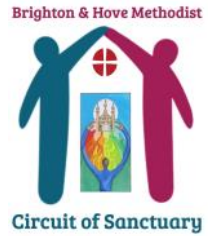




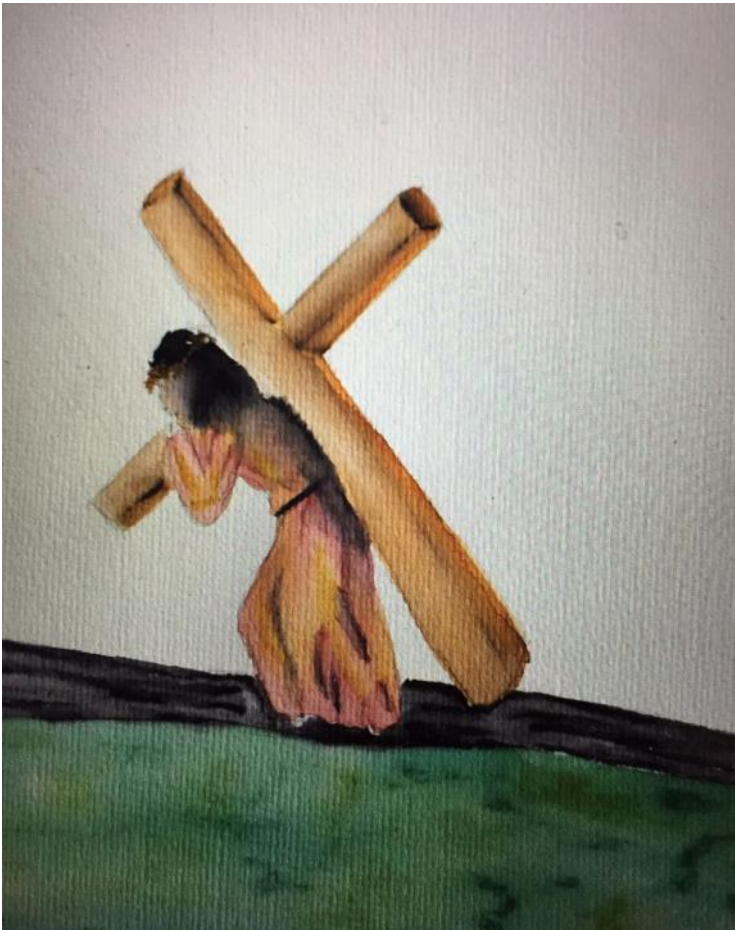
NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

No. 279



Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton



Artwork by Sam Dyke

A Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends

For some people it is the Baptism of Jesus which is the moment when the man Jesus is so infused with the Spirit of God that he becomes the embodiment of the eternal and universal Christ.

It is the first story of Jesus that appears in all four of the Gospels found in our Bibles which is one reason why some feel that the birth narratives found in the first two chapters of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke are additions to the story of Jesus, written to underline the special nature of this man Jesus who had been to his first followers the one who had revealed God to them.

Whatever our view on that, the baptism of Jesus is most certainly an important moment as it seems to mark a moment of transformation in Jesus as the story then records him going into the wilderness where he is tempted and then he begins his public ministry and a journey which brings new life and hope to many whilst being a challenge to others.

In one of the early public appearances of Jesus in Luke's Gospel he is in his home town of Nazareth and was in the synagogue and he stood up to read the lesson and was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and he read the passage which says: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

This is sometimes known as the Jesus manifesto or his mission statement and clearly it speaks of challenge and transformation in every phrase.

Conflict with power and authorities would seem to be an inevitable consequence of a life lived with that purpose alongside the joy that would be felt by those whose lives would be transformed. And so it proved to be. As lives were changed by the words and deeds of Jesus opposition grows and in time Jesus is arrested, tried with false testimony, and executed as a common criminal.

