

OCTOBER 2019

BRIDGEMARY NEWS



BRIDGEMARY METHODIST CHURCH

MINISTER:

Rev. Andrew de Ville

WEEKLY DIARY

SUNDAY	Morning Worship Junior Church. <i>(1st. Sunday of the month - Together in Worship)</i>	10 am
MONDAY	Shell club	6-15pm.
TUESDAY	Keep Fit Group M.H.A. Luncheon Club Bowls Club Dorothy Temple School of Dance	9-30am-11 am. 11-45am-2-30pm 1-30 pm 6-8.30 pm
WEDNESDAY	Art Club Brownies Keep Fit Group	10-12 noon 5-30pm. 8pm-9pm
THURSDAY	Bowls Club M.H.A. Thur Afternoon club Sisterhood (2nd and 4th Thur.) Dorothy Temple School of Dance	9-30am 12-45pm-3pm. 2-15pm. 6-8.30pm
FRIDAY	Dorothy Temple School of Dance	6-8-30pm

All are welcome to these activities,
contact the Minister for further details.

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Dear Friends,

'The Story Project' is a project that the Methodist Church is embarking on, jointly with Cliff College and others, and is a way to encourage us all to share our own personal stories which are unique and personal and deserve to be listened to with respect.

It is also a way to encourage us to share our testimony which is really about how our personal story has been shaped by the story of God – how our life is different because of God.

There is an internet link to The Story Project which is:

'www.thestoryproject.org.uk' – and it is well worth looking at this, if you have the means and opportunity to do so, as it's a place where people are being invited to share something of their story in testimony format.

Sometimes we can feel that no one really wants to hear our story – or that we don't have the right skills to share our story – or that we are too embarrassed to tell our story. But then I find it helpful to remember that God calls us, as disciples of Jesus, to share something of our story with others as that is one way that God can share his gift of grace with someone else – we are sharing a gift with someone else – the same gift that someone shared with us which has helped our story be shaped by God. In sharing a testimony – a part of our story shaped by God - there are some guidelines which help us to be clear and focussed in sharing a testimony in 4/5 minutes. We might be sharing this with only one other person, we might be sharing it in a bible study group, fellowship groups or even in an act of worship!

The 3 guidelines are:

1. Keep it authentic – it needs to be your honest reflection on what it is like for you to follow Jesus. It may be something that is a real joy for you, or something that is really hard eg a doubt you have in your journey of faith. It needs to reflect real life because that is where God meets us.

2. Keep it current

– share a testimony that is up-to-date, from the present, rather than sharing a testimony from many years ago. Elements of our testimony from many years ago is, of course, part of the story of our journey of faith (particularly if it has been a long journey) and it is sometimes good to

3. Keep it simple

– focus on that particular snapshot of your journey of faith you feel called to share, rather than trying to talk about a number of different aspects. It is so much easier for others to hear a short, focussed story which will stay with them, more than if you share about a number of different areas which might not always link up and you might simply leave people confused!

Sharing your testimony is about sharing a story which is your personal story of the way that God has met with you in the current season of your life. It will say something about the ebb and flow of faith, growth, healing and sometimes even the pain and struggle that we all journey through.

Our stories are gifts to be shared and my prayer is that all of us will have the courage and wisdom to share our testimony with others – sharing the gift of grace we have received from our loving God.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN OCTOBER

Sun 6th	6pm	The Methodist church M5 Gosport Church
Mon 7th	2pm	Bible study at Anita's
Thur 10th	2-15pm	Sisterhood songs of praise at Swan Court
Fri 11th	7pm	Night shelter meeting at St. Mary's church hall Gosport
Sun 20th		Church council after church
Mon 21st	2pm	Bible study at Anita's
Tues 22nd	9-15am	Communion st. Matthews join us
Thur 24th	2-15pm	Sisterhood members afternoon

During the coming weeks we will be led in worship by;

- 6th Revd Bill Stillwell
- 13th Fareham Team
- 20th Revd. Andrew de Ville Holy Communion
- 27th Mrs. Fran Jenkins

LOCAL PREACHERS APPOINTMENTS

- 6th Lynne at Horndean
- 13th Gerry at Gosport
- 20th Anita at Gosport
- 27th Pam at Gosport and Christine at Horndean

Please remember these preachers from our congregation in your prayers as they prepare and conduct services in the churches of our

FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER

- 6th Flowers needed
- 13th Ray and Lillian Close
- 20th Flowers needed
- 27th Linda Griffin



Growing Together - Prayers

The Lord's Prayer – a responsive version:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans,

Hallowed be Your name...

