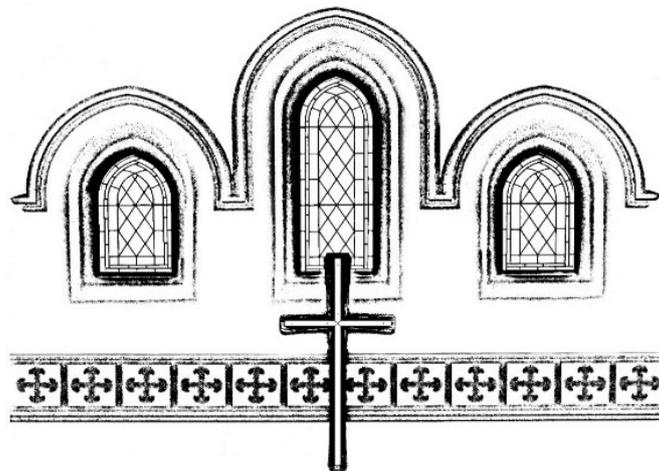


Newsletter from the....



MIDHURST METHODIST CHURCH

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April/May 2018

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SUNDAY SERVICES

10.00am – MORNING WORSHIP

For morning service with **HOLY COMMUNION**
Please see Church Diary printed inside this Newsletter

Requests for **BAPTISMS** and **WEDDINGS** should be
made to the Minister

The calling of

MIDHURST METHODIST CHURCH

is to

love God

and to

love our neighbours

* * * * *

We are committed to:

Spreading the good news of Jesus Christ

As expressed in God's word from the Bible

The worship of God at the centre of our lives

Demonstrating God's love for everyone

Helping people grow in the Christian faith

Challenging injustices

Blessing the local community

from our minister

ALLELUIA!

St Augustine said, "A Christian should be an Alleluia from head to foot".

He's right of course for all sorts of reasons but it is something that is easy to forget. We tend to be restrained, thinking that as Christians it is a bit self-indulgent to celebrate, but it is a central part of our relationship with God and has been for those who went before us in faith even (perhaps especially) back to biblical times.

Times for feasting were laid down in the Old Testament and the Psalmist often echoes the reasons for celebratory seasons, remembering that God had been good to his people in their past and has been good to us in our present.

Christians inherit this tradition but often lose sight of it among the obvious and pressing truth that life is so often difficult for so many - including ourselves. For that reason the painful and difficult themes of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday give opportunities for imaginative worship and events. Through these we appreciate and get close to the depths of the emotions and the spiritual and cosmic significance of all that was taking place and we resonate with them as we connect with aspects of them in our own lives and experience.

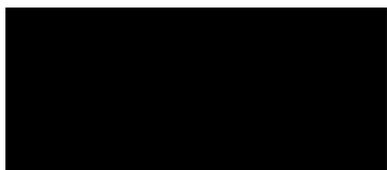
With all of that going on it is easy to reach Easter Day exhausted and content to relax into something much more ordinary albeit with very positive words. Perhaps we should remember that Easter is more than just another Sunday. God came among us, experienced at firsthand how difficult life can be and died a painful death at the hands of injustice and oppression. But the resurrection is so much more than a surprising twist in the tale to bring about a happy ending - it is the major cause for eternal celebration. It is through Jesus' death and resurrection God brings us to eternal life. Jesus' resurrection assures us that there is a new creation in which to share and because of his death and resurrection, celebrated at Easter, we can have our past forgiven, our hope for the future and life in the present.

We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

Alleluia!

David



Easter 2018

Palm Sunday 25th March - morning worship at 10am with Neil Wingrove

Holy Week Meditations - Monday 26th & Tuesday 27th March at Midhurst at 9:30am followed by coffee; Wednesday 28th March at 9:30 at Liphook

Maundy Thursday 29th March - Agape Communion service around the table at 6:30pm with Rev David Rice

Good Friday 30th March - service at 9:30am with Geoff Paffett followed by the **Walk of Witness** starting from our Church at 10:20am.

