



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

No. 276

**Dorset Gardens and Woodingdean Methodist Churches
Brighton**

A Letter from Ken

Dear Friends

It is at this time of the year that many churches plan to hold their Anniversary Services where often we seek to reflect on our history and perhaps examine ourselves and our fellowships to see if we can do better in our pursuits of mission.

It is in this context that I have been giving a great deal of thought to the subject of 'TIME' and how we use it and how it often passes us by. As I write this letter, I am reminding ourselves that it is only 21 weeks since we were celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ and in that time which has passed, we have studied Lent, The Passion, The Crucifixion, Easter, and now we are looking forward to, in a short time, Pentecost. At the same time, we often think with amazement that so much has taken place in our lives in such a short time. We also often omit to remember that in that comparatively short period of time, we are witnessing thirty years of Christ's earthly ministry.

In our frailties we often say that we are sometimes overwhelmed by the speed at which 'TIME' passes us by. I have heard several people say we are in the middle of May! What has happened from January

to April? What have we done? Where have we been? Sometimes in our response to these simple questions, we find ourselves in difficulty giving our account of our Mission.

At the beginning of this letter I referred to Anniversaries and during this month both our Churches (i.e. Dorset Gardens & Woodingdean) have celebrated their events and enjoyed the fellowship but I hope too, that we have put aside 'TIME' to consider what more we can do in prayer and service and our recent commitment to being a Circuit of 'Sanctuary' adds greatly to the challenges put before us.

Let us recall what King Charles III said at the beginning of his Coronation Service: "I have come not to be served but TO SERVE". I believe that is our calling too.

God Bless,

Ken Smith

Coronation Tots!

Our toddlers had a busy time making beautiful crafts to mark the coronation and the 20th anniversary. What a weekend of celebrations, with a special Sunday Tots session thrown into the mix.



The egg box bouquets were painted a regal purple and gold, with some wonderful finger painting on blue crowns for the new king.

Liz Neale

Pastoral Care

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

Deaths: Jim Badcock, Phyllis (Phil) Woodford.

In Nursing, Care & Rehabilitation Homes:-

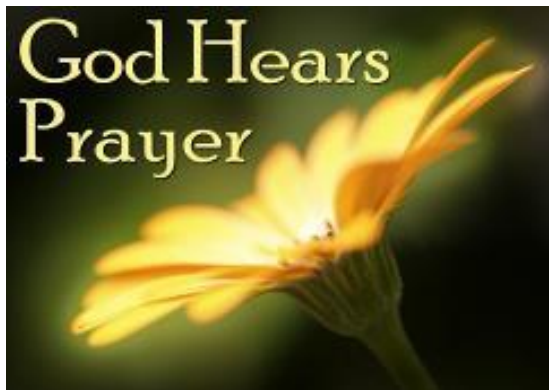
Val Boyd-Pain, Anne Bristow, Marian Jackson, Pat Knight, Ian Parker, Shirley Rose.

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



Easter Sunday Celebration

On Sunday 9th April, during our Easter morning worship, Izzy was Baptised and Dora and Pauline welcomed into membership. A very special Easter celebration indeed!



Celebrating the Past, Present and Future



That our 20th Anniversary and the Coronation took place on the same weekend was a happy accident and has given me much food for thought.

As we in the present celebrate the past and look to the future, I was surprised to hear some of the discussion after the coronation during which my favourite social historian, David Olusoga, questioned the relevance of the historic service because the nation is so different now from what it was in 1952. Personally I thought it very much reflected the present: the diversity of people taking part - singers and musicians, readers, well-wishers, stick carriers! - men and women, boys and girls, of all colours and many faiths, using the languages of the UK - very much announced: this is our nation today. And that it was set within the liturgy of the past gave it context and texture, while at the same time proudly revealing how an old world can be shaped into something new and beautiful, inclusive and diverse. *Pace* Mr. Olusoga: the past is never irrelevant; it can't be. We wouldn't have a present or a future without a past!