But that death didn't stop the transformation of lives. The penitent thief and the centurion are stories symbolic of lives transformed through conversation and through witness. And, following the strengthening of the apostles at Pentecost, lives continued to be changed and authorities challenged.

And the wonder is that the story still has that same effect today. It is an eternal and ongoing story which still has the power to challenge and transform. Even when we have found truth in the story and been challenged and transformed, the ways of Jesus continue to challenge us and transform us and the situations we find ourselves in.

My prayer is that we, as people who have been transformed because of Jesus, may also be people who challenge injustice and hatred and work for the transformation of the lives of people around us and the communities and society we live in.

In Christian love,

Andy



Pastoral Care

Please pray for our friends who need our support at this time:-

Deaths:-

Anne de Young.

In Hospital:-

Janie Thomas.

In Nursing, Care & Rehabilitation Homes:-

Val Boyd-Pain, Anne Bristow, Marian Jackson, Pat Knight, Ian Parker.

Please continue to pray for:-

The future of our church and circuit, its vision and mission. We also pray for those who are in bereavement, those who are frail, housebound or experiencing long-term health conditions.

Prayers for the World:-

We pray for our worldwide family thinking of those troubled by conflict, persecution, hatred and natural disasters. We ask that God works through us to bring peace and compassion into this broken and suffering world. Amen



A Tribute to Anne de Young

Anne was born on 17th January 1945 in Allahabad, Northern India. Then as a young lady along with her Mum, Nan and Aunt she emigrated to the UK setting up home in Brighton.



I had the pleasure of knowing Anne for 10 years having been introduced by Margaret. I met Anne when I lost my partner and she supported me bringing me back to full strength. Anne always spoke warmly about her Mum and the rest of the family. She enjoyed looking after her two nieces taking them to the seafront on their numerous visits. When Anne would return from work, her nieces would be waiting waving at the window. Anne loved her holidays and travelled as far as the USA and Canada and also enjoyed her church outings.

When Anne moved to Brighton she initially went to Stanford Avenue MC, moving onto London Road. When the latter closed, Anne became one of the first residents of Purbeck House which led her to Dorset Gardens, where she was actively involved in numerous

activities, particularly making afternoon teas. Anne's main passion was photography and built an enormous collection of photographs.

Anne lived a full and loving life, but sadly having been weakened by Covid she passed away peacefully on 9th December 2023.

Ray Waller



Remembering Anne de Young

Anne was such a valued and loyal person at both our Art & Craft club and at Cameo. At Art & Craft, I remember how she would take on untangling the balls of yarn in our big bag and similarly sort out the ribbons for us, such a kind act as it benefitted the group, but meant that Anne was, uncomplainingly, giving up her own valuable crafting time.

At Cameo she would faithfully turn up to help prepare the tea and stay to help clear up afterwards. She knew I needed good quality sharp knives to cut cakes and sandwiches, which the church didn't possess, so every Cameo day she would bring 3 or 4 beautiful knives wrapped in bags for safety and leave them ready for me. Anne was the "ham thins" expert!

She wasn't a loud or bold person, but you knew you could depend on her. Thank you Anne, we will miss you.

Shirley Veater & Sue Harrington

My Memories of Anne de Young: Her Servant Heart



I was so saddened to learn of Anne's sudden death. We will greatly miss her quiet ways of service at Dorset Gardens. Anne fully lived out that lovely line in George Herbert's "Teach me my God and King": "who sweeps a room as for thy laws, makes that and the action fine."

Anne is why we moved to the dustpan and brush that you can use standing up, making the action not only fine – but also a lot easier!

Anne was always doing little things for us: supplying fresh pencils, topping up the supply of biscuits or milk, washing tea towels, adding little ribbon tags to them so they could be hung in the servery. Anne was a great help during holiday clubs too when she looked after the children's drinks and biscuits - and kept a watchful eye on the little ones who wanted to sneak a third or fourth biscuit.

