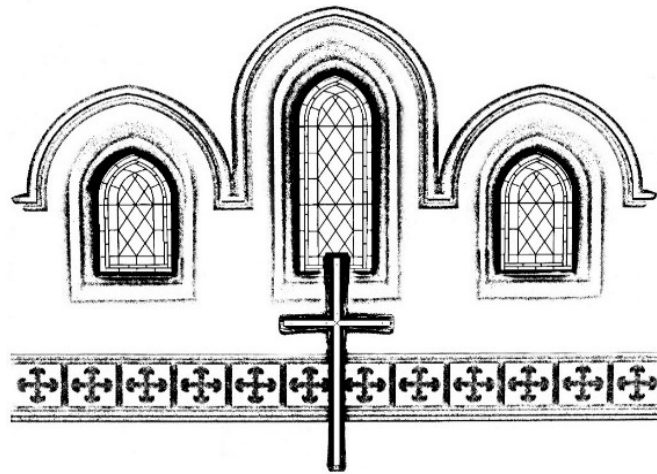


Newsletter from the....



MIDHURST METHODIST CHURCH

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August/September 2026

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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,

During the World Cup, one of my friends wrote on Facebook that she was looking forward to the England-Norway quarter-final. However, she said, she drew the line at cricket.

My friend is a classical musician. She has appeared on TV, playing her flute as an accompanist on shows like Britain's Got Talent. So I replied to her, 'You appreciate the intricacies of classical music, because you have played it. I appreciate many of the intricacies of cricket (and nothing better than a five-day Test match), because I have played it.'

I believe we can apply something similar to the life of faith. G K Chesterton said, 'The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.'

It may be that one of the responses we can gently offer to those who doubt our faith is to say, 'why don't you try living by the teaching of Jesus for a month and see what happens?'

A man called Peter Honey once laid out four main different learning styles that people use to find out what is true. Some of us live in our heads as *theorists* (that's me, by the way). Others consider what we can learn after an experience: they are *reflectors*. Still others ask, does it work? They are *pragmatists*. And finally, as I am advocating here, another group learns by doing: they are *activists*.

Historically, Methodism is *pragmatic*. Yet we train our ministers in *reflection* and then you get the odd *theorist* like me, who wants to stick to first principles. Might we do better in our evangelism if we incorporated the *activism*? There is plenty of biblical warrant: texts such as 'Taste and see that the Lord is good' and 'Go and do likewise' come to mind.

Maybe this is an invitational approach we could take with our friends when they express their doubts about faith. You don't have to be an egghead to be a witness in this way.

And while we're at it, we would also do ourselves no harm if we considered whether there were parts of Jesus' teaching that we hadn't tried out in practice yet. For then, our Christian lives would undoubtedly grow deeper.

Your friend and minister,

Dave



**Christian Aid envelope collection
Sunday 2nd August**

Our annual retiring collection for Christian Aid will take place at our morning worship on 2nd August. Gift Aid forms will be available if you are a taxpayer. Please give generously for their important work.

House Group Update

We'd love you to join us!

Our House Group is a friendly, relaxed place where we encourage one another as we grow in faith, build lasting friendships, learn more about God's word, pray together, enjoy spending time together and having fun.



After completing the Bible Course at Church, we all agreed we'd like to continue meeting on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, from 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

Every other meeting will be Bible-focused, while the alternate gatherings provide more opportunities for discussion, fellowship and sharing. From time to time, we'll also invite members of our church family to tell us about their own faith journeys and experiences of God's work in their lives.

Whether you've been part of a House Group before or are simply curious to find out more, you'll receive a very warm welcome. We'd love to see you.

For more information, please contact Paul or Judith Carter
Tel: 07817 620727 Email: p.carter001@me.com



Church Meeting - Sunday 9th August 2026

We look forward to seeing you at our next Church Meeting after the morning service on Sunday 9th August, at 11.30am. All friends and members are welcome to attend and take part in the discussions. Trustee Members may vote on resolutions.

CSW



Coffee Morning

Friday **21st** **August**



10am - 12noon

Rockliffe, Carron Lane, Midhurst GU29 9LD

Action for Children Coffee Morning

It was a hard decision to cancel the coffee morning planned for 26th June but with a red warning from the government due to the hot weather, it couldn't be helped. Undeterred, **we will now be holding our coffee morning on Friday 21st August** and hope we get a bumper turnout!



This year's **Action for Children Sunday** will be held at our church on **23rd August** when members of our congregation will be bringing their message to you. The theme is "Everyone's Welcome" – a reference to the wider family of God and in particular A4C's focus on foster care – which is where Action for Children began over 150 years ago.

