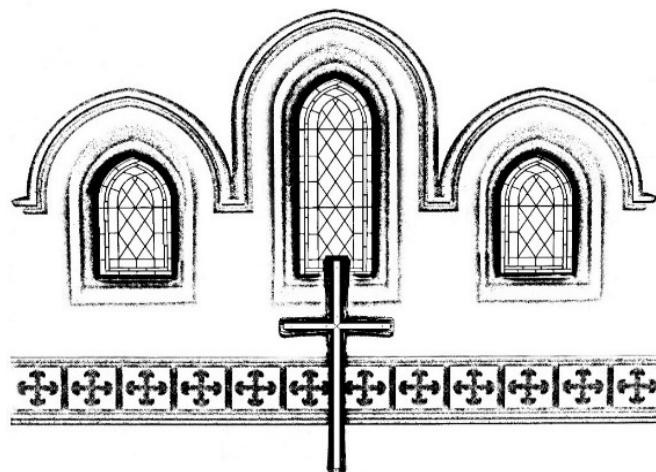


Newsletter from the....



MIDHURST METHODIST CHURCH

April/May 2021

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...

EASTER – so what's that all about then?

The popular image of Easter is as 'Spring Break'. It's a long weekend. As the days get longer and warmer, the flowers are coming out, and people emerge from the cold, dark, depressing days of winter. Most of the Easter cards on display concentrate on this secular theme with flowers and bunnies the most common symbols for new life. Other customs pick up the idea of the end of a period of denial. But does the consumption of chocolate mark the end of Lenten discipline, or a final admission of defeat in the attempt to lose weight or control consumption that has been a losing battle since 2nd January?

The renewal, relief and emergence aspects of Easter seem more marked this year as the Easter weekend is surrounded by weekends with some gradual easing of restrictions.

After a year in lockdown or under some form of restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic we probably remember from last year parallels with Jesus in the tomb or the disciples huddled together in fear in the upper room. Perhaps another parallel this year might be the 'peaceful protest' of the women who went to the tomb in the garden in the early hours of Sunday morning. They overcame their fears as they went to mark the death of their loved one in the best, most respectful way they knew. What they and other disciples who came later discovered simply generated more fear and a return to lockdown. As Mark described it 'they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid' (Mark 16:8).

That's not how you might plan to launch something that is still celebrated 2000 years later. So, what makes the difference?

Clearly, as we read the accounts of Easter morning and the days following, what makes the difference is the experience of the risen Jesus. From Mary Magdalene in the garden, to two disciples walking to Emmaus that evening, to disciples under lockdown in the upper room, to crowds of people gathering and an individual attempting to stamp out this new movement. The difference is the risen Jesus.

The best evidence for the risen Jesus is the difference he makes. It was her meeting with Jesus who called her by name and explained his living presence that transformed Mary from distressed, grieving individual unable to leave her solitary vigil at this tomb to joyful witness to the resurrection as she returned to the disciples and announced 'I have seen the Lord'.

What Easter is about is transformation: death to life; darkness to light; despair to hope; the old ways to the new. The best evidence is not so much arguments about the likelihood, possibility or process of resurrection. The best evidence at the time was the transformed lives of those who witnessed Jesus' resurrection. The best evidence today is the transformed lives of those who continue to follow the risen Jesus. Those who can move from despair to hope, darkness to light and death to life even amid the pandemic and its effects.

Meeting the risen Jesus now is all about the dawning of the new creation of which we are a part. The old has gone, the new has come.
Christ is risen

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

David



It is a year since Mischief Makers closed because of COVID and although we have a Facebook page, which Jessica kindly updates when she can, it is not easy to keep in touch with the families.

We have been in contact with a few and only the other day one of our regular Mum's texted to say 'we have missed the group so much'. With restrictions beginning to lift we are planning to open on June 24th when hopefully it will be easier for everyone to mix again. Before then, when we are allowed, we will have a look at the equipment in the shed and give it a spring clean.

The children we knew will have grown so much and there will be new babies we are sure to get to know.

We hope that all will be well come June.



BC

An Easter Prayer

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine
again,
your love broke through.



Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen.

Revd Michaela Youngson



Methodist
relief and
development

All We Can

I was reminded recently of the chorus which begins “Count your blessings, name them one by one ----”

During the pandemic it has been difficult at times not to feel frustrated at being unable to meet with family and friends, to travel and to keep to social distancing but we have so many things for which to be thankful. We have free medical care and vaccinations, state help in the way of pensions and support for people out of work, an adequate supply of food and education for children (even if in a different format for the last few months).

