



SPOTLIGHT

The magazine of Offington Park Methodist Church



February 2020

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Cover Picture

Our cover picture is of Offington Park East Lodge, Broadwater, as it looked in 1906. The picture was painted by Hannah Belhadj, a member of our very own Paint! Art Club, from an old postcard.



Taken from the northern edge of Broadwater Green, this view shows Warren Road, centre right, which formed the north-eastern boundary of the ancient Offington Park.

The East Lodge, one of four, is typically Victorian and was extended in the 1850's by Thomas Gaisford, after whom several roads and the electoral ward are named.

POCKET SERMON

Some people say that God doesn't exist because they don't understand his actions. But then I have no idea what air traffic controllers, earthworms or Morris dancers are up to, and most people seem to believe they all exist.....

Milton Jones

Dear Friends,

First, welcome back Mary! We missed you, but are pleased that you were able to have an extended time with your family in Australia. Many thanks to all those who looked after the office during Mary's holiday.



The whole of December was very busy, but what a joyful time we had with the variety of services. There was the quiet stillness of morning and evening communion; and then celebrations using our wide and varied hymnody, enabling the whole age range to access something that brought about Emmanuel. All the services were well advertised with the new portable screen in the lobby given by a generous anonymous benefactor - bless you.

If you were involved in any way with preparing, leading or providing resources that supported our services and social gatherings over Christmas, thank you. I hope you were as blessed as the people that you were a blessing to. Thank you too for your amazing generosity to our relocated Syrian families. The Tesco gift cards will make a huge difference to the weekly shopping for them and give such a powerful message of our inclusive love and care for all.

You could have been forgiven for thinking that after all that hectic December activity, January 2020 would begin in a slow, quiet way. Our covenant service would have convinced you that this was not the case! How exciting to begin the calendar year welcoming new members into our church and sharing in the baptisms of the Keys family.

Setting up new house-groups to study material written especially for us by Tim Cooper on Our Calling has been another excitement in the New Year. We look forward to hearing the feedback from all the groups over the next two months. The resource has already been positively reviewed, with ideas forthcoming especially from our young people.

The Church has hosted a well-attended session on the 'God in love unites us' report, and there is another session here at Offington on 11 February at 7.30pm if you missed the earlier session or want to come along for more discussion.

Two dates which I know will be mentioned elsewhere in this edition of Spotlight are 29 February and 14 March. We have wonderful opportunities to invite and bring friends and neighbours to come and meet some new friends at these two very different social events. Please advertise them widely.

Lastly, thank you so much for the cards, gifts and good wishes we received over Christmas as a family. We are always grateful for your prayers as we continue to live and serve here with you.

Dawn



CAROLS BY CROWHURSTLIGHT

13 – 16 DECEMBER 2019

These words jumped off the page as I read the Winter Magazine from the Divine Healing Centre at Crowhurst in East Sussex, and I knew I had to go! It was only a few weeks away, but fortunately there were still spaces. So Kath Berrie, Rose Suter and I set off for Crowhurst on 13 December.

The magazine article promised surprises, and on our arrival at the centre, we discovered that time had fast-forwarded, and it was, in fact Christmas Eve! Saturday would therefore be Christmas Day, and Sunday Boxing Day! This was quite a surprise!

We met the other guests and members of staff over afternoon tea and cake and had the programme explained to us before going to a service in the Chapel, during which we sang carols, prayed and thought about well-known Christmas readings featuring angels. The evening meal followed, and like all the food we would have over the weekend, it was delicious.

After our meal, we went to the lounge for a 'Carols by Quiz', which was both competitive and great fun. The evening concluded with Night Prayer at 9pm.

When we opened our bedroom doors on 'Christmas Day' we had another surprise, as a festive bag dropped off the handle! The contents were reminiscent of what I had found in my Christmas stocking as a child, and lots of happy memories came flooding back! I guess the staff had great fun preparing the bags and getting them in place before we were up; then at breakfast one of the guests shared that she had never had a stocking as a child, so the Christmas bag was extra special for her. As you might imagine, her story moved us all.

After a beautiful Christmas Communion Service, when we thought of the shepherds' visit to the stable at Bethlehem, there was time to rehearse for a concert planned for Boxing Day afternoon, with the chance to write a carol/poem, learn to play small hand bells, or make Christmas decorations to take home, and then it was time for Christmas Dinner which was absolutely perfect! Not many people could face tea and Christmas cake at 3.45pm, but it was on offer!!

After a light buffet supper, there was 'Carols by Charades', and other games, and these too were both fun and competitive! Night Prayer was again 9pm.

