



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025

No. 285

Brighton & Hove Methodist



Circuit of Sanctuary

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton



Artwork by Deeptima Massey

*The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.*

(Isaiah 40:8)

A Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends

So how was the Sabbatical? Are you glad to be back? How was the holiday? Where did you go? What did you do? Did you have a good time away? Did you miss us? These and other questions have been asked since I returned from my Sabbatical a month ago.

Well, the Sabbatical was good. It provided the break in my normal working routine that I needed. I did feel more rested when I resumed the more normal working pattern but these days even August, which always used to be a quiet month, was quite full on. Having said it was quite full on I am quite glad of that as I have always been concerned with the fact that the Church seems to go on holiday for August, closing its usual activities which, while good for volunteers to get a break, means that those who benefit or take part in those activities are left bereft for a month. So I am pleased that Open House is open all August and I have been very pleased that Sam and her team of volunteers have worked with children and families throughout this month as they are the ones for whom the summer break can be hardest as they are hit by a lack of affordable activities to keep them entertained.

I did enjoy spending 10 days scraping the ground and looking for artifacts on the Roman site at Barcombe Mills near Ringmer. The Culver Farm Archaeological Project has been running for many years now and has made some significant advances in understanding the Roman presence in this area. There are many more years of the project to go and they do look for volunteers each year to join in the work, so if you like working with a trowel search for the project online or if you like doing it from the comfort of the sofa check out their website.

I managed to do some of the reading that I had hoped to do but, as a result of that I now have a longer book list that I want to read. I managed to get to a three-day conference called 'The uncontrolling love of God' which was looking partly at what the theologian and philosopher Thomas Jay Oord calls 'Open and Relational' theology. You might guess that this has also meant more books that are on my reading list. I also went down to Portsmouth on a couple of occasions to meet with a group of Progressive Christians based there and that was a good experience, but as you might guess has resulted in even more books on the list.

But I am back now. And yes I did miss you and I am glad to be back. As time moves on I do hope that alongside the regular series of meetings and all the other ministerial tasks that I will be able to slowly work my way through some of my reading list and also find those opportunities to share some of that with others. I would really love to start regular house/study groups either at the church or in someone's home on a fortnightly or monthly basis during the day or on an evening as I believe that it is in those settings where we can most develop our faith, where we can most hear about and learn about other ways of thinking. So if you are interested in being part of such a group or willing to host such a group then please talk to me or email me about what you would like, how often and when, and we will see what we can set up.

Finally, I just want to say a big thank you for all those who have maintained the work of the church during the time that I was away. The Stewards, the volunteers, Angela in the office and all of you for being the presence of God to each other and the community around us.

It's good to be back,

Andy

Pastoral Care

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

Deaths:-

Alan Cutting, Mavis Baker and Val Boyd-Pain (June Cooke's sisters), Margaret Doherty, Ian Parker.

In Nursing, Care & Rehabilitation Homes:-

Marian Jackson, Pat Knight, Graham Wall.

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



Tributes to Alan Cutting

When Alan retired he volunteered his services to the Revd Peter Shilling to be a Pastoral Assistant at Dorset Gardens. The Church, knowing Alan's qualities, accepted this offer most warmly and in his long years of devoted service the Church's acceptance has been rewarded most fully.



He had worked in the travel business for many years and used his experience to organise countless coach trips for the Church and Circuit which were always enjoyable. He was a very keen photographer taking photos of everyone and everything. He used these to excellent effect, for example sending them as birthday and 'get well' cards to members and others, and putting copies on sale to raise money for the Church and Action for Children.

He edited the Church Newsletter and was indefatigable in asking for contributions. He was the Secretary of the Pastoral Committee and, as he did not drive, the Church bought him an annual bus pass so that he could travel around Brighton and Hove visiting the sick and those in need. He was also authorised to take the communion

elements to those who wanted it. All of this he did with a deep sense of quiet devotion.

One of his most visible ministries was his presence on the door at Dorset Gardens, greeting everyone with a smile, handshake, and a quiet word. This is a valuable ministry and only really valued when it is not there! He continued doing this after ill-health and the demands of age forced him to give up all his other roles, only finally succumbing to those problems this year.