The Gentle Exercise Class that met regularly for a bit of (extremely) gentle exercise and (more importantly) coffee and biscuits only kept going thanks to Anne's faithfulness. When I was tasked with making coffee for those meetings, more often than not Anne would quietly move into the servery and do the washing up. We've missed Anne very much when following the isolation of lockdown she became more reluctant to be out and about. Ray's support was invaluable in ensuring that when she was able, she joined in church activities; but even her courageous little spirit could not survive her frailty.

We remember her with enormous gratitude; we value her example to us all; and we rejoice that she now rests in peace. Thank you Anne for your servant's heart.

Cynthia Park

Christmas Club 2023

We had a fabulously festive time at Christmas Club last December making some of the largest crafts we've ever seen. The children created giant snowflakes that were almost as big as themselves, which will look beautiful displayed in front windows across our community. We had a rainbow display of paper angels too, and of course a few festive jokes were told across the day.





Rosemary did an amazing job helping the children decorate wonderful chocolate Yule logs to take home.

Parents also appreciated the chance for a cuppa and a delicious coconut snowball biscuit while we all chatted and sang our Christmas song together at the close of the day.

A huge thanks to volunteers Dawn, Jennie, Jenny and Rosemary, as well as Revd Andy, all of whom made our Saturday Christmas Club a very special event.



Liz Neale

Tearaway Tots Christmas Party



We welcomed an incredible sixty families to our Tots Christmas parties this year. It was so wonderful to celebrate with children old and new, welcoming many babies for their first ever Christmas and also seeing toddlers growing up into confident little people who love to see us at Dorset Gardens each week.

A huge thank you to Vikki & Rosemary for their amazing help with all the party food. We had so many tasty treats we were able to donate many items to the refugee food bank.

Thank you to Mike Kennedy for getting in touch with our very special visitor from the North Pole; the tots were absolutely thrilled to meet Father Christmas and everyone went home with a beautiful gift of a book.

Liz Neale

Farewell Liz... and Thank You!



As many of you will know Liz Neale, our Children & Families Worker, has left us for pastures new and future challenges.

We thank Liz for her wonderful work with our young people and wish her all the best for the future.

Kushma's 90th Birthday

On Sunday 21st January Kushma celebrated her special birthday with a lovely Tea Party enjoyed by all.



Thank You, Tony!



Thank you to Tony Leonard for his loving devotion in providing the church with uplifting music over many years. It has inspired, touched and blessed us all.

My Faith Journey

I feel privileged to share with you a journey that is deeply personal and profoundly transformative - my journey of faith as a Christian.

My journey began not with a dramatic event, but as a quiet stirring in my heart. It was a search for meaning, for something more than what the material world offered. As I delved into the teachings of Christianity, I found a message of love, hope, and redemption that resonated deeply within me. The story of Jesus Christ - His life, His sacrifice, and His teachings - opened a new path for me, one that led towards compassion, forgiveness, and unconditional love. Trying to have an encounter with God. Knowing that I had a responsibility of walking in holiness and faith is something we can do.

To have an encounter with God, I had to enter into this relationship through real, authentic experiences and recognising his presence in my life and in others. There were challenges, of course. Moments of doubt and periods of questioning are part of any sincere journey of faith. Yet, in these times, I found the Christian community to be a pillar of support. Their kindness and wisdom were beacons of light in my moments of darkness.

One of the most profound aspects of my journey has been understanding the concept of grace. The realisation that we are loved and forgiven, not because of what we do, but because of who God is, was life changing. It taught me to extend the same grace to others, to love without conditions, to forgive without hesitation.

God dwells in the praises of his people as the word of God says in Psalms 22:3 “God inhabits the praises of his people”. This is also confirmed in the book of Zechariah 4:10 where God says to Zerubbabel “For who hath despised the day of small things?” Sometimes we feel as if our work of building is too small to be noticed or too big for our strength. Both ideas are a mistake. Our building and our service is by God’s grace and not by our merit. When we realise that, it helps prevent both pride and discouragement. What matters is the source of our building, not the size of our building.