Imagine you were in a situation where your food supply and source of income was confined to the crops that you grow - no free medical care or education, no easy access to clean water, no electricity and no public transport system - and that climate change has meant harvests have been poor or ruined. Then Covid 19 hits!

This is happening in many parts of the world including to the Cherkos community in Ethiopia - our partner church for the last two years.

At Easter 2020 we were in lockdown and could not send donations to this project. This Easter we are again in lockdown but we hope to be able to have an envelope collection on 23rd/30th May, once the Church has re-opened.

All We Can partners in Ethiopia hope to have funds to help the Cherkos community diversify and train to keep cows and bees. This would mean the community would have milk and honey as a source of food and income.

So, we count our blessings and pray for the Cherkos people in Ethiopia by giving what we can to help them cope in these very difficult times.

JP



Easter 2021 at Midhurst Methodist Church

The Leadership Team and the Church Meeting having agreed that services will not resume in the Sanctuary until some time after Easter:

Sunday 28th March at 10am - Palm Sunday service on Zoom with Rev David Musket

Monday 29th to Wednesday 31st March at 9:30am – Holy Week Meditations on Zoom

Wednesdays until 31st March at 9:45m – Live, interactive prayer meeting on YouTube; available as a recording afterwards. Search for the ESandD channel

Thursday 1st to Saturday 3rd April – Holy Week meditations to listen to at home; details to follow

Thursday 1st April at 6:30pm - Agape on Zoom with Rev David Muskett. Details elsewhere

Friday 2nd April at 9:30am – Good Friday service on Zoom with Rev David Musket

Sunday 4th April at 10am – Easter Day Communion with Rev David Coote on Zoom

Thursday 13th May at 6:30pm – Ascension Day communion with Rev David Musket - details TBA

Easter Day Service CDs have been distributed by the Pastoral Visitors to members and friends who are not online. There are a few spares; if you would like one please speak to your Pastoral Visitor or a steward.



"We're back!

Following the success of 'A Living Advent Calendar' HPP, once more under the expert of direction of James Burke-Dunsmore, will be presenting a brief film on social media each day of Holy Week. 'The Road to Easter' tells the story of Jesus from the perspective of people involved in it from Palm Sunday to Easter Day, and will give people the opportunity to reflect on what it all means for them, or simply to get to know the story better."

Bill Stillwell, Chair HPP



Havant Passion Play presents.....

THE ROAD TO EASTER

**Holy Week through the eyes of those
who were there.**

**A journey from hope to despair, to fulfilment and
joy.**

Watch Online.....

Trailers 19th March | 22nd March | 25th March

**Daily instalments from Palm Sunday 28th March –
Easter Sunday 4th April**

HPP – Telling the Stories of Jesus

www.havantpassionplay.org.uk

Havant Passion Play Ltd - Charity no. 1154040

Online Agape on Thursday 1st April at 6.30pm

As the Church and Hall will not be open by 1st April for Easter events, our annual Agape, a light meal and celebration of the Last Supper, will be online this year. This is a first for Midhurst Methodist Church.

Please bring your own supper **but remember to put aside some bread and something to drink** until that part of the service when we celebrate the Last Supper.

Annual General Meeting 2021



About 18 Members met via Zoom at 11am on 7th March for our Annual Church Meeting. As well as the usual appointments and reports which an AGM involves, the following subjects may be of interest to Members and Friends who were unable to attend:

- Treasurer - Rodney retires on 31st August and Pauline will take over much of the rôle, with the bookkeeping being done by the Circuit Office.
- Gift Aid - Jean F relinquishes the rôle, to be replaced by Graham, at a date of their deciding.
- We now have a non-personal email address, set up by Jessica but accessible by certain office-holders, which can be shared and included in any publicity etc: (midhurstmethodisttech@gmail.com).
- Spiritual Communion – we had a lively discussion about the regulations concerning online communion.
- Opening the Church – the Meeting ratified the leadership's action in closing the Church on 3rd January and delegated any further decisions about opening and closing to the Leadership Team until further notice (see elsewhere in this edition).

Prayer Focus

The first Sunday in April is Easter Day; we have already covered the events of Holy Week in the last edition. For us with hindsight Easter Day is a joyous time, celebrating Christ's victory over death, but for the disciples, coming so soon after the events of Holy Week, it was all very confusing. Take time in prayer and meditation to be sure of what the resurrection really means to us.