Alan will be remembered as a devoted and quiet servant of God who always gave the best of himself. Thank you, Alan.

Mick Hickman



I remember Alan and have benefited from the service he rendered to Dorset Gardens. Alan always made sure that everyone felt welcome. For me, Alan was the face of Dorset Gardens as he was the first person we would encounter when we walked into the Church. I won't forget the warmth with which he greeted us every Sunday and fondly remember the birthday cards that he used to send. This really meant a lot to me as a university student.

I was really struggling in my first year in Brighton (2018). I had returned to England for my studies after a break of three years. This time, I was at a different university, which I felt was much better and the people were much friendlier. However, my first term was not particularly nice, my mother was not well in Sri Lanka, and I kept wanting to return home. I didn't feel I could like anything about Brighton.

In my first term at the University of Sussex, I received a birthday card signed "From your friends at DG". This reflects Alan's life, a person who wanted to be a friend to people. This also articulates a key tenet of Dorset Gardens and what I have experienced from many in the church during my time in Brighton. Alan Cutting and Dorset Gardens really made a difference to my experience. I hope his funeral was an occasion which celebrated his life of service and commitment to Christ.

Avanka Fernando

Remembering Andy Saunders



Andy loved life, and everyone loved Andy. He seemed to know everyone and whenever I walked down the street with him it took forever as he stopped and chatted with everyone.

Andy was special, born into a loving family with his mum, dad and two older sisters. He also had an extra "Auntie" and big sisters. Between them they all gave him

the confidence to manage his life.

Going to school in Brighton, he stayed in touch with many of his school friends as they met up at social activities and some of them were his house mates at Acorn, the house where he lived for his last year and a half (although officially registered as a care home, they described themselves as a group of friends who live together and have people come in and look after them)

Andy loved his clubs and day centres, as much for the social interaction as for the activities. When he lived at home he attended Grace Eyre which was just round the corner so he could walk there and back. He enjoyed the crafts and I have a rather nice pot which he made and gave me. He felt a loyalty for the place and when they revamped the little café there, he felt duty-bound to support it so bought cake there every day.

After his mum and auntie died, he moved into adult foster care and spent many happy years with Claire and Clive and their dogs, it was here that he met Patrick and the two quickly became bosom pals.

Andy enjoyed drama, singing and dancing and took part in several stage shows; but most of us will remember him dancing to the hymns and acting out the dramatised readings when Cynthia led worship. He had been attending Dorset Gardens for many years, having gone to the Dome with Auntie Wally after they had attended the Sunday afternoon concerts there. I remember him singing in the choir in Peter Shilling's time. He was also very skilled at taking up the collection in the 'old' church; in those days there were two people who did the central congregation and did alternate rows; Andy had this down to a T and woe betide anyone who got it wrong.

Born in the same year as 'Doctor Who', he loved all things related to it and had a great collection of CD's and other memorabilia. Many of us will remember is 40th birthday, celebrated at our 'new' church with all his family and friends, when a full-size Dalek came and joined us!

As his health deteriorated, he remained cheerful most of the time; he could barely speak, but would respond with his delightful beaming smile. For his last birthday, his family gave him a Doctor Who teddy which he became very attached to. On my last visit,

I undressed teddy in front of him; he had Velcro fastenings with a hole in the trousers for the tail. I then had considerable difficulty in getting the clothes back on. Andy looked quite concerned, but then beamed when teddy was fully dressed again; a great relief for me.

His faith was simple but sincere - "I love Jesus". What more does anyone need.

Rosemary Cuthbert

Remembering Margaret Doherty

We only got to know Margaret over the past few years when she joined us for the midweek Prayer and Praise service, but her connection to the church goes back a long time. She was a regular worshipper at the Dome and her children, Lyn, Andy and Joy attended Sunday School and Youth Club here at Dorset Gardens. Barbara Lamb remembers being their teacher!



Margaret's daughter Lyn brought her to Prayer and Praise whenever she was well enough. Her vision was poor, but she declined offers of large print as she knew most of the hymns by heart. She really

enjoyed the music and sometimes brought her own CDs to share. Her favourite was a recording of The Lord's Prayer sung by Andrea Bocelli, which was played at her funeral.