I am a work in progress. My faith journey is not complete, perhaps it never will be. But I am grateful for every step, for every lesson, and for the incredible love and grace that have been shown to me along the way. Thank you for allowing me to share a part of my story with you. God bless us all.

Samuel Adjei

Friendship, Family and Faith

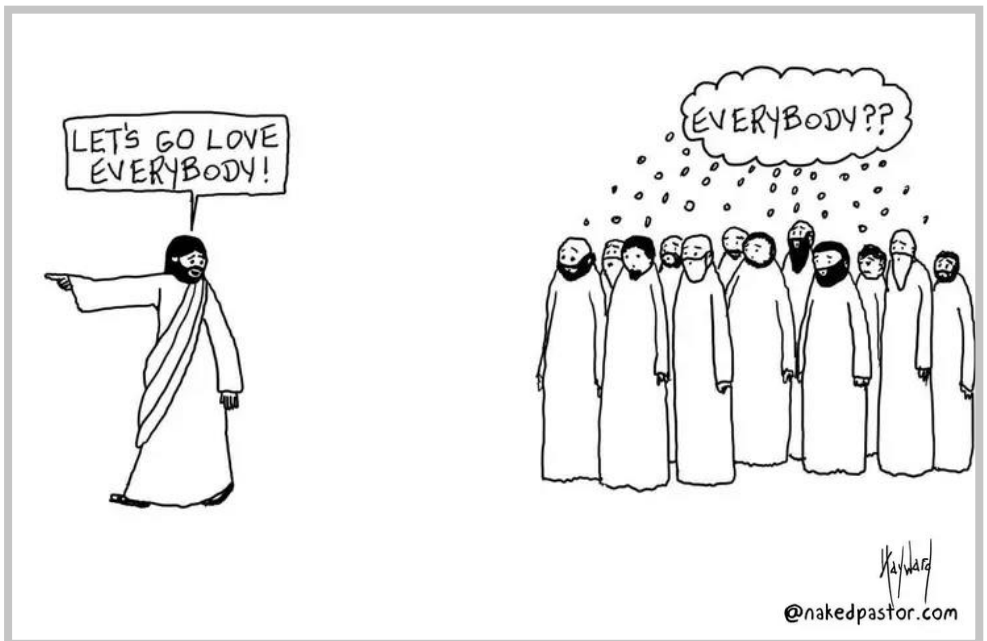
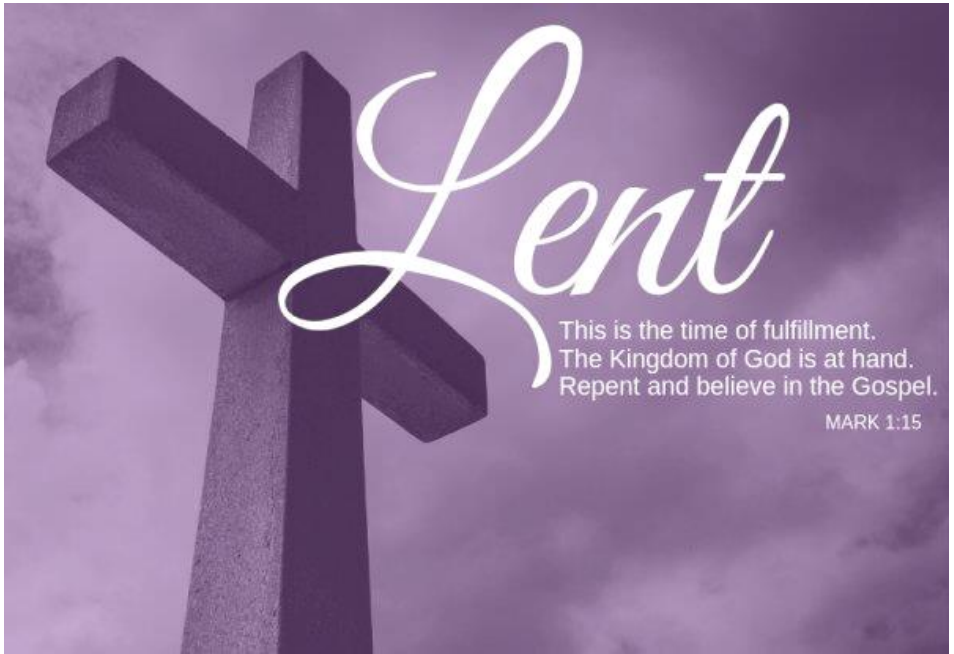
A few weeks ago I had to have a review of my experience of moving into this new home. One thing I said was that it had enriched my life because as well as being near my family I am surrounded by friendship and faith.