This is also true for Dorset Gardens. We would have no call to be nestled into the St. James' Street neighbourhood if the good Methodists of 1808 hadn't made it their home. That they put down such deep roots and did so much work in the community has left an indelible mark on us today. The building that opened 20 years ago is saying proudly: this is who we are today. But our service to the

community has been moulded by the past. It is different; it requires different gifts, but we wouldn't be here today if it weren't for yesterday. And the future? The future will always be built on the past and if it is a past to be proud of, as it is both for our United Kingdom and our church, then it holds much promise. We can face the future with confidence, with hope and with joy. Thanks be to God.

Cynthia Park



Revds Cynthia Park, Peter Shilling and Deborah Cornish on Sunday 7th May 2023, the day of our 20th Anniversary Celebrations! Celebrating 20 years in our current church building.

Celebrating Past, Present and Future

It seems to me that when we are celebrating the “Past, Present and Future” we are acknowledging and celebrating time. Time is fascinating.

A Victorian saying goes: “When the Lord made time, he made plenty of it.” But it is amazing how time seems to be able to change its rate. When we retired eighteen years ago, I can remember driving down from Wales to Sussex, wondering if all our previous ministry over decades had actually happened. It seemed as if it never had. On the other hand, living in the present, time seems to rush by. Why does time seem to thrust us into the future more quickly when we are old? I wonder.

Science has revealed that it was some 13.7 billion earth-years ago when space, time, and the material universe came into being. We Christians would mythologise this by describing the moment as God demanding: “Let there be light.”

Time is relative: Humanly speaking a day on the planet Jupiter is far different than a day on the planet Earth. Einstein's Theory of Relativity, as it relates to time, has been proved by astronauts who return to earth slightly younger than they would have been if they had not gone into space. All very confusing!

As far as God is concerned, Peter in his second epistle (Ch.3 v.8) states: “With the Lord, one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” Paul declares (Romans Ch.5 v.6) that God had a handle on the issue of time, in that when God did a unique thing in being born in a stable and re-aligning our lives, he did it “At the right time.”

To us then, who are for the moment trapped in the present, the writer to the Hebrews states (Ch.13 v.8): "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and for ever." Then he urges us to remember that as we travel through time. As the wall plaque put it: "Don't worry about tomorrow, God is already there."

Peter Shilling



Timeline - Dorset Gardens Methodist Church 2003-2023

A Timeline can only give a snapshot of what has happened and is happening. This timeline has not included Advent and Lenten Studies, House Groups, workshops, pulpit exchange, student activities, concerts, celebrations or a number of other activities that go in at Dorset Gardens week by week. Nor does it include activities that started before 2003 and are still taking place.

Please note that because this 20-year timeline starts with the opening of the new Church there is an inevitable statistical bias in the fact that more activities open at the start of the period than towards the end.

MINISTERS

September 1997 to August 2002	Revd Mary Bailey
September 2002 to August 2012	Revd Cynthia Park
September 2012 to August 2017	Revd Robin Selmes
September 2017 to August 2023	Revd Deborah Cornish

***Whilst the new Dorset Gardens Church was being built,
we worshipped with London Road Methodist Church.***

2002 15 December: First morning service in the new building.

2003 5 April: New building opened by Revd Mary Bailey who had overseen the project. Preacher, Revd Dr Colin Morris.
 28 April: AGM of St. James' Action Group held at DG.
 May/June: Dorset Gardens received Heritage Trust Award.
 Scouts, Cubs and Beavers (14th Brighton) return to DG.
 Weekly (Thursdays 1 pm) service in the Prayer Chapel starts.
 June: Playscheme starts. This was a Sure Start scheme and continues as Tearaway Tots.
 July/August: First Holiday Club.
 9-10 August: Gay Pride celebrations in Peace Park & church.
 October: Art & Craft Club starts.