She had considerable health issues in her later years; diabetes, cancer, poor vision, but she brushed them off saying "it's just old age, dear."

Margaret was surprisingly "techy" and made good use of her smart phone having an app which told her when her blood sugar was low. Most Sunday mornings she joined Zoom for the online service from St George's, where she was greatly loved by the congregation and Fr. Andrew Manson Brailsford, who conducted her funeral.

Her last few weeks were sadly spent in hospital where her children faithfully maintained a constant vigil. I visited her there a couple of times when remembering her love of hymns, I sang to her. Although she was very weak, the little smile that my croaky voice evoked gave us all such heart. At one point she even managed to open her eyes. Margaret's faith was everything to her – and though we will miss her, we must rejoice that she has discovered all the promises of our faith are true.

She was buried in the Woodingdean Lawn Memorial Cemetery with her husband and now rests in peace. We thank God for her life and her great faith and pray for her children and grandchildren.

Cynthia Park & Rosemary Cuthbert



Peter and Val Mooring

Peter and Val Mooring lived in Brighton for many years before Peter went off and trained for the ministry. When Peter 'sat down', they returned to the area and Peter served as a supernumerary minister in the circuit and worshipped at Dorset Gardens.

They kept themselves busy, helping at the Salvation Army midweek Café and with our Community lunches. Pete was a whizz at scrubbing the cooking trays and Val was wonderful at meeting and greeting. They also worked late into the night some weekends as Street Pastors and opened up their home to young, vulnerable homeless people as part of Centrepont when it was our Circuit Project.

Peter's health began to deteriorate and a few years ago they moved to Eastbourne; close to the seafront and Beachy Head, with some good coffee shops nearby. They have been visiting their family in Sydney for an extended Christmas break for several years and now plan to move to Australia to join them.

We wish them well on their journey down under.

Rosemary Cuthbert





The Church of my Dreams

This is the Church of my Dreams;
 The Church of the warm heart,
 Of the open mind,
 Of the adventurous spirit,
 The church that cares,
 That heals hurt lives,
 That comforts old people,
 That challenges youth;
 That knows no division of culture or class;
 No frontiers, geographical or social,
 The Church that inquiries as well as avers,
 That looks forward as well as backward,
 The Church of the Master,
 The Church of the people,
 High as the ideals of Jesus,
 Low as the humblest human,
 A working Church,
 A worshipping Church,
 A winsome Church,
 A Church that interprets the truth in terms of truth,
 That inspires courage for this life and hope
 for the life to come;
 A Church of courage,
 A Church of all good mankind,
 A Church of the living God.

By John Milton Moore



Congratulations to Grace!

Grace graduated this summer and her brother came over from the USA for the occasion.



When Faith Meets Fellowship



It is nearly two years since we began hosting Food and Fellowship at DG, typically held on the first Sunday of each month after morning worship.

Gathering for finger food, coffee and homemade Ghanaian treats has been building unity and friendship amongst congregants. It has eased newcomers into the church community and given long-time members an opportunity to catch-up with each other.

Everyone helps tidy up afterwards, deepening a sense of shared service and belonging. In sharing food, stories and laughter, we live out a community that feeds on each other's presence and God's love.

May every gathering be a reminder that when we eat together, we truly belong together.

Deeptima Massey

At the Beginning...

I was born in 1933 and lived with my parents and elder brother in Kenton near Harrow, Middlesex. I went to the local primary school between 1938-1945 in wartime.

Neither of my parents attended any church but my brother, eight years my senior, joined the Scouts at the Kenton Methodist Church. Opportunities to join things during the war were few and far between, but at about eight years of age my brother encouraged me to become a Brownie. Brownies were expected to attend Sunday school on a Sunday afternoon – air raids permitting! By the time I was 14 (war-over) and a Girl-guide, I was encouraged to become a Sunday school teacher as with 600 plus children they were short of helpers. We went to weekly preparation classes to prepare for Sunday's lessons and, in the summer months, often took children out into the countryside.



As I grew older I also joined the Youth Fellowship at the church where we met up after the service on a Sunday evening at each other's homes for great discussions and hymn singing.