The following day was Boxing Day, and the Communion service celebrated Epiphany with the arrival of the Magi at the manger. Before lunch there was time to put finishing touches to the preparations for the concert, complete decorations, or go for a walk, though it was necessary to don boots if venturing into the garden. There was free time between lunch and afternoon tea, and then we assembled in the Chapel for the Christmas Concert by Candlelight, where we discovered just how much talent there was within the group.

After Supper, the DVD of 'The Star' was shown, which many people found very moving. There was a ready supply of popcorn during the film! The evening concluded with Night Prayer.

On the Monday, we had to vacate our rooms before going into the chapel for Carols and Communion. After receiving the elements, there was the opportunity to have prayer for healing, which was unhurried, and I took the chance to hold the baby from the manger, which brought me great peace and joy. The service concluded with us forming a semicircle at the front of the chapel to be anointed with oil for service in our home churches.

After lunch, it was time to say 'Goodbye' and set off for home, in the knowledge that during these few days of 'Carols by Crowhurstlight', we



had celebrated our Lord's birth at a very deep level, and would be celebrating again with family and friends just a few days later!

CLEANING THE CHURCH

We no longer employ a Church Cleaner, so it falls to ourselves to keep all areas of the church clean.

Rita Thompson is co-ordinating a list of volunteers and areas they are willing to take on. If you are able and willing to help in this way, please speak to Rita or put your name on the grid in the foyer, bearing in mind that if you don't have access to the church, cleaning will need to be carried out during Church Office hours.



A rota will be drawn up once we know what people can and will do.

Thank you in anticipation of your co-operation!



QUESTION TIME!

Here are three simple questions:

1. Do you drive to church?
2. Do you live near another churchgoer?
3. Do you have space in your car?

Many of us will answer 'yes' to all of these questions. If you're one of 'the

many', we have one further question: ***are you willing to offer a lift to someone else who may otherwise find it difficult to get to church?***

Our passenger list for Sunday transport is getting longer and collecting everyone in time for church is becoming more difficult. We only have only four regular drivers, and we need **YOUR** help transporting people to and from church.

We have several people whose only option for coming to church is a car and some are just not able to afford a taxi. Let's face it, any of us could find ourselves needing transport to church someday and we'd all like to think that someone would be there for us when we do. If you are bringing a half-empty car to church, please consider what service you can offer - while you can. It doesn't have to be a regular weekly commitment — anything you can offer even on an occasional basis would be much appreciated.

If you feel guided to be that Good Samaritan, or if you want further information about volunteering or using the Sunday transport service, please speak to Gill Seymour, who has taken over the Sunday transport rota from Hilary Lane.

Gill can be contacted via the Church Office on 01903 205722.

Thank you.

A warm welcome awaits you at any of our forthcoming CAMEO meetings:

Friday 14 February: "A letter from the past"

Friday 28 February: "Growing up in Guernsey"

Friday 13 March: "Games morning"

Friday 27 March: "My Life" by Brigitte Pierce



JUSTICE & PEACE UPDATE



The project for this year is "What is God doing in our midst?", exploring interfaith understanding and relationships between the Abrahamic faiths. This is so important in this time of Christian persecution, rising anti-Semitism, and the continuing conflicts in the Middle and Far East.

Charlotte Gravestock from the Brighton & Hove Interfaith Group presented to the J&P Group about the very successful work done in their area. Following this, our Superintendent, Ian Suttie, commissioned us to formulate our own project by our next meeting in early March.

John Carr

A huge thank you for all your continued support and in particular the money raised from the Tesco card appeal. It was very much appreciated by the Syrian families we are supporting. The families continue to thrive with the children developing their English skills and the fathers actively seeking employment.

We are now working jointly with WSCC to jointly support a third Syrian family. We pray for these initiatives, for the volunteers and families in the scheme, and for those people still trapped in war-torn Syria.

John Carr

W4R UPDATE



SUSSEX COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

Eco Offington



FOSTERING THE STEWARDSHIP
OF GOD'S CREATION

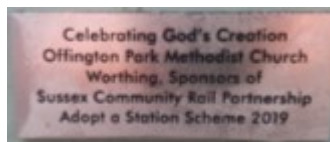
I've written in Spotlight before about the different levels of understanding people have when Eco is talked about. The widest-held and most encompassing view is that God made us stewards of the Earth and all that's in it (i.e. God's creation).



In keeping with the theme of this generally wider understanding, the Eco group have sponsored a planter at Goring-by-Sea railway station. The photos really do not do it justice! It all looks rather colourless and drab in the winter, but come the spring what a change there will be.