- 2004** May: Faith in the City 2004: First annual Art Exhibition at Dorset Gardens, part of Brighton Festival Fringe.
 June: Exchange visit of Revd Sandy Stevens, Breckenridge, Colorado, USA.
 Revd Heather Leake Date (*Brighton NHS Trust Aids/HIV Pharmacist*) ordained. Later that year becomes HIV/Aids Chaplain.
 July: Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) start meeting at DG.
- 2005** DG applies successfully to become a City Centre Church.
 13 September: Dorset Gardens begins hosting the Clare Project (support group for transgender people). N.B. 21 November 2009 Transgender Day of Remembrance.
 18 Sept: Café Church/Connexion (evening service) started.
 November: Book Club (at Coach House, Rottingdean) starts.
- 2006** 20 June: Visit of Bishop John Shelby Spong, American Episcopal bishop and author. N.B. There was a 'gift stone' from Ambrose Spong, a distant relation, in the 1884 building.
 Following a Circuit Review Dorset Gardens takes on the Methodist Chaplaincies at the Universities of Brighton and of Sussex.
 Revd Cynthia Park becomes Methodist Chaplain.
 Spring: Cameo (Come and Meet Each Other) starts.
 World Aids Day Service first held at Dorset Gardens. This continues as an annual event usually held at Dorset Gardens.
- 2007** March: Dorset Gardens takes over running of Tearaway Tots.
 Annual Church Meeting agreed to provide a meeting place for Cocaine Anonymous.
 2-14 June: Visit of Arthur Wellington Methodist Church, New Brighton, South Africa under their new minister, the Revd Musi Losaba. They sang at many places in the UK, the service at Wesley's Chapel was broadcast by the BBC. The visit was sponsored by Dorset Gardens.
 16 September: Lib. Dem. Party Conference Service held at Dorset Gardens. Also on 27 September 2009. N.B. This

continues a practice from after WWII of holding Conference Services if a group, including political parties, requests them.

1 November: Luis Algorta Baledon starts as full-time lay worker with students.

18 November: Covenant linking Dorset Gardens with Brighthelm URC, St Nicholas and the Chapel Royal.

2008 BICENTENARY OF DORSET GARDENS (WESLEYAN) METHODIST CHURCH

Luis Algorta Baledon ceases as full-time student lay worker.

18 May: 200th Anniversary service. Preacher, Revd the Lord Griffiths. N.B. This was a general Church Anniversary Service.

24 August: 200th Anniversary service. Preacher, Revd Dr Colin Morris. N.B. This was the service celebrating the opening of Dorset Gardens on Sunday 28 August 1808.

28 September: Civic Service celebrating 200th anniversary of Dorset Gardens. Preacher, Revd John Hellyer, Chair of the District. Launch of book, and Exhibition.

Revd Trevor Gerhardt appointed as Student Development Worker. Part-time until Jan 2009, then full-time until 2010.

Knitting Group starts.

25 December: First Christmas Day lunch at Sussex University. This continued to 2011.

2009 Following a communication from Revd Arko-Boham (who had attended Dorset Gardens when he was a student at the University of Sussex) from the Jukwa Circuit in Ghana the Circuit Meeting adopted the project of twinning Circuits. 13 June. N.B. This Circuit Project was launched at DG.

2010 Computer suite in basement community room opened.

10 May: Brighton & Hove Council gives Dorset Gardens a Certificate of Appreciation for Volunteer Services in the Tarner and Eastern Road Areas.

21 October to 1 November: Cynthia Park leads a group to visit

the Jukwa Circuit, Ghana. Brighton & Hove Circuit funds a water purification plant, and a manse to enable the Jukwa Circuit to have its proper complement of ministers.

South Africa Project came to a close.

Lunch Positive starts at Dorset Gardens.

2011 Sue Harrington becomes part-time Student Development Worker, a Circuit appointment, to replace Revd Trevor Gerhardt who took up a new appointment.

May: Film Night starts.

2012 15 January: Dedication of Memory Wall at Dorset Gardens, following donation from the estate of Revd Dr. R. John Tudor (minister at Dorset Gardens 1975-1981, and regular attender after his retirement from the active ministry).

Bible Conversations start.

December: Monday Club meets for the last time. N.B. This had begun as Young Wives Group in the early 1960s.

2013 Adoption of Mission Statement and Aims.

Church Counselling Project starts.

Dec: The evening service, Café Connexion, ends. Replaced by 'Q', and open forum meeting once a month from Feb 2014.