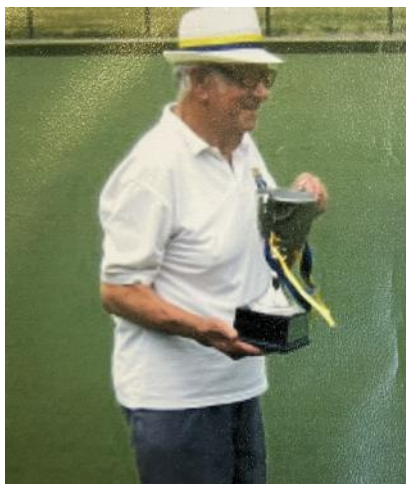
At this time, I thought I wanted to be a doctor, and my exam subjects included physics and chemistry, but also Latin as this was then a requirement for medical school. Unfortunately, Latin and I were not great friends, and it became obvious to me that I was not going to pass that exam. What was I to do?

In the summer of 1950, I sat by my bedroom window talking to God and asking for help. After a while I saw dawn breaking and there seemed to be a voice in my heart: "you should teach, you know you like your work with the children at the church." Thus, it came about that having matriculated (without Latin!) I gained a place at Goldsmiths College, London. Here I met Dick who was doing his PGCE and the rest, they say, is history as ultimately, we both became headteachers.