Sadly, the need is as great as ever, with 7000 new foster families needed. By supporting Action for Children, their foster families can welcome children and young people into their care and the community around them. Fostering can be the turning-point in a child's or young person's life, giving them stability, hope and a loving environment.

Do come along to this service on 23rd August.

SM

"Love is not found in perfection, but in daily choices that honour, nurture, and reflect God's enduring love."

Christopher Falconer

Prayer Focus

There are so many things to focus our prayers for this period of the year; changes are pending for many parts of the community. Young people changing from school to university or college, even younger going into school from nursery – we pray that they all enjoy the holiday rest and go through their varying transitions without worry.

This period also marks the change in the Methodist Church, with newly-ordained ministers take up their first post, whilst others move to other churches. Pray that these changes are beneficial and deepen spiritual life in all areas.

Pray for thankfulness – the ability to appreciate our wonderful world and the people it, even though parts don't always seem to be happening the way we might like.

Pray for willingness – to recognise our own part in helping to bring about changes, perhaps not at a high level, but in our attitude to tackle unkindness, need, and injustice.

Pray for hopefulness – as a worshipping community we are assured of God's love and care and we pray that others may find a way to share this hope.

Pray for mindfulness – we need moments in our busy lives to acknowledge our value to God and the precious time we can use to channel our positive thoughts.

Pray for watchfulness – so we can guard against inadvertently hurting others with thoughtless words or deeds, or not recognising when another person is feeling vulnerable or needy.

Pray for thoughtfulness – the ability to identify the need for 'random acts of kindness'. Sometimes all this needs to be is a smile, on other occasions a hand with a small task or a bunch of flowers, maybe a homemade cake or preserve, an invitation for a cup of tea – I suspect we have all been gifted this thoughtfulness from members here and can remember that warmth and love we felt.

Pray for quietness – to enable us to listen to what God is saying to us when we pray.

Within each section here I hope you will realise that there is the opportunity to introduce the other things that are close to your heart - recent bereavements, sick friends, other difficulties we are facing – with more personal relevance. Remember that we are praying to our God – He loves us and will listen. DS



Local Arrangement for All Saints' Day Sunday 1st November

You may recall that for the fifth Sunday in March, which was Palm Sunday, our Circuit Superintendent decreed that (most) churches in our Circuit would have a Local Arrangement. Paul kindly led this service for us.

The first Sunday in November has also been declared a Local Arrangement Sunday. This is “All Saints’ Day”, not something we usually follow in our church. As it’s the first Sunday in the month, our minister, Dave, would normally be with us for a communion service and, as the staff have been instructed to be involved with their churches as usual, there is no reason why this cannot be the case. However, to follow the spirit of the idea, he would conduct the communion but not necessarily arrange the rest of the service.

Dave proposes that a Worship Planning Group be arranged to sort out the service. This is not a regular thing for us – it would be just for this Local Arrangement.

Please speak to a steward if you are interested in having a hand in arranging this service. A date and time to meet will then be arranged.

What a busy year it has been at Mischief Makers, and we come again to the end of our year as we break for the summer holidays. Many would like us to continue through the summer but we'd end up having the older siblings as well



and our equipment is not designed for the older children. Our volunteers are coming and going, making the rota more difficult. Perhaps the other reason is that we expend a lot of energy getting equipment in and out and keeping up with the little ones and we also need a break.

We started off in autumn 2025 steadily and adjusted our craft tables for the younger ages as the older children had gone to nursery or school. It soon built up and come March we had over 30 families and 40 children. The numbers have kept up, but fortunately at a more manageable level.

We had the pleasure of some new babies, one less than a week old, and it is our privilege to see them grow and develop their individual personalities.

David Coote led our Harvest, Christmas and Easter Celebrations which are always fun and perhaps a little chaotic but we are pleased to welcome the children into the Church as they go in with enthusiasm leading the way for those a little hesitant. The volunteers try to show God's love in all that we do but this is an opportunity to welcome them into our place of worship.

When the heatwave caused 'red alert' warnings we hesitated to have our meeting, with concern for our volunteers and whether we could safely do a morning session. We are aware that some of our families may live in flats or have little space and yet the children will still have the energy even if parents are struggling. In the end we went ahead, reducing the equipment we put out so we weren't loading and unloading the big cages. We restricted the morning to an hour but offered refreshments, all for free. We were quite overwhelmed by the response of so many thanking us for keeping MM open for them.

As a follow-on from being overwhelmed, a couple of weeks before we closed, we found an envelope addressed to MM in the vestry. Casually opening the envelope, we were all amazed by the very generous anonymous gift that was enclosed with the note. We are so very grateful for this gift which will enable us to purchase some new and replacement equipment. If the person reads this article, a very big thank-you from us all.