2014 October: Dorset Gardens hosts meal to celebrate the end of the Circuit Ghana Project.

2015 Art and Friends at Dorset Gardens [a group for adults with learning disabilities] starts.

September: Two-year Church Project in Ghana & Togo starts.

30 October: Community Lunch (5th Sunday in month) starts.

Revd Robin Selmes visits Ghana for the Ghana School Project.

2016 October: Narcotics Anonymous (NA) start meeting at DG.

2017 January: Stay Up Late (inclusion for disabled people) starts use of the basement room as office and meeting space. Moves out in April 2019 as it had outgrown the space.

1 September: Liz Neale appointed Children and Families Support Worker, Circuit appointment.

September: Regular weekly evening service ceases.

Film Night ends.

2020 March: All Churches, including Dorset Gardens, are closed for worship because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

5 November: Open House begins. A weekly drop-in for the community with tea, coffee, cake games and crafts.

2021 July to September: Staged return to full-time worship.

N.B. A number of groups cease to meet, e.g. Art & Craft Club and Bible Conversations.

2022 January: Art & Friends restarts as 'Crafty Art' (Buzz Club)

22 Dec: Dorset Gardens registered for 'same-sex marriage'.

2023 March: All Churches in the Circuit, including DG, become Churches of Sanctuary. Preacher Revd Dr Inderjit Bhogal.

Mick Hickman



Looking Ahead... Towards the Future

We asked a few people what their hope is for DG as we look forward to another 20 years. Their responses were:

“To see DG flourish, supporting our current congregation while encouraging new members and creating a church for the next generation that has a solid foundation and that is relevant to them”
(Sam Dyke)

“For us to grow as a congregation in numbers, strength and faith”
(Nick Phillips, Beavers)

“I love to see families grow up at DG, starting as newborn babies at Tots, growing into children, enjoying holiday club and Girlguiding/Scouting groups and maturing into young adults at the heart of our community. In another 20 years I’d like to see DG continuing to welcome the next generation”
(Liz Neale)

“I want to see DG becoming one of the most respected and known churches in Brighton/South-east England. I want to see it becoming one of the faces of Brighton and having greater impact within our local city. I also want to see more young students attending church and helping with work around the church”
(Emmanuel Osei)

“When we look out of the back staircase window of DG, we see the past. Looking out through the front doors are the present and future. We cannot predict what is going to happen, where the need is going to be, but we must be in tune with our extended family outside those doors. I pray that we have the bravery, the passion, and the desire to preach the Gospel to those on the margins and welcome them with the fullness of hospitality”
(John Cornish)

“I would love to see the ministry of music flourish further (perhaps a small choir) and active participation of young people in Sunday worship”
(Kushma Massey)

“Whatever the church looks like, I hope there will still be people there to reach out to those around it in their needs and to love them into the Kingdom”
(Nick Firrell)

Hello from Hannah

My name is Hannah and I have been coming to DG as often as I can since August last year. I am doing the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) parliamentary internship this year which means I spend half my time working for JPIT & half in Parliament working for Labour MP, Cat Smith.

JPIT is a partnership between the Methodist Church, the Baptist Union of GB and the United Reformed Church which aims to help churches work together on key issues of justice and peace.

I am really enjoying this role and how it has connected my Christian faith to addressing the realities of injustice we face. Equally, I love working in Parliament and learning the path to the big changes we need to see.

This does mean I live in London now, but I come back to Brighton when I can to replace the business of London for the sea and hills.

I am loving coming to Dorset Gardens and being part of a fun church with a heart for community and justice. Growing up, I was often told not to bring up politics after church. In stark contrast I love how many people at DG want to talk to me about political happenings of the week. I always learn something new at tea!

Hannah Furse

Little Amal's Visit to Brighton & Hove



On a day in March of Spring showers, it stayed dry and bright for Little Amal's walk on Brighton & Hove seafront. Several members of our Circuit, together with hundreds of other people, walked in solidarity with the 3.5 metre puppet of a 10 year old Syrian refugee girl.