Jean Morley



A Boost for AFC

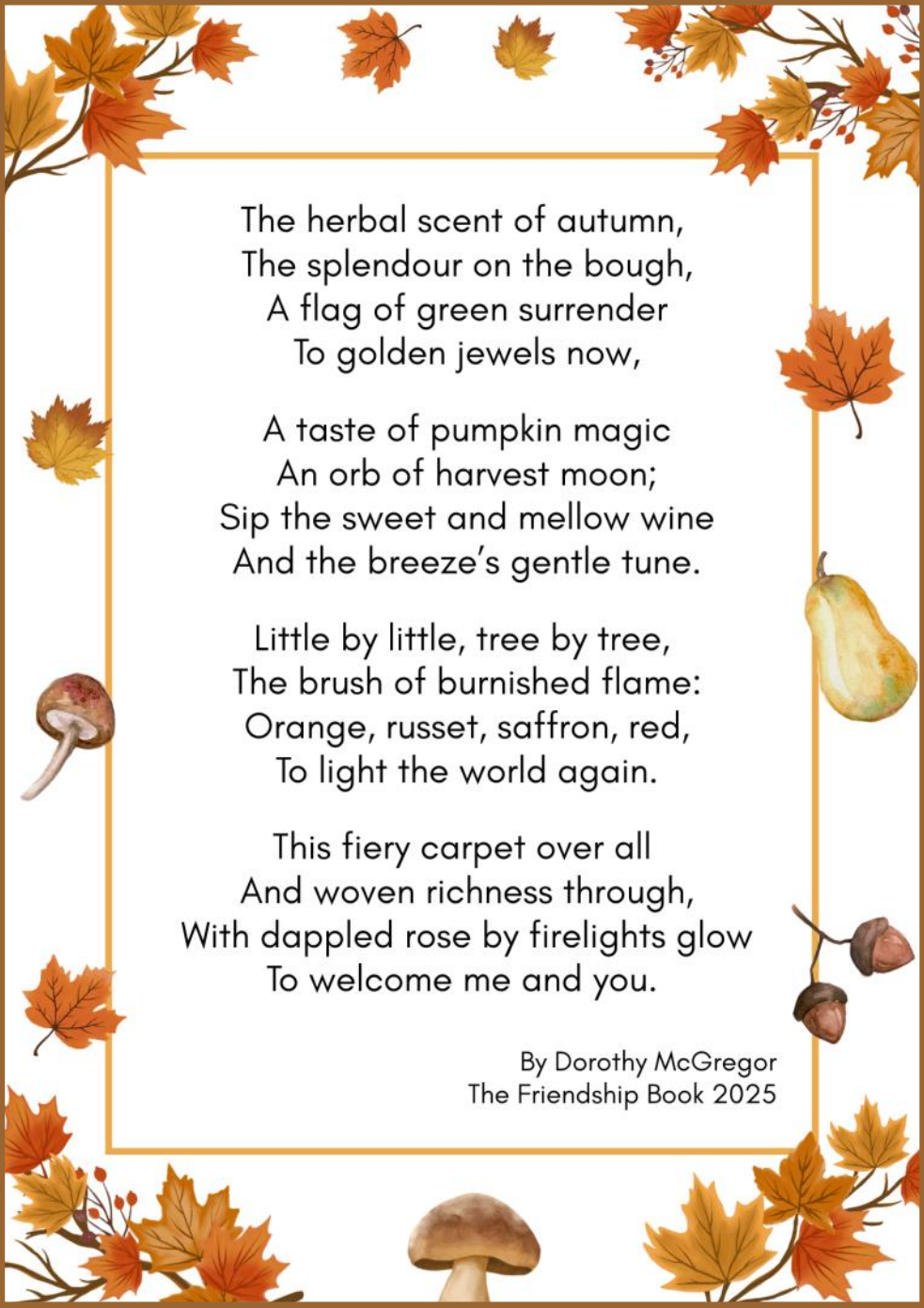


Alan Saunders is a keen member of the Portslade Bowls Club and recently presented them with a very fine cup.

In appreciation for this, the club organised some fund raising and raised £350 which Alan requested be donated to Action for Children. He presented Dorset Gardens with a cheque for this amount on Action for Children Sunday on 13th July.

Thank you Alan and all at Portslade Bowls Club for your generous donation and may you have a successful bowls season.

Rosemary Cuthbert



The herbal scent of autumn,
The splendour on the bough,
A flag of green surrender
To golden jewels now,

A taste of pumpkin magic
An orb of harvest moon;
Sip the sweet and mellow wine
And the breeze's gentle tune.

Little by little, tree by tree,
The brush of burnished flame:
Orange, russet, saffron, red,
To light the world again.

This fiery carpet over all
And woven richness through,
With dappled rose by firelights glow
To welcome me and you.

By Dorothy McGregor
The Friendship Book 2025

God's Autumn Palette

Autumn is the time we see God's palette of quiet, cool greens turn to the full glory of every shade of yellow, orange, rust and brown.

Driving nearly every day during Autumn 2023 between Lewes and Haywards Heath, I observed first hand the gradual progress of Autumn. The reflected light in the car became golden, matching the harvested fields and the beauty of the trees as I drove. Being me, of course my head was full of paintings! I'm sharing with you just three of my canvases.



Picture One (above): My "End of Summer" harvest painting. The golden cornfields reflecting the intense light of the Summer sun. The nearby field reminding us of the farmers constant care. Ploughing, sowing, reaping, harvesting. It also reminds us of how God supplies our every need.

Picture Two (below): "Autumn Wood". As I drove I thought of the importance of the trees. Each little leaf throughout its life absorbs Carbon Dioxide and releases Oxygen into the atmosphere. Oxygen is life-giving and each leaf gives its life in this service to us all. As the Autumn mists soften the sunlight, the yellow leaves reflect the light, as though turning on their lamps.



As the days become cooler, the leaves take on the warmer colours of deep chrome yellow, orange and russet, some even to burning reds. Their beauty is breathtaking, just as maturity in humans is beautiful.

Gradually as days grow shorter and colder, the leaves darken to rusty browns, then those first chilly winds blow them free, where they fall to earth and form a warm blanket over the cooling ground. Then they return to earth to feed and enrich the soil beneath the trees.

Then appears the lacework of twigs against the sky. The skeleton of the tree is revealed, and all through Winter it stands exposed.

We remember the Cross, also exposed to the open sky at Calvary. All seemed dead, until Easter morning. The tree will have its 'New Life' too. As the Spring sun warms the air and the sap rises, a whole new family of fresh leaves on every tree will continue to take away the bad and replace it with the good, life-giving oxygen.

Picture Three (below): This painting describes the progression of time passing from the end of harvest, to the woodsmoke of Autumn bonfires, through to the first frosts of Winter.



Let us give thanks to God for all the beauty we see around us every day. Let us strive to protect our woodlands. Be grateful to breathe in the fresh air, and never cease to wonder at the magnificent world God has created and continues to create.

