

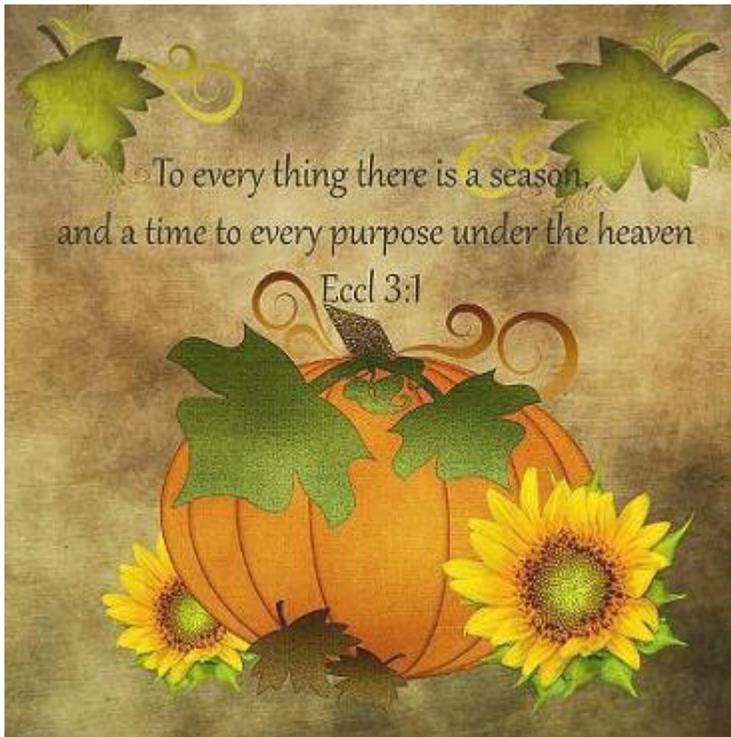


# NEWSLETTER

October / November 2018

No. 258

**Dorset Gardens Methodist Church**



# Manse Musings



Dear Friends

Twelve months ago I sat at my computer and said thank you for your warm welcome; I can now safely say that I am no longer the newbie. I've completed many of my 'firsts' at Dorset Gardens, though I am sure there are more to come.

It's been a wonderful first year, though not without its challenges. Some of our friends have moved on and become part of the 'bright succession', and new faces have appeared and stayed.

So what have we in store for the next three months?

There will be an opportunity to join in 'Biblical Conversations' on a Wednesday afternoon with Cynthia Tudor (I'll pop in when I can), and there are four sessions on 'Women in Waiting' during December and early January.

In addition, a great deal of money has been spent in making our church lighting as environmentally sustainable as we possibly can, but I would like us to go further than that and think about how we use the God given resources carefully and more thoughtfully. So, together with the stewards, we will be looking at putting on an event to think these issues through.

Finally, to pick up on the success of the Summer Holiday Club, we will be holding a Christmas Club on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December. If you fancy getting involved, let me or Liz Neale (our children and family worker) know.

Full details of everything mentioned will be advertised in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile I hope you are able to enjoy the mellow mists of autumn and the fruit of much labour, as we celebrate God's creation at our harvest service.

Shalom,

Deborah

**Good Luck at University Emmanuel**



## Memories of Ruth Watts

Cheese scones and the lightest of sponges; that's what first comes to mind when I think of Ruth. But there was of course a great deal more to her than cooking, although that was a big part of her life.

Ruth was born and brought up in Manchester, which was a dreary, smoggy place, especially during the war. She met and married Bill and as a new bride came to Brighton to a new job. She got out at the station, the sun was shining and she could see the sea. She immediately fell in love with the place and always insisted in living in a house where she could see the sea. When she moved up to Yarm she again made sure she was near water and the river lapped at her back garden.

For all of her working life Ruth worked as a radiographer, for many years running the x-ray department at Bevendean Hospital (long since gone). Some Sundays she would be on-call, but would still be at church and would have to slip out discreetly if her pager went off.

She and Bill were dedicated and hardworking members of the church, which in those days included the evening services at the Dome Mission. Ruth held many offices including church steward and circuit steward; she and Bill ran a youth club; she organised the catering for most church events and I remember her, at the official opening of our present church, standing at the doorway to the main hall to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of the County to tea.