Starting in Turkey, Little Amal has travelled over 9,000 kilometres, through 13 countries, leading festivals of hope and art to

support refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

Little Amal interacted with the crowd as she walked along the promenade. When she saw our Methodist Circuit of Sanctuary banner, she shook hands with Elin. This led an Evening Argus reporter to interview Elin afterwards!



Welcoming Little Amal to Brighton & Hove after such a long journey felt good and important. Several times, Little Amal paused to look wistfully out to sea. This was very moving and my thoughts and prayers turned to all those making such difficult journeys across land and sea.

Ruth Samur

Visit of Anthony Boateng to the Brighton & Hove Circuit

On Sunday 14 May, Deeptima Massey shared worship at Woodingdean with Anthony Boateng, the Vice President of the Methodist Church in the UK. Anthony was informally interviewed by Terry Hammond as he shared about his role, his overseas visits and his vision.



Anthony gave a thought-provoking sermon reminding us of the everlasting presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our call to discipleship. He challenged the congregation to think of what revival might mean to us.

After the service, a group of us went to Downs hotel for a meal, kindly hosted by Woodingdean members.

This gave us an opportunity to have further conversations with Anthony and to learn more about his work.

Deeptima Massey



One More Step Along the World I Go

There is one hymn that will for ever be associated with the time that we left the old church, camped out at London Road, before returning to our new church building in 2002. That hymn is 'One more step along the world I go'

If memory serves me well it was sung at the last service in the old church and the first service in the new building and on numerous occasions in between. It became our anthem.

'One more step along the world I go' was first published in 1971 and is one of three hymns in our hymn books that was composed by Sydney Carter (1915-2004) the other two being 'Lord of the Dance' and 'When I needed a neighbour'. All three have become popular in churches, schools, choirs and folk clubs.

Born in Camden Town, London, Carter studied at Montem Street Primary School in Finsbury Park, Christ's Hospital School in Horsham and Balliol College, Oxford, graduating in History in 1936. He then

took up a teaching post at Frensham Heights School in Farnham, but his teaching career was interrupted by the outbreak of war.

He was baptised and brought up in the Anglican Church but he became a Quaker and a committed pacifist so at the outbreak of World War Two he joined the Friends' Ambulance Unit and served in Egypt, Palestine and Greece. It was in Greece in 1944 that he met Donald Swann and when the war was over, he worked as a lyricist for Donald Swann's revues and musicals.

He also wrote some songs for Christian Aid, having previously contributed religious and protest songs for the Aldermaston march and he continued to work with Donald Swann, writing six songs for the 1964 Donald Swann EP 'Songs of Faith and Doubt'.

During the 60s he had become very involved in the thriving Folk Music scene. At first Carter gave poetry readings and performed his songs in pubs and clubs, but he started to attract greater public attention when offering his songs and singing alongside such luminaries as Martin Carthy, Ewan MacColl, Pete Seeger and Judy Collins. His anti-war lullaby 'Crow and the Cradle' was later recorded by Judy Collins.

In 1963 he wrote 'Lord of the Dance' set to the tune of the American Shaker song 'Simple Gifts' and in 1965 wrote and recorded the six song EP 'Lord of the Dance' featuring Martin Carthy on Guitar. Also included on this was 'When I need a neighbour' which was written in 1965. 'One More Step along the world I go' was written in 1971 and like the previous two it quickly became popular in churches and school assemblies.

In 1996 a survey of songs sung in assemblies in British schools was carried out and the top ten included all three of Carter's hymns.

‘When I needed a neighbour’ was at No. 7, ‘Lord of the Dance’ at No. 5 and ‘One More Step’ at No. 1.

Carter later commented on the three, saying. *“They are songs which can be sung in a Christian context, but they all had to mean something to me because I was often on the edge of not believing. The songs certainly have not made my fortune, but I am still grateful for the royalties when they come in.”*

When Hymns and Psalms was published in 1983 ‘One More Step’ was included, but surprisingly the other two were only added in ‘Singing the Faith’ in 2011.

Sadly in 1999, Sydney Carter began to suffer from Alzheimer’s disease and he died at the age of 88 in 2004.

