



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

No. 287

Brighton & Hove Methodist



Circuit of Sanctuary

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton



A Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends

Some of you may know that anonymous piece of prose called 'One solitary life'. When I first read it many years ago it had an impact on me and I still find it powerful now. It goes:

'Here is a young man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was 30, and then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot inside a big city. He never travelled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He never did one of the things that usual accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth, that was his coat. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have passed, and today he is the central figure of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that have ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as has that one solitary life.'

During Lent I always try to set aside time to think about my understanding and relationship with that which I call God and how that affects my relationships with all people. I need to examine my life, my motivation, my deeds, my successes and my failures to open myself to God and hopefully find new insights and inspiration for the

way I live and the purpose of my life. As I do so the measure and guide that I use are this 'one solitary man', and although the process can be daunting and sometimes painful when done honestly it never fails to be enriching and challenging.

This Lent our Lenten liturgy each week will invite us to loosen our grip on those things that hold us back - habits, assumptions, fears, to name a few - and to open ourselves to the transforming presence of God that we might open ourselves to richer life.

Letting go of the familiar, the comfortable is not always easy but to open ourselves to new ways and experiences can lead us into a new appreciation of life and can be more fulfilling. We can only open ourselves to the new by setting aside some of the old.

At the end of Lent we are faced with the rollercoaster of events we call Easter and are faced with a question of how do we respond to the story, how do we discern and embrace the ongoing presence of the Christ around us and within us and how does that affect the way that we live today and tomorrow as followers of the way that Jesus showed.

In Christian love,

Andy





Holy Week and Easter at Dorset Gardens

Palm Sunday - 29th March

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Maundy Thursday - 2nd April

1 pm, Service of Prayer & Praise with Communion

Good Friday - 3rd April

4 pm, Good Friday Meditations

Easter Sunday - 5th April

10 am, Easter Celebration with Communion

All Services Led by Revd Andy Lowe

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Dorset Gardens, Brighton, BN2 1RL

Pastoral Care

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

Deaths:-

Joyce Badcock, Jim Walder (June Cooke's brother-in-law),
Graham Wall.

In Nursing, Care & Rehabilitation Homes:-

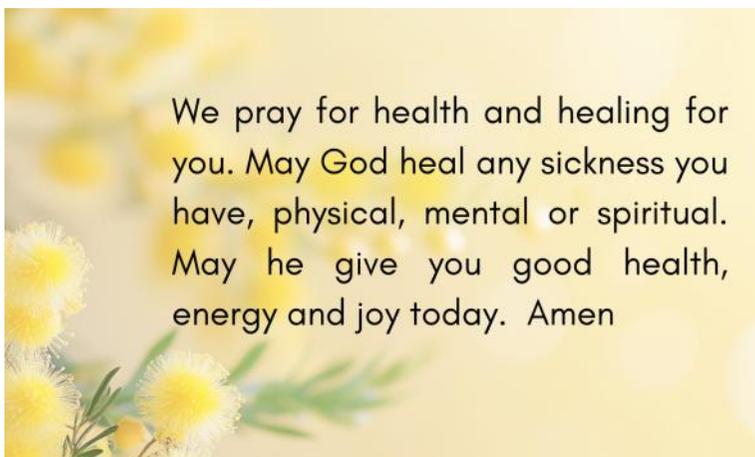
Marian Jackson, Pat Knight.

Please continue to pray for:-

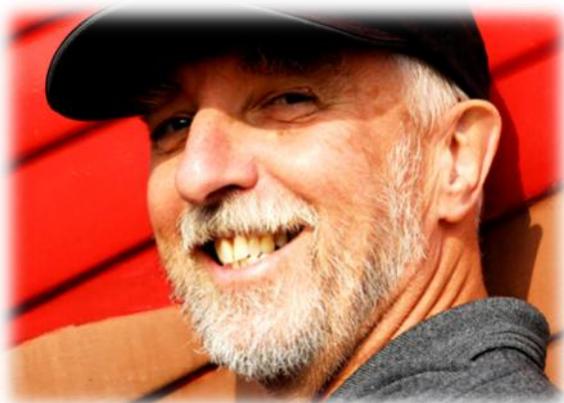
The future of our church and circuit, its vision and mission. We also pray for those who are in bereavement, those who are frail, housebound or experiencing long-term health conditions.

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



Remembering Graham Wall



Love thy neighbour. Graham really lived up to that. He cared for everyone. He cared for Alan, his beloved partner, for over 50 years, through all their ups and downs, especially with Alan's health during his latter years.