Of course I always have been, having belonged throughout my life to a succession of great church families, but now that I am living in a "narrowed world" stripped of a multitude of activities and travel opportunities and out of physical contact with people from my past other than the family, I am treasuring these new experiences of new friends and faith more than ever.

Faith undergirds this home. It is there in the daily opportunities for worship if you wish to attend, but what is equally important is that it emerges in the actions and attitudes of the management, the residents and their relatives as well as the multifaith carers. Their mutual patient forbearance, their empathy and concern, gestures and friendly greetings when we meet. The more I get to know the people here through sharing in activities and mealtimes together the more I discover that the love of God is as deeply embedded in their lives as it is in mine, albeit via a variety of faith traditions.

I am ever thankful for the past, but I really am enjoying yet a further lease on life with these new friends and faith experiences. My life is indeed being enriched yet again!

Cynthia Tudor



Lent



The word 'Lent' comes from the Old English word 'lencten' for Spring, referring to the lengthening of days, but that tells us nothing about Lent itself: anymore than the word Easter which, according to the Venerable Bede (c. 672-735) comes from the Anglo-Saxon goddess, 'Eostre', whose festival was held at the spring equinox tells us about the meaning of Easter.

Lent is first mentioned at the Council of Nicaea in 325, but was obviously practiced before that. Those practices have two sources. First, in baptism. By the 4th century most baptisms were conducted at the Easter vigil so that the baptized would, *'die with Christ and rise with him on Easter Sunday morning'*. Anyone wishing to be baptised (called 'catechumens') had to give in their names at least forty days in advance. As a part of their preparation for baptism catechumens attended classes and special prayers. These classes, led by the local bishop (there would be a bishop in each town), dealt with basic Christian beliefs and practices. Some lectures from the 4th century have survived and it is these and earlier lectures that gave rise to the Creeds which are such a unique feature of Christianity amongst the religions of the world.

Secondly, the great festivals were preceded by periods of preparation, which included fasting. The fast of Advent preceded