For those of us who were around when we left our old church building before eventually moving into our present building, ‘One More step along the world I go’ will always hold a special place and the lyrics are still relevant for the journey we continue to travel as a church.

Ian Lamb

Thoughts for Quiet Reflection

- a. With God’s help I can endure my challenges.
- b. Prayer can change my mind and my life.
- c. I would like to offer God’s comfort to someone in need.

14th Brighton Scout Group, 1923 to 2023

The 14th Brighton Scout Group is celebrating its centenary this year. Here is a brief history of the Group.

The first meeting of what eventually became the 14th Brighton was in October 1923, when Revd H.I. Smith formed a Cub Pack at St Luke's Hall. The pack was designated the 23rd Brighton and 23 children attended the first meeting. St Luke's Hall is now demolished but was situated where Tidy House at the top of Islingword Road is today.

In 1924 a Scout Troop started meeting at Dorset Gardens Church. This Troop was led by Eric Hooker and Leslie Bunker and was designated the 31st Brighton. Wolf Cubs started meeting at Dorset Gardens in 1925, but at some point, folded. A new pack started on 28th March 1935 with A.W. Shipley as Akela and we hold a Log Book of meetings with photos in our archives. A Scout Troop was started at St Luke's in 1928. Around this time, the St Luke's Group was renumbered 2nd Brighton East and Dorset Gardens 3rd Brighton East.



Cub Pack, 1935

In 1946, the Groups changed their numbers again. St Luke's became the 13th Brighton and Dorset Gardens the 14th Brighton. Bill Day and Jim Yeates ran the DG Troop in the 1940s and were still there in 1952 after which Ron Funnell moved from the St Luke's Troop to take charge at DG. Ron was Wynn Funnell's brother.

Eileen Croxall was Akela of the 14th Brighton Cubs from 1948 to 1951 where she was known as Croxy and in 1951 she married Scout Leader, William (Bill) Day.

In 1948, Eric Pica became Group Scout Master at DG and continued until the late 1960s when he handed over to Bryan Moody and became Group Chairman. Jean Yates (Rogers) became Cub Scout Master at DG in 1955 and later became Group Secretary, a post she held until the early 1990s. Her husband David was Group Treasurer for many years and their three children, Roger, Alan and Judith all held leader warrants, upholding the family connection.

Jean's brother, John Rogers, became Cub Scout Master in 1957 until 1978 when he became Group Scout Leader. He had been a Cub, Scout, Senior Scout and Leader for over forty years! In 1959, Bryan Moody returned to Brighton to work and took over from Ron Funnell as Scout Master.

In 1970, the 13th & 14th Brighton Groups decided to merge and we all changed to become the 14th Brighton. The Group comprised of two Cub Packs, one meeting at Bute Street Hall and the other at DG. The Bute Street pack closed in the late 70s and the remaining cubs joined the DG pack. The two Scout Troops merged under the leadership of Harry Lyon and Geoff Toon at Dorset Gardens to form a flourishing Troop. Bryan Moody and Pat Percival ran a 30-strong Ranger Guide/Venture Scout Unit at DG.

Ian Lamb, Roger Cattenach and Jo Beecher were now assisting John Rogers at the Dorset Gardens Pack and in 1975 John Rogers became Group Scout Leader with Ian Lamb taking over as Cub Scout Leader. Ian had been a Cub, Scout and Senior Scout in the 14th with John Rogers as his Akela and Bryan Moody his Scout Leader.

Martin Cormack took over as Scout Leader in the 1980s, but in 1987 Martin tragically died in a car crash and Ian Lamb moved from the Cub Pack to take over as Scout Leader. Andrew Flux took over from Ian as Akela and he was followed by David Simon, then Grant Mainwaring until Graham Curry took over as CSL in 1998.

In 1992 girls were admitted to the 14th Scout Troop and in 1998 Ian was appointed Assistant District Commissioner (Scouts) and later Assistant County Commissioner (Activities) and John Cripps took over as Scout Leader. John was joined by Helen Mitchell and under their leadership the Troop excelled in hiking, winning the Baker's



Last Church Parade, December 1999

Dozen competition six times between 1999 & 2007 and also the Overland Hike in 2007.