He cared for those he did not know, but knew about with his ongoing support to Action for Children, through regular giving and numerous sponsored walks over the years. He cared for those who suffered terminal illness through running Macmillan coffee afternoons for several years.

He cared for our church building, helping tremendously with fund raising when it was being built; organising cake stalls at various summer charity events and making cakes to sell at them; supporting Alan whenever there was a coach outing or theatre trip – Graham had all the back-up information to hand.

He cared for the local community; along with Cynthia Park they started "Open House". He made cakes every week and shared hospitality with those who came through the door on Thursday afternoons.

He cared for our congregation; welcoming all with a friendly smile; ensuring the latecomer who had had difficulty parking was able to find the rest of their family; and serving tea to everyone at the end of the service – and of course cake whenever the occasion required. So thank you Graham for all the care you gave to us all.

Rosemary Cuthbert

**A Life of Faith and Quiet Service
A Tribute to Joyce Badcock**



Joyce was a faithful servant of God - deeply helpful, generous in spirit, and steadfast in her beliefs.

Together with her late husband, Jim, she opened their home with warmth and hospitality for countless gatherings. For decades they regularly hosted the Monday Club Sausage Sizzles, and their generosity and welcome were much appreciated.

For many years, Joyce prepared three-course meals for the Local Preachers' Study Days at Dorset Gardens. Almost 100 people would

travel from across East and West Sussex, knowing they would be nourished not only by the discussions, but also by thoughtfully prepared food. She also helped organise many soup kitchen menus and faith lunches alongside Jean, each marked by her quiet joy in serving others. Her lunches at the Christmas Bazaar were a particular highlight and are fondly remembered. Her kindness was often shown in the most discreet ways. If she knew someone would be alone at Christmas, she would quietly prepare a full roast dinner and deliver it on a proper dinner plate, never seeking recognition, simply ensuring no one felt forgotten.

Joyce was the driving force behind the introduction of Hymn Singing afternoons at church. She had a deep love of singing and took pleasure in supporting these gatherings with refreshments, often providing homemade sandwiches. She was also clear-minded and wise. As a long-standing member of the finance committee, she offered sound judgement and careful decision-making, particularly when difficult choices needed to be made.

As friends, we enjoyed meeting in each other's homes to "put the world to rights," over meals while our husbands talked gardening and swapped plants. She took great pride in her grandchildren, taking joy in their growing lives.

Beyond all this, Joyce had a real enthusiasm for sport. Whether it was cricket or football, she followed matches closely, knew the players by name, and enjoyed discussing scores and outcomes with genuine passion.

Joyce leaves a legacy of faith lived through action, generosity given quietly, and love shared freely. She will be deeply missed, but her example will remain with us for years to come.

Deeptima Massey and Jean Morley

Welcomed into Membership



I was welcomed into membership on Covenant Sunday, 4th January 2026.

As a youngster in Yorkshire, I attended and was active in our local Methodist Church until the age of around 22 when I came down to London to run my first hotel. Sadly, life and work took over and I lapsed.

Coming down to Brighton many years later I was introduced to David by mutual friends, and it was he who brought me down to Dorset Gardens for the first time. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming. It felt good to start my day at Church again, like Sundays used to be.

Chris Wells



**A Prayer for LGBTQI+ History Month
February 2026**



**Loving God,
Show us the way to make our
worship spaces and congregations
welcoming to all who seek your face.
Cause us to lift the barriers which
prevent us from being welcoming.
Change the hearts of those who do
not welcome difference and who are
reluctant to embrace the full gospel of
Christ.
All are welcome.
We are one body.
One Church.
Amen.**

Thoughts for Quiet Reflection

- ✝ Love others like Jesus.
- ✝ I will trust God when I am troubled.
- ✝ All I have needed, God's hand has provided.

Tearaway Tots at Christmas

We ended 2025 on a festive HIGH with our Community Christmas Tree Decorating where children added their hand-made decorations to our tree. Then 65 children got to visit Santa over two sessions and some of us topped it off with carol singing in Morrisons.

Thank you to everyone who attended Tearaway Tots in 2025, including all the community support workers.

The Monday and Thursday sessions are now both running 9.30 am to 11.30 am, with snacks at 10.30 am.

We look forward to a fun year ahead!

Sam Dyke, Children and Families Worker



Christmas Fun Day



We had a fantastic day in the Christmas holidays with 24 primary school aged children joining us in making edible cuddles and melted snowmen, cookie gift jars, snow globes, cards, decorations, santa flags and a game of Cheeky Santa.



Roll on February for our next Fun Day!