The station planters were jointly maintained by Railtrack and the train operators (or whatever they are all called now). Currently the planter is maintained by the **Aldingbourne Trust** which exists to enable adults with disabilities to develop and live the life they want to live. A group of adults overseen by volunteers visit the local stations to look after the planters, for which they are given a small wage. The group travels by train, which is paid for by the local train operator.

On many levels this fits the Eco definition. People who would find it difficult to get employment are contributing to society and given a wage, which makes them feel valued. The end result enhances the experience of people using the trains. And God's creation is given a foothold in an otherwise barren area.



Aldingbourne Trust is well worth a visit. It is situated on the north side of the A27 just after the Fontwell West roundabout. Look out for a brown sign and turn right at the first junction after Fontwell racecourse. There is much to see there and the site has a very good cafeteria and restaurant serving teas, coffees and delicious meals. For more information, please visit their website: www.aldingbournetrust.co.uk

Chris Lance



The local Smiles supporters group is filling a minibus with supplies to send out to Romania to help the Foundation carry on with the excellent work they are doing with some of the country's poorest people. We are looking especially for items on the list below. Please help us by generously donating whatever you can. Your donation will be gratefully received by Kevin and the team. **Thank you.**

WISH LIST	
Personal Products	Cleaning Products
Nappies: new-born and 1-3 years	Anti-bacterial liquid
Baby shampoo	Bleach (Domestos / Dettol)
Adult pampers - medium	Disinfectant
Adult shampoos	Window cleaning liquid
Bath sponges	Detergent auto washing powder
Liquid soap and soap bars	Kitchen towel
Toilet paper	Multi-surface cleaning cream
Toothpaste	Toilet cleaner solution
MISCELLANEOUS	
Rubbish bags (heavy duty) - medium and large	
Rubber gloves for cleaning - medium and large size	
Dishwashing sponges	

For more information, please contact **Annette Charles** on 07717 634734 or email her at: annettecharles@thesmilesfoundation.org.

We require donations please by **Sunday 16 February**.

If you would be interested in helping the Foundation in other ways (such as a Mission Trip), please visit their 'how you can help' page on the website: <https://www.thesmilesfoundation.org/how-you-can-help/>



VARIETY SHOW

29th Feb

2.30 PM

OFFINGTON PARK METHODIST CHURCH

**AN AFTERNOON OF
COMEDY AND SONG**

A fundraising event for the church

Suggested ticket donation - £7

FREE ICE CREAM IN THE INTERVAL!

FEBRUARY		
6	Our Calling: Evangelism part 1	Adam
13	Our Calling: Evangelism part 2	Joy
27	Our Calling: Following up part 1	Gill



MARCH		
5	Our Calling: Following up part 2	Dawn
12	Lent 1	Adam
19	Lent 2	Joy
26	Lent 3	Dawn
APRIL		
2	Lent 4	Gill
9	Lent 5	Joy



World Day of Prayer 2020

The Broadwater Area **World Day of Prayer** this year will be held in our own church (Offington Park) on Friday 6 March at 10:30am.

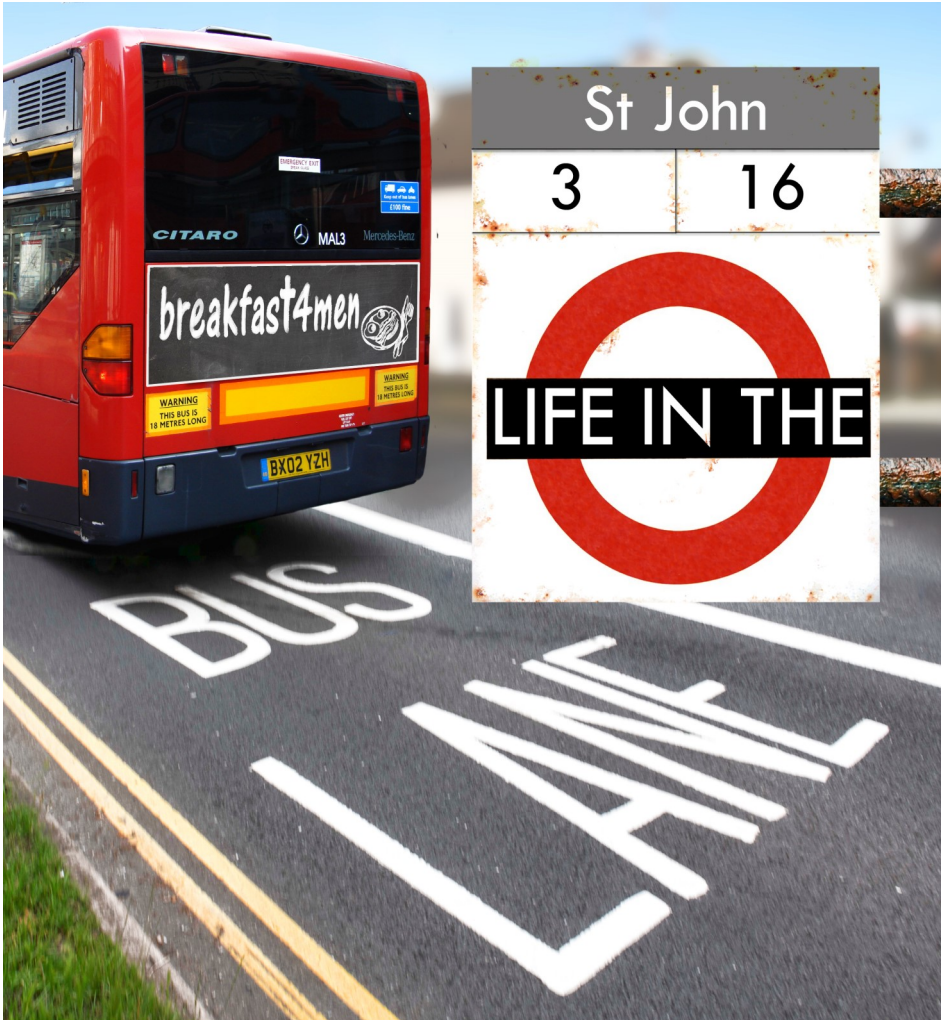
The service lasts an hour and is written by Christian women in Zimbabwe. Their theme is **"Rise! Take your Mat and Walk"** and is based on John 5, v2-9a.