Easter Saturday 31st March - decorating the Church from 9:30am

Easter Day celebration & Holy Communion 1st April at 10am with Rev David Muskett

Ascension Day 10th May - Communion service at 6:30pm with Rev David Muskett

Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.

Martin Luther King



Methodist
relief and
development

ALL WE CAN

At Easter time we will be thinking about our partner project in Zimbabwe. Our community group is called 'Sungond' (meaning 'being together'). They have been receiving income from the chickens they have reared and sold in the market. This is also a valuable source of protein for local people.

It is vital that the group continues to be supported and trained by MEDRA - the Zimbabwean Methodist Development and Relief Agency. The group has to learn about successful poultry-rearing and how to make it into a sustainable business. This means that they must have basic literacy and numeracy skills - particularly important for the women as few have been able to attend school as children. They must learn that some of the profits should be put back into the business to buy more eggs (or chicks), foodstuff and vaccines. They are also helped to start a group bank where members try to make small regular savings so that they can get a repayable loan in time of need.

Our gift at Easter will be used to set up these important training sessions. The groups are set up by MEDRA, starting with church members, because this gives a nucleus of people used to working together. People not in the church can see the positive things the Church is doing to lift people out of poverty. The group becomes a witness and so others are drawn into the group and the Church.

The money the group members earn goes to buy food, medical care where necessary, and education so the next generation gets the chance to learn new skills for future employment.

JP



Thy Kingdom Come

This ecumenical prayer event will take place again this year, running from Ascension to Pentecost. It will start with our Ascension Day Service on 10th May and will end with a service in the Midhurst Parish Church on the afternoon of 20th May. On the days in between, the various churches in our area will host one event each. Details for these days will be available nearer the time.

Because we will be joined by our friends from the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches on Ascension Day, the service will be held in the Church rather than the garden. It will be at the usual time of 6:30pm and we will, of course, be offering refreshments afterwards.

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To the Editor

In response to an article in the Connection magazine asking us why we go to church:

I go to church to worship God in the company of my fellow Christians and friends.

I always want to thank God for the natural beauty around us.

I never forget how blessed we are to live here.

I like to hear a message from the preacher which relates to my life and is inspiring.

Being part of the Methodist Church gives me confidence that we can achieve things together.

AC

Prayer Focus April/May

April 1st Easter Sunday. Christ is risen; He is risen indeed. We thank God for the sacrifice He made in the pain and sorrow of the cross, but praise Him for the triumphant victory over sin by his resurrection on that first Easter Day. Praise God indeed and reflect on the difference it has made to our individual lives.

The next Sunday, **April 8th**, is known as Low Sunday, reflecting the moods of the disciples just one week after the crucifixion, not sure of what was to happen in the future, some claiming to have met the risen Lord, others still doubtful and unsure. Pray for all who may be experiencing similar feelings at this time that their faith, in the risen Lord, may be strengthened and renewed. Easter coincides with spring, a season of new life and growth after winter; pray that we too, may find new life and growth in Christ at this time. Pray for Christ's Church throughout the world, especially in areas where it faces persecution, that it may flourish both in numbers and spiritual strength. Pray for our church here in Midhurst, for our minister, all those who lead our services, and all those who make our worship possible. Pray for all those groups who use our premises for their meetings. Pray that, as members of this church, we take every opportunity to share Christ with these people, and that they see Christ reflected in our lives.

Thursday **10th May** is Ascension Day, pray that we too may, through grace, join Christ in Heaven and also that we do our part in creating Heaven on earth.

May 20th is Pentecost, remembering the day when the disciples received the gifts of the Holy Spirit, as they were promised. Pray that we, also, may receive such gifts and use them in establishing your Kingdom here in Midhurst creating a vibrant Christian fellowship, recognized by our neighbours as something they would like to be part of.

Pray for all members of our community, especially for any who may be feeling low at this time and for any who may be unwell. Are there things that we could do to make their lives a little easier?