Sam Dyke, Children and Families Worker

Spring: A Season of Renewal and Signs of Faith

Spring is upon us - a blessed season of renewal, hope, and new life. Just as the earth awakens from winter's quiet, our hearts are invited to reflect on God's constant work of restoration in our lives. As we walk through fields, parks, gardens or simply look outside in the coming weeks, we can see tangible signs of this renewal around us. Spotting these small wonders can remind us of the bigger spiritual truths about growth, resurrection, and the beauty of new beginnings.

Here are some signs of spring to look for, each a little nudge from creation that God is at work in our world:

- Snowdrops pushing up through the soil;
- Daffodils blooming in bright yellow splashes;
- Primroses blooming along roads and woodland edges;
- Bluebells carpeting woodland floors;
- Blossom on trees;
- Bumblebees and honeybees awakening;
- Butterflies returning to gardens;
- Frogspawn appearing in ponds and water features;
- Ladybirds and other insects emerging;
- Birdsong growing louder each morning;
- Swallows and other migratory birds returning.

News from the 14th Brighton Scout Group

It is a year since I last reported on what is happening in the 14th Brighton Scout Group here at Dorset Gardens so, here is an update.

This time last year we were in discussion with the District about starting a section for 4 to 6-year-olds called Squirrels. We held some exploratory meetings last June, but we didn't feel there was enough interest at the time so decided to pause things and try again in September. This time we had a better response and had up to nine children attend along with a parent. The aim was to get some parents to take on regular roles as helpers but we struggled to get commitment from them, so again we have put things on hold with the aim of trying again this Spring. So, there is still a possibility that 2026 will see us open a new section providing we can get helpers.

We have had some good news with recruiting some new leaders into the group. Hollie Heading who joined us a year ago has taken on the Lead Volunteer role in the Scout Section and she has been joined by Kevin Harris who had recently moved to Brighton. Kevin is 27 and had been involved in Scouting in the Birmingham area so he joins us with some leadership experience under his belt. Kevin's joining was very timely as Ben and Tony decided that work commitments meant they were unable to continue to help.

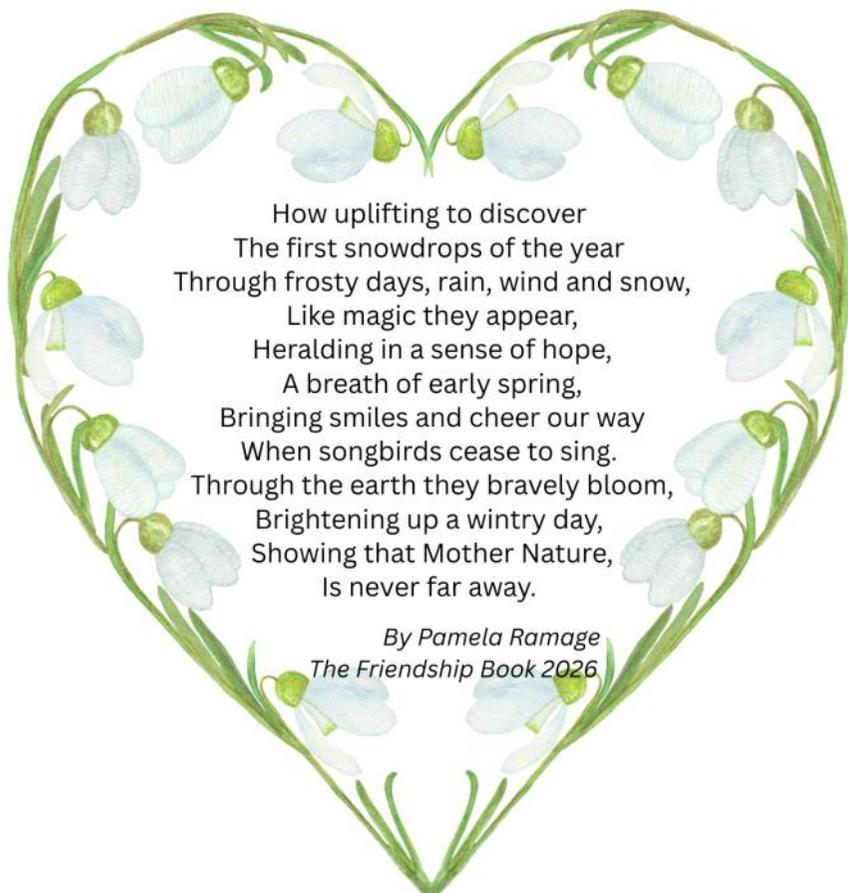
More recently we have been joined by three more helpers. They are Jasmin Trovatiello, Keira Elston and Emorie Steadman. Keira and Emorie are both students, and Jasmin has recently returned from Australia to the UK and is working in Brighton. Jasmin and Keira have both joined the Cub leadership team while Emorie has joined the Scout team. All three are very enthusiastic and have quickly settled into their roles and we look forward to them completing their training and making a significant contribution to our Group.