In the service, the women share the challenges they have met and their future hopes for their beautiful but troubled country.

If you are new to this service, do come along and join women in over 120 countries across the world - all worshipping at the same time, all using the same service in their own language.

Afterwards we serve coffee and everyone has a chance to chat and meet others from the other Broadwater churches.

Romy Petts



with
Chris Chatfield
CEO of Compass Buses

Sat 7th March
7.30 am
Shoreham Airport
Main Terminal

Advance booking strongly recommended
£10 at the door or contact Mike Powell 01903 529664 to reserve a place.
Includes full English Breakfast.

THROUGH THE BARRICADES

I would love to say we're getting a visit from Spandau Ballet's frontman Tony Hadley (and sincere apologies to those on whom that reference is totally lost).

We're not, but we're getting the next best thing! One of our own church members, Brigitte Pierce, will be speaking to us about her early life experiences in the then East Germany and the changes in her life when she moved to West Germany.

This is sure to be a fascinating talk and we encourage all men, grumpy or otherwise, to join us on:



Tuesday 11 February
at 10:00am in the Quiet Room

WEDNESDAY MID-MONTH COMMUNION SERVICES 2020



On the following dates for 2020, we will have a short service at the church, and then take communion out to the homes of those folk who cannot attend church. Services usually take place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. If you would like to have home communion, please contact the Church Office on 01903 205722.

12 February	18 March	8 April	20 May	17 June
15 July	16 September	21 October	18 November	16 December

Although it seems a long time ago now, **Knit n Natter** would like to thank everyone who helped in any way in providing refreshments at the 'outside' Craft Fair on 23 November last year. To cake-makers, coffee-servers, washers-up and clearers-up: **'thank you, and well done!'**

We raised £187.65, which is a truly excellent result.



Ring the Bells at Teatime



Offington Park Handbells
invite you, your family and friends to
Afternoon Tea
with musical entertainment
on Saturday 14 March

Offington Park Methodist Church
South Farm Road Worthing BN14 7TN

Concert at 2.30pm
followed by tea

Tickets £6:00 (young people aged 12 and under £3:00)
available from the Church Office (205722)
or Bell group members.



**Giving back
to God
weekend**

14/15 March

On Saturday and Sunday 14/15 March we celebrate our 'Giving Back to God' weekend. This will be marked by an afternoon concert given by Offington Bells followed by a high tea on Saturday, and a focused service on Sunday morning.

God has a plan for everyone and everything. Whilst none of us can fully know God's plan, we can pray about that plan and listen for clarity over our part in it.

In preparation for gift weekend, Finance & Property are asking you to consider and pray about what you can 'give back to God'. Money is a uniquely human issue and one we all struggle with to one degree or another. Even those who are financially blessed still have the burden of stewarding their money wisely.

Many of you give in many other ways than just financially, but the church is no different to us in that it needs money as well as willing helpers if it is to continue its mission.

God knows what we earn and God sees how we spend it. So, let's all ask ourselves where our giving to "the work of God" sits in terms of our spending priorities. Does it come from the 'first fruits' for example, or just out of our leftover loose change?

Praying about our gift and responding to what we believe God is asking us to give is itself a step in faith.