She was a very skilled seamstress and when I first arrived at Dorset Gardens I saw this lady, sitting upstairs in the gallery on the left hand side, most impeccably dressed, usually in clothes she had made herself. She sewed for her family and friends, including her daughter's wedding and bridesmaid dresses and theological garments for her son-in-law Stuart. There are at least two sets of tablecloths at the church which she ran up.

She demonstrated her "love of God" in her personal life and in her church life, but she demonstrated her "love thy neighbour" most of

all in her home. She welcomed so many people to Sunday lunch - they were never sure how many would come. She and Bill ran a house group (with scones and cake of course) and she continued this after Bill died. They entertained in the evenings whether a specific celebration or just "we're having a coffee evening" which would turn out to be a full-blown buffet supper with bring and buy stalls and hand made trinkets for sale. But it was her caring which I remember, discreet but personal concern, when I was going through dark times, a quiet word, a short note, a timely phone call.

When she felt she was having some difficulties managing on her own, she decided to move to be near her daughter Helen. It was her own decision and she lived in Yarm, near Middlesbrough, for the last seven years or so, living independently until fairly recently.

Whilst there she was an active member of Yarm Methodist Church, singing in the choir, running a house group and making red gingham tablecloths for the church hall.

Thank you Ruth for all your love and care over the years.

*Rosemary Cuthbert*

## A Further Tribute to Bryan Moody

When I joined the Brunswick, West Hove & Portslade branch of the University of the Third Age three years ago, one of the first people I saw at that meeting was Bryan Moody.

He was Vice Chairman and looked after the new members. He was leader of the cycling group, local history group and Pétanque (bowls) group and he also arranged educational visits to places of local interest or to London.

He was a good friend to many and will be greatly missed.

*Peggy Henderson*

# Pastoral Care



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

**Deaths:** Elsie Gendre, Robyn Rockmann (Paul & Margie Winter's daughter), Fred Trott, Ruth Watts, Jessie Wise.

**In Hospital:-**

Stella Lawson.

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

Ken Amey, Frankie Gee, Peggy Henderson, Marian Jackson, John Marchant, Gwen Mosdall.

**Please continue to pray for:-**

Joy Gale, Sheila Morgan.

**Congratulations to:-**

Emmanuel Osei on starting his course at Colchester University.

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

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

**May you be wrapped up in God's love, found deep in his everlasting wings, carried and kept, safe and cherished.  
May the healing power of Christ breathe across your being now.**



# Money Matters

## Offertories

Date	am £	pm £
5 Aug	189.30	---
12 Aug	1221,56	---
19 Aug	194.73	---
26 Aug	220.90	---
2 Sept	1297.40	16.90
9 Sept	---	---
16 Sept	348.90	16.50 BF
23 Sept	219.55	---
30 Sept	317.20	---
<b>Retiring Offertories Benevolent Fund</b>		32.50



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

# Really Wild About Nature!

## Holiday Club 2018

We had a brilliant menagerie of 48 children going really WILD about nature at the holiday club this year. Enthusiastic youngsters aged 4 to 10 from our church fellowship, Cub Scouts, Carlton Hill Primary School and the wider community attended. Each day the fun lasted from 9.30 am to 1 pm. We took over the entire building for three days with nature posters lining the walls and fun facts about our wonderful native wildlife dotted all around.

Every day we started with collage making and joke telling, followed by our energetic 'Shake Break' warm-up dance and a rousing rendition of the Bare Necessities, this year's theme song. We played some great team games with plenty of relay races and lots of running around. We also had three competitive really WILD challenges – eating tinned peaches with chopsticks, scoffing a biscuit dangling on a piece of string, and stacking 25 pennies in a tower using only one hand. These are harder than they sound!



We had a lovely puppet performance each day, exploring themes about nature and our world and how we can take care of this beautiful planet. The children thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful cookery session each day, baking delicious treats to take home including cheesy pastry snails & chocolate buttercream hedgehogs. We got through more than a hundred loo rolls with our craft workshops - thanks to everyone who donated their loo roll inners!