Meanwhile, Helen Angel has stepped down from her role in the Scout Section and is now working with John Cripps and myself in overseeing the Group and working with our Trustee Board.

All three of the sections are still thriving. We have 18 Scouts and 25 Cubs. Beaver numbers are down to five as the older children have just moved into Cubs, but we have six children on our waiting list who will be invited to join.

We are looking forward to another exciting year of Scouting.

Ian Lamb, Group Lead Volunteer



How uplifting to discover
The first snowdrops of the year
Through frosty days, rain, wind and snow,
Like magic they appear,
Heralding in a sense of hope,
A breath of early spring,
Bringing smiles and cheer our way
When songbirds cease to sing.
Through the earth they bravely bloom,
Brightening up a wintry day,
Showing that Mother Nature,
Is never far away.

*By Pamela Ramage
The Friendship Book 2026*

Looking at Paintings

One Day in Jerusalem

At first glance this painting seems rather chaotic. It's full of buildings, streets, people, noise.

Our focus is on the strong diagonal street which leads us from bottom right to top left. It's the Via Dolorosa. The last street Jesus walked along, carrying His cross. We see the crowds and we can follow the journey of the Cross.



We see it laid on Jesus, and as He begins His journey, He falls. He is weak after a long sleepless night of interviews, mockery and beatings and He falls for the first time. We see Him meet His Mother Mary. What anguish that must have been. Then Simon of Syrene is told to help Him carry the Cross. We are told a woman in the crowd steps forward to wipe away the blood and sweat from Jesus's face. It was all that she could do to help Him. He falls again. As He struggles on, He stops to speak to a group of women with their children, who are weeping in the crowd.

Nearing top left now. He climbs Golgotha, the final hill, where He is to be crucified. There's something significant about His climbing that final hill. We remember how Moses climbed Mt Sinai to meet with God. He was given the ten commandments. He returns to the Children of Israel His face shining, because he'd met with God. Then after climbing Mt Tabor with Peter, James and John He was

transfigured. His face shone like the sun and His clothing became dazzling light. A glimpse of His Resurrection body, to help His disciples through the dark days to come.

As we keep our Good Friday vigil at the foot of the Cross. Let us give thanks for His amazing sacrifice, and look forward in anticipation to that glorious Easter morning which proves that death is not the end, but the beginning of new life in Him.

Let us continue to climb our mountain paths, knowing that no matter what happens, Jesus is always with us.



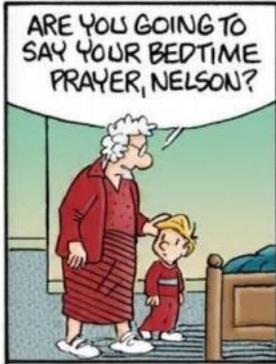
Three Days

In this painting we remember the story of Jonah. God told him to go to Ninevah. Jonah didn't want to go so tried to avoid God's command by taking a boat going in the opposite direction!

He ended up being thrown overboard into the raging sea, when a great and terrifying storm hit the ship. We are told that as he struggled, a great fish swallowed him. We learn that he was in the dark interior of the fish for three days before being ejected on to the shores of Ninevah.

How this speaks to us of the three dark days after the Crucifixion of Jesus, and how on the third day we experience the joy of Resurrection.

Shirley Veater



Why Are Some Clergymen So Scared of Women?

Just before Christmas 2025, both the Daily Telegraph and the Methodist Recorder carried articles discussing a detailed report published by the St. Barnabus Society about the number of Anglican priests who have resigned from the Church of England and joined the Roman Catholic Church since the ordination of women.

In 1992, following years of campaigning and debate, the General Synod of the Church of England accepted the theological basis for allowing women to enter the priesthood and ordained its first women priests some twelve months later. Currently 33.5% of stipendiary positions as Anglican priests are held by women and, of the 108 Bishops, 33 are women including the recently appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. One of them, the Bishop of Coventry, went to school here in Brighton.

Nevertheless, some Church of England clergymen still refuse to accept women as priests and a significant number have defected to the Roman Catholic Church. Between 1992 and 2024 one third of all ordinations to the Catholic priesthood were former Anglican priests, some 700 men, including 16 former Bishops. Interestingly, however, before leaving the Church of England none of the 700 had raised objections to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II remaining as head of that same Established Church and rejoicing in the motto “Fidei Defensor” (Defender of the Faith) a title granted to King Henry VIII by the Pope before Henry’s break with Rome.

