



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023

No. 277



Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton

Manse Musings

Dear Friends

*Thank you, O God, for the time that is now,¹
Thank you, O God, for the time that is past,
Thank you for hopes of the day that will come,
Thank you that now is the time of our life.*

There is a Greek word, *anamnesis*, which has meaning for both the medical profession and the Christian community. I'm sure it's a word that rolls off your tongue every day; or maybe not. However, you probably at some point in each day do what the word means, that is 'bring to mind, or recall an event; in other words, we remember.

In the medical profession, this word might be used in terms of taking someone's medical history, as the patient remembers what childhood ailments they may have had, or what medical conditions they've been treated for in the past.

Within the Church *anamnesis* plays an important part in remembering, bringing to mind, the events of God's activity in the world, most importantly the events surrounding the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and in particular the last supper. At the last supper Jesus instructs his disciples to 'do this in remembrance of me'²

Anamnesis is more than remembering God's activity in the past, it is also about bringing God into the present. This is especially true at Holy Communion, as we remember that God's presence is with us as we share in bread and wine, and just as importantly remembering God's promise to be with us in all our tomorrows.

This remembering feels really important to me now, as I remember my time here over the past six years. Remembering the highlights: weddings and baptisms, birthday and anniversary celebrations, and the welcoming of new people, as well as giving thanks for the faithful that have died. All these events combine our story with the story of God in this place, the church's history and it's future. This is why I have chosen Fred Kaan's hymn as an introduction to this letter, for in remembering we give thanks for the present, the past and the future, and especially the prayer in the last verse. The prayer is asking God to keep us from 'playing it safe'. As a church, a congregation, be bold in taking risks for God, don't be afraid to wear your faith on your sleeve and work together to show the world beyond our church door the love of God made known in Christ.

I thank God for my time here at Dorset Gardens, also with the folk at Woodingdean, and in the wider Circuit and District. As always there have been some amazing times, some ordinary times, and some challenging times, but I thank God for all those times. And now I ask you to join me in thanking God for the 'hopes of the day that will come, for all the change that will happen in time'. Change is inevitable, otherwise everyday would be the same, and there would be nothing to remember, to call to mind – no *anamnesis*.

Grace and Peace,



¹ Singing the Faith 478, written by Fred Kaan, a line from each of the four verses

² Luke 22: 19, repeated in 1 Corinthians 11: 20, the institution of the Lord's supper.

Pastoral Care

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

In Nursing, Care & Rehabilitation Homes:-

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

Please continue to pray for:-

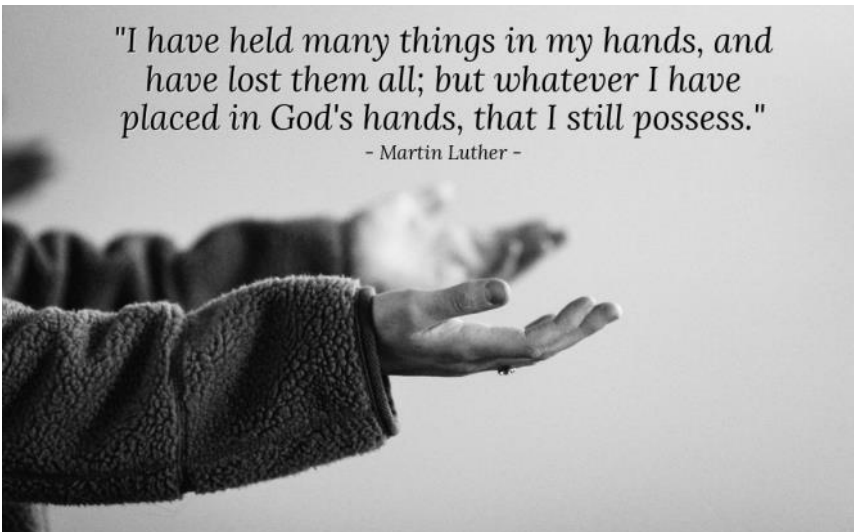
The future of our church and circuit, its vision and mission. We also pray for those who are in bereavement, those who are frail, housebound or experiencing long-term health conditions.