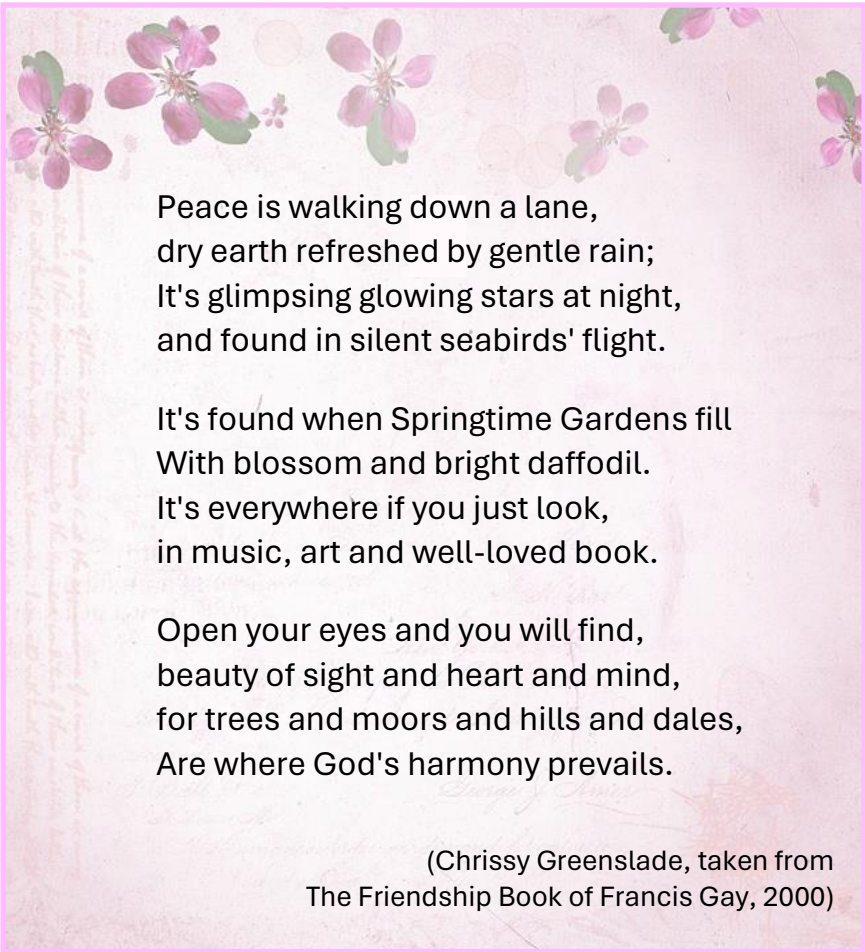
Christmas, the fast of Lent preceded Easter. The Lenten fast of forty days, was followed by all Christians as well as the 'catechumens'. It recalled Jesus' forty days in the wilderness.

Sunday was not a fast day so the six weeks preceding Easter were extended adding four days before the first Sunday in Lent. Therefore, Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, so called because people had ash placed on their forehead as a sign of repentance at the start of this season. In England, the day before Ash Wednesday is called Shrove Tuesday because on that day in the Middle Ages people confessed their sins and received absolution (Old English 'shriving') from a priest as part of the preparation. They also had a feast of all the food not allowed during Lent, often making it into a 'pancake'.

During Lent, the traditional fast was to abstain from meat, dairy products and other luxuries. Many still follow this practice. I once visited a Russian Orthodox priest during Lent. He had forgotten the time that I was due and his wife was out shopping, so all he could offer me was a banana and an ice-lolly!

Nowadays whilst some Christians still 'give things up' for Lent, others will (either 'as well as', or 'instead of') 'take on something' for Lent, such as good works, study, prayer, etc, thereby returning, unwittingly, to the practice of the catechumens. Whilst the practices have changed, and we no longer associate it with baptism, we still use Lent as a period of preparation for the Great Feast of Easter.

Mick Hickman



Thoughts for Quiet Reflection

- ✝ My abundance can serve another person's need.
- ✝ Today, I will ponder the ways God is inviting me to love my neighbour.
- ✝ I will meet God in prayer and quietness.

2024



LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical

Thursday 14th - Saturday 16th March @ 7.30 pm

Saturday Matinee @ 2 pm

Patcham Methodist Church Hall,
Ladies Mile Road, Patcham

Tickets £12 (concessions for children and families)
online @ barnstormers.org.uk Or
box office on 01273 307109

Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and
Nell Benjamin

Book by Heather Hach

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown
and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International all authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk

All profits will be donated to the development fund of Patcham Methodist Church

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday ~ 24th March

10.30 am, Morning Worship
Led by Deeptima Massey

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion
Led by Revd Cynthia Park