By the care we take of your creation,

Your Kingdom come...

All that you see is good,

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

Your will to till and care.

Give us this day our daily bread...

That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness

Forgive us our trespasses...

our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations,

As we forgive those who trespass against us...

by reconciliation with justice and peace

Lead us not into temptation...

the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation,

And deliver us from evil...

the evil of destroying your gift of creation,

For Yours is the Kingdom...

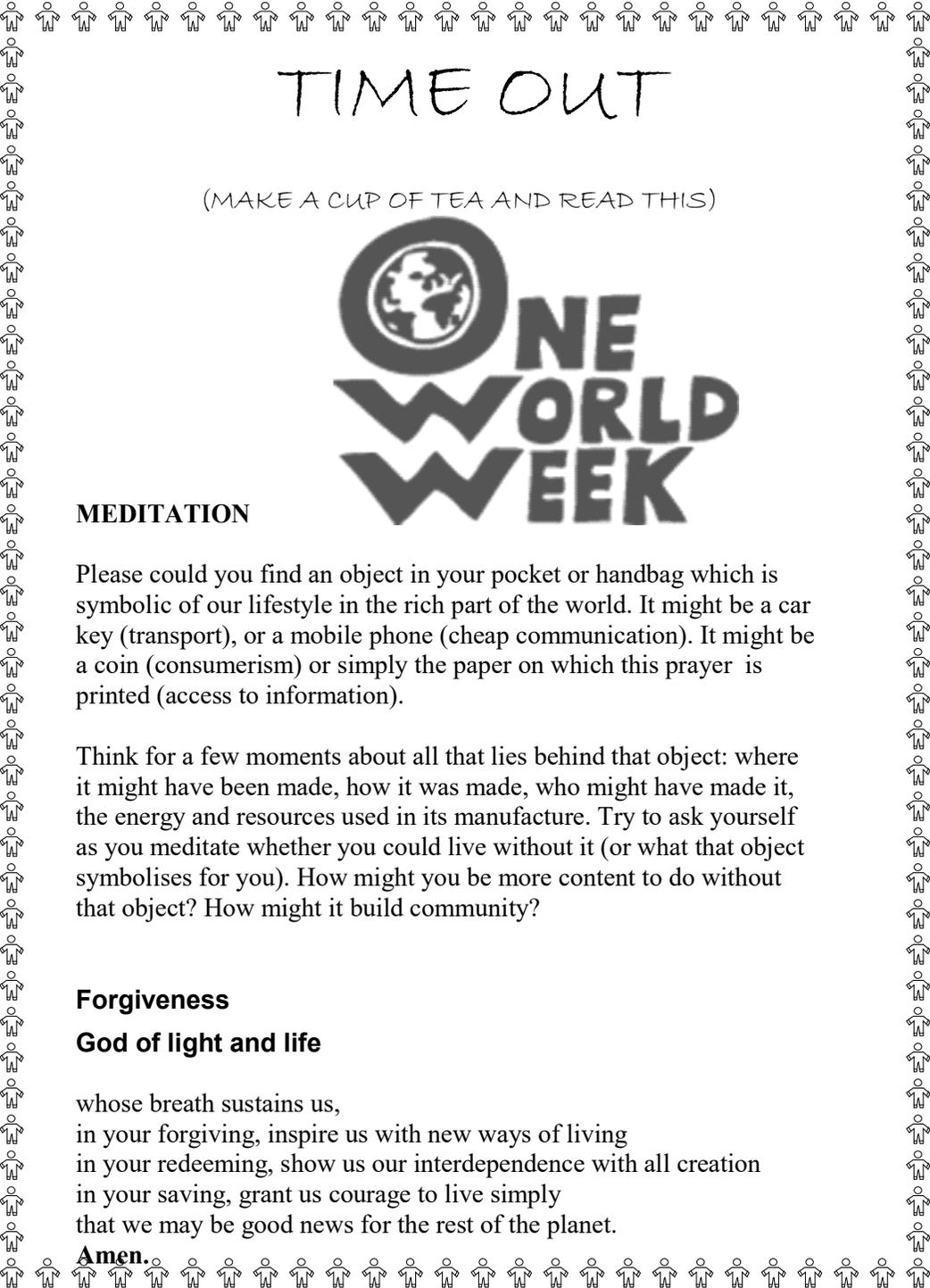
Yours Lord, not ours,

The Power and the Glory...

in the cross and the resurrection,

For ever and ever...