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

*"I have held many things in my hands, and
have lost them all; but whatever I have
placed in God's hands, that I still possess."*

- Martin Luther -



Remembering Jim Badcock ~ 1930-2023



I first met Jim and his wife Joyce in the mid-1990s at Dorset Gardens when we were all very involved in raising money for the new church. Everyone was full of ideas on how to do this and in a very quiet way Jim immediately offered his knowledge, both as a carpenter and his involvement in the building industry.

At the time I didn't realise that they had come to DG for support through Revd Mary Bailey following the death of their daughter. Jim's help and advice continued right up to Covid. I met Jim mostly when he was helping Joyce, fetching and carrying when she and I were busy in the kitchen for various fundraising events. I was always impressed by his sparkling and kindly blue eyes. I know what must have attracted Joyce in 1949. They had met on Brighton Seafront when Jim was at Preston Barracks doing his National Service and Joyce was a student nurse. They were both listening to the Salvation Army Band.

We eventually came to know Jim personally and he was never anything but kind and caring. He and Dick had much in common as keen gardeners, with Jim supplying us with tomato plants for many years. It is true to say they were not so keen on Dick's leek plants! When one of our daughters died in 2007 they were most understanding and supportive and thus I learnt of the reason for their coming to DG to worship. We have lost a dear friend and a faithful servant of God.

Jean Morley

On 8 May, to our very great sorrow our dear friend, Jim Badcock passed away. He had waged a heroic battle against Covid through much of the spring, but his 93 years were against him. Covid won; but of course, death did not. Jim was a wonderful Christian and for Christians the end of our earthly life is merely a transition into another form of existence - outside of time, inside our Saviour's love and where we are "changed from glory into glory."

Jim had a wonderful 93 years. Born in 1930 in Bedfordshire, one of three children, he had a happy childhood, leaving school at 14 to train as a builder. In 1948 he was called up to do his National Service and served with REME. He was posted to Brighton where he met young nurse, Joyce Whittington, whom he married in 1953. Last February it was a delight to celebrate their 70 years of marriage on a happy Sunday morning. We remembered their many joys as well as their greatest sorrow, the death of their daughter Andrea in 1999. Their other children, Marilyn & Graeme shared that deep loss.

Jim's interests were wide ranging: family, football, travel and of course the church. He gave of his many talents so freely to the life of Dorset Gardens but always very quietly. He was a humble-hearted man, but such people, Jesus tells us, will inherit the earth. They want little, and therefore have much. Jim was also the sweetest and most kindly of men. When Jesus tells us "blessed are the merciful," he is saying blessed are the kind (a better translation) for they shall receive kindness. Such people know one of the mysteries of life: if you want love, you need to give love. Jim gave his love to us all, but to no one more than to Joyce. How we mourn Jim's passing; but how we rejoice that he was part of our lives and that his journey has been completed so triumphantly.