On Tuesday the children met our special visitor Graham who brought in two of his rescued hedgehogs. They had a good snuffle round the building!

The following day two incredible Capoeira dancers from Amazonas Arts ran some very energetic and musical workshops. Thanks to South East Dance who kindly arranged this!

On Thursday Kevin from Hawking About ran an awesome workshop, introducing the children to his birds of prey and flying them about the Sanctuary! We met a barn owl, a kestrel, a tawny owl, a little owl, and even the fastest creature on the planet –



a peregrine falcon! It was a magical experience watching such beautiful birds at close range and feeling the whoosh of air as they flew inches above our heads. Kevin threw down the gauntlet – literally – and many of the children had the birds land on their gloved hand. They were very brave and it was a truly unforgettable experience.



We had a fabulous celebration with parents and carers at the end of the week – there was cake and a cuppa for all and we chatted about the fun activities we'd done. Everyone joined in as we sang the Bare Necessities and then some very brave parents had a go at our really WILD challenges, egged on by the crowd of eager children.

**A huge, huge thank you to all our amazing volunteers who worked so hard to deliver a fantastic holiday club!**

It was a massive team effort and without the hard work and dedication of truly brilliant volunteers, we would not be able to put on such a spectacular holiday club.

*Liz Neale, Children's & Families Support Worker*



# Then Sings my Soul



An afternoon in the company of God, with hymns,  
tea and cake, and a time for fellowship.

**Saturday 27 October, 2.30 to 4 pm**

Led by Deeptima and Deborah with Tony Leonard  
on the piano.

**All welcome! Free admission!**

*Any donations will go towards DG funds*

# Circuit Day

## Art & Craft Workshop

We had fun planning the Art & Craft Workshop but, sadly, on the day Shirley was not well enough to be there.

In her absence we continued with what she had planned; exploring colour and texture through paint graining. We had all colours of the rainbow - a reminder of God's promise or covenant with Noah. Dragging hand-cut card combs through thick paint making patterns and designs, some chose to use a smaller selection of colours.

Ann Collins led the group in the second craft which was making Angels by folding old books, we used some old Hymns & Psalms which we thought was appropriate; heavenly choir and all that! We then decorated them with fabric wings, polystyrene heads and ribbon collars.



The display in the hall for the Covenant service was lovely with the angels along the front of the stage and the rainbow of colour displayed below them.

*Shirley Veater, Ann Collins & Sue Harrington*



### **Poetry and Meditation Workshop**

The workshop went very well and the number attending was 12. We covered Christmas and the Resurrection and also gave a short time to blind Bartimaeus. Members wrote either poetry or a meditation, the choice was theirs. The discussion was lively and interesting, right to the end, and many spontaneous and generous comments were made.

*Selwyn Veater*

### **Hymn Writing Workshop**

My group was tasked with writing a Covenant Hymn to be sung at the Service in the afternoon. Eight people came along to the workshop and I explained that we were going to try and write a hymn to

the tune of Stowey, which was originally set to the hymn 'When a knight won his spurs in the stories of old'.

I had already written out a verse to give the group an idea to start with and then we decided to try and write a further three verses focussing on Bob Hinton's excellent perspectives on Covenant that had started the day.

Some people wrote individually others paired up or wrote in a group and our three verses were to be one focussing on the Old Testament, one on the New Testament and the third on our relationship with God. We were so prolific that six verses were written and we decided to keep five of them to add to my original verse and set about putting them in the best order.

Our newly written hymn was sung at the service in the afternoon and was a great hit:-

### **Covenant Hymn (Tune Stowey)**

Lord we come in your presence, Lord help us this day,  
To know how to serve you, Lord show us the way.  
We open our hearts to your love and your will,  
Oh, grant that each day we will follow you still.

O God our creator who made us his own  
And promised to cherish us world without end  
His rainbow a sign of his Covenant care  
If only we recognise Love everywhere

Jeremiah told Israel and Judah the past  
Based on Testament governed by Law held them fast.  
But a covenant written within, on their heart  
Was essential if their new free life was to start.

