



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2024

No. 281

Brighton & Hove Methodist



Circuit of Sanctuary

Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton



Put together by our young people on Refugee Sunday as we endeavour to bring hope to all in need particularly those crossing borders and leading a fragile life.

A Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends

The story is told of an old monastery. It had once been a thriving place where many dedicated monks lived and worked and had great influence on the realm. But now only five monks lived there, and they were all over seventy. And visitors to the monastery, which was situated in a beautiful forest, were getting less each year. Clearly, they were near closure.

Close by the monastery lived a hermit who many thought was a prophet and as the monks were agonizing over what to do they decided to go and see the hermit to see if he might have some advice for them. The hermit could only commiserate with them about their situation and when pushed by the Abbot he said "I don't know how your monastery can be saved. The only thing I can tell you is that one of you is an Apostle of God."

Disappointed and confused by the hermit's reply they returned to the monastery wondering what the hermit might have meant by what he said. "One of us an Apostle of God," they mused. "That's impossible. We are all too old. We are too insignificant. But on the other hand, what if it's true? And if it is true then which one of us is it?"

As they pondered on it together and individually, thinking about each other's faults and merits they began to treat each other with extraordinary respect on the off chance that one of them might actually be an Apostle of God. And on the off chance that they themselves might be the one the hermit spoke of; each monk began to treat himself with that same respect.

As the months went by, still no closer to knowing which of them was the Apostle, the number of visitors to the monastery began to increase, many of the visitors coming back more frequently to picnic and play and sometimes to visit the chapel. It was as if they could sense this new aura of the extraordinary respect that had begun to surround the monks as it radiated out from them permeating the atmosphere of the whole place. And the visitors began to bring their friends and they brought their friends.

As time progressed and more visitors came the monks found themselves in more conversations with them and after a while one young man asked if he could join them. Then another, and another. And the community grew and once again it became a vibrant centre of light and spirituality.

And surely this is what lies at the foundation of Jesus's teaching in passages such as Matthew 25: 31-46 where he talks about how we treat others. If we read that teaching in the narrative of fall and redemption, then we read it as a story of judgement and end times. But it's real meaning is in what Jesus is revealing about God and God's ways. And that is about living in the here and now, living life fully in God's ways.

And the way to do that is by treating each and every person, including ourselves, with the most extraordinary respect. Treating each and every person, including ourselves, as people incarnated with the Christ. And that includes all people, whether they profess faith or if they don't. It includes the good, the bad and all those in the middle. It includes those we know and those who are strangers. That kind of respect is radical and transformative.

It was too radical for those in authority when Jesus walked this earth. The stories he told and the radical respect and hospitality he

showed to all was too much for some and they tried to extinguish it by killing him. But the Christ lives on, and the Christ lives on in you and me. And the way Jesus showed is still too radical for those who believe that they who shout loudest and they who have seized power deserve the bigger share.

But like those monks we don't always let the Christ shine through in our lives fully. We try and we do see glimpses of it in people and acts of kindness and wisdom in people of all faiths and none. We see it maybe more clearly in people like Mother Theresa, the Dalai Lama, Gandhi, Nelson Mandela. But our calling as followers of the way is that we must keep trying to do so day by day.

As we reflect on the recent violent riots, the prejudice shown against selected groups of people in our community, I pray that we might treat each other, and that means all people, and ourselves with Christlike love and so be the visible, ongoing presence of Christ in the world, I pray we might have the strength and inspiration to live lives of radical hospitality with extraordinary respect for all people and the whole of creation. I pray that our churches will become like that monastery, vibrant centres of light and love.

With thanks to you all for all you do,

Andy

All Saints Day



Circuit All Saints Day Service

Friday 1st November 2024

**7.30 pm at Stanford Avenue
Methodist**

Pastoral Care

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

Deaths:-

Janie Thomas

In Nursing, Care & Rehabilitation Homes:-

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

Congratulations to:-

June Cooke on her 90th birthday; Dr Avanka Fernando and Dr Riziki Millanzi on their recent Doctorate Degrees.