Shirley Veater

SUMMER FUN DAY

**We had a fantastic fun day on 31st July with
Author and Illustrator Christine Chambers**



**To order one of Christine's books
Please scan**



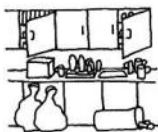


SUMMER FUN DAY

**We had a fantastic fun day on 14th August with
our team of mad scientists**



ANY OTHER BUSINESS



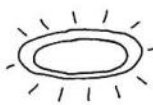
PLEASE
LEAVE
KITCHEN
TIDY



NIGEL
SAID
HE'S
LEAVING



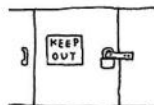
NEED
LOTS
MORE
HELPERS



WHERE
IS
MY
PLATTER?



SOME
HYMNS
ARE
UNKNOWN



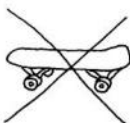
THAT
ISN'T
YOUR
CUPBOARD



KIDS
MADE
SOME
NOISE



WHEN
IS
THE
FETE?



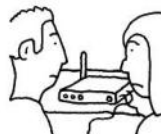
CAN
WE
BAN
SKATEBOARDS?



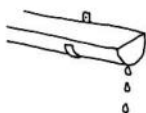
I
HATE
THE
COFFEE



CHURCHYARD
IS
LOOKING
UNKEMPT



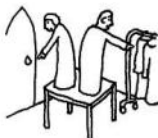
NO
PROGRESS
ON
WIFI



QUOTE
NEEDED
FOR
GUTTERING



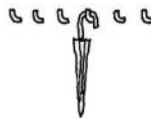
CROCKERY
HAS
GONE
MISSING



MICE
LIVE
IN
VESTRY



YOUTHS
BROKE
TODDLER
TOYS



WHOSE
IS
THAT
UMBRELLA?



HAS
ANYONE
SEEN
ELSIE?

CartoonChurch.com

Thoughts for Quiet Reflection

- ✝ God speaks to me through creation.
- ✝ I will learn to trust and follow God's timing.
- ✝ Forgiveness brings me closer to God.



SUMMER FUN DAY

**If I were a butterfly.....
we sang, we baked and we crafted
at our last Holiday Fun Day on 28th August.**



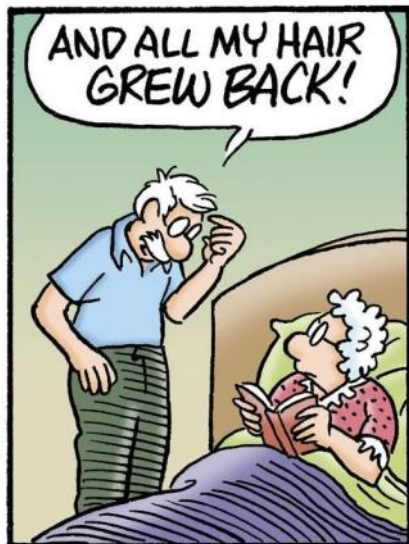


Tearaway Tots

SUMMER Mondays

Our new Summer Mondays for Tearaway Tots were a success, seeing over 130 children over the holidays.





The Winter 2025 edition of Newsletter will be published on Sunday 7th December 2025. Any items for inclusion must reach the Editor, Deeptima Massey, **by Sunday 16th November 2025**. Email: office@dgmc.org.uk

Worship Programme at Dorset Gardens

Sunday 7 September

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Geoff Harrington

Sunday 14 September ~ Education Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 21 September ~ Peace Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Bob Winton

Sunday 28 September

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Ken Smith

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 5 October ~ Homelessness Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 12 October ~ Prisons Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Beulah Fletcher

Sunday 19 October ~ Harvest Festival

10.30 am, Harvest All Age Worship

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 26 October

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Stella Goddard

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 2 November

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Jonathan Gravestock

Sunday 9 November ~ Remembrance Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 16 November

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 23 November

10.30 am, Circuit Together Service

At Patcham Methodist Church

(No morning service at Dorset Gardens)

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 30 November ~ First Sunday of Advent

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Andy Lowe

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