So now we plan ahead for next year and look forward to greeting some new babies (and we know that, of these, there will be twins - a boy and girl) and new toddlers as well as welcoming back familiar faces that will have grown through the summer.

BC

CLEANING SESSION IN THE SANCTUARY
Thursday 13th August at 10am

**Everybody is welcome to join in for
some light cleaning
Coffee and biscuits provided**

A date for your diary...



Autumn Fair
Saturday 7th November 2026
at 10am

A Public Artwork unveiled at new Community Garden in Midhurst remembers Marilyn Vio, a friend of Midhurst Methodist Church



Marilyn was a long-time friend of Midhurst Methodist Church, and was married to Francesco Vio in our Church in 1973. They continued to worship with us from time to time after they moved to Southsea. We were very sad to hear from her family that she had died in the Autumn.

‘The Veil’ is the name of a sculpture by Francesco’s father which has been donated to the town by Francesco and the children, Pamela and Gareth, to remember Marilyn where she had her roots. It was unveiled at a ceremony in the new Community Garden, by the Old Library, on 10th June. We were represented by Richard Atkins-Greig (who had conducted her funeral) and members of our congregation. Our picture shows Pamela and Francesco with the sculpture at the ceremony.

Previously, Marilyn and Francesco gave us a plaque to mark their 25th wedding anniversary. It is displayed in the 76 Room.

Poem: When I Say I Am a Christian, by Carol Wimmer

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost!"
That's why I chose this way."

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't speak with human pride;
I'm confessing that I stumble –
Needing God to be my guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong;
I'm professing that I'm weak
And pray for strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success;
I'm admitting that I've failed
And cannot ever pay the debt.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't think I know it all;
I submit to my confusion
Asking humbly to be taught.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect;
My flaws are all too visible
But God believes I'm worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache,
Which is why I seek His name.



Harvest Festival 2026

Saturday 10th October – at 6.30pm – Harvest Supper

The usual list for the catering will be in the church nearer the time

Afterwards Sara Adeniyi will be telling us about her charity for the education of children in Nigeria, Street2Scholar

Sunday 11th October at 10am – Harvest Festival service



Our friend Sara Adeniyi is seeking volunteer trustees as she sets up her charity Street2Scholar, working to educate street children in Nigeria. She will be telling us about her charity at our Harvest Supper in October.

Please see the information below...

Volunteer Trustees Needed – ICTek Empowerment Hub (aka ICTek), UK

ICTek is a UK-based charity with a noble mission. It aims to bridge the digital skills gap through quality, accessible, affordable technology and digital training - equipping young and underrepresented groups with the technical skills needed for in-demand careers in today's technological world.

ICTek Empowerment Hub Ltd is a private company limited by guarantee (without share capital). It is a sister organisation to **Street2Scholar (S2S) Foundation**, which is built on the principles of accountability and integrity.

.....continued

ICTek is looking for two Volunteer Trustees to join its Board to help it grow and advance its mission.

Expected Role: To provide strategic direction for the organisation, oversee its finances and governance, and ensure the organisation remains focused on achieving its mission.

This role involves attending two Board meetings per year.

There are no specific qualifications required; a genuine passion for empowering young people to achieve a sustainable future is desirable. Experience or knowledge in finance, safeguarding, education, law or charity governance would be an added advantage.

Requirement: Two individuals who are unrelated and have no existing ties to either the Street2Scholar Foundation or ICTek Empowerment Hub. However, this is a mandatory requirement to ensure the Board remains genuinely independent.

NB: Elected Volunteers will be:

- Included on the ICTek Empowerment Hub Companies House record (Company No. 16159696).
- Included in the organisation's Charity Commission application.
- Involved in budgetary and financial oversight, including serving as authorised signatories on the organisation's bank account.

If you desire to volunteer, please contact Sara Adeniyi at info@ictekhub.com; 07702 330581

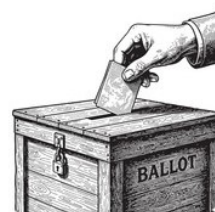
The deadline for the application is on Monday, 31st August 2026.



1-75 Shelton Street,
Covent Garden,
London,
United Kingdom,
WC2H 9JQ
www.ictekhub.com
info@ictekhub.com
+44 7702 330 581

DEMOCRACY AS WE KNOW IT

We grew up in Egham, a small town in Surrey by the side of the Thames at Runnymede. We were very proud of our history as the Magna Carta was signed there in 1215. We had a Magna Road, a Charta Road and a Wendover Road. The last was named after Roger of Wendover who organised the meeting of the barons with the King. The barons were very angry with King John. He had wasted huge amounts of money on his life-style. He had lost some of our land in France that had belonged to England due to advantageous royal marriages in the past. He fell out with the Pope so that for seven years the churches were closed except for baptisms. Finally, he went to war against France which was a disaster as there wasn't any money left to pay for it.