Giving generously and with a thankful heart can strengthen our faith remarkably. All gifts, large and small, are blessed by God and can be used to further the Kingdom. Of course, the amount you give is entirely a personal decision but please ensure that - whatever you give - it is proportionate to your means, and not just because you feel you should 'make the effort'. Thank you.

Mike Powell
Lay Chair, Finance & Property

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Sat	1	10:00am	Coffee morning	In aid of Music Therapy
Sun	2	8:00am	Rev Dawn Carn	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Mr Pat Marshall	
		6:00pm	Rev Dawn Carn	Contemporary Worship
Mon	3	10:15am	Getaway Club	For Carers and Toddlers
		7:00pm	Offington Bells	
Tue	4	11:15am	Keep Fit	
		12:00pm	Tuesday Lunch & Social Club	Drivers: Adam Cook & Alison Wright
Wed	5	10:15am	Getaway Club	For Carers and Toddlers
Thu	6	9:30am	Paint With Me	Art Club
		11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		1:30pm	Knit'n'Natter	
		2:00pm	Short Mat Bowls	
		2:00pm	Offington Shopper	Sainsbury's. Driver: Doug Sibley
Sun	9	10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Holy Communion
		3:30pm	Rev Dawn Carn	Messy Church
Mon	10	10:15am	Getaway Club	For Carers and Toddlers
		7:00pm	Offington Bells	
Tue	11	10:00am	Grumpy Old Men	Through the Barricades
		11:15am	Keep Fit	
		12:00pm	Tuesday Lunch & Social Club	Drivers: Adam Cook & Meg Hopkins
		7:30pm	God in Love Unites Us	<u>This is a repeat of the meeting held in January</u> Circuit Consultation on Marriage and Relationships Report
Wed	12	10:15am	Getaway Club	For Carers and Toddlers

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2020

Thu	13	9:30am	Paint with me	Art Club
		11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		2:00pm	Short Mat Bowls	
Fri	14	10:30am	Offington Cameo	'A letter from the past'
Sun	16	8:00am	Breakfast Church	
		10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	
		6:00pm	Rev Dawn Carn	Taize/Holy Communion
Mon	17	10:00am	Stay and Play Cafe	
		7:00pm	Offington Bells	
Tue	18	11:15am	Keep Fit	
		12:00pm	Tuesday Lunch & Social Club	Drivers: Liz & Chris Lance
Wed	19	10:00am	Stay and Play	
		10:30am	Mid Month Service of Holy Communion	
		2:00pm	Offington Shopper	Sainsbury's. Driver: Doug Sibley
Thu	20	9:30am	Paint With Me	Art Club
		11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		1:30pm	Knit'n'Natter	
		2:00pm	Short Mat Bowls	
Sun	23	10:30am	Miss Bridget Quint	
		6:00pm	Rev Dawn Carn	Café Service
Mon	24	10:15am	Getaway Club	For Carers and Toddlers
		7:00pm	Offington Bells	
Tues	25	11:00am	Keep Fit	
		12:00pm	Tuesday Lunch & Social Club	Drivers: Doug Sibley & Frances Barrell
Wed	26	10:15am	Getaway Club	For Carers and Toddlers

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2020 (continued)

Thu	27	9:30am	Paint With Me	Art Club
		11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		2:00pm	Short Mat Bowls	
Fri	28	10:30am	Cameo	'Growing up In Guernsey'
Sat	29	2:30pm	Variety Show	An afternoon of Comedy and Song

LETTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference have written to the new Prime Minister, assuring him of their prayers and asking for clarification on key issues including climate change, poverty and social cohesion.



The letter can be found here:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/an-open-letter-to-the-prime-minister/>



I am a registered domestic electrician, providing a quality and friendly service in the Worthing and surrounding area, including:

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I am happy to visit and discuss your requirements, providing a free quote. *Reviews can be seen on Checkatrade.*

Chris Ludlow 07899 980090 chrisludlow6@gmail.com



FUNDRAISING Update



TARGET
£11,000

There's just over 210 days until 31 August, by when we hope to have met our fundraising target (left). So let's continue to focus!

TO DATE
£3,559.73

We still have plenty of available dates for YOUR fundraising event! If you can't organise an event, come and support another one. If you can't do that, please pray for a successful time!

RECENT SUCCESS STORIES:

- Knit 'N' Natter Craft Fair Refreshments £187.65
- Christmas Lunch £317.52
- Christmas Fair £2,075.00



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**READ IT
RECOMMEND IT
RECYCLE IT!**

A duck entered a public library and said to the librarian, 'Book!' The librarian gave the duck a book. The duck took the book to a frog, who looked at it and said 'Reddit!'.