The joint Ranger/Venture Scout Unit became a Venture Scout Unit. Kevin Agnew became leader and he was followed by Mick Lawrence. Venture Scouting later evolved into Explorer Scouts and became District Units rather than Group Units.

The 14th Beaver Colony started in 1989 with Julie Yates as Leader. Geraldine Hambridge took over from Julie and she was eventually succeeded by Lynn Wordingham. Sadly, Lynn died and Nick Phillips eventually took charge assisted by Bryan Moody.

Jeremy Radvan took over the running of the Cub Pack later being joined as Assistant by Paul Stone in 2006 and Jeremy soon handed over to Paul to become Cub Scout Leader. Paul had been a Cub, Scout and Venture Scout with the 14th. John Cripps stepped down as Scout Leader to become Group Scout Leader with Stephen Berry taking over for a short time before Vic Leon-Cutler took charge. When Vic stood down, we persuaded Helen Mitchell (Angel) to return and take charge and Ian Lamb returned as Group Scout Leader in 2013 with John Cripps reverting to Assistant Group Scout Leader. When Deborah Cornish came to DG, her husband John took over as Beaver Leader.

In 2018, Bryan Moody died having served as a leader with the 14th for over 50 years.

Over the weekend of 28th/29th October 2023 we will be holding our main celebrations. We will be inviting past leaders and members of the group to a celebration on the Saturday and we have invited Revd Robin Selmes to lead a celebratory service on the Sunday.

Ian Lamb, Group Scout Leader

The Overland Hike 2023 - 14th Brighton Scouts

As many of our regular readers may know, the 14th Brighton Scouts nearly always enter a team in the annual Overland Hike Competition. A Challenge Hike, open to Scouts from East and West Sussex where teams of four hike a 25-mile route over two days, camping together overnight, carrying everything they need: Tent, sleeping bags, spare clothes, emergency and First Aid kits, their food, cooking equipment and fuel. They navigate over the Downs and in the Weald using OS Maps through multiple checkpoints; the challenge is that the route is kept secret until the actual day of the competition and they are only given the grid reference of the next checkpoint at the start and again at each subsequent checkpoint.

It is a real challenge and we start the training in January, teaching the technical navigation skills required, developing the stamina and concentration needed to stay focussed throughout the day, and the strength required to carry a loaded rucksack which might weigh as much as 10 kilos. The navigation skills are really important



especially as they get tired towards the end of the day, or in bad weather when they might be wet or cold. We also practice tent-pitching and cooking on a Trangia single-burner stove.

But it isn't just hiking and camping; the Scouts also acquire skills in teamwork and communication, planning, menu decisions (how to get the maximum calories, for the minimum weight, with as short a cooking time (to save fuel) as possible. They will also gain individual self-confidence as they practice, and those wonderful qualities of independence and self-reliance.

Because of Covid restrictions, 2022 was the first competition in three years and, much to our surprise, our team took first place. This year we were asked to help train Scouts from another Troop in the District, 14th Hove. We trained eight scouts; six from 14th Brighton and two from 14th Hove: five boys, three girls. We were therefore able to enter two teams this year, each of which had three scouts from our Troop and one scout from 14th Hove. Throughout the training we enjoyed the help of two Leader colleagues from 14th Hove and lots of support and encouragement from the parents. The picture on the previous page shows both teams at the start.

Warm congratulations go to all the Scouts; we are pleased to report that our young people successfully completed this event, and indeed exceeded our expectations with both teams in the top five: one in 5th place, and the other in 3rd Place. Our 3rd place team were also awarded the 'Novice Team Trophy' as none of them had competed in the competition before.

The following photo shows our tired Scouts with their happy leaders and parents after the certificates and awards had been presented. Note the 'Novice Team Trophy' in the shape of a Hiking Boot!