When at supper Lord Jesus gave thanks for their bread  
"Here's my body that's broken for you all", he said  
"In the same way the cup is your covenant, sealed  
With my blood for forgiveness, and so you are healed".

Lord we love you with mind and with soul and with heart  
And once you have fed us, we each play our part  
To offer our help to our neighbour to pray  
Our thanks to you Lord and no longer to stray.

As inheritors all of these covenants true  
We stand here today with our hearts turned to you  
To relate to the infinite, Christ shows us how  
Through grace and through faith we commit to you now.

*Ian Lamb*

## **Bread Making Workshop**



## Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

At Harvest there is one hymn that is likely to be sung in most churches and is also likely to be the first hymn in the service. That hymn is 'Come, ye thankful people, come'. What a wonderful first verse, a real expression of thanksgiving...

Come, ye thankful people, come,  
 Raise the song of harvest-home!  
 All is safely gathered in,  
 Ere the winter storms begin;  
 God, our maker, doth provide  
 For our wants to be supplied;  
 Come to God's own temple, come,  
 Raise the song of harvest-home.

The subsequent verses though are not verses of thanksgiving and have been the subject of much criticism and discussion particularly in Eric Routley's *Hymns Today and Tomorrow* (1964). He states that the rest of the verses are a homily on certain biblical texts on the theme of the last judgement.

The hymn was written by Henry Alford (1810-71) and was first published in his *Psalms and Hymns* (1844). It was revised in his *Poetical Works* (1865) and his *Year of Praise* (1867) in 7 verses of 8 lines each. It became very popular and there are many variants of the text but is usually restricted to the four verses that are found in the last three Methodist Hymn Books although there have been a few adaptations to these verses in *Singing the Faith* (2011). You will particularly notice these alterations in the first verse.

Henry Alford was born in Bloomsbury, London on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1810 and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and became a Fellow of the College. He took Holy Orders in 1833, and after several parish appointments he became Dean of Canterbury in 1857. He died in Canterbury on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1871. Although he

wrote numerous hymns and poetical works this is the only one of his hymns that became successful.

The tune, *St George's, Windsor*, was composed by Sir George J Elvey (1816-93) and was published in Thorne's *A Selection of Psalm & Hymn Tunes* (1858), where it was set to James Montgomery's hymn 'Hark, the song of Jubilee'. It was set to the present words in the first edition of *Hymns Ancient & Modern* (1861) and has been closely associated with them ever since. The tune is also set to Charles Wesley's 'See how great a flame aspires'.

George Elvey was born in Canterbury on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1816 and became a chorister of Canterbury Cathedral, but when his brother Stephen was appointed organist of New College, Oxford, he transferred there. He later studied at the Royal Academy of Music and became organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, 1835-82. He was knighted in 1871 and he is buried outside the west front of St. George's Chapel.

Much of his church music is now forgotten but another two of his hymn tunes survive in our hymn book.

Despite the criticisms of the words of this hymn it has become a firm favourite for Harvest services and I am sure will remain so for many years to come, but beware when you next sing it, if you are like me and know the words to that first off by heart, you will probably find yourselves singing different words to the rest of the congregation!

*Ian Lamb*



## Pizza the Action



*Pizzas ready to cook for 'Meet the Chaplains' at Sussex University and Chaplaincy table at Brighton University's International Orientation Freshers.*

Deadlines and events wait for no one... so a postcard from the Chaplaincies this time...

We're right in mid-Freshers or 'Welcome Week' as it is now called at the University of Sussex. We've served enormous quantities of pizza, handed out information about the Chaplaincy and will be serving up brunches too - all with a smile and, we hope, the message that we want students to have a great time and that the Chaplaincy might be part of that.

More next time, must dash. Thanks for your support.

Sue x

## Lyn's Reception Reflections

The daily receptionists are mostly members of the church who invariably are involved with other functions of the church. They are needed not only to assist Angela, but to welcome and be of assistance to whoever comes through the door.

It is essential to be there to answer the phone as Angela has her work cut out sometimes to comply to the various jobs she does. Occasionally she will give the receptionist jobs to do, such as folding the newsletter and annual reports, putting notices on the notice board and supplying her with a good cup of coffee.