In May 1215 John was escorted to Runnymede which was a meadow half way between London and Windsor along the river. Barons from all over the country forced him to put his seal on a document which was a landmark as it made him share the power of running the country with them. There were over 60 clauses in the document, one of which was that people who had been accused of a serious crime were entitled to a fair trial. It was the beginning of democracy in this country.

Fast forward to the nineteenth century when, thanks to the Whigs (liberals) taking over the government from the Tories, democratic reform evolved at a faster pace. The Reform Acts gradually expanded male franchise and in 1918 all men were allowed to vote for MPs.

In 1918 some women were allowed to vote. The 1928 Equal Franchise Act gave women equal voting rights with men. All women aged over 21 could now vote in elections.

The voting age was changed from 21 to 18 in 1969 and in recent years it has been proposed that voting be permitted for 16 to 18-year-olds – this may even be in place before the next scheduled general election.

AC



City of Sanctuary

Latest Information from Sanctuary in Chichester

Bishop Luffa students raise £6,100 for Sanctuary in Chichester

Bishop Luffa School's Sixth Form students' fundraising efforts have raised £6,100 for Sanctuary in Chichester. Trustee Mike accepted the cheque at the recent presentation event. He said, "I had the privilege of accepting a cheque for £6,100 – a hugely generous donation from their charity fundraising this year, a record amount, and the third year that Sanctuary has been one of three charities chosen by the students. Their support has been very relevant and so helpful, as we help increasing numbers of families and individuals on their journey to independent lives in this country."

SiC's partnership with the school continues to deepen, with volunteer tutors going into the school on a weekly basis to support refugee children and those whose first language is not English. Feedback from teaching staff and parents about this initiative has been extremely positive, with one parent saying, "We are truly grateful for the support our child has received. The tutors have been incredibly kind, patient, and supportive, and they made the lessons enjoyable by adding humour. Thanks to their help, we can see a clear improvement in their English."

Charity Manager Kathryn and refugee speaker Mahmood recently gave talks at Bishop Luffa School, and Kathryn described how, "Mahmood was absolutely brilliant of course, and many students came up afterwards to shake his hand and thank him."

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

StF 158 Lord, You Sometimes Speak in Wonders

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All-important Always New By Your Spirit Doubt and Fear
Every Age Fresh Light From the Page His Name Jesus
Know and Trust Listen Lives Display Loud and Noisy
Mighty Signs Our Saviour Pray Presence Quietly Wait
Scarcely Heard Scripture Silence Sometimes
Still and Small Still the Same Summon Taught
Unmistakable Whispers Wonders

Diary Dates

August

Sun 2nd	10.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Dr J Illsley
		Christian Aid envelope collection	
Sun 9th	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev D Faulkner
	11.30am	Church Meeting	Mrs C Stemp-West
Thurs 13th	10.00am	Church Cleaning	Mrs A Clarke
	2.00pm	House Group	Mr P Carter
Sun 16th	10.00am	Morning Worship	Mr D Arnott
Fri 21st	10.00am	AfC Coffee Morning	Mrs S Mitchell
Sun 23rd	10.00am	LA - Action for Children service	Mrs S Mitchell
Thurs 27th	2.00pm	House Group	Mr P Carter
Sun 30th	10.00am	Morning Worship	Rev D Rice

September

Sun 6th	10.00am	Holy Communion	Rev D Faulkner
Thurs 10th	2.00pm	House Group	Mr P Carter
Sun 13th	10.00am	Morning Worship	TBA
Sun 20th	10.00am	Local Arrangement	Mrs Fran Jenkins

Copy Date for Oct/Nov Newsletter

Thurs 24th	10.00am	Mischief Makers	Church Hall
	2.00pm	House Group	Mr P Carter
Sun 27th	10.00am	Morning Worship	TBA

Midhurst Methodist Church

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Midhurst
GU29 9DU

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www.midhurstmethodist.com

 www.facebook.com/midhurstmethodist

email: midhurstmethodisttech@gmail.com

MINISTER:

Rev David Faulkner

Tel: 01428 748692

email: david.faulkner@methodist.org.uk

Minister's day off – Saturday



Circuit Digital Services: search YouTube for "ES&D" or "Digital Church" and look for the Methodist/Digital Church logo.

Steward:

Alison Griffiths

Church Treasurer:

Chris Gladstone

Hall Bookings:

Di Ponting