If you've read a book that you enjoyed, why not tell others about it, or even lend it to them?

How?

We are hoping to start a **book club** on Tuesday afternoons. There will be no commitment to read a given book or any reading deadlines. Simply bring along a recent book you've read, talk to the Group about it and/or recommend it to others.

If you're interested in this exciting new venture, please contact **Betty Marris** via Church Office.

IF ONLY

All the sleeping folk will wake up,
All the lukewarm folk will fire up,
All the crooked folk will straighten up,
All the sad folk will cheer up,
All the estranged folk will make up
All the gossip folk shut up,
All the church members show up
To honour Him who was lifted up ...
THEN we can have...
the world's greatest **REVIVAL**

Cardinal Cushing

PUPPETS & SKETCHES (REVIEW OF A GREAT SERVICE)

What? A *service* with sketches and puppets?

Advent 2019 was sprinkled with wonderful, different and challenging services, in both the morning and the evening. John and I had a



houseful of excited family on their way to France on the weekend of the Church Family Christmas Dinner, so we booked ten places for the lunch, and the two girls even *wanted* to come to church because cousins Ashley and Charlotte, Aunty Sally and Uncle Adam were, apparently, taking part in a puppet show. This service was going to be very important to their perception of “church”. And it was. What a brilliant introduction to the real reason for Christmas.

Sketches which were accurate, but very humorous, and puppets loudly proclaiming the full message of Christianity. Thank you, thank you, all who took part, those who organised the erection of the puppet theatre, and those who wrote/interpreted/performed the wonderful sketches. Thanks also to those who played their musical instruments and manned the “AV desk”.

Our very-nearly-teenage visitors were captivated and followed all the activity with great interest. It was the best Service we could have asked for on this particular morning. Offington at its child-friendly, elderly-friendly, outreach-friendly and brilliant best.

After the service, it was the Christmas Lunch and an enormous thanks is of course due to Richelle, Lee and their family for the splendid meal, (with recyclable cracker substitutes) that followed this amazing service. The question is now, how do you better that?

To God be the Glory, but thanks again to the whole team that works tirelessly to continue to make Offington Park a beacon of hope.

Romy

JC's LITTLE NUGGETS

The Winchester Bible

Commissioned in 1171 by the Bishop of Winchester, it took many years for craftsmen and artists to create a holy and precious testimony to our Lord. The four volumes weigh 7lbs and with each page measuring 21 x 31 inches, it is the largest surviving 12th Century English Bible.



It needed the hides of 250 calves just for the base writing vellum! The artists illustrated the texts in red, orange black and yellow. Gold leaf was then applied, but more expensive was the ultramarine pigment ground from lapis lazuli brought from the land now called Afghanistan. The cost of this Bible would be in the millions of pounds in today's money. Restored in all its magnificence, the Bible can be seen on exhibition in Winchester Cathedral. What a story!

The word of our Lord has survived all these years. **John Carr**



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www.betterpc.co.uk info@betterpc.co.uk

What a glorious day!!

5 January

Covenant
Service



It bodes well when the Church car park is quite full at 10.10 on a cold winter's morning.

At 8:00 there had been a Covenant Service with communion, giving a good start to the New Year for the early risers.

At 10.30, an amazed congregation found themselves looking at a full size Baptismal Pool full of suitably warmed water. Dawn, looking resplendent in cream and gold vestments began the service by welcoming four members that had transferred from other churches, and followed that by welcoming five other adults into full membership of the Methodist Church. How wonderful is that? This marathon celebration continued with three baptisms and the Covenant Service itself.

The baptisms were Kayden and Mia Keys. They look very tiny in so much water as they, and then their mum, Carman, were baptised by Dawn. Carman had opted for full immersion and she was invited into the pool, followed by Dawn. As she came out of the water and stood up, she said "Wow", and then she and Dawn went off to get into something rather drier. The baptism ceremonies were clearly visible to everyone thanks to the new cameras and screens.

Back they came, Dawn no longer in her wet vestments and the amazing service continued. Dawn remembered the offering, but her forward-thinking stewards had already organised that during the "drying off" period. The children, meanwhile, were all busy at the back of the church, working on a beautiful rainbow, made from bottle tops, which was proudly displayed by them when it was finished. Again, the cameras ensured a good view.

I had the enormous privilege of being asked to offer Carman the right hand of friendship. That was quite impossible to do until we had had a huge hug (which was probably not in the script, but happened totally spontaneously).

But that wasn't all! The amazing day concluded in the evening with a Contemporary Worship service led by Dawn and Joy. Thank you Dawn for a truly awesome start to 2020.