Ian Lamb, Group Scout Leader



The Village Metropolitan Community Church

The Village MCC held its first worship service on the first Sunday in February 2015. Initially there was 12 of us who agreed that there was a need for an actively LGBTQ+ affirming Christian community, and felt the call to form one. Although there are a few churches that welcome LGBTQ+ members, there was nowhere that affirmed LGBTQ+ lives in ways that actively included us in the Gospel story. For those of us who had suffered in churches which had marginalised us, or even demonised us, we needed somewhere to heal. The Village MCC became that place.

We grew slowly until we had doubled in size, and had invited an associate pastor to join us in our work. However, Covid came along and the whole world changed. Like many other churches we are still re-evaluating how best to serve the communities we are called to support, in a post-pandemic world. It remains an ongoing process.

So why do we feel that our work is still necessary when there are now churches like Dorset Gardens Methodist Church who warmly welcome and affirm LGBTQ+ community members? Here I am only speaking for myself.

Firstly, when someone has been seriously hurt by a church community it's important to know that everyone around you understands what you've been through, and can relate. It's a church community where, hopefully, you never have to educate anybody about *who* you are. Nobody asks me how I can be married to a man and be a Christian minister, or how someone can be trans and in a relationship with God, or what it means for someone to identify as non-binary. I believe that a safe space is more than a space where it's safe to be who you are, it is a space where *who you are* is an essential part of the community tapestry and a part of God's plans for the world.

Secondly, I enjoy being in a place where scripture can be viewed through a 'queer' lens. Traditionally the interpretation of scripture has been very patriarchal. When viewed through a matriarchal lens we can see that the ongoing struggle for equality in scripture is more than a sub-text. There are LGBTQ+ positive characters like David and Daniel who show us how God sees us very differently to the way we see each other. This 'holistic' way of reading scripture empowers us, draws us closer together, and into relationship with a loving God who prizes diversity.

Of course not all of our members identify as LGBTQ+, although some may argue that together we are a rather queer lot! However, no matter how we identify, we all feel the call to support the larger LGBTQ+ community as a Christian church. How that will look as we move forward – watch this space!

Michael Hydes

Carlton Hill PTA

Thank you to Dorset Gardens for the recent donation from the Table Top Sale held before Christmas. With the money, we purchased a Standing Desk for our Nurture Room.



This will enable children that struggle with sitting still to stand and do their work. It will be making a massive difference to them...
Thank you!

Sam Dyke

The Autumn 2023 edition of Newsletter will be published on Sunday 3rd September 2023. Any items for inclusion must reach the Editor, Deeptima Massey, **by Sunday 13th August 2023**. Email: office@dgmc.org.uk

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

Worship Programme

Sunday 4 June ~ Trinity Sunday

10 am, Church Anniversary Service

Led by Kathleen Richardson at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Stella Goddard at DG

Sunday 11 June ~ MHA Sunday

10 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Ken Smith at DG

Sunday 18 June ~ (N.B. London-Brighton Bike Ride)

10 am, Morning Worship

Led by Beulah Fletcher at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Deborah Cornish at DG

Sunday 25 June ~ Refugee Sunday & LP Exchange Sunday

10 am, Morning Worship

Led by David Parr at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Anthony Brazier at DG

Sunday 2 July

10 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Deborah Cornish at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Beulah Fletcher at DG

Sunday 9 July

10 am, Morning Worship

Led by Dan Woodhouse at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Deborah Cornish at DG

Sunday 16 July

10 am, Morning Worship

Led by Deborah Cornish at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Cynthia Park at DG

Sunday 23 July

10 am, Morning Worship

Led by Paul Steadman at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Deborah Cornish at DG

Sunday 30 July

10 am, Morning Worship

Led by Alan Saunders at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Robert Little at DG

Sunday 6 August ~ (N.B. Brighton Pride Weekend)

10 am, Morning Worship

Led by Bob Winton at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Cynthia Park at DG

Sunday 13 August

10.30 am, Circuit Together Service at Stanford Avenue

Led by Revd Andy Lowe

Sunday 20 August

10 am, Morning Worship

Led by Heather Leake Date at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe at DG

Sunday 27 August

10 am, Morning Worship with Communion

Led by Andy Lowe at WMC

10.30 am, Morning Worship

Led by Dan Woodhouse at DG