The Roman Catholic Church adamantly refuses to consider admitting women to the priesthood, basing its decision on the fact that Christ had not included women among the select group of the Twelve to whom the Catholic Church claims he gave sacramental powers, including ordination. Thankfully, most mainline Protestant

denominations do not accept that argument. Those Protestants who deny women leadership roles usually refer to I Tim 2 vv 11-15. All of this causes me to wonder why men who have been ordained as Christian clergy are so afraid of women, particularly women who exercise religious authority. Are they insecure in their own positions, have they never really read their Bibles, or do they just ignore the early history of Christianity itself?

It is true that those named in Scripture as the closest companions of Jesus were all men. But have they forgotten that throughout his entire ministry Jesus surrounded himself with women, many of whose names are also recorded in the Bible. In whose homes did he spend so much time? Who stood weeping at the foot of the cross when all the men had fled for fear of their lives? Who discovered the empty tomb and to whom did the risen Christ first reveal himself? Think of how many women leaders St. Paul acknowledges in his letters, one of whom, Junia, he actually calls an 'apostle' (Rom 16 v7)

Has nothing changed for these men since the birth of Jesus? Are the social norms of a middle eastern province of the Roman Empire some two thousand years ago to form the basis of life in Britain in the 21st century? Have they truly learned nothing? I feel so sorry for them, for what they are missing, for the gifts they refuse to share.

Perhaps I am lucky in that my mother had been commissioned as a Salvation Army officer, so I grew up in a world in which I knew I had nothing to fear from women in positions of authority. It was quite normal for a female local preacher to lead worship in our chapel on Sundays. That, I know, was a long time ago, but I feel equally privileged to be part of the current Methodist family here in

Brighton and Hove in which we can share the insights of our ordained sisters like Kathleen, Karen, Cynthia and Heather; and local preachers such as Deeptima, Stella and others. I ask you to pray for those who deny the gifts of God's creation here in the UK.

Dr Tony Leonard

Hospitality in Every Cup



I often wonder how many cups of tea and coffee our wonderful volunteers make each Sunday after worship and throughout the week for the many visitors who come through our doors. Countless, I'm sure!

Yet these are not simply hot drinks. They are moments of welcome, conversation, and connection. They are signs of fellowship and quiet acts of service. In sharing a cup, we share something of ourselves: our time, our care, and our community.

Hospitality is at the heart of our work at Dorset Gardens. As we gather around a simple drink, we reflect the love of Christ in small but meaningful ways, turning everyday moments into opportunities for warmth, encouragement, and belonging.

Deeptima Massey



Lent Hymn Sing

Saturday 28th March 2026

1.45 pm to 3 pm

Light refreshments will be served
Donations welcome towards DG church funds

Send your nominated special hymn to Deeptima
deeptima@rediffmail.com by 1st March.

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church
Brighton



**COFFEE MORNING
TABLE TOP SALE**

Saturday 25th April 2026

10 am to 2 pm

Tombola, bric-a-brac, books, cakes, games, cards,
Indian ready meals, refreshments and more!

TOTS TAKEOVER!

During the Table Top Sale
Tearaway Tots will be OPEN!

FREE hands on cooking demos
by Bald Chef Nick.

FREE bags of groceries to take
home (supported by Morrisons)

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton



Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton are registered with **easyfundraising**, which means you can help us for FREE.

Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you shop with them through **easyfundraising** – at no extra cost to yourself!

All you need to do is sign up and remember to use **easyfundraising** whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! These donations can really mount up, so please sign up to support us at: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dorsetgardens/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=en-n1

Please note: Easyfundraising will only ask for your name and email address and you can choose not to receive their promotional emails.

Worship Programme at Dorset Gardens

Sunday 8 March ~ Third Sunday of Lent

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 15 March ~ Mothering Sunday & Fourth Sunday of Lent

9 am, Morning Communion

10.30 am, All Age Worship

Both services led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 22 March ~ Fifth Sunday of Lent

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Bob Winton

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park



See Page 4 for details of Easter Services



Sunday 12 April

No Service at DG due to the Brighton Marathon

Sunday 19 April

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Paul Richards

Sunday 26 April

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Deeptima Massey

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 3 May

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Terry Fish

Sunday 10 May ~ Church Anniversary

10.30 am, Anniversary Service

Led by Zoe Agyemang

Sunday 17 May

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 24 May ~ Pentecost Sunday

3 pm, Circuit Together Service at Stanford Avenue

(No Morning Service at DG)

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 31 May ~ Trinity Sunday

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".