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

Thoughts for Quiet Reflection

- ✝ In each new season, God can give me a sense of purpose
- ✝ I will accept others with childlike openness
- ✝ God hears me when I pray



Many Happy Returns!

Congratulations to June Cooke who celebrated her 90th birthday on 27th June.

June enjoyed a lovely family lunch and her daughter, Sharron, was able to come over from Kos to enjoy the celebration too.

June would like to thank everyone for their lovely cards, flowers and good wishes.

Goodbye to Sam

Sam Adjei has been a familiar face on the AV desk and behind the drums at DG. But we now bid him a fond farewell as he has completed his Masters in Computer Science at the University of Sussex. He's going home to Luton and is now looking for work, here in the UK or further afield in Germany or the US. May you find the job you love so that it never feels like work!



Thank you Sam for all you've done for us. We will miss you and hope you will come back and visit us... If you find yourself missing us, particularly on a Sunday morning, I understand there's a very good train service!

Sue Harrington

Thank You, Alan



On Sunday 21st July 2024, Alan Saunders led his last service at Dorset Gardens. The church and the Brighton & Hove Circuit have been fortunate in his preaching ministry over the last six decades before he recently decided to “stand down”.

Alan preached for 64 years as a recognised local preacher. He preached at quite a few churches in the Worthing and Eastbourne Circuits and also what used to be the Mid-Sussex and Surrey Circuits. The furthest he had been to preach was Great Tattenhams Corner in Epsom in 1990. Alan also preached at Methodist Homes for the Aged at Ryelands in the evening. He took a couple of services when he was in the Army at the Women’s Voluntary Service in Germany in 1955.

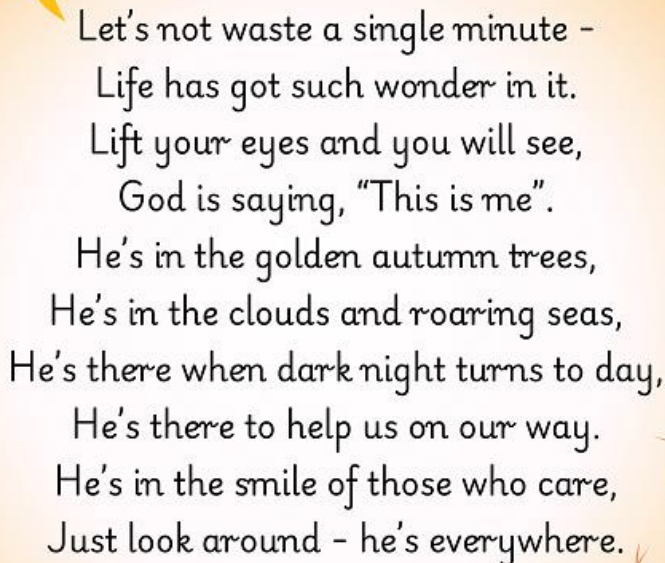
Alan was brought up in Portslade Methodist Church. He first preached at Portslade in 1952 when he was “on note” to preach. When Portslade church closed in June 1963, at the request of his Superintendent minister, he moved to Norfolk Road Methodist Church in July 1963, in order to try and help the small, ageing

congregation, until it eventually closed in August 1964. He then moved to Hove Methodist and has been there for 60 years.

Alan has been encouraged by his colleagues including presbyters and fellow local preachers throughout the course of his preaching. He has always been careful and thoughtful in all his leadership of worship, placing God in Christ at the centre of all that he did.

At Dorset Gardens we have had the benefit of this since 1997 when the two Circuits merged and we thank Alan so much for all that he had contributed to the life of this Church.

Deeptima Massey



Let's not waste a single minute -
Life has got such wonder in it.
Lift your eyes and you will see,
God is saying, "This is me".
He's in the golden autumn trees,
He's in the clouds and roaring seas,
He's there when dark night turns to day,
He's there to help us on our way.
He's in the smile of those who care,
Just look around - he's everywhere.

