

# Dorset Gardens Methodist Church

Minister: Revd Andy Lowe



**Welcome to church today.** If you are visiting us we hope you will make yourself known before you leave. Please do join us for coffee after morning worship.

**Bibles & Large Print Hymn Books** are available at the back of the church and there is a **loop system** for the hard of hearing, please switch your hearing aid to 'T'. We always try to address individual needs to the best of our ability. Please let us know if there's something we can do to improve what we currently offer.

**Offering:** If you would like to make a financial contribution our offering plate is located at the back of the church. We now also have a Card Reader for donating with your Debit/Credit card. Or you can still donate via JustGiving: [www.justgiving.com/dgmc](http://www.justgiving.com/dgmc)

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

10.30 am

**Morning Worship with Communion**

**Led by Revd Andy Lowe**

Keyboard Player Will Mason

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## Welcome

### Lent Liturgy - Lent Two

Item: A rigid sturdy box

We place this box at the foot of the cross. Strong. Rigid. Inflexible. We are aware of the ways we try to contain you, God, in rules, routines, in what feels safe. But your spirit moves where it will. Unseen. Unexpected. Free.

**Response: O Lord our God. on this Lenten journey, break open our boxes, and breathe your Spirit through us. Amen**

### Hymn

God eternal, timeless moment,  
un-named Name of majesty,  
morning star and evening glory,  
source of life — its destiny:  
you yet chose to shape and name us,  
wove us in the deepest earth;  
you ordained our days before us,  
gave us freedom, gave us worth.

Jesus, helper in our sorrow,  
Christ, who helpless chose to be:  
is it sacrifice to follow  
you to Calvary's cruel tree?  
Grant us courage, grant us grace to  
die to self and love you still;  
counting all things loss to know you,  
walk your way and live your will.

Holy Spirit, word of wisdom,  
dove descending, wind and fire:  
sighing deep beyond our knowledge  
search our minds, our lives inspire.  
Tongues of flame and tongues of language  
blaze the Word of God abroad;  
may we here translate your wisdom,  
guide your world to Christ her Lord.

God beyond us, God among us,  
ever three, yet ever one:  
re-create us, re-confirm us,  
re-inspire us, lead us on.  
God eternal, go before us;  
Christ companion, come beside;  
Spirit, be the life within, through  
whom our God is glorified.

*Words © David Lee*

## **Prayer**

## **Intergenerational**

**Hymn StF 447**    Jesus, be the centre

**Readings**            Genesis 12: 1-4a            Read by Nick Firrell  
                              John 3: 1-17

## **Sermon**

## Hymn

Nicodemus sought out Jesus  
at a lonely, quiet hour.  
He said, "Teacher, God is with you!  
For in you we see God's power."  
Jesus turned and gave an answer  
filled with challenge and with love:  
"You can never see God's kingdom  
till you're born from heav'n above."

"Born again!" said Nicodemus.  
"Is that something one can do?"  
Jesus said, "Don't be surprised now that  
you must be born anew.  
And it's not by your own doing;  
wind and Spirit will blow free!  
They are not for your controlling;  
trust in God for what will be."

God, your Spirit still surprises  
like an ever-changing wind,  
Bringing life and love and justice  
where despair and death have been.  
May we see your Spirit working as a gift  
from heav'n above.  
Blest, may we then be a blessing  
to this world that you so love.

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## Prayers

**Hymn StF 370** Breathe on me, breath of God

## Communion

### Hymn

God who sets us on a journey  
to discover, dream and grow,  
lead us as you led your people  
in the desert long ago;  
journey inward, journey outward,  
stir the spirit, stretch the mind,  
love for God and self and neighbour  
marks the way that Christ defined.

Exploration brings new insights,  
changes, choices we must face;  
give us wisdom in deciding,  
mindful always of your grace;  
should we stumble, lose our bearings,  
find it hard to know what's right,  
we regain our true direction  
focused on the Jesus light.

End our longing for the old days,  
grant the vision that we lack –  
once we've started on this journey  
there can be no turning back;  
let us travel light, discarding  
excess baggage from our past,  
cherish only what's essential,  
choosing treasure that will last.

When we set up camp and settle  
to avoid love's risk and pain,  
you disturb complacent comfort,  
pull the tent pegs up again;  
keep us travelling in the knowledge  
you are always at our side;  
give us courage for the journey,  
Christ our goal and Christ our guide.

*Words Joy Dine (1937-2001)*

*© Revd Mervyn Dine*

Blessing



### Flowers

The lovely flowers in church today come  
courtesy of the Dorset Gardens Flower Fund.

**Next Sunday: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026 ~ Third Sunday of Lent**

**10.30 am, Morning Worship**

Led by Revd Cynthia Park

**Every Thursday**

1 pm, **Service of Prayer & Praise**, in the Prayer Chapel.

2 pm, **Open House @ Dorset Gardens** - Tea, coffee, refreshments,  
crafts, board games... and fellowship!

## News and Notices

**Next Sunday: Food and Fellowship.** Date changed (was today). We do hope you will all be able to join us!

**Circuit Refugee Project: Thank you** to the Ukulele Band, compere Terry Hammond, the Woodingdean Methodist Church team and the enthusiastic audience for the fund raising concert last week. Pretty tablecloths and flowers, cakes and a cuppa made it a relaxing Café style event. After a small donation for the Ukulele Band, this heart-warming, mellow sing-along concert raised a splendid **£440** for the Circuit Refugee Project, from ticket sales and the Hamper raffle.

**Friday 6th March: Women's World Day of Prayer Service - 'I will give you rest, come'**, 2.30 pm at Patcham Methodist Church. All are welcome!

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March: Winter Warmer Concert, with 'The Cheer Up Mollys'**, 3 pm (doors open 2.30 pm) at Hove MC. Join us for a cosy afternoon of tea, cake and feel-good music. Suggested donation £10 (cash only). Raising funds for **All We Can** - All welcome!

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March: Spring and Craft Fair**, 10.30 am to 2 pm at Stanford Avenue MC. Homemade gifts, cards, cakes, raffle, tombola plus lots more! Free kids craft table. Refreshments available.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Lent Hymn Sing**, 1.45 to 3 pm at Dorset Gardens. Light refreshments will be served. Donations welcome towards DG church funds. If you would like to nominate a special hymn please email [deeptima@rediffmail.com](mailto:deeptima@rediffmail.com)

**Items Needed:** Tearaway Tots still need your unwanted toilet roll inners. We now have enough newspapers. Thank you, Sam Dyke.

**Request for Tombola Prizes:** For our Coffee Morning on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Please could you donate suitable items, ideally small, fun or useful things such as treats, stationery, toiletries or gifts. All items must be new or in excellent condition. Please give them to Rosemary or Deeptima by end of March. Thank you.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April: Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale**, 10 am to 2 pm at Dorset Gardens. Tombola, bric-a-brac, books, cakes, games, cards, Indian ready meals, refreshments & more! **Tots Takeover...** During the 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)

**Annual Church Meeting: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May**, after morning worship.

**Next Church Council: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**, after morning worship.