You were the beginning and you are the end



TIME OUT

(MAKE A CUP OF TEA AND READ THIS)



MEDITATION

Please could you find an object in your pocket or handbag which is symbolic of our lifestyle in the rich part of the world. It might be a car key (transport), or a mobile phone (cheap communication). It might be a coin (consumerism) or simply the paper on which this prayer is printed (access to information).

Think for a few moments about all that lies behind that object: where it might have been made, how it was made, who might have made it, the energy and resources used in its manufacture. Try to ask yourself as you meditate whether you could live without it (or what that object symbolises for you). How might you be more content to do without that object? How might it build community?

Forgiveness

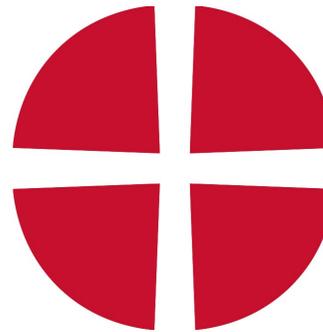
God of light and life

whose breath sustains us,
in your forgiving, inspire us with new ways of living
in your redeeming, show us our interdependence with all creation
in your saving, grant us courage to live simply
that we may be good news for the rest of the planet.

Amen.

Marriage and Relationships:

At the Methodist Church Conference this year a report was received called 'God in love unites us'. This is a report from the Marriage & Relationships Task Group helping us explore what it means to be in relationship with one another and with God. It builds on many other Reports offered to the Church over more than 20 years. There are specific areas that are covered including our definition of marriage; sexual relationships; cohabitation; same-sex relationships and living a single life.



The Church is being asked to consider some specific changes to our legal documents (called Standing Orders) which will acknowledge that, as a Church, we have two understandings of marriage – that marriage can only be between a man and a woman; and that marriage can be between any two people. This means that churches and Ministers will be able to decide if they will register for the solemnisation of, and officiate at, same-sex marriages as well as marriages between a man and a woman.

Conference will vote on these changes next year but during this year (2019/20) it asks that we all share in a process of consultation about these proposed changes and to do this at Bridgemaury the leadership team have arranged an opportunity on **Sunday 3rd November**. I will lead a short communion service at 10am and then we will have the opportunity to look at this Report and the proposed changes to our Standing Orders. We hope all of you will be able to come and stay for the conversation – please bring a packed lunch with you as we will have a couple of hours of conversation following the short communion service but will commit to finishing at 1pm. If it is necessary we will always arrange a further opportunity to discuss these matters over the following months.

Please do contact me or one of the Church Stewards if you have any questions and I look forward to seeing you all on the 3rd November.

Hello all,

Here are some notes from the circuit meeting.

Circuit Meeting, 17th September 2019.

1, telling the story,

A new project is under way which will be travelling the country to record the stories or journeys of faith that people have made in their life times

2 we now have a new circuit steward, he is from the Fareham church and his name is Peter Moody.

3 Andrew de Ville will be leaving his post earlier than we expected he will now be leaving us next March. But he will not be leaving the district as expected, because he will be replacing Andrew Wood as the chairman of our district, with the remit to oversee the reorganization the circuits

While he is to be congratulated on his new post, this means a lot of changes to the district and to us.

The new superintendant for East Solent and downs is to be Revd David Muskett who will take the post next March.

In place of Andrew de Ville The circuit is hoping to employ another Minister.

As there is at present a shortage of available minister this could be either a student Minister or one from over seas

4 This in turn means a reorganization of Ministers, Deacons and lay Pastor in the circuit which will of course affect us directly

In principle this will mean Revd David Muskett will be minister of Liphook and Midhurst. Hazlemere to join in a possible shared ministry with URC but this is not settled yet

Linford to have a Deacon , in pastoral oversight

Claire is to be minister of Fareham and Stubbington

Whoever replaces Andrew will be minister for Drayton Wymering and Havent

Pam Stone is to retire,

5. That just leaves the 3 churches on the Gosport peninsular, Brigdemary, lee and Gosport. The plans put forward at the moment are for full time lay pastor to be appointed with over sight of the 3 churches, (much like Pastor Mary was)

He/ she ,is to be an accredited local preacher Preferable a Methodist ,if not someone from one from the lay ministry of other denominations

The three churches will be involved in the decision as to who this will be,

6, There is the possibility that the three churches will be asked co-operate

GOSPORT' S OPEN DOORS

The meeting venue is now confirmed (see below).