(By Linda Brown, The Friendship Book, 2024)

Tearaway Tots News

What a term at Tearaway Tots! We've had two very successful Clothes Swaps, planted sunflower seeds, had a messy play session and finished with the end of term discos. It has been a real pleasure and blessing getting to know the babies, toddlers and their parents/carers.

We have also had visits from BHESCO (energy saving charity) and the Special Care Dental Team who provided valuable advice and support.



It has been a great term and following requests from the parents/carers, next term we will trial a Monday morning session too!

Sam Dyke

Guest Preacher from Sri Lanka



On Sunday 21st July we were delighted to welcome Revd Duleep Fernando as our guest preacher, sharing in service with Revd Heather Leake Date. Duleep was visiting the UK for his daughter Avanka's graduation ceremony.

Duleep graduated in Electrical Engineering from the University of Ceylon before being called to preach. He did his theological studies (BD) from University of London and a Masters in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary (USA).

He joined the Methodist Ministry when he returned to Sri Lanka in 1974 and served in several circuits. He was appointed Secretary of Conference and later served as President of the Methodist Conference in Sri Lanka from 1994-2000. He is a visiting lecturer in three seminaries Colombo Theological Seminary, Kal Eliya Evangelists Training College, and the Theological College Lanka.

Duleep has initiated many projects in evangelism and missions and is currently involved in building up two new mission churches in Deniyaya and Malabe. He has also functioned in the capacity of chairperson of several interdenominational organisations in Sri Lanka including the National Christian Council, the Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka, Back to the Bible, and as the Director of Global Impact.

Deeptima Massey



**Kushma and Deeptima
at the Kelpies**

giftaid it



Thank you very much for your offering to the work of God in this Church and Circuit. If you are a tax payer the Inland Revenue will increase your donation by 25% if you agree and provide us with your details. Please speak to Jennie Lamb who will help you fill in the appropriate form.

The Land of the Rising Sun

What do you think of when you think of Japan? Perhaps Samurai, kimonos, ninja, robots, green tea, sake, tempura, ramen, sumo, bowing, bullet trains, cherry blossom, judo or Nintendo.

Some of you will be aware that I have worked for a Japanese bank for 13 years and for five years I frequently travelled to the country so have some familiarity and great love and respect for this fascinating and quirky nation.

Recently I returned, my first visit since 2019, and this time purely as a tourist. Deeptima asked me to write something about my travels and there is a lot I could share, but I'll keep it brief and mention a few facts, latest observations and accompanying photographs.

The Japanese landscape is rugged, with more than four-fifths of the land surface consisting of mountains. There are many active and dormant volcanoes, including the famous and much photographed Mount Fuji.

Japan has a large ethnically homogeneous population, which is heavily concentrated in the low-lying areas along the Pacific coast, including the capital and mega city of Tokyo, with 44 million living within commuter distance. However, unlike most global cities, ethnic, cultural and aesthetic diversity is comparatively absent, partly due to the closure of Japan's borders to all foreign powers from 1603–1867.

Japan can appear confusing in its religious practices, in fact religious affiliation is an alien notion. Most people claim to be Buddhists but marry in Christian churches, celebrate Christmas and welcome in the New Year at Shinto shrines.





I'd forgotten how incredible customer service is in Japan. Why? Respect and humility are deeply ingrained in Japanese culture and customer service embodies the spirit of *omotenashi*: service is given wholeheartedly, without expecting anything in return. How refreshing. Go into any store and staff will do everything they can to find what you are looking for. Remember don't attempt to tip a waiter or porter, there will be an awkward rejection.

Did you know Japan has the highest density of vending machines per capita, with more than 5 million, that's roughly one vending machine for every 23 people!

Removing your shoes before entering a home is customary. This practice is a sign of respect and showcases the Japanese value of cleanliness and respect for one's environment and the homes of others.