The subject for our Lenten studies was caring for God's Creation, especially in view of climate change. Over the weeks we came to the conclusion that climate change and all the disastrous events associated with it were the result of man's activities. We were certainly not following God's instructions to steward the world and all its inhabitants.

We felt as individuals we should try to reduce our carbon footprint by choosing the mode of transport we use, by insulating our homes, and generally conserving energy.

We felt that often the methods of farming and fishing used, in addition to the crops grown and the numbers of livestock reared, were detrimental to the health of our planet.

We felt that the subject was too big for us to tackle, but that we could not just walk away. Instead, we were urged to pray about every aspect of climate change, but pray in the knowledge that God is aware of our concerns.

Here are some other topics for which we need to pray: -

- 1) those areas where conflict is destroying lives, we think of Syria, Yemen, and Nigeria, the Congo, and Myanmar
- 2) areas where COVID is still rampant, and we give thanks that certain areas appear to be successful in bringing this disease under control. Give thanks for all those working in the health services.
- 3) those who have lost their livelihoods and are struggling to provide for their families.

- 4) all those involved in education that they should quickly make up for all the interruptions they have recently experienced.

Finally pray for the lonely, those who are finding life difficult, those who are grieving - may we take every opportunity to share God's words of comfort.

DS

THE FOUR LEVELS OF HAPPINESS - Aristotle

. IMMEDIATE GRATIFICATION

eg: food, drink, new clothes, car, jewellery, material goods, self-indulgence

. EGO

eg: achievement, status, popularity, winning, perceived intelligence, power and control

. EMPATHETIC

eg: moral, self-consciousness, desire to make a positive difference to the world, generous, belief in justice and healthy community

. ULTIMATE GOOD

eg: to love and respect fellow humans and the environment, awareness and desire for the sacred and spiritual way of life, to nurture the family, to guide and help others less fortunate, to learn to forgive

Reopening the Church for services – what? when? why?



The trustees (members) have delegated to the Leadership Team the decision on closing/opening the Church during these difficult COVID times.

There are many factors we have to take into account.

- . During the Winter Lockdown, Government regulations have not banned services in places of worship. We came to our own conclusion to close because (1) preachers were expressing a reluctance to come to Churches and (2) the basic instruction from Government was for us all to “Stay at Home”. The stewards decided to close in what was then Tier 4, or higher. A Tier 5 lockdown followed almost immediately; most Churches in the District took the same decision. I wrote about this in our last edition. We did not make any recommendation about Tier 3 at that time.
- . The new ‘Roadmap’, with aspirational dates but no promises, has some crucial dates – 8th & 29th March rules are a bit like the old Tier 4; 12th April rules are like Tier 3; 17th May is similar to Tier 2.
- . Preachers should not feel obliged to return to visiting churches in the current circumstances. The wellbeing of preachers and congregation alike is paramount.
- . The Circuit’s Digital Church is to carry on, helping those shielding and Churches with Local Arrangement services.
- . To be consistent with our earlier decision re closing in Tier 4, we could not consider reopening until at least 12th April, and that is after Easter.
- . Superintendents in the District have recommended that Churches reopen at Pentecost, being the first Sunday after 17th May.

The recommendation of the Leadership Team is to resume services in the Sanctuary at Pentecost. However, that seems a long way away doesn’t it? That was the view expressed at the AGM but we should

also take into account the actions of the other Churches in the area. Of course, the Leadership Team will keep the question under constant review. For a start Jean F will ask the preachers how they feel about coming to preach. We would also like to know how you feel about returning to worship – are you keen? Unsure? Worried? Please be in touch with the stewards and let us know what you are thinking on the whole subject.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to coming together for worship once more in our beautiful Church Building.

AG



Church Anniversary 2021

We hope to back worshipping in the Church building by Pentecost, which is also our 117th Church Anniversary. If in the Church our service will be conducted by Rev Valerie Chapman. Should we not be back in the Church, the service will be online and we be led by members of our own Church Family.

It won't come as a surprise that there will be no Church Anniversary Lunch this year BUT we have a lot to be thankful for - we are all more open to change, despite difficulties have kept in touch and indeed been able to worship, in a new way, with friends old and new!

It is Pentecost – reason enough to celebrate - but let's put the last year behind us and go forward with Joy and Thanksgiving.

Let's Celebrate!



CHRISTIAN AID UPDATE

For the second year running we will be in lockdown during Christian Aid Week. So, unfortunately, we will not be able to have a coffee morning but we will be having a special collection in church on Sunday 6th June.