Maundy Thursday ~ 28th March

1 pm, Service of Prayer & Praise with Communion
Led by Revd Andy Lowe

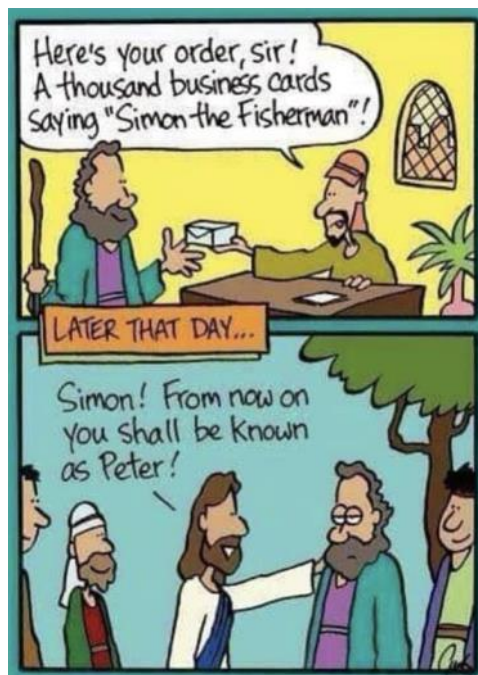
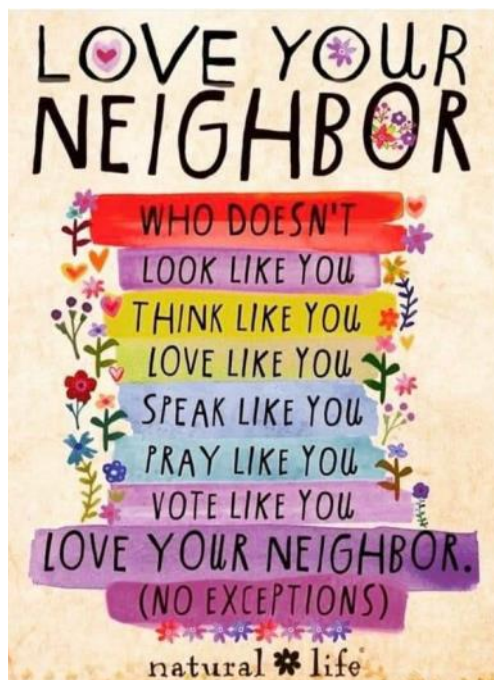
Good Friday ~ 29th March

4 pm, A Service for Good Friday
Led by Revd Andy Lowe

Easter Sunday ~ 31st March

10.30 am, Easter Celebration with Communion
Led by Revd Cynthia Park





Worship Programme at Dorset Gardens

Sunday 3 March ~ Third Sunday of Lent

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Heather Leake Date

Sunday 10 March ~ Mothering Sunday

9 am, Morning Communion

10.30 am, All Age Worship

Both Services Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 17 March ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 24 March ~ Palm Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Deeptima Massey

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion - Led by Cynthia Park

Thursday 28 March ~ Maundy Thursday

1 pm, Service of Prayer & Praise with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe

Friday 29 March ~ Good Friday

4 pm, Good Friday Service - Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 31 March ~ Easter Sunday

10.30 am, Easter Celebration with Communion

Led by Cynthia Park



Sunday 7 April

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Paul Steadman

Sunday 14 April

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 21 April

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Ken Smith

Sunday 28 April

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Dan Woodhouse

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 5 May

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 12 May ~ Church Anniversary

10.30 am, Church Anniversary Service

Led by Ken Smith

Sunday 19 May ~ Pentecost Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Wynn Funnell

Sunday 26 May ~ Trinity Sunday

10.30 am, Circuit Together Service at Patcham MC

Led by Andy Lowe & Dan Balsdon

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park - At Dorset Gardens



Artwork by Sam Dyke

The Summer 2024 edition of Newsletter will be published on Sunday 2nd June 2024. Any items for inclusion must reach the Editor, Deeptima Massey, **by Sunday 12th May 2024**. Email: **office@dgmc.org.uk**

Disclaimer: "The items contained within this newsletter are personal views and not necessarily the views of The Methodist Church".