally reply "**Yes!**"

*Tony Leonard*



Thank you very much for your offering to the work of God in this Church and Circuit. If you are a tax payer the Inland Revenue will increase your donation by 25% if

you agree and provide us with your details.

Please speak to Vikki Kennedy who will help you fill in the appropriate form.



**Q: Does this train stop at Brighton?**

**A: I hope so or there's going to be a hell of a splash!**

*Kenny Everett*

## 'Q' Café Worship at Dorset Gardens

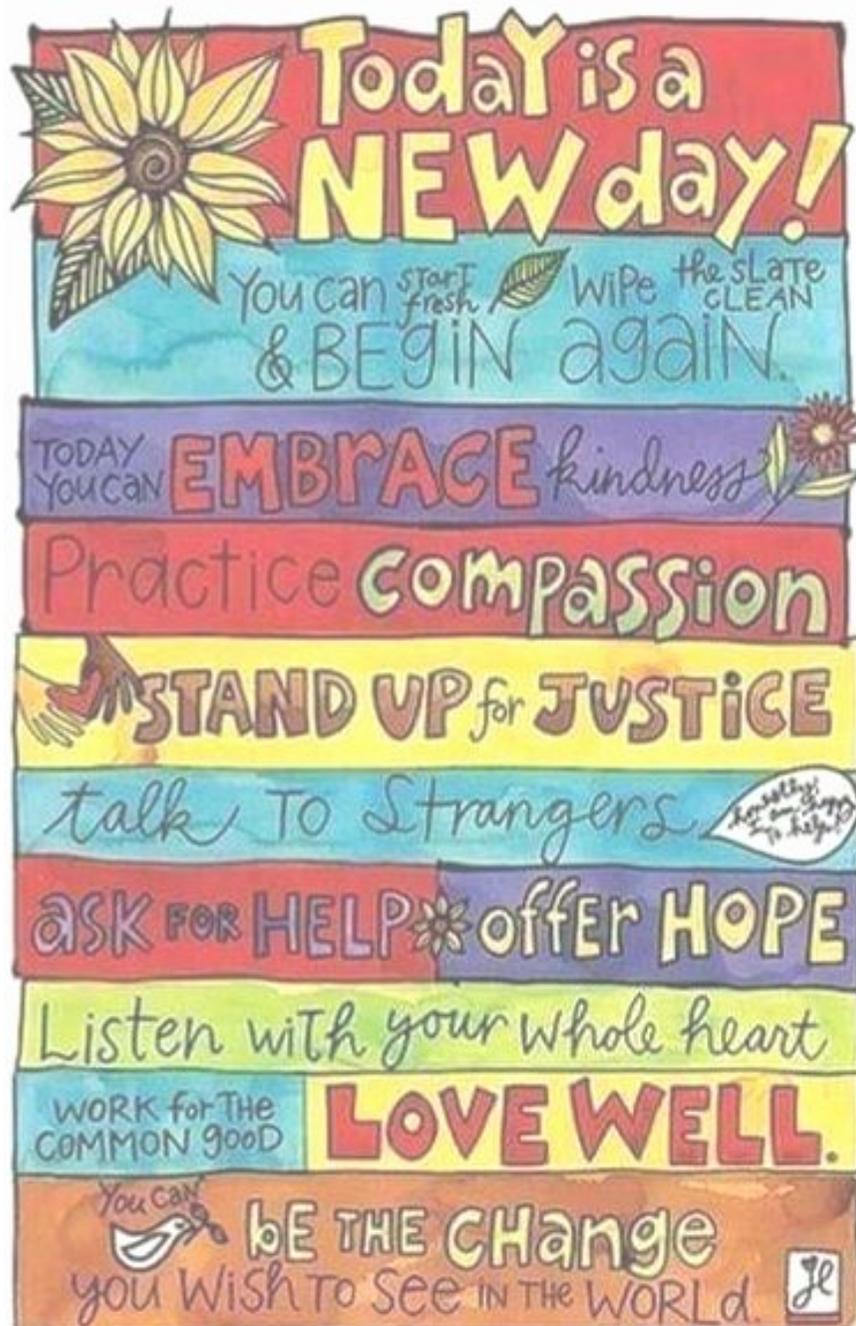
'Q' is an informal café style service when we gather and discuss different topics on a variety of subjects, along with modern worship songs and finger food.



Held on the first Sunday of each month at 6.30 pm.

- 3 June:** BIG Questions, led by a panel of three
- 1 July:** The Origins of Human Spirituality, led by Mick Hickman.
- 5 Aug:** *No Q this month (Pride Weekend)*

***Do come along and join us!***



Submitted by Deeptima Massey

## Worship Programme

Morning services offer time to listen for the Word of God together, to catch up with old friends and make new ones over coffee. Evenings are relaxed and informal and offer a variety of different approaches to God. Please do come along - a warm welcome awaits you!



### SUNDAY 3 JUNE

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Mr Paul Steadman

7 pm, Q Café Worship: "Big Questions"

Led by a Panel of Three

### SUNDAY 10 JUNE: METHODIST HOMES SUNDAY

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Revd Deborah Cornish; Preacher Mr Stuart Dyer

*(No Evening Service)*

### SUNDAY 17 JUNE

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Mr Geoff Harrington

*(No Evening Service)*