Cynthia Park

A Tribute to Phyllis Woodford

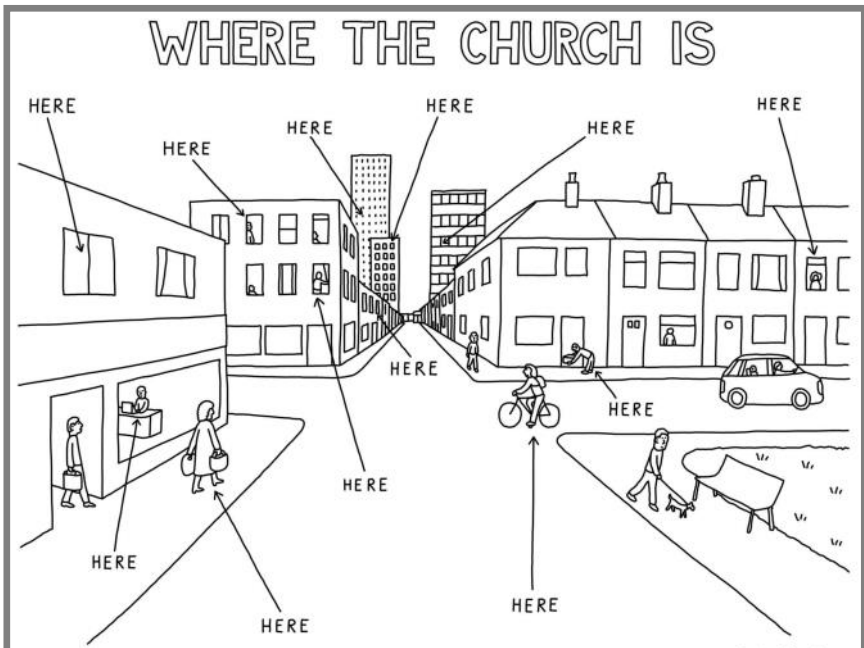


I first met Phyllis a few years ago when I was her pastoral visitor at Dorset Gardens. I believe she first attended services at the Dome and then for a while at Dorset Gardens. As her mobility decreased she did not attend so often.

When I visited her, Phyllis was always very interested in the happenings at Dorset Gardens, especially during the rebuilding. I was always made welcome and Phyllis wanted news of my family, her family being in New Zealand.

Phyllis always seemed involved in social events at the flats and was a very sociable and capable person. She was always a joy to visit.

Sybil Rogers



Farewell Deborah and John!



Thank you, Deborah, for your work and service at Dorset Gardens. Your wisdom, ministry and caring presence will always be cherished. You led us and held us together during a very challenging time and helped foster a welcoming and inclusive community. Your quiet acts of love have touched many.

Thank you to John as well, who contributed in many ways, often away from the limelight. We pray and hope that God will be with both of you in your new journey, lead your steps, and bless you as you move to Wimborne.

More photos from the Farewell Tea at DG on Saturday 22 July can be found on the next page.

Deeptima Massey





Left: I wonder what Jean is contemplating? Right: Nonagenarians! Congratulations to Jean Morley and Alan Cutting, who celebrated their 90th birthdays in August.

Thoughts for Quiet Reflection

- a. When spending time with Jesus, I am sure to find peace and comfort..
- b. I don't have to be perfect for God to love me.
- c. By serving others I am serving God.



Pilgrimage for Climate & Environmental Justice and Peace

Sunday 10 September 2023

Brighton Christian Climate Action invite people of all faiths and none to join them, starting at **1 pm from St. Luke's Prestonville**, 64 Old Shoreham Road, calling at:-

- One Church, Florence Road **1.30 pm**
- St Peter's, York Place **2 pm**
- Buddhist Centre, Tichbourne Street **2.25 pm**
- Friends' Meeting House, Ship Street, **2.45/3 pm**
- Seafront Groyne by Palace Pier **3.15 pm**

N.B. Steep hill from St Luke's, join at One Church if you prefer.



Sunday Club went Bowling during May Half Term. The youngest contestant won, the oldest contestant was not last!

Rosemary Cuthbert

The Tree of Life

Kathleen and I recently returned from France where, with eleven strangers, we had gently cruised along the Marne to the Rhine canal in a converted barge. Cautiously taking our first flight since Covid, we landed at Basle airport, unique for having exits into three different countries: Switzerland, Germany and France. We then travelled by coach from the airport to Strasbourg to board our barge, driving along the celebrated 'Route des Vins' through the beautiful countryside and fairy-tale like villages of Alsace.

We had deliberately chosen this small-group holiday for its leisurely pace, congenial atmosphere and freedom from the hustle and bustle of city life. To glide along quietly at three kilometres an hour, admiring the scenery and enjoying the birdsong was just what we needed; an opportunity to fully relax and appreciate the beauty and variety of God's creation. The stork is the traditional symbol of Alsace and it was quite fascinating to see them in such profusion both in the fields and nesting on roof-tops. Fortunately, they didn't deliver any babies to our barge which, given the average age of our companions, would really have been a miracle.