Responding to emergencies is why Christian Aid started 75 years ago. It was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees searching for food, shelter and kindness in the aftermath of WW2.

In August last year a sudden explosion tore through the port of Beirut in The Lebanon. Neighbourhoods were reduced to rubble along with hospitals and crucial stores containing 85% of the country's grain as well as medical supplies. Supporters like you gave generously to help families who had lost everything.

In Nepal the coronavirus pandemic has caused a food shortage and pushed up prices. Christian Aid workers reached the poorest people with food and hygiene materials.

In Syria young people risk losing their chance of secondary education and employment due to the ongoing conflict. Christian Aid, together with a local partner, has set up four education centres. These centres have helped young people, living in the shadow of war, transform their lives.

While the hard work is all their own, the support of people like you has helped make it possible.

AC

BREAKING NEWS OF CHRISTIAN AID

The Southampton District of the Methodist Church has sent out a challenge to raise £5000 across the district to help Christian Aid roll out the Covid vaccinations in places where the roll-out would be much later and slower than here.

Please give as generously as you can and spread the word to family, friends and community groups so that we ask everyone to share the

joy of getting their own vaccine with sisters and brothers around the world.

Let us help them to reach that target and possibly smash through it!

Their suggested donation is £10 but just give as you are able. You can send a donation **online** to the District giving page at
<https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/giving-thanks-for-our-vaccines-across-southampton-methodist-district>

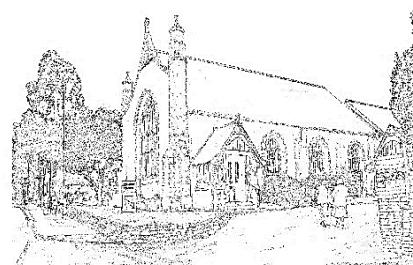
(Note: click on ‘custom amount’ to choose your preferred donation, and where it asks for platform fees you can select ‘other’ and then zero.)

Or you can pay by **cheque** made out to Southampton Methodist District and write ‘Christian Aid’ on the back. Angela will post them off if you can put them through her letterbox at 9 Claremont Way, Midhurst GU29 9QN or through the church letterbox with c/o Angela Clarke on the envelope.

AC

(Please email me if you'd like me to forward the web link AG)

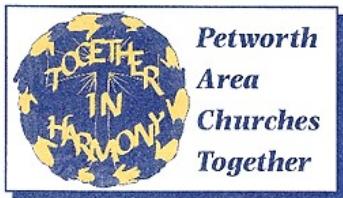
The Church Garden



Would anyone like to take on the gardening at church? We have a very nice man called Orlando who mows the grass but we need someone to keep the grounds tidy.

It doesn't require much work - the main thing is looking after the mower.

Do you think this might be for you? Please ring Angela on 01730 810645 if you would like to find out more about it.



PACT Spring Lecture

'The Future We Don't Know...'

Lord Dr (Michael) Hastings
of Scarisbrick -
Chancellor of Regent's
University London



also Professor of Leadership at the Stephen R. Covey Institute, Huntsman Business School, Utah State University, a Vice-president of UNICEF and Ambassador for Tearfund. Previously Head of Citizenship at KPMG International and the BBC's Head of Public Affairs, then Head of Corporate Responsibility.

All welcome -Gathering online from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start

Friday 16th April 2021 via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86362967085?pwd=bEhhU0F0OS8zeEpzM001M1B>

WcVg5UT09 Meeting ID: 863 6296 7085 Passcode: 707071

Info: Gerald Gresham Cooke 01798 342 151; geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com
www.petworthareachurchestogther.com

The **Lent Course** this year, on Wednesdays at 7.30pm, has the theme '**Caring for Creation**'. At a recent session DC mentioned recent figures around youth concerns with climate change. The relevant Tearfund report concerning this can be downloaded from: -

<https://weare.tearfund.org/burningdownthehouse/>

JB is suggesting that if we wanted to put some 'action' to our thoughts we could establish a regular contact group with discussions about environmental matters (sharing ideas products, links etc) - in whatever



NEWS FROM MIDHURST FOODBANK

Midhurst Foodbank continues to be very active in responding to the needs of the community. Since 1st January 2021, we have fed 251 people - 138 adults and 113 children. That is a total of 87 deliveries. We shall shortly be distributing around 180 lunch boxes to cover the Easter holidays.

These are challenging times for everyone, but for those who have lost hours of work, or indeed a job, with the subsequent implications on mortgage and rent payments, life can be incredibly hard. There can be nothing worse than to experience an empty cupboard and a hungry family. With the current lockdown restrictions still in place, many families find their homes full with all the family members, putting enormous demands on food supplies.