Once again, Offington showed itself to be a true family. There was lots of hard work for all involved, but my word, this showed God's work being done triumphantly. To Him be the Glory - Amen.

Romy

Sunday WORSHIP



WHAT SERVICE WHEN?

Offington has many different services embracing different styles and emphases. On Sundays we have everything from the quiet of Early Morning Communion to the bustle of Messy Church. In recent months we've adjusted the pattern of what happens when and we wanted to make sure everybody had picked up on the changes.

Whilst we recognise that you might prefer certain services over others, we'd encourage you to try any or all of them. Even better, think about which services you might invite your friends and family to – there's something special in each one and everyone is welcome to any of them!

Below is a table summarizing which services take place and when in a typical month. On the opposite page there is a short explanation of each service to help you select those that may be most suitable for you.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Church Stewards

Pattern of Services				
Times	8:00am	10:30am	3:30pm	6:00pm
1st Sunday	Communion	Traditional with Junior Church*		Contemporary
2nd Sunday		Communion	Messy Church*	
3rd Sunday	Breakfast Church*	Traditional		Communion
4th Sunday		Traditional (Church) Youth (AFH)*		Café Church
5th Sunday		All-age*	Potential use for Baptisms if needed	

Communion: this service includes the sharing of Bread and Wine in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for us

Traditional: at Offington this usually means a mixture of hymns, readings, prayers and a sermon

Junior Church: sessions for children and young people held in parallel after the first part of the service

Contemporary: explores different styles of worship generally using more modern music and media

Messy Church: worship through craft and activities, singing and stories plus a meal together

Breakfast Church: breakfast and worship then discussion, reflection & activities exploring the theme.

Youth: a service specifically designed for children and young people with their leaders and supporters.

Café: a more informal service held around tables with coffee/tea and cake.

All-age: a familiar mix of songs, hymns, readings, prayers and thoughts designed for the whole Church.

5th Sunday Afternoon: with increasing numbers of baptisms we may need to use this slot for an extra service inviting the whole church to join in the worship and welcome.

Whilst children & young people are welcome at any and all of our services , there is at least one service each Sunday set up with children and young people specifically in mind. These are marked with a red asterisk.



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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



New Members

On 6 January we welcomed nine new members

Sue and Pat Knight
 Richelle and Lee Newman
 Gordon Milligan
 Patsy Newton
 Judy Perkins
 Norman and Jan Leslie

We also welcomed by adult baptism

Carman Keys

*We welcome them into the family
 of God's church
 May they grow in grace day by day*



OFFERTORIES

24 November	£365.51	22 December	£722.98
1 December	£444.71	29 December / 5 January	£906.15
8 December	£432.69	12 January	£904.34
15 December	£402.00	19 January	£402.45



WHERE IS IT?

This image (it looks a bit like a face, doesn't it?) can be found somewhere in the church. But do you know where?

If you do, send your answer to Adam Cook via the Church Office. The lucky winner's name will be drawn out of a hat and receive a small prize - maybe a packet of 'Smiley Faces'?

LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2019

Last year the Link to Hope Shoebox appeal packed and delivered an amazing **37,400** shoeboxes!



Three groups from Offington helped in this mammoth task:

7-2-11 Youth club led by Gill Powell, the **Senior Youth Club**

led by Ashley Bishop and Nick Skinner's **Beta Housegroup**. Also, our own

Aaron C packed a phenomenal amount when the **Explorers** helped one

evening. *If you're a group leader, could your group help us in 2020?*

If so, please let me know.

Link to Hope (formerly Link Romania), for those that don't know, is a charity established in 1991 and based in Worthing. The charity helps to support the people of Eastern Europe: Moldova, Ukraine, Bulgaria - and Romania of course. Link to Hope works to advance many good causes in Eastern Europe with its charity shops, but their flagship event is the Shoebox Appeal.

Two types of shoeboxes are distributed, packed with suitable items: a family one and an elderly persons one. Occasionally, a shoebox may be damaged in transit - these are sent to the 'shoebox hospital' where yet more volunteers re-pack them for us.

Filled shoeboxes from all over the UK - from northern Scotland to Cornwall, west Wales to Kent and the Isle of Wight - are transported to Worthing, where they are sorted and packed by volunteer groups before being loaded onto trucks bound for Eastern Europe.

I work as Warehouse Manager during evenings and on Saturdays and help the many groups that give up their time to pack shoeboxes. They all say that it is one of the best nights of their group's year and most come back year on year. They enjoy it because they know they are doing something worthwhile for people in other countries who have virtually nothing.



What staggers me is knowing that through this vast national network of supporters filling, and volunteers collecting, packing, loading and delivering shoeboxes from our Worthing warehouse, each family or elderly person receives a shoebox. This isn't going to change their lives or get them out of poverty, but it lets them know that someone, somewhere, loves them. That is surely the true message of Christmas.