The intent is to have a number of church-based venues to host the shelter on a 'moving' basis.

A number of Gosport churches have been approached, who may be prepared to act on this basis and it is hoped to confirm participants imminently.

This is now gaining momentum and there will be an open meeting on **11th October at 7.00pm at St Mary's Roman Catholic Church**, to raise awareness of what is planned and to attract volunteers from the churches to staff the shelter in a number of roles.

Please note the date/time/venue of this meeting and please publicise the meeting to your congregations and encourage them to attend, at least to get some more information about what is planned and to encourage volunteering in support of the initiative.

If you have any questions or if you want further information, please contact:

Phil Rutt

Chair,

Friends of the Homeless in Fareham and Gosport



"Gerry Williams, a Local Preacher from Bridgemary Methodist Church, is participating in a "**Memory Walk**" in Portsmouth on the 12th October on behalf of his mother to raise funds for

The Alzheimer's Society.

Please help to fight this terrible and increasingly prevalent disease by supporting Gerry with your donation

Please don't forget to Gift Aid your donation if you can. Many thanks.

WE WILL BEAT THIS DISEASE."



On Sunday the 18th August Chris Stratta led our worship and told us about the work of the leprosy mission. We all learnt a lot about leprosy things we didn't know.

We have a lovely letter saying "thank you so much for welcoming me to lead a service and speak about the work of the Leprosy mission in Nepal. It was lovely to meet you all and to spend time in fellowship together." Mark said "I am so grateful for your gift of £20. I value your support hugely and want to pass on a sincere **THANK YOU**

Chris left us a box for collecting used stamps which is now on the shelf in the church next to the kitchen door.

It is hard to believe that a bunch of used stamps can help transform the life of someone affected by leprosy. But the fact is that it can! Over the past 30 years, TLM Stamps & Collectables has raised more than £1 million to benefit people affected by leprosy. It takes seconds to rescue a used stamp from an envelope destined for the recycling bin but, by doing so, [healthcare and opportunities](#) can be provided to people in desperate need.

Office volunteers sort all the contributions of stamps, postcards and collectables kindly donated by our supporters.

We would be grateful if you could collect any of the following items on our behalf:

- Stamps of all descriptions, GB and foreign (even the very



The M.H.A. luncheon groups are listed below if you would like to attend please give Pam a call.

If you would like to volunteer on any one of the days please give Pam a CALL.

Tuesday Lunch Club with entertainment 11.45am – 2.30pm
£4.00 per person

Wednesday Afternoon Tea with Cheerleading 1pm – 2.30pm
£4.00 per person

Thursday Afternoon Club with Light Lunch and Entertainment
12.45pm – 3pm

EVERYONE WELCOME

Also that we are in need of Volunteer Befrienders willing to give up an hour or two each week to visit our members who are lonely and isolated.

Thank you very much
Best wishes

Pam 01329 234409

Breathing Space Retreats. With God in Silence.
A silent retreat with individual guidance.

Have you ever thought of going on a silent retreat?

It is a wonderful opportunity to press the pause button in the hustle and bustle of daily life, to take time out and create a space for reflection. Above all else it affords the opportunity to get in touch with God.

‘Be still and know that I am God’, writes the Psalmist. Elijah finds God in the ‘still small voice’.

We don’t need to be afraid of silence. God delights in our presence so what is there to be afraid of?

There is a gentle way into silence, with conversation during the first meal, a briefing and the chance to meet fellow retreatants.

Then we go into silence – except for the 3 or 4 times during the retreat when each retreatant meets up with the member of the team who is accompanying them.

The team member is there to listen, to help make sense of what might emerge in the silence, and to offer resources to assist retreatants in their spiritual journey e.g. scripture passages, poems, pictures, meditations.

The whole retreat is surrounded by love, care and prayer in lovely peaceful surroundings, concluding with a shared Communion celebration.

These are the dates for the next 4 individually guided retreats:-

These are the dates for the next 4 individually guided retreats:-

Friday - Sunday 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2019

Friday - Sunday 21 -23 Feb 2020

Friday – Sunday 29 – 31 May 2020

Friday - Sunday 9 – 11 Oct 2020

More information from:-

The Greenhouse Christian Centre, (**Website:**
www.the-greenhouse.org)

17, Burton Road, Poole, Dorset, BH13 6DT (Tel: 01202 764776)
and: www.guidedsilentretreats.com



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SUNDAY SERVICE.



10 am Morning Worship

The **Methodist** Church