We are fortunate in Midhurst to have a foodbank run by over 60 volunteers, who give generously of their time. We are able adequately to respond to requests for food throughout the week, sadly however, only by phone. All food has to be delivered due to Covid 19 restrictions. As volunteers, we loved sitting and chatting over tea and cake with those who came for food on Friday afternoons and we look forward to the return of such days.

In the meantime, it is reassuring that the needs of the hungry can always be met. We have a generous community who continue to donate to the foodbank on a regular basis. Since Christmas, we have been able to include some fresh fruit and vegetables as well as eggs in our food parcels.

Without the generosity of our community, both volunteers and those who donate, we could not support those in need.

Liz Willing
Midhurst Foodbank Coordinator

World Day of Prayer 2021

In 2020 this event was held at Midhurst Parish Church - just a few weeks before the first lockdown. It would have been impossible to imagine then that a year later life would still be in lockdown and what this would mean for our 2021 service.



The ladies in our local churches were at a loss as to the way forward but gradually it became clear that we could have a service with the help of Jessica - our technical wizard - a service on Zoom.

This year's service was prepared by the Christian Women of Vanuatu - a group of scattered islands 1,100 miles to the east of Australia, in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. Vanuatu is one of the first countries to start to pray on the Day of Prayer, helping to set off the wave of prayer.

Ladies from the churches of Midhurst, Easebourne and the surrounding villages took part in our Zoom service - with readings, prayers and three who read the words of Rhetoh, Mothy and Jacklynda - women of Vanuatu. We heard of the difficulties which they and others like them in Vanuatu face on a daily basis. Family breakdown, poverty and homelessness - problems faced throughout the world - and even though many things in the UK are different, our growing population faces similar challenges and threats to the wellbeing and health of our children.

Unemployment and migration from rural communities to the larger towns and cities is also a huge problem for Vanuatu. Similarly, villages and rural communities in the UK face their own challenges - as in Vanuatu, many young people face an unknown future which too often involves prospects of unemployment and uncertainty.

The theme of the service was "Build on a Strong Foundation" and we heard the story of the wise man who built his house on a rock, where Jesus offers us an example of how the choices we make can affect our lives.

We were asked how our own faith provides a solid foundation for us and how we can, through our choices and actions, live wisely.

During the service we were informed about some of the financial support the World Day of Prayer movement allocates in grants to Christian projects internationally and here in the UK.

It was not actually possible to pass the collection plate around on Zoom but hopefully, using online banking or payments by text, the movement does get a healthy level of donations this year, to enable them to give these grants to charities such as Tearfund and 'Care for Albania'.

Music and singing are a very important part of the World Day of Prayer Service and we too were able to join in and sing along at home (muted on Zoom) to hymns we knew and some which were new to us.

We had at least 55 people joining in our Zoom service - probably no less than if the service had been held in one of our local churches - as participants from far afield and those confined to their own homes due to age or disability were able to enjoy and appreciate the service. Unfortunately the fellowship we normally enjoy during the service and afterwards over a cup of tea and biscuit cannot be reproduced on Zoom.

Hopefully, next year, we will be able to hold our World Day of Prayer service in one of our local churches as we have in the past but perhaps we need seriously to consider relaying it on Zoom as well, so that we can send our prayers to those who are unable to attend in person.

Do join us in March 2022 when our service will come from England, Wales and Northern Ireland!

For further information about the World Day of Prayer Movement or how to donate, go on the website: www.wwdp.org.uk

SM

Stones



During the planning meeting for the World Day of Prayer Sian asked if anyone had a stone as one was required as a prompt for part of the service – I have always loved pebbles/stones/rocks and when I see an interesting item, I have always managed to find a place for it at home. I must say right off, I have never removed specimens from any sites of archaeological interest or historical sites.

What I realised when I was looking for an appropriate stone for the service was the variety of stones I have acquired over the years, and amazingly, the connection between those stones and friends and people I have met.

I have smooth stones, stones with speckles, rocks with sharp crusty exteriors, large stones, small stones, stones with holes in them, stones that have been broken in pieces showing the interesting interior not visible on the outside. I have friends in all those categories.

There must be few of us who have never walked along a beach and watched the sea washing in and out and seen the effect of the power of the waves on the pebbles. Life can have that effect on human beings - moving them to different places, breaking down jagged exteriors, smashing less resilient beings, changing sizes, smoothing roughness.