Adam Cook

Economy of Life - A Roadmap



This month, we take a look at the penultimate part of the **World Council of Churches ‘Roadmap for Congregations, Communities, and Churches for an Economy of Life and Ecological Justice’**.

One important aspect of discipleship is clear advocacy for just economy and creativity to organise a local supply out of respect for life. We are called to be transformative disciples, designing the present by coming from the future of the kingdom of God – sometimes “turning the world upside down.” (Acts 17:6)

4. Economies of Life

Create spaces for moneyless interaction

“We want to open spaces for people to meet, regardless of their financial background.”



In a world where daily life is more and more dominated by consumerism, and achievements are increasingly measured in terms of money, congregations can be a place of rest: a meeting point without the necessity of buying or paying for something, without judgment of ability to pay, without exclusion. This atmosphere of respect and trust can be the cradle of alternative forms of supply and mutual support.

Practice alternative economic models



“We want to strengthen alternative economies by showing a good example.”

The beginning can be very simple: a shelf where people can deposit things they don’t need anymore and others can take items for free. We can develop: a free shop, second-hand shop, food-sharing-point, repair café, skills-exchange network, producer-consumer network, and much more.

The experience of organizing a part of your daily life with little or no money is wonderful and strengthens the community.

Practice 'just' finance

“We inform ourselves about life-giving forms of dealing with money and finance, and check what is practicable for us.”

Churches often critique the destructive economy and at the same time empower it by thoughtless investment. Ethical investment, contracting, credit unions, different kinds of project financing....there are many good methods we can use in favour of our communities and the world. Complementary currencies are growing worldwide and are a proven model to strengthen a region, including economically. Church-owned ethical banks could become something normal and contribute much more to a better world.



Next edition: 5. Networking

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10 – 16 MAY 2020



In view of the difficulty in getting collectors, we have decided not to do a full the House to House Collection this year. Instead, we will target six or eight of the more generous streets where one or more collectors could easily drop / collect envelopes.

We still feel it is a very worthy cause and would like to raise a similar amount as last year. This means looking at other ways to raise money. If you have any good ideas, please let us know.

We will also distribute six envelopes each at the beginning of Christian Aid Week to church members who are willing to fill an envelope and to also ask their friends, family and neighbours to fill them.

Perhaps, thinking more practically, you might forego and donate to Christian Aid the cost of a meal out, so that others may have a good meal to eat.

Chris & Liz Lance, and Frances Barrell

CAPTION COMPETITION WINNER

We had a proper laugh with the entries to our caption competition last month.

Among our favourites:
"Let's see how much David Attenborough likes it."



"Not saying Polar bears are stupid, but it took him half an hour before he realised that the lens cap was still on."

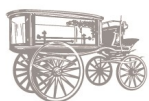
However, our outright winner was:
"The cameraman was hard of hearing, as he was asked to take a picture of a 'solar flare'."

Congratulations to Adam Cook for the winning entry!

See the Editors for a small prize

FAMILY CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS		DOWN	
1 Aesop	19 Shepherd	1 Abet	11 Bow
7 Abel	22 Ye	2 Eel	14 Paused
8 Sepia	23 Noon	3 Sled	15 Flee
10 Celebration	24 Rippled	4 Port	17 Far
12 ET	27 Fine	5 Lei	18 Shy
13 Dot	28 We	6 Tin	19 Singe
16 Help	29 Echo	7 Ace	20 Eyrie
17 Flutes	30 Endowed	8 Still	21 Duped
		9 Political	25 Inn
			26 Ewe



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NEXT EDITION

Copy Deadline

Publication Date

Wednesday 19 February

Sunday 1 March

Please submit material for the next edition
to the Editors at:

offingtonspotlight@gmail.com

At an auction, a man was trying to buy a parrot for around £60, but a mystery bidder kept stepping in at the last moment and pushing up the price to more than double what he wanted to pay. The man was determined to buy the bird, but decided he would set an absolute limit of £200. If he couldn't get the bird for that price, he would withdraw from the bidding.

Prompted by the mystery bidder, the price continued to soar and the man made his final bid of £200.

The auctioneer said, "going once...". The man waited with bated breath. 'Going twice', said the auctioneer. There was no sound from the mystery bidder. 'Sold!' said the auctioneer and the man heaved a sigh of relief.

As he was paying for the bird, he said to the auctioneer, 'I hope this bird can talk. I'll be cross if I've paid this much money for him, only to find he can't talk.'

'Of course he can talk', replied the auctioneer, 'who do you think was bidding against you?'



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