Our media appears only to contain bad news. There is so much suffering shown on our television screens that we become almost immune to it. Pray for all those throughout the world who are suffering as a result of war, civil

unrest, famine, disease and natural disasters. Pray especially for those forced to flee from their homes and country, many have been displaced for several years. Pray for the charities and their workers who are seeking to help these people under very difficult and dangerous conditions. We can help by supporting All We Can and Sanctuary in Chichester.

Many of us are concerned about the international situation, with nation opposing nation in words and deeds. Pray that the voices of the peacemakers may be heard and heeded and that we learn to live in peace. In the midst of so much gloom, give thanks for all those who act with kindness or generosity to improve the lives of others, all who work in health services, those who care for the elderly and those in our education system as pupil or teacher. Pray for all those who work for the homeless, that they may bring a little stability and purpose to the lives of those affected.

Finally pray for ourselves, asking forgiveness for all those times we feel we have let Christ down - the too hasty word spoken in anger, actions taken that would have been better left undone and times when we should have acted but failed to do so. We are sorry for all these shortcomings but know that if we are truly sorry our sins are forgiven.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP



The Thursday group will resume their meetings on the 12th April at 2.30pm at Angela and Peter's house at 9 Claremont Way.

We are studying the Gospel of John and will continue until the Bible Month sessions start in June.

If anyone would like to join us they will be welcome and it will not matter if they were not there from the beginning.

If you have any queries please ring Angela on 01730 810645



SHARING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

On 4th March, the day of our AGM, Janet Baker came to preach alongside David Musckett who was leading the service. Janet's text was from St. John's gospel Chapter 2 v13 - 22 which was about Jesus throwing the money-changers out of the temple. Jesus was very angry and said "Stop making my Father's house like a market place!" People had gradually gone astray over the years and thought that it was alright to buy and sell animals for sacrifice in the temple. They also thought that it was alright to change their money into special temple currency because normal money was not allowed in the temple.

Janet's point was that we must not stay stuck to all of our traditions unless they are in harmony with what God wants. We must be open to new ideas and we must focus on spreading the good news of the gospel.

Janet said that we should take advantage of all our meetings with people when we are out shopping, travelling, working and even at the hairdressers. Make sure that people know what is going on in our church otherwise they will think that nothing is happening.

The SOFT team is encouraging activities that bring the community into our churches. Lots of good ideas were mentioned including sharing our festivals. We, in turn, told Janet about our forthcoming Easter Craft Event. If you haven't already got involved in this fun event on the 7th April and would like to, please speak to one of the stewards.

The Rev David Coote wound up the AGM by suggesting that the MADhurst Carnival would be a good opportunity to practice our evangelism. The theme of the MADhurst Festival this year will be "The Last 100 Years in Midhurst". The Leadership Team has taken this on board and will be discussing it at their next meeting.

EASTER CRAFT EVENT -- A Golden Opportunity

We are holding an Easter Craft event on Saturday 7th April from 2pm to 4pm in the Church and Hall.

This is a golden opportunity to meet people in our community that we don't see very often.

There will be a variety of interesting craft activities for **adults and children**, including flower arranging for all.

If you think you are not a very crafty person, you can help with one of the activities or the teas.

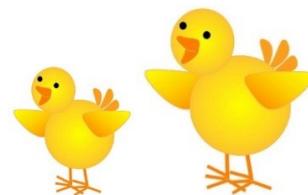
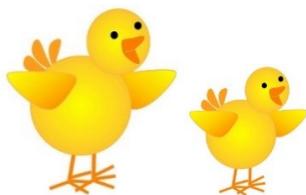
Everyone, of any age, is welcome to join us for fun, tea and cake.

There is no charge.

AC



Easter Crafts for All Ages



Saturday 7th April 2pm to 4pm

Craft activities, tea & cake FREE!