And then, looking at majestic mountains the realisation that those very mountains are made up of really big rocks, stones and pebbles!

My small collection reminds me every day of the friends and circumstances of my life, and I am so grateful for the variety and the memories each and every one evokes. ‘Stones’/people are all around us, with different properties and qualities sometimes revealed to us but sometimes we just have to appreciate their presence.

GS

Gift Aid – something for nothing

Gift Aid is a scheme whereby the Inland Revenue will pay to a **Registered Charity** 25% of any donation which is covered by a Gift Aid Declaration form.

(A Registered Charity is an organisation where the primary function is not to make a profit but has been established for charitable purposes only. The advancement of religion is accepted as one of those purposes. Midhurst Methodist Church is not a Registered Charity in its own right but comes under the umbrella of the Methodist Church of Great Britain which is.)

An example would be if your donations to Charity accumulate to, for instance, £1200 over the **Tax Year** they, the Inland Revenue, will make a Gift Aid payment to the Charity, (or Charities if more than one is involved) of £300... **BUT...** you, as an individual, – no couples here - must have paid Income Tax which totals to at least £300 in that year.

Sometimes we, as a Church, invite donations for an organisation which is itself a Registered Charity and this is received and sent to them. While we could treat this as part of our income, claim the Gift Aid against the Gift Aid Declaration forms we hold, and send the final figure to the charity concerned it could mean a delay of many months. The alternative is not to include it as income (what is known as a Contra account) and send the amount received with the completed envelopes/forms and let the charity claim the Gift Aid. This is what we do at present and that is why you are asked to complete one of the Charity's envelopes/forms when you make a donation.

So, to summarise:

Gift Aid is a valuable source of income for a Registered Charity but it is **your** responsibility to make sure you have paid enough Income Tax to cover your donations. HMRC have the authority to check the records if they so wish.



Jean F



**Friends Of
Midhurst Common**

Metis Homes Planning Application for 75 new dwellings at the Bepton Road WSCC Depot and Old Brickworks site.

The response to this by SDNPA is that, although the principle of the development is supported, there are a number of issues and concerns with the application and this has led officers to conclude that the application could not be supported. For full details of their response use reference: SDNP/20/05059/FUL on their website. One of their concerns is protection of The Common from approx. 200 new residents who would have ready access.

Bog allotment - written by Jean Hicks

As this lock down is going to be quite a lengthy session, it did occur to me that some of you may, at some future time, be looking for a slightly different destination for your walks. As many of you are aware, Murray Marr has spent several years turning the allotment site in Bepton Road into a wildlife haven. It is now well worth a visit and an ideal place to wander round to shed some of the stress of the day. There are varying habitats now established within the site and, with the help of a colleague, Murray has a number of different species of willow growing well. Willow likes the damp conditions of the site. The allotments in Bepton Road are situated adjacent to Pitsham Lane and opposite the Bridleway leading on to the Common. Continue walking West along Bepton Road, past the general allotments; the Bog Allotment is tucked at the end of this site, the entrance being slightly separate from the last allotment. A couple of pallets have been converted into an entrance gate. Murray and his two sons occasionally work on the site, so **please** take your mask with you, just in case, and check if there is anyone else there when you first arrive. If so, please ensure social distancing. However, there is enough room on the site to move around comfortably. When reaching the bottom of the site, close to New Pond, the ground becomes quite wet, so watch where

you are treading and keep within the boundary of the site. As winter turns into Spring, it will be interesting to watch the changes on the site and welcome the return of both birds and pollinators. Many thanks. Enjoy your walk. Jean

Further Bog Allotment update: Catherine, our local basket-making expert has been busy planting new finer willow variants for her use and for pollarding in the future. She has reported a large crop last year. She has donated a lot of willow rods from the allotment to two local pre-schools. They are building living shelters with them.

Treecreepers and Marsh Tits have been reported this year and an increased population of Bullfinches.

Heathland work – we are hoping to resume working parties of up to 6 people from 29th March. Post-COVID we are looking for new volunteers to work to maintain the heathland and to lead the team. Training would be provided through SDNP representatives. Please email me if you would like to discuss your potential involvement.

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Midhurst Common is to be held on Zoom on Thursday 15 April at 7pm. Members will be sent a link to join the meeting. For non-members, please email me as below and I will send you the link. Bring your own refreshments.