Despite the long flight getting there, do visit if you get the chance. Japan is a land of true contrast; rich with centuries-old tradition, ancient, ornate temples and picturesque old towns standing alongside the dazzling lights and technical innovation of ultra-modern cities. If you're still not sure, think of the most amazing cuisine, beautiful natural landscapes, hospitable and kind people and the most efficient public transport. Let me know if you want to find out more.

Steve Preston

Our City by the Sea

**Summer Holiday
Club 2024**

**What a fantastic 4 days
with 2 groups attending
Dorset Gardens Methodist Church's
HOLIDAY CLUBS.**

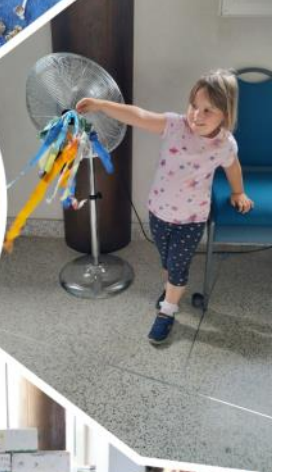
**We had a fun and informative visits from
Rampion Visitors Center
(a visit to their Visitor Center is highly recommended!)**

**We baked Danish Pinwheels
and Cheese Straws in the shapes of sea creatures.**

**We crafted some awesome seascapes
and built a wall of our favourite things about Brighton
and made pledges to protect Brighton and our coastline.**

**A big thank you to our awesome volunteers, without
their help we wouldn't be able to run these sessions.**

Sam Dyke





Lunch Positive and the HIV Chaplaincy Celebrate Milestones



On Sunday 2nd June, Lunch Positive celebrated their 15th birthday by hosting a community lunch at Dorset Gardens. It was an amazing afternoon of friendship, conversation and celebration. Over 140 people shared lunch, all put together by our amazing, hard working and enthusiastic volunteers.

So proud of all that the brilliant members, volunteers, HIV community, LGBTQ+ and community allies have achieved together in developing our work over these 15 years!

This community led charity brings together record numbers of people living with HIV, and this community service is now wider

than ever, including Friday Lunch Club, food bank and outreach, Tuesday support drop-in, 1-1 support worker and casework, befriending, wellbeing group, older people's peer support groups, women's social group, and community work across East Sussex!

Gary Pargeter













This day also marked the celebration of our own Revd Heather Leake Date's 20 years as an HIV Chaplain and we thank her for all her contributions, both within the HIV community and the Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit to remove stigmas on HIV and to bring people together in friendship and fellowship.

Deeptima Massey



Match the Flag to the Country!

Zambia, Vietnam, Tanzania, Papua New Guinea, India, Brazil, Argentina, Ghana, Jamaica, Mauritius.

(See back page for solution)

Prepared by Kushma Massey





Worship Programme at Dorset Gardens

Sunday 1 September

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 8 September ~ Education Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Geoff Harrington

Sunday 15 September

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 22 September ~ Peace Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Baptism

Led by Andy Lowe

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 29 September

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 6 October

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Paul Steadman

Sunday 13 October ~ Harvest Festival / Homeless & Prisons Sunday

9 am, Morning Communion - Led by Andy Lowe

10.30 am, Harvest All Age Worship

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 20 October ~ Freedom Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Jonathan Gravestock

Sunday 27 October ~ One World Week

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Ken Smith

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Sunday 3 November

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe

Sunday 10 November ~ Remembrance Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship - Led by Beulah Fletcher

Sunday 17 November

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Heather Leake Date

Sunday 24 November ~ Women Against Violence Sunday

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Andy Lowe

6.30 pm, Service of Healing and Communion

Led by Cynthia Park

Match the Flag Solution

	Argentina		Brazil
	India		Ghana
	Jamaica		Papua New Guinea
	Vietnam		Zambia
	Mauritius		Tanzania



The Winter 2024 edition of Newsletter will be published on Sunday 8th December 2024. Any items for inclusion - **especially seasonal items** - must reach the Editor, Deeptima Massey, **by Sunday 17th November 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".