Everyone welcome

LET YOUR CONSCIENCE BE YOUR GUIDE

Just before Lent started the Archbishop of Canterbury said that it would be a good idea to give up using single-use plastic items during Lent. There has been a lot of talk about plastic spoiling the environment recently; some of us have watched Blue Planet 2 and seen all the plastic washed up on remote islands many miles away from where it was dumped.

It certainly makes sense to look at our habits and see if we can make changes. This would be more useful than, for instance, giving up chocolate especially if it continues after Lent.

Recently the butchers gave us the Body and Soul sausages on a polystyrene tray. I popped in later and asked them if they could think about changing to recyclable plastic in the future. Most garden centres (not Rotherhill) sell bedding plants in chunky polystyrene boxes that only hold six plants. Let's speak to the garden centres about it or go elsewhere.

Socrates, who was like Jesus in many ways, said that "the unexamined life was not worth living". By that he meant that we should question ourselves about our reasons for acting in certain ways and question our traditional ways of doing things. If we just go along with what our predecessors told us was right we would be no better than mindless animals.

Socrates was the first person to credit people with a conscience.

Jesus asked people to question themselves as to whether they should be doing what God wanted of them or whether they should be obeying the Pharisees and their interpretation of the Law.

Socrates lived 400 years before Jesus was born. They both refused to compromise and keep quiet and they both had to die for that. Neither of them wrote anything down, as far as we know, but their followers wrote down their words of wisdom for all the centuries to come.



BODY & SOUL

The times and dates for

Summer are:

Service 12.30pm; Lunch 1pm

Wednesday 18th April

Wednesday 2nd May

Wednesday 16th May

Wednesday 6th June

Wednesday 20th June

Wednesday 4th July

Wednesday 18th July

Everyone Welcome

Portsmouth Methodist Church

Three Churches in the Portsmouth area, Copnor, Eastney and Trinity, are amalgamating. An invitation is extended to all to come and celebrate the launch of Portsmouth Methodist Church. The service will take place at Trinity at 3pm on April 22nd. There will be refreshments to follow.

The address:

Albert Road, Southsea, PO4 0LX

For more information please contact Rev John Mills.

email: minister@trinitymethodistsouthsea.org.uk

tel: 02392731858

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RETREAT

22-24th JUNE 2018

LADYWELL CONVENT, GODALMING,

LED BY GILL DASCOMBE

(FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CONFERENCE)

The theme for the weekend will be

"JESUS, REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM"

Cost is £160 fully-catered

To book your place please contact

Brian Sherrell - brian-car@hotmail.co.uk

or 01883 370945

This retreat is organised by the Methodist Retreat Group

"REFLECT"



City of Sanctuary

Latest Information from Sanctuary in Chichester

Towards the end of 2017 two more families arrived in Chichester under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement scheme. SiC has spent a lot of time getting their accommodation ready, and their work with these families is on-going. SiC also supports unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) in Chichester and Bognor, including recently-arrived children from Eritrea and Sudan. Drop-in sessions are run twice a week, offering English lessons, recreational activities and cookery. They held a traditional New Year party with entertainment from the refugees. A football team has been set up, and an appeal was made for adults to coach. Recently two UASC have been granted “leave to remain.”

On 16th March a Private Member’s Bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons calling for unaccompanied child refugees to be able to bring their families. Most European countries allow this, but not the UK.

SiC funds their facilities and activities by donations. They hope to raise £40,000 by the end of 2019 to keep the momentum going. Already they have achieved 10% of their target. You have already support Sic through the Gift Service envelopes, but if you would like to donate more regularly, you could fundraise at home using the jamjars (in the Vestry) or you could give direct - the details are on their website: <https://sanctuaryinchichester.org/fundraising/>.

SiC has contacts with other groups which are working with refugees still making their way across Europe. As the coastal route between Italy and France has been closed, many are now crossing the mountains instead, and they are ill-equipped for this hazardous route – especially during the winter. Waterproof shoes, winter clothes and survival equipment have been donated to local Italian communities helping the travellers.