Boundary Stones between Midhurst and Woolbeding Commons. We have one still in situ. Others are marked on OS maps and there is anecdotal evidence of where they might be. I have investigated their whereabouts as much as I can but to no avail. If anyone has any information or can help find them, please let me know and I will join you on The Common one day to continue the search

website: www.friendsofmihurstcommon.co.uk

contact: friendsofmidhurstcommon@yahoo.co.uk

Andrew Mitchell - Chairman

Recipe: ANZAC Biscuits



On 25 April 1915, the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula in Ottoman Turkey. The plan was to open the Dardanelles for the allied navies. The campaign was not a success. It soon became the day on which Australians and New

Zealanders remember the sacrifice of those who had died in the war. On 25 April 1916, the first commemorative service was in Westminster Abbey and it has been held there ever since.

This recipe is for the traditional ANZAC biscuits which mothers made for their boys heading for the front line. This recipe is from the Royal British Legion website.

Ingredients

- 4 oz plain flour
- 4 oz light brown sugar
- 4 oz desiccated coconut
- 5 oz rolled oats
- 4 oz butter
- 2 tablespoons golden syrup
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 2 tablespoons boiling water

Method

Mix the flour, sugar, coconut and oats together in a large mixing bowl. Melt together the butter and syrup.

Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in the boiling water and add to the butter and syrup. Add butter and syrup to the flour mixture.

Place teaspoon-sized mounds of the mixture on a greased baking

tray large enough to hold 12. Give each mound room to expand. Bake at 180C Gas Mark 4 for 15 - 20 minutes, transfer to a cooling rack as soon as cooked.

In my youth we did not wear poppies for ANZAC Day – we had pressed metal badges which were sold for services charities; they were different each year. 25th April became the date on which Australians remember the fallen in all wars. 11th November is marked but not in the same way. AG

In New Zealand we always remembered Anzac Day. In our daily assembly at school Anzac Day was always marked by special readings and hymns. Anzac biscuits, for which there are many recipes, were practically the national biscuit.

Graham was at Ayers Rock (Uluru) on 25th April 1975 and attended a dawn outdoor Anzac Day Service with the sunrise over the Rock in the background; it finished with the playing of The Last Post on the bugle. He found the whole thing very moving. PP

Easter Anagrams

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Airy odd fog | -----/------ |
| 2. Rags see get | -----/---- |
| 3. Layman spud | ---/-/----- |
| 4. Coin uric fix | ----- |
| 5. Brunch so toss | ---/-/-/-/-/- |
| 6. Apples rust | ---/-/----- |
| 7. Acid air just so | -----/-/----- |
| 8. Torch frowns on | -----/-/-/-/-/- |
| 9. Hen irises | ---/-/-/-/-/-! |

from Sally Churchus

(answers further on)



Rotary Project Scottburgh South Africa

A few years ago Sarah Morley, daughter of Rotarian Hazel, while on holiday in South Africa got involved helping the local community in several ways. By luck the hotel in which Sarah was staying was the meeting place of the local Rotary Club. This led to the start of a project to provide a playground at a rape crisis centre at the GJ Crookes hospital in Scottburgh, KwaZulu Natal, SA. The Rotary Clubs from Scottburgh SA, Godalming, Midhurst and Petworth and others joined together to fund the project.

In March 2020 work began on levelling the ground and erecting palisade fencing – this was held up by Covid restrictions as was the supply of durable plastic for the two play gyms. Easigrass was installed to the surface area. The Scottburgh gardening club collected plants and organised paving. A well-known street artist, Giffy Duminy, painted a mural on the turret walls before the opening of the centre at the end of Dec 2020.

On 25th Jan 2021 ninety attenders from 3 continents and 6 countries, including UK, Latvia, Ghana, India, USA and South Africa, met over Zoom to hear a report from Sarah on the project from the beginning through to completion.

Helen Chapman - public relations officer for
Midhurst and Petworth Rotary Club.

Playground at rape crisis
centre, Scottburgh, SA





Latest Information from Sanctuary in Chichester

A slight deviation from the theme this time – with news of a refugee family from Pakistan living in Fareham, part of Rev Claire Simpson's remit, being supported by Fareham Churches Together

The family of Aamir and Sana Ilahi has lived in the area for four years. They have faced all sorts of difficulty and jumped through many hoops, including regular reporting to the local police station and not knowing whether they would be arrested when they did so. After three years of inactivity and regular requests for updates, the Home Office has finally reviewed their case and after seeking more up-to-date information on the family's Christian commitment Aamir and Sana received the longed-for official letter in mid-March. This has given the whole family refugee status and leave to remain in this country.

