



SPOTLIGHT

The magazine of Offington Park Methodist Church



September 2020

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Cover Picture

Our cover picture is the iconic Halnaker Windmill, a well-known Sussex landmark perched on Halnaker Hill and visible from a wide surrounding area. It is well worth the climb to admire this Grade 2 listed building close up, as the path to it takes you through a wonderful tunnel of trees.

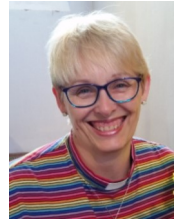


The windmill has been recently restored with a new tile-hung façade and extensive repairs to the cap and balcony. The sails (known locally as sweeps) have also been restored and rehung. A new galvanised steel fence has been installed around the perimeter of the windmill, