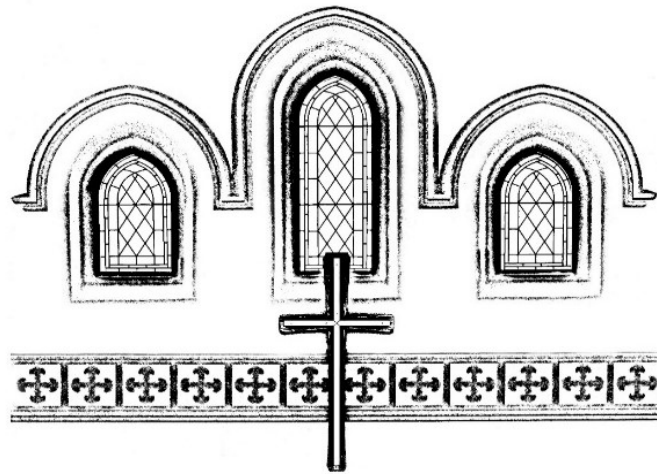


Newsletter from the....



MIDHURST METHODIST CHURCH

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February/March 2024

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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...

Dear Friends,

One of my guilty pleasures back in the 1990s was to watch the irreverent TV comedy 'Father Ted' about three incompetent Catholic priests who were sent as far away as possible from where they could cause problems – the mythical remote Craggy Island, supposedly on the west coast of Ireland. Father Ted Crilly had been caught embezzling money – 'It was just resting in my account,' he claimed. Father Dougal Maguire was one bead short of a rosary and rarely understood the central beliefs and practices of the church. Father Jack Hackett had too much of a history with wine, women, and song.

One of my favourite episodes concerns the time they tried to observe Lent in as severe a way as possible, hoping to outdo Ted's nemesis, Father Dick Byrne of nearby Rugged Island. Ted gives up cigarettes, Dougal gives up rollerblading, and Jack involuntarily gives up drink when Ted hides his bottle. They call in Sister Assumpta, who wakes them at 5 am with an airhorn, subjects them to ice baths, being dragged by tractors, and other tortures. At night, they have to sleep on beds made of bricks.

Is this extreme and cartoonish? Of course, it is. But it is an exaggeration based on many people's perception of Lent as being a time of self-flagellation. So there has been a reaction against it. Instead of self-denial of fairly minor things like chocolate, increasingly I hear people saying, "I'm not giving something up for Lent, I'm taking something up." Of course, they are going to take up something positive, but in a society where we have often set aside self-denial in place of self-fulfilment, I guess it's hardly surprising.

I think we need to find a balance between the two approaches. Christianity is not self-torture, but neither is it 'me, me, me.' I think that some of the words the minister says in the Covenant Service put it admirably:

Christ has many services to be done:
some are easy, others are difficult;

some bring honour, others bring reproach;
some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests,
others are contrary to both;
in some we may please Christ and please ourselves,
in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.
Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Christ, who strengthens us.

The key is that we set out to please Christ, whatever that entails. When it involves self-denial, it hints at the Cross, and we are preparing for that during Lent. When we also please ourselves by pleasing Christ, it indicates the joy of the Resurrection.

However we mark Lent and Easter let us hold together both the Cross and the Resurrection and put a smile on the face of Jesus.

Your friend and minister,



Dave



Annual Church Meeting 18th February 2024

Just to remind you that our Annual Church Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 18th February at 11.30am. All friends and members are welcome to attend and can take part in the discussions but only Members may vote on motions put to the meeting.

All contributions to the Annual Report should be with Claire by 7th February, please.

Easter 2024



Lent Course - a 5-session course on Zoom - 'A way Through the Wilderness: Experiencing God's Help in Times of Crisis'. Probably on Tuesdays; details to follow

Thursday 21st March - Mischief Makers Easter celebration at 11.15am

Sunday 24th March - Palm Sunday service at 10am with Mrs Shelagh Morgan

Mon, Tues & Weds 25th – 27th March - Holy Week Meditations at 10am in the Church with Rev Dave Faulkner

Thursday 28th March - Agape Communion at 6:30pm in the Hall with Rev Dave Faulkner

Friday 29th March - Good Friday worship at 9:30am; the ecumenical Walk of Witness leaves from the Church at 10:20am

Saturday 30th March – help to decorate the Church at 9:30am. The Flower Group is appealing for greenery

Sunday 31st March - Easter Day Celebration, including Holy Communion, at 10am with Rev Dave Faulkner. If possible, please bring a small posy of flowers for the Floral Cross

Thursday 9th May - Ascension Day Communion in the garden or in the Church if the weather dictates, at 6:30pm with Rev Dave Faulkner

The start of **ThyKingdomCome**, the global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>





Methodist Reflections for Lent

Charles Wesley's famous hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (StF 503) talks about Jesus as 'unbounded love' – a kind of love that cannot be contained, that works in our lives and in our world to free us and heal us. ***Unbounded Love* is the theme of the Lent campaign of the Methodist Church in 2024** – holding together our commitments to be a justice-seeking church, and a people who experience and proclaim the good news of God's uncontainable love.

Sign up on the Methodist Website for daily reflection emails during Lent, sharing daily email reflections that explore the theme of *Unbounded Love*. Sign up to receive these each day, beginning on Wednesday 14 February and discover a rhythm of reflection over Lent. (You'll also be signed up to future reflection series.)

What to expect?

A range of resources that connect the Gospel readings from the Sunday lectionary throughout Lent to weekly themes, each one a line lifted from "Love divine, all loves excelling". The themes are:

- **Week 1** - "Unbounded love": Jesus' baptism and wilderness experience – God's love bursts the barriers of heaven, and then bursts into the realms of darkness.
- **Week 2** - "Visit us with thy salvation": Losing our life (psyche) to find it – the ways we attempt to insulate ourselves from God's love.
- **Week 3** - "Pure and spotless let us be": Turning the tables in the Temple – corporate religious attempts to boundary God's love.
- **Week 4** - "Finish then thy new creation": God's unbounded love for the cosmos.
- **Week 5** - "Changed from glory into glory": Like a seed that has to die before it bears fruit, death is no barrier to God's love.

- Forty daily discipleship prompts**, will be delivered straight to your email inbox every day of Lent, excluding Sundays. Daily emails will include Bible studies, creative activities and challenges to take an action.



Research from the University of Sussex has found that reading fiction, even if only for just six minutes at a time, is a good way of relieving stress, lowering heart rate and reducing muscle tension.

Studies, using MRI scans, show that reading improves connectivity in the brain. Fiction is particularly good for us because we become immersed in the story and that increases our sense of well-being and empathy.

Printed books are better at relieving stress than Kindle or tablet especially in the evening as the blue light they emit hampers sleep.

Carry a book with you wherever you go as you may be stuck in a waiting room or travelling and your book will help to relieve tension, unlike scrolling down your mobile phone.

PS The church bookcase, which is situated in the corridor, has a very good choice of fiction at £1 each. The money goes to church funds.



Eco Church

As you will see from the photographs, Andrew has been busy. This project, which is not quite finished, is a BUG HOTEL which will live permanently in our back garden.

We all want to support our natural environment

Our idea is to create a place in the garden where creepy crawlies can make a home, over-winter and generally feel safe from being eaten by predators.

All the materials used are unwanted items such as wooden pallets, metal struts from a no-longer-needed baby's cot, discarded plastic sheeting for the roof and broken tiles for the base.

Once finished, our young grandsons will, I'm sure, happily fill in the gaps with pine cones, dried leaves, twigs, hollow stems and moss which they find lying around the garden or Common as well as cardboard toilet roll holders and shredded paper which will provide cosy nooks and crannies for our guests who take up residence.

Over the autumn and winter we expect numerous creepy crawlies, insects and worms to move into our bug hotel - we are confident that this will provide a home for many creatures - but sadly we may not see or get to know many of them!!

Hopefully, you can come to our coffee morning for Action for Children next summer on Friday 19th July and visit The Bug Hotel for yourself. Of course, not all 'Bug Hotels' need to be so grand. If you have a patio or balcony, a box and some moss and twigs would do!

SM





‘Welcome to Britain’:

The Colouring Book for Hope

Sanctuary in Chichester recently experienced a gesture of solidarity and support for young refugees and asylum-

seeking children, which is a testament to the power of art and community.

The Professional Cartoonists Organisation, moved by the removal of child-friendly murals at the Kent ‘Intake Unit’ for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Dover, decided to take a stand. The murals, which were ordered to be removed by the immigration minister, had been a source of comfort and welcome for the children.

Cartoonists Unite for a Cause

In response to this event, renowned cartoonists, including the likes of Quentin Blake and Terry Gilliam, came together to create a ‘Welcome to Britain’ colouring book. This initiative was not just about creating a book, it symbolised solidarity and a message to these young souls that they are welcomed and valued in the UK. The cartoonists generously offered their talents for free, and ‘38 Degrees’ supported the cause by running a fundraiser to cover printing and postage costs.

Thirty copies of the book and some crayons, were donated to SiC and were distributed during one of their Drop-in sessions. These gifts were particularly cherished by the children being housed at the hotel.

SiC contacts:

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

Prayer Focus

Whilst the situation on the world stage is pretty depressing at present I felt that we should consider what is happening locally and, where God's will is done, give thanks to Him that good things continue to happen

Here in Midhurst we think about the start of the Monday lunches project, giving thanks for all those involved, and praying for those who attend. We pray that their physical needs of food and warmth and their spiritual needs of companionship and care be satisfied. Pray that this project should continue to grow and that, through it, many may come to experience true Christian fellowship.

We note with joy the number of new people who have recently started attending our Sunday worship. Pray that we will provide a welcoming Christian society where they can grow in God's love. We also thank God for the very young children who are brought along by their parents, and pray that we are able to create a happy and joyful atmosphere for them.

Pray for all the groups who use our premises, that they may be aware of the years of worship that have been offered by many and that any dealings they have with members might reveal a little of God's love.

Pray for all who attend our church, for our minister and his family, and all those who, because of age or health, are no longer able to join us; let them know that our thoughts and prayers are with them. We pray for any we know who are sick or grieving that they may be made whole and find comfort.

We must include prayers for this broken world. Unfortunately so much seems to be going wrong, and the problems are so complex that we do not know what exactly to ask for. Please pray for leaders to emerge who will speak out for peace and justice.

For example:

- . areas of conflict, especially those that no longer make the headlines;
- . climate change caused by man's pollution of the atmosphere, waterways, and earth - the greedy plunder of the earth's resources, often destroying the natural habitats of others.

Pray that we be more aware of our responsibilities in the stewardship of this planet and all its inhabitants. Remember that God created the earth and all within it, and that with careful management and a fair distribution of its resources there is plenty for all to enjoy.

Finally pray for yourselves; pray for help to lead lives such that we may reflect God's love for all.

DS



2023 was not all Doom and Gloom

There **has** been some good news over the last year.

A new vaccine has been developed against malaria. It has taken ten years to trial in Africa and is called RTS, S. The vaccine reduces severe malaria by 22% and decreases toddler deaths by 13%. It will eventually save tens of thousands of lives every year. Not only that but a cheaper, better vaccine for malaria called R21 is on the way.

More good news: Southampton University has made major progress towards a vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) which is an illness which kills hundreds of children and thousands of elderly people every year. It is also one of the major causes of the common cold. This vaccine will reduce related hospital admissions by 80%. It is hoped that it will be ready by next winter.

On the home front:

Midhurst is starting to look more vibrant as two cafes in North Street which were closed have now reopened under new management.

AC



MCH Community Lunch

We held the first lunch in our Hall on Monday 15th – with no pre-booking we were uncertain what initial response we would get but all present agreed that the day went exceptionally well. Hoping for perhaps 6 guests, we welcomed a total of 10 guests for a delicious homecooked lunch. Ages ranged from 9 months to 90+!!

There was a warm buzz of conversation over tea and coffee as new friendships were forged and extra tables were quickly set up before moving up the Hall to enjoy a tasty lunch. Word has since been spreading further around the town and we have every expectation of doubling that number within our first month.

Thank you Lord for richly blessing us all with an encouraging start and such a clear answer to prayer. Please help us to honour you in all that we do and say.

Chris

On behalf of the Community Lunch Team

Now the work really begins...

To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry...

To make music in the heart

(Adapted from Howard Thurman)



“In Touch”

One of the big local issues is that of loneliness and isolation, and this can easily morph into anxiety and poor health.

Midhurst Community Hub is setting up a telephone buddying service called **“In Touch”** (as in “Keeping in touch”) whereby some 20 volunteers drawn from Midhurst and the surrounding villages commit to making just 3 phone calls a week to people who would like to hear a friendly voice and have a chat.

Making those 3 calls a week is the only commitment and so this can be done from home on landline or mobile. But it means that 60 people a week can be contacted and benefit from a cheery voice!

There has to be some admin around this project to assure the privacy and confidentiality of both the volunteer and the person called, and so volunteers would need to:

- Complete a basic form -name, address, particular interests/circumstances – to match with the client’s.
- Attend a briefing session
- Sign a confidentiality form- to avoid gossip.
- Complete a DBS safeguarding form online, as many of the clients called will be vulnerable people

If you are interested in being one of these volunteer callers, please contact:

Mike Abbott (secretary to Hub trustees) on the **Hub phone: 01730-770403**

or by email: mike@midhurstcommunityhub.co.uk

You will then have the satisfaction of supporting someone in your local community through your voice of friendship and keeping in touch!



Appeal for new stewards

At the last Church Meeting there was an appeal for more Church Stewards and it was suggested that a description of the rôle be published so we all know what's involved:

Job description for the position of Steward

The stewards constitute the primary body for ensuring that Sunday worship happens, but in effect this is delegated to the 'Sunday Stewards'. Not all the 'Sunday Stewards' are Stewards ie members of the Leadership Team. Not all the Stewards get involved with Sunday services. The following refers to the (leadership) Stewards rather than those who supervise the Sunday services.

The Church Stewards are corporately responsible with the Minister for giving leadership and help over the whole range of the local church's life and activity. The Church Stewards are called to act upon the decisions and policies of the Church Council.

The rôle will vary according to context, cultural setting, local arrangements and ways of working. The experience, gifts and graces that a team of stewards bring will also influence how the rôles are carried out. The Standing Orders that govern church stewards provide a framework within which the role can be exercised in a way that best fits the local context and enables the work of God to be accomplished and the stewards to work within those rules.

Stewards get involved in:

- . exercising pastoral care and leadership, with the minister
- . communicating policies decided at Synod and Conference and acting upon them
- . acting on decisions of the Church Meeting
- . acting as Trustees, with the other members of the Church Meeting
- . keeping up-to-date with Safeguarding matters
- . communicating with preachers and sorting out Local Arrangements
- . recruiting new members of the Leadership Team when appropriate

This list is not definitive; for more information please go online for the Methodist Church Stewards' Handbook.

Does this sound like something that might suit you? If so, please speak to our minister Dave, or the stewards Tim, Sian or Alison. Our Leadership Team needs more input to make good decisions.



Newsletter costs - annual appeal

Yet another year has passed, - six more editions of our Newsletter. Once again, we are appealing for donations to help cover the cost of publication. We suggest at least £1 per edition.

If you can help, please use the form inserted in this newsletter, including the GiftAid section if applicable, and give or send your donation to the Church Treasurer.

Alternatively, you can make a donation direct into the Church bank account quoting the reference 'Newsletter Donation', or use the card reader at the Church. Please complete a Gift Aid form, if appropriate, when using either of these methods.

Your contributions towards to the cost of the Newsletter will leave more of the Church Funds for our mission work.

Thank you.



Quilted Prayers

In 2011 at the Haslemere Methodist Church Quilting Exhibition Barbara had the unexpected privilege of meeting Donna Rigby and friends from St. Stephen's Church, Shottermill.

They explained to her about their Patchwork Prayer Ministry. Their information given with such enthusiasm inspired her to come back to Midhurst Methodist Church and talk about the possibility of starting a similar ministry.

From that small beginning the 'Quilted Prayers' started in 2012 and our first quilt was dedicated on Easter Day. Since then we have had the opportunity to offer our prayer quilts to thirty eight people. Some were members of our congregation and others, many miles away, known only to the person requesting the quilt on their behalf. We have also made two small very special quilts for two new babies born to members of our congregation.

These quilts, as many of you know, are handmade and freely given to anyone who would like to receive this comforting gift of love and prayers. Long threads are stitched at intervals through the quilt and members of the congregation are asked to tie a knot whilst saying a silent prayer for the recipient. If you know someone you think would like to receive a prayer quilt then please have a word with Pat or Barbara.



A display at Haslemere Church of some of our Quilts

Although the quilts are completed with a personal label we make a variety of colours so that a suitable one

may be chosen. To keep this stock of different designs we need to have another working group morning on Saturday 23rd March from 9.30 – 12.30. This means tasks such as ironing, cutting, designing, and possibly sewing so volunteers don't all need sewing skills to help.

We also need clean, washed all-cotton material. This may be a shirt, blouse, dress or sheet in good condition to cut up to make 10-inch squares as the quilts are made of used and new all-cotton material.

We will be very pleased to see you for all, or some of the time, on the 23rd March.

BC



Website Update

Well, it has been seven and a half years since we first started a web site for Midhurst Methodist Church. Over that time we have had more than 12,400 views. This year was slightly behind the last two years with 1988 views, only six less than last year, but we did have 90 more visitors in 2023 totalling 833 separate visits. These visitors came from 18 different countries but none from South America this year. After the UK and America, Canada was the third highest number of visitors, with China dropping into fourth place.

February had the most monthly views last year and November the least. Most popular day was Friday and we even had three views from Australia on Christmas day in 2023.

TW

The Chairman of the Fundraising Team retires on 18th February, at the Annual Church Meeting. We are appealing for someone to take on this rôle and below is a summary of what's involved:

Fundraising Chair Job Description

The Funds raised by the Team at Midhurst Methodist Church are for either (1) charities specified at the time of an event or (2) for Methodist connexional funds and charitable causes or (3) for the work of our Church in the community.

There has never been a written job description for this rôle, but here are a few pointers as to what the current Chairman has been doing:

- . organising sales and other events with the help of the Team, booking the hall, recruiting staff as needed and dealing with publicity; or delegating these various tasks to members of the Team or others who are willing
- . reporting in the Newsletter and to Church meetings
- . chairing planning meetings

The Fundraising Chair does not have to follow the pattern of previous Chairs, but can use their own imagination and enthusiasm to come up with ways to raise funds for charities and Church funds. Of course, the existing Fundraising Team remains willing to be involved.

For a more comprehensive overview, please have a word with Alison.

Do not go where the path may lead; go instead
where there is no path and leave a trail.

Bible Verse Search Puzzle by Ralph Hewitt The unused letters in the grid spell out a relevant verse from the Good News Bible

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

Answers:

MOSCOW, WARSAW, LONDON, CANBERRA, SWANSEA, BIRMINGHAM, BUCHAREST, LEEDS, SINGAPORE, AMSTERDAM, TEHERAN, VIENNA, BUDAPEST, COPENHAGEN, SEOUL, SANTIAGO, BARCELONA, OTTAWA, LISBON, NICOSIA, SAN SALVADOR, PRAGUE, HELSINKI, ATHENS

The town is LLANDUDNO

The hidden Bible verse is from Genesis 13:12 (NIV):

LOT LIVED AMONG THE CITIES OF THE PLAIN

Each member of the Church Council is a Trustee of Midhurst Methodist Church. As we are a small Church we don't elect representatives to a Church Council – every member may vote at a Church Meeting. By signing that you have attended a meeting you are agreeing to be treated as a Trustee. Trustees sign an annual declaration for the Charity Commission about conflicts of interest and legal disqualification. Some info goes on the Charity Commission website. Therefore, from time to time, it could be seen as helpful to remind Members of the duties of Trustees:

“The Five Golden Rules of being a Trustee

If you are a member of your Local Church Council, Circuit Meeting or any of the other Methodist bodies of Managing Trustees, then you are a charity trustee. This means that there are a number of duties placed on you under charity law. In England and Wales, the key piece of legislation is the Charities Act 2011.

Each Local Church, Circuit, District etc. is a charity in its own right. There are still some Local Churches and Circuits that are not registered with the Charity Commission because their annual income does not exceed £100,000. Such Methodist charities are excepted from registration by virtue of the Charities (Exception from Registration) Regulations 1996 until 31 March 2031. However, even as an excepted charity the Local Church or Circuit is a charity and must comply with charity law. As a starting point, please refer to the following five golden rules of being a charity trustee:

Charity trustees must always act:

(1) **In the best interests of the charity** – make balanced, adequately informed decisions; think about how the charity can best fulfil its purposes in the long term as well as short-term; avoid conflicts of interest and step aside from discussion and voting if they have a personal or financial interest.

(2) **In accordance with the law and the charity's governing documents** – comply with the charity's own governing documents e.g. Methodist Constitutional Practice and Discipline (CPD); comply with the law generally including charity law and other relevant laws (e.g. employment or property law) – please speak to the Legal and Constitutional Practice Team (LCP) and TMCP if you have any questions

on your legal obligations; and take professional advice where necessary. Don't rely on word of mouth, assumptions, strong voices or past precedent. Don't bend the rules – there can be a tension between a charity's legal obligations and our Christian values. TMCP and LCP know that it is not easy at times for trustees to balance these obligations and values, but the law must prevail.

(3) With reasonable skill and care – give time, thought and energy to your role, prepare for meetings and attend meetings! Actively participate during and between meetings. Take professional advice where necessary and ask questions. If something goes wrong, address it. Don't be afraid of admitting what may have gone wrong and getting help.

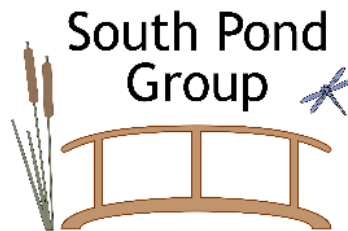
(4) Prudently and responsibly – look after the charity's assets responsibly. Ensure the charity properly takes account of the views of its members and beneficiaries, communicates well and guides the Local Church or Circuit etc. on the right path (in charity's best interests). It is the charity's money – spend it wisely. Be prepared to make difficult decisions.

(5) Collectively – ensure proper debate and that there is transparency/audit trail for decision making, no loose cannons! Once a decision is made, everyone must stand behind it. If a smaller group makes the decision on behalf of the charity, ensure there is a proper delegation in place with clear terms of reference. Agree and be clear about what decisions are not being delegated. The trustees need to be able to justify why/how a decision was made if questioned.

Trustee liability - Methodist charities are unincorporated which means that the charity trustees have unlimited liability. However, trustee indemnity insurance is generally available (£100,000 cover per trustee). NB. No insurance policy will protect you from fraud, reckless decision-making etc. But if you act within the rules and in good faith, you are likely to be protected. Charity trustees are volunteers. Even if the decision was a poor one in hindsight, if you can show you were acting in good faith and can evidence why you reached the decision in the way that you did in the circumstances, then you are likely to be protected."

This and other information is available at:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/office-holders/managing-trustees/>



South Pond is said to be one of the jewels in the crown of Midhurst. As mentioned in previous articles South Pond is an important area being the second oldest structure in Midhurst, second only to St. Ann's Castle, and is enjoyed by so many of all ages for a variety of recreational purposes.

A little history part IV

In history part III the troubles which arose from the new work which commenced 2014/15 were mentioned.



After the gaps were created we had difficulty using our boat to cut back the growth on the top of the faggots which originally enclosed the area and which had been dug out to give the views requested.

An ongoing issue is the silting up of the passages between the islands. So, at the dredging, all the silt was put on the newly created mud banks in the hope that it would suppress the sweet reed grass. We received low-growing plants to put in these mud banks. They were netted to protect them from the geese and ducks. That summer we had a period of drought so the fire brigade, who came along for some practice, kindly watered them for us.



Unfortunately, the silt deposit didn't work and we are still trying to eradicate the sweet reed grass. We are slowly winning but we are not there yet. It produces an extensive network of underground roots and rhizomes that can reach one metre deep making it difficult to remove. A single plant is capable of producing up to 100 shoots and 30m of rhizome in its first two years of growth. Although a native plant, it is

very invasive and was not the right choice by those making the original planting.

The reeds that were planted did not take a proper foothold on the south side as the water over the silt was too deep and although new plants were placed there on wooden rafts it is taking time for them to get established.

The Present

The pond can be beautiful at this time of year but whilst working down there one freezing morning we saw adults trying to step on the ice and they, and a child, fell in.

This winter it has also seen a lot of flooding which washes more silt down the stream into the pond. Before the birds start nesting in the spring CDC will be removing the silt again. It is very expensive to take it off site so it will be deposited around the pond edges.



The South Pond Group volunteers are a great group of mixed ages dedicated to looking after the area to improve the environment by doing many different tasks. Last time we cut back fallen trees to allow new plants to grow and we formed woodpiles for creatures to hide. SPG always welcome new members and we meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month 9.30 – 12.30. For more information check www.southpond.co.uk



Fundraising News

**your regular update on our
charitable fundraising efforts**

Over the Christmas period we had our usual opportunities to donate to charitable causes:

The Gift Service donations on the tree, for Sanctuary in Chichester, came to £257.

The collection at the Carol Service was for Stonepillow and totalled £162

The Christmas Day collection is always for Action for Children. Additionally, the donations from the Church Christmas Card go to Action for Children, and the total of the two was £116.

Thank you for your generosity.

On 10th February we'll be serving teas and home-made biscuits during the interval of the Oaken concert. We'll be asking for donations for Sanctuary in Chichester. This event is always well-supported.

On 17th February our annual Bric-a-Brac Sale will be in the Hall from 10am until noon.

The following day is our Annual Church Meeting, at which I retire as Fundraising Chairman. I take this opportunity to thank my team and all of you who have supported our events over the past 17 years.

At present no-one has stepped forward to express an interest in taking on this rôle, so it's not known how fundraising events will happen thereafter, but here are some dates for your diary:

on 11th May it is hoped that a Spring Fair will be held

on 19th May the Church Anniversary Lunch will take some form

on 7th June there will be a Coffee Morning for MHA, (replacing the Strawberry Teas), and Mrs Shelagh Morgan will preach on MHA Sunday, 9th June

on 19th July Sian will be hosting a coffee morning for Action for Children.

AG

Oaken Sings

ACCLAIMED QUARTET OF
EXCEPTIONAL SINGERS & WORKSHOP LEADERS



DOMINIC
STIGHBURY

ANNA
TABBUSH

EMILY
BARDEN

CAMILO
MENJURA

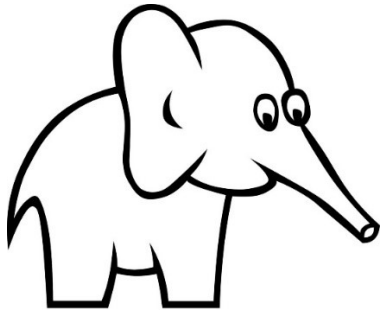
MIDHURST FEB 10th 2024

Workshop (2-5pm) Performance (7.30pm)

MIDHURST METHODIST CHURCH,
W. SUSSEX GU29 9DU

tiny.cc/oakenmid

Please support our...



GIANT BRIC-a-BRAC SALE

**with Books, Toys,
Greeting Cards,
Bacon Sandwiches**

**Saturday
17th February
10am – Noon**

Entrance £1 includes a free cup of coffee

Supporting the work of the Methodist Church in Midhurst

Diary Dates February

Thurs 1st	10.00am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sun 4th	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev D Faulkner
Wed 7th	10.30am	Cafe Church	Church
Thur 8th	10.00am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sat 10th	7.30pm	Oaken Harmony	Church
Sun 11th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mr S Morton GNfE
Thur 15th	9.30am	Sorting B-a-B	Church Hall
Fri 16th	2.00pm	Set up Sale	Church Hall
Sat 17th	10.00am	Bric-a-brac Sale	Church Hall
Sun 18th	10.00am	Morning Service	Rev D Faulkner
	11.30am	Annual Church Meeting	Church
Wed 21st	10.30am	Cafe Church	Church
Thur 22nd	10.00am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sun 25th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mrs A Rice
Thur 29th	10.00am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
	7.30pm	Leadership Meeting	Mrs A Griffiths

March


Sat 2nd	10.00am	Circuit Meeting	Drayton MC
Sun 3rd	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev D Faulkner
Wed 6th	10.30am	Café Church	Church
Thur 7th	10.00am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sun 10th	10.00am	Morning Service	TBA
Thur 14th	10.00am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sun 17th	10.00am	Morning Service	TBA
Wed 20th	10.30am	Café Church	Church
Thur 21st	10.00am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
Sat 23rd	9.30am	Quilted Prayers	Church Hall
Sun 24th	10.00am	Morning Service	Mrs S Morgan

Copydate for April/May Newsletter

Mon 25th	10.00am	Holy Week Meditation	Church
Tues 26th	10.00am	Holy Week Meditation	Church
Wed 27th	10.00am	Holy Week Meditation	Church
Thur 28th	6.30pm	Agape	Rev D Faulkner
Fri 29th	9.30am	Good Friday Service	TBA
	10.20am	Walk of Witness	Church
Sun 31st	10.00am	Easter Day Service	Rev D Faulkner

Midhurst Methodist Church

**North Street
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GU29 9DU**

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MINISTER:

Rev David Faulkner

Tel: 01428 748692

Email: david.faulkner@methodist.org.uk

Minister's day off –Saturday

Steward:

Alison Griffiths

Church Treasurer:

Pauline Dey

Hall Bookings:

Di Ponting