Claire Simpson writes:

"Aamir and Sana are, as you can imagine, quite overcome with emotion but extremely happy and grateful for the Home Office decision. They are now free to live without fear and build a life for themselves and their family in this country. Rejoice! Our hearts are full to bursting with gratitude and thankfulness for this news!"

I'm sure we all send our good wishes to the Ilahi family and hope they get all their paperwork from the Home Office quickly so they can get on with their lives in peace and certainty.

AG

Details for Sanctuary in Chichester, working with refugees in our area:

email:sanctuaryinchichester@gmail.com

website: <https://sanctuaryinchichester.org>

Donations: please make Cheques payable to "Sanctuary in Chichester" and send to: Sanctuary in Chichester, PO Box 794, CHICHESTER, PO19 9UL; *registered charity no. 1181855*

Easter Hymns Wordsearch

Y L K A F M E X V R S H T F O R O
Q A G N I K T N A V R E S O L I S
R F W X O U S M F U J M B X R D S
F P R A P A L C E R S E P M S E O
T M R D R P M T Q A D T I T A O R
E O L S K A S Q C Q Y W O O Q N C
F P A F Y U F R K G R R N Q U I E
Q Y C N J M E L K F Y I F V L N H
F L H B N D N O L S M M V M C M T
J W C H H A A A O I P K V A A A H
I O Z E D L S D V Z H P U H P J G
J L A V A M I O P L S N T D B E I
R D I G D V P G H C E O E A D S H
C R U C I F Y G X B G H S E R T T
V N X N R Z D V A L Q R N B R Y F
Q C E H L Y S J O V F C O T S G I
W R N R N H N G B O Q X Z M Z H L

Crucify Golgotha Green Hill Far Away Hosanna

Lift High the Cross Lowly Pomp Ride On in Majesty

Sacred Head Servant King Story so Divine

Anagram Answers: 1. Good Friday; 2. Easter Eggs; 3. Palm Sunday; 4. Crucifixion; 5. Hot Cross Buns; 6. Last Supper; 7. Judas Iscariot; 8. Crown of Thorns; 9. He is Risen!



Fundraising News

Your regular update on our charitable fundraising efforts

As I wrote for the Annual Report, the last year has seen quite a bit of fundraising for our favourite charities, mostly through envelope collections in the Church. Events such as sales which, usually raise funds for the work of our Church in Midhurst, have not happened.

Under the Roadmap, all restrictions could be lifted towards the end of June, so in theory we can start planning some events. Wouldn't it be great if we could have our strawberry teas again!

As it is early days, I have not yet reconvened the Fundraising group. There is no telling if the timing of the Roadmap will actually hold. Even if we have been liberated by the summer will my helpers be willing to help and will our customers be confident enough to attend? We started to organise an Autumn Fair last November but we didn't have enough staff to comply with new government regulations. I imagine some of those rules will still apply after June but I have assured the Treasurer that we will resume our sales etc when permitted provided we have enough willing hands. I hope we will be able to run a sale and a tea in the summer. There are a lot of unknowns and we might have to do things a bit differently but I am optimistic.

Meanwhile, in May, assuming we have resumed worshipping in the Church, we will have the Easter envelope collection for All We Can (the last for the Super Spud campaign) and in June an envelope collection for Christian Aid.

AG

Diary Dates

All dates are subject to Covid19 regulations

April

Thurs 1st	6.30pm	Agape	Rev D Muskett
Fri 2nd	9.30am	Good Friday Easter	Rev D Muskett
Sun 4th	10.00am	Day/Communion	Rev D Coote
Thurs 8th	7.30pm	Leadership Meeting	Mrs A Griffiths
Sun 11th	10.00am	Morning Service with Emsworth MC	Rev A de Ville
Sun 18th	10.00am	Morning Service	Dr J Powell
Sun 25th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mr G Paffett

May

Sun 2nd	10.00am	Communion Service	Rev D Muskett
Sun 9th	10.00am	Morning Service	Rev D Rice
Thur 13th	6.30pm	Ascension Day Service	Rev D Muskett
Sun 16th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mr D Arnott
Sun 23rd	10.00am	Morning Service/ Church Anniversary	Rev V Chapman

**copy date for June/July
Newsletter**

Sun 30th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mrs A Rice
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Rev David Muskett

Tel: 01730 233436

Email: superintendent@esanddcircuit.org.uk

Ministers day off – Friday

Steward: Alison Griffiths

Church Treasurer: Rodney Bond

Hall Bookings: Angela Clarke