The canal itself cuts through delightful countryside bordered by vineyards and mountains, each of which seemed to have the obligatory ruined castle perched on its summit. When the distance between locks on the canal was not too demanding, it was nice to

be able to stretch our legs by walking along the towpath from one lock to the next. It was unusual to see so many enormous balls of

mistletoe in the trees alongside the canal, but also to observe the number of trees killed by the parasitic nature of the growth.

Each day we had the opportunity to visit local towns and villages and learn something of their history and background. Both Alsace and Lorraine have been the subject of conflict between Germany and France over the centuries. Although each is now indisputably French, place names and architecture reflect their mixed heritage. Many of the towns and villages display memorials to the thousands of local citizens forcibly conscripted by the Nazis during the Second World War and sent to the Russian front as they were not trusted to fight in the west. Very few survived to return to their homes in France.

We encountered three incredible feats of engineering along the canal. The first was a series of tunnels which had taken ten years to excavate in the early 19th century, the longest of which stretches for 2.3 kilometres. Travelling through it in near darkness was quite an eerie experience. Then our barge was transported upwards by almost 50 metres in an Inclined Plane Elevator which replaced 15 separate earlier locks. Finally, we negotiated one of the deepest locks in France rising almost 16 metres.

Near to the Inclined Plane Elevator was a factory producing the most delicate glassware which houses one of only four schools in France to teach the art of glass blowing. We watched a demonstration by one of the students who produced for us in double quick time a beautifully graceful glass animal. The range of glass products on display was quite breathtaking.

The 13 passengers on our barge were looked after by a crew of seven from France, Portugal and Hungary, most of whom spoke two

languages in addition to their native tongue, in sharp contrast to the mindset of home-grown “Little Englanders.” I asked our chef where he had trained. He replied “In Paris, mainly in two and three Michelin starred restaurants,” adding that he much preferred the closer relationships he could develop with small groups such as ours without the hassle of working in a major restaurant. From what he told me, it appears that leading French chefs are just as rude and aggressive towards their staff as their British counterparts we see on TV.

We did not know any of our fellow passengers prior to the holiday so it was a lovely surprise to meet a couple who live in Rome and who also spoke French (among other European languages). It was a nice change not to be the only French speaker. They were also Christians and John took great pride in his role as organist and choir-master of an Anglican church in Rome.

On holiday we always try to attend a local church on Sunday and this time we found ourselves in the lovely old town of Sarrebourg. We went to the Chapelle des Cordeliers, the chapel being what is left of a former monastery destroyed during the French Revolution. There, we were absolutely astounded to discover a 12 metre-high stained-glass masterpiece by Marc Chagall entitled “The Tree of Life” depicting scenes from the



Bible in indescribably vivid reds and blues. Images in the window range from the Garden of Eden, through the Old Testament to the Crucifixion, the Ascension and Heaven itself. We later followed the Chagall trail in the town to the local museum which houses more of his art. It reminded us of paintings on display in the Chagall Museum in Nice and prompted us to think more deeply about why we are here and how we should live.

Our final stop was in quiet moorings in the town of Lagarde where the Marne canal meets the river Moselle. After a good night's rest, we enjoyed a scenic coach journey to Luxembourg to catch our plane home. Our driver deliberately avoided motorways and main roads to take us through the delightful countryside of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, a thoughtful ending to our holiday which was greatly appreciated.

Tony & Kathleen Leonard



Ady exploring scenic England!

A Visit to Hong Kong

Hello everyone! I would like to share about my recent holiday back to Hong Kong for a month during June.

I missed my mum, but I spent some precious time with my relatives and grandparents. They all treated me so well during my stay and it was good to see them after two years.



We had Chinese food, did a Korean BBQ and chatted about our daily lives, particularly my life in the UK. I also met up with several university friends, high school friends and some besties; we went camping, hiking, shopping, and had lots of nice food.

I noticed several changes in Hong Kong, the streets looked a lot busier and crowded. There were also several people from other nationalities. Since the lockdown had been lifted, people seemed to engage in different activities, showed more creativity and looked happier. I couldn't explore much because of limited time, but it is always special to go back home. I wish one day I could become a tourist guide to show around Hong Kong to my UK friends! Last but not least, I am always glad to be a member of this church and share with you some of my precious moments in life.

Hailey



Space Club 2023

Our children 'reached for the stars' this summer at Space Club, thanks to amazing volunteers and fabulous fun activities.



We made rocket pizzas, models of the solar system, crafted wool stars and told some funny astronaut-themed jokes. Our marshmallow and spaghetti constellations were awesome and the chocolate moon crater cakes got five star reviews. Thanks to Rosemary for creating some out of this world recipes!



All of our volunteers worked incredibly hard to create an epic four days for the children at DG. We had almost 50 space cadets zooming around like busy comets, meteors and rockets. Big thanks to Dr Das and Ashley from the University of Sussex Physics Outreach for their brilliant solar system workshop. The beachball planets were a real hit.



Thanks again to everyone who helped with Space Club.

I couldn't do this without you all!

Liz Neale
Children & Families Support Worker



News from Robin Selmes

At the time of writing, my family and I are looking forward to joining you at the end of October for the 14th Brighton Scout Group Centenary Celebrations. I cannot believe it has been six years since I left the south coast to take up a new appointment in the North Kent Methodist Circuit, where I look after three churches in Medway.

I still have a passion for mission and enjoy coming alongside those that are deemed to be on the edge of society. I am also actively involved with the children and youth work at my churches, running holiday clubs, leading assemblies and many other activities when the opportunities allow. For the past five years I have also been a School Governor of a local primary school linked to my church in Gillingham. When time allows I still enjoy eating out, theatre trips to London and Canterbury and roaming antique shops, and of course I am still passionate about watching Brighton & Hove Albion, mainly on TV but occasionally I have been back down to the AMEX and of course a couple of trips to Wembley!

Over the last six years Mandy, my wife, has been supporting my ministry mainly at Third Avenue Church running a monthly Afternoon Tea event for vulnerable adults in our community. She is also actively involved in the church craft and walking groups as well as supporting my ministry to children and young people. During the last year she has been volunteering at a charity shop which supports a local children's' hospice. In her spare time, she still enjoys a variety of creative activities including card making and cross stitch.

My eldest son, Jonathan, has been working for the last four years as a Senior Teaching Assistant at a Special Needs school in

Sittingbourne. In the last six months Jonathan has taken on a second job and will be working during the school holidays as a children's rep on cruise liners. His first cruise will be to the Norwegian Fjords. In his spare time, he is involved with a local drama group and he belongs to a Dungeons and Dragons group.

At the time of writing, Christopher has just finished his A-levels and is waiting to hear whether he has got the required marks to go to Christ Church University in Canterbury. He is looking to study Film Production, which he hopes will lead to a career in the film industry. He is still an avid Man City Fan and likes to keep up to date with all the football gossip.

My daughter Ava, at the time of our visit, will be commencing her third year in secondary school. She is flourishing at the school and would love to work with animals when she leaves. She is a big Harry Potter and Marvel fan and she is actively involved in the local guiding group which is linked to one of my churches.

As a family, we are still quite adventurous and we enjoy spending time out and about, whether that be on a long walk in the countryside or being upside down on a roller coaster. We are still big Disney Fans!

Now all that remains is for me to say that we look forward to joining you at the end of October as we celebrate together a hundred years of Scouting at Dorset Gardens.

Every blessing,

Robin Selmes and Family

Married Couple Jumble!

Find husband and wife in the jumble below:-

| | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Elizabeth | Abraham | Sarah | Isaac | Zechariah |
| Jochebed | Elkanah | Priscilla | Ruth | Gomer |
| Zipporah | Rebekah | Moses | Hosea | Boaz |
| Elimelech | Naomi | Hannah | Sapphira | Amram |
| Ananias | Aquila | Aaron | Elisheba | |

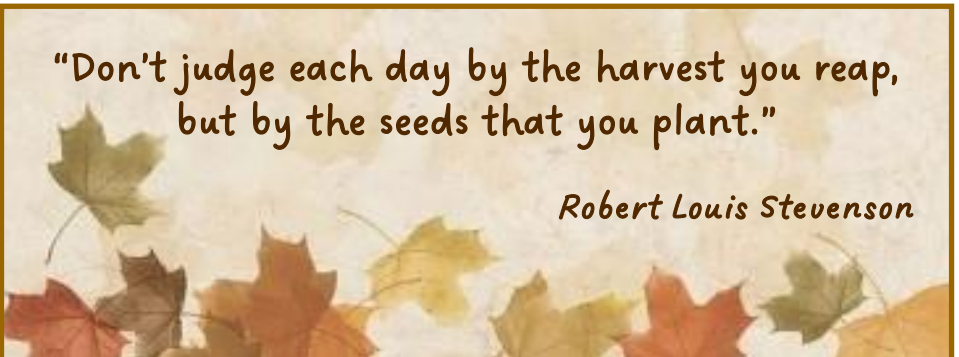
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(Answers on back page)

Prepared by Kushma Massey

**"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap,
but by the seeds that you plant."**

Robert Louis Stevenson



A Holiday in Ireland

In May, Murray and I had a week's holiday in Ireland. Visiting Ireland had been on my bucket list for years and when my Texan cousins announced that they were going to visit Ireland and invited us to join them, we couldn't resist. So we loaded up the car with maps and raincoats and *The Collected Poems of WB Yeats* and headed off to Holyhead.

We had two great days in Dublin, a lively, joyful city, booming with life. We visited its fabulous cathedrals, Trinity College with its beautiful library and Book of Kells, the archaeological museum with artefacts a thousand years old and more, and a fair handful of pubs. An Irish pub, with its own live music, is a fantastic institution!

From Dublin we went to Kilkenny for two days and then on to Killarney for two days, never needing the raincoats. We saw wonderfully ancient historic sites, and beautiful countryside; we ate delicious food and heard glorious music; and we enjoyed kind and generous hospitality. But as we went, we noted how different the landscape was from rural England. We weren't seeing the quaint cottages and charming villages that characterise our countryside. And I was beginning to appreciate how different Ireland is from England.

To understand it better we had to acquire Neil Hegarty's *Story of Ireland* and there we learned of Ireland's glorious early days of monks and missionaries, taking faith and learning all over Europe; but also of its tragic sacking by the Danes; and of how it was later over-powered by Anglo-Normans, by British colonisers, and by forces of the Roman church. We realised that the countryside was not dotted with charming cottages and villages because for

hundreds of years Irish life had been devastated by bloodshed, famine, and unspeakable deprivation.

All this helped us understand the poignancy of the music we were hearing, the wistfulness of the poetry we were reading and gave us a deep respect for those who have put the past behind them and are building a (finally) peaceful and prosperous modern nation. When we visit again, we will have a much greater appreciation of this lovely country and be ready for a deeper exploration.

Cynthia Park



Maya, the dog, is a very special part of our church family.

The children really love playing with her.



Money Matters

In the summer Connexion magazine, Revd Tim Swindell (great name for a treasurer!) explains why it's vital for members to engage with church finances. He says if we don't do this, we fail to understand the whole picture and may miss opportunities to share God's word or to enable community engagement.

So, I thought I'd try to give you the big picture by answering some questions as I know charts and numbers put many people off.

Is DGMC making a profit?

No, not for many years, (charities don't make profits but they may have a surplus), DG makes a loss or in charity terms a deficit. Last year our deficit was £21,790.

Where does our income come from?

Three main places:

- ♦ Regular giving from church members, last year a very generous total of £30,867.
- ♦ Lettings fees, fees for hiring rooms in our building, last year £39,584 (We are lucky to have a modern building with good facilities which suits many different users).
- ♦ Income from our property (DG owns a town house further along Dorset Gardens which has three tenanted flats) - Last year rental income totalled £28,300.

What do we spend our money on?

Two main 'overheads':

- ♦ The main cost is running our building. Last year maintenance, repairs and replacements cost £36,445. Everyone is aware of the current issues re. energy inflation and a large building needs

considerable heating, lighting, etc. We have four floors, need to power a lift and the requirements for internet connectivity continue to increase. Last year our utility bills totalled £14,851, this year the total will be much more.

- ♦ One other big cost is the Circuit Assessment which is our contribution to the cost of our ministers, circuit employees and the general running of the Brighton & Hove Circuit. Last year DG paid £45,272.

How can we afford to keep making a loss (deficit)?

We are drawing from our reserves. Previous DG Church Councils made wise decisions and we have funds invested with the Central Methodist Church that we can draw on. Money had been put by for a rainy day and COVID was certainly our rainy day.

Going forward will we be able to break even?

Not this year, but in future I hope so. We've increased the rents on our property and the room hire fees for groups using our building. Our members are very generous, and some have already increased their giving to help with the increased costs. In the last few years DG has been blessed with two large legacies (money left to our church in a will) which are helping us to upgrade our facilities and to support projects in the local community.

How can you help?

Regular giving (time or money) is the most useful way to help. In the current financial crisis, we know many of those who would like to contribute financially are not able to. If you are in the position to give, please consider setting up a standing order to make a monthly transfer (Dorset Gardens Methodist Church sort code 40-14-03 account no. 20292648). This saves you finding the cash or

writing a cheque and reduces our bank charges. You can also give electronically via **Justgiving** or the **QR code below**.



Jennie Lamb, Treasurer

Breakfast Grace

Spears of lavender sway under the weight of harvesting
 bees, pale green parakeets dart in and out of the dark
 leaves to swoop on a supply of seeds,
 a pigeon prowls and pecks among the fallen petals of a
 full blown rose, a foraging squirrel scampers over the
 grass and I sit by my window watching as my breakfast
 tray arrives with a warm good morning smile.

Thank you Lord for all our food.

Cynthia Tudor

Worship Programme at Dorset Gardens

Sunday 3 September

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Geoff Harrington

Sunday 10 September

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Paul Steadman

Sunday 17 September

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Heather Leake Date

Sunday 24 September

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Ken Smith

Sunday 1 October ~ Harvest Festival

10.30 am, Harvest Celebration - Led by Kathleen Richardson

Sunday 8 October ~ Homeless & Prisons Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Dan Woodhouse

Sunday 15 October

10.30 am, Circuit Together Service with Communion

Led by Andrew Pratt & Harvey Richardson

At Dorset Gardens

Sunday 22 October ~ One World Week

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Stella Goddard & Paul Richards

Sunday 29 October

10.30 am, All Age Worship - Led by Robin Selmes

Sunday 5 November

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 12 November ~ Remembrance Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 19 November

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Heather Leake Date

Sunday 26 November ~ Women Against Violence Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Jonathan Gravestock

The Winter 2023 edition of Newsletter will be published on Sunday 10th December 2023. Any items for inclusion must reach the Editor, Deeptima Massey, **by Sunday 19th November 2023.**
Email: **office@dgmc.org.uk**



Answers to Married Couple Jumble

Ruth and Boaz

Rebekah and Isaac

Naomi and Elimelech

Elizabeth & Zechariah

Sapphira and Ananias

Jochebed and Amram

Hannah and Elkanah

Gomer and Hosea

Zipporah and Moses

Sarah and Abraham

Elisheba and Aaron

Priscilla and Aquila

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