Religious Easter Word Search



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|---------|-----------|--------------|
| Jesus | Risen | Resurrection |
| Empty | Tomb | Passover |
| Dove | Church | Sunday |
| Easter | Communion | Alleluia |
| Cross | New Life | Lamb |
| God | Third Day | Celebration |
| Holiday | Love | Holy Spirit |



Fundraising News

Your regular update on our charitable fundraising efforts

The Bric-a-Brac Sale was held in the Hall on 17th February. This sale is specifically for white elephants, books and toys and has become a regular event during the winter. We have loyal customers, and we have built a reputation for the quality and novelty of what we offer for sale. Beforehand, the committee went through all the boxes stored in the shed and sorted out the items which didn't come up to standard. The Hall was filled with tempting items, both the housewares and the books. Sian offered her excellent bacon sandwiches as usual. The toys were displayed in the foyer to encourage the customers to come in. We did something right this year, as we made over £600 which is 20% more than last year. So, well done to Elizabeth who is our brac-a-brac specialist, Hazel & Claire who manage the toys, Mavis & Hazel on the books, and all the other helpers in the Hall and the kitchen.

At Easter we will have our usual envelope collection for All We Can – details in Jean's report.

Our next sale will be the Spring Fair, on 2nd June.

AG



Please support the
Spring Fair on **Saturday 2nd June 10am 'til noon.**
Cakes...Brac-a-Brac...Books...Toys
Plants ...Raffle...Bacon Sandwiches

FREEWILL OFFERINGS & STANDING ORDERS

January 2018

Sunday	7 th	£242	21 st	£266
	14 th	£274	28 th	£349

Average for Jan **£283** ***Average weekly costs*** **£742**

February 2018

Sunday	4 th	£262	18 th	£270
	11 th	£304	25 th	£277

Average for Feb **£278** ***Average weekly costs*** **£505**

Average weekly giving Sept 2017 to Feb 2018 £279
Average weekly costs Sept 2017 to Feb 2018 £653

FUND RAISING – Nov/Dec

New Year Party	£	60
Bric-a-Brac Sale		601
		<hr/>
		661
		<hr/>

No donations were made in either January or February

Many thanks for all your efforts and generosity

RB

Diary Dates

April

Sun 1st	10.00am	Easter Sunday/ Holy Communion	Rev D Muskett
Sat 7th	2-4.00pm	Easter Craft Day	Church Hall
Sun 8th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mr G Paffett
Thur 12th	1.30pm	Fund Raising Mtg	Alison Griffiths
Sun 15th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mr D Arnott
Wed 18th	12.30pm	Body & Soul	Church Hall
Thur 19th	10-11.30am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sun 22nd	10.00am	Morning Service	Mrs A Rice
Thur 26th	10-11.30am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sun 29th	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev B Monk

May

Wed 2nd	12.30am	Body & Soul	Church Hall
Thur 3rd	10-11.30am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sat 5th	10-12noon	Christian Aid Coffee Morning	Church Hall
Sun 6th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mr D Arnott
Thur 10th	10-11.30am	Mischief Makers Ascension Day Service	Church Hall Rev D Muskett
Sun 13th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mrs F Jenkins
Wed 16th	12.30pm	Body & Soul	Church Hall
Thur 17th	10-11.30am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sun 20th	10.00am	Church Anniversary	Rev D Coote
	12.30pm	Anniversary Lunch	Church Hall

Copydate for June/July Newsletter

Thur 24th	10-11.30am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sun 27th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mrs J Baker

June

Sat 2nd	10-12noon	Spring Fair	Church Hall
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Midhurst Methodist Church

North Street
Midhurst
GU29 9DU

 01730 816206

www.midhurstmethodist.com



Midhurst-Methodist-Church-390730361066030/

MINISTER:

Rev David Muskett

Tel: 01428 642921

Email: david.muskett41@btinternet.com

Minister's day off – Friday

Steward:

Alison Griffiths

Church Secretary:

Claire Stemp-West

Church Treasurer:

Rodney Bond

Hall Bookings:

Angela Clarke