If first on the scene they put the lights on where needed and switch on the water heater. Some will water the plants and make sure the foyer looks presentable. Before groups and outside bookings arrive, the receptionist will check the hall or room to see it is ready, making sure fire doors are unlocked, etc. Occasionally a visitor will arrive and want a guided tour. At odd times a forlorn person comes in and wants a quiet word of comfort in the chapel or just a chat over a cuppa in the foyer.

A couple of time a year the electricity or gas man comes to read the meters and need to be escorted to the various cupboards. Stationery and cleaning goods arrive and need unpacking and putting away.

A rota is prepared by Angela. Some receptionists do regular days, others may do a regular day plus covering extra bookings.

Mondays start at 7 am and two receptionists cover alternate Mondays as coming in every Monday blurry eyed is just too much. At 9.30 am another person regularly takes over. During the week there is a variety of people, covering the welcome desk at various times depending on who is using the building. No two days are the

same, and some people will juggle the reception duty with another job such as flower arranging at the weekend. There is never a day when a receptionist is not required to cover some part of the day.

It is a rewarding task, that offers an opportunity to meet different people, and to extend to them a warm welcome and to those in need of compassion and understanding.

If you think this is something that you would be interested in doing, Angela would be delighted to add other names to the list.

*Lyn Maine*

## The King and I



Ours cannot be the only house to receive kilos of uninvited junk mail, including details of very attractive excursions ranging from brief visits to the promise of worldwide luxury holidays.

Our Autumn trip this year, on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September, did involve a brief visit – to the London Palladium, no less – and although we did not get as far as the exotic Far East we did see, learn and thoroughly enjoy the music and dancing at the time when England dominated one quarter of the world. Add to this a storyline which remains feasible while providing some precious moments of tear-jerking.

The two principals did their jobs well although it was hard to avoid taking trips down memory lane and not quite coming face to face with Yul Brynner in person.

Ken Watanabe had played the King in the American production on Broadway, receiving a Tony Award for excellence, but Kelli O’Hara was in my opinion the better actor.

Alan and Graham’s organisation was superb, as ever, and we had a greater opportunity than on previous outings to be thankful for the work of Peter Head, our driver. Manoeuvring a mighty long coach through the London traffic is no joke at the best of times, but within the last 100 metres of our journey we encountered delays owing to two separate excavations on works involving the cross-rail plan.

Getting in to the theatre was difficult enough, when we had to de-bus quickly because the police would allow only the briefest of stops for Wyn’s wheelchair to be scooped out of the luggage space in the bowels of the coach; getting home was worse because Peter was unable to tell us which side of the road he would be allowed to return – and a more difficult pick-up because it was rush-hour, with thousands of workers streaming out in search of bus, tube or train, to say nothing of the many cyclists racing at faster speeds than the motorised traffic.

Good humour made our half-hour wait tolerable; and once again thanks to Alan & Graham “the old firm”.

*Dick Morley*

# Worship Programme

Morning services offer time to listen for the Word of God together, catch up with old friends and make new ones over coffee.

Evenings are relaxed and informal offering a variety of approaches to God. Please do come along - a warm welcome awaits you!



## **SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER: HARVEST FESTIVAL**

**9 am, Morning Communion**

Led by Revd Deborah Cornish

**10.30 am, Harvest All Age Worship**

Led by Revd Deborah Cornish

**6.30 pm, Harvest Songs of Praise**

Led by Mr Ken Smith

## **SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER**

**10.30 am, Morning Worship**

Led by Revd Inderjit Bhogal OBE

***(No Evening Service)***

**SUNDAY 21 OCTOBER**

**10.30 am, Morning Worship**

Led by Mr Bob Hinton

**6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion**

Led by Revd Deborah Cornish

**SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER**

**10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion**

Led by Revd Andy Lowe

*(No Evening Service)*



**SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER**

**10.30 am, Morning Worship**

Led by Revd Deborah Cornish

**6.30 pm, “Q” Café Worship**

Led by Revd Deborah Cornish

**SUNDAY 11 NOVEMBER: REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

**10.30 am, Morning Worship**

Led by Mr Ken Smith

*(No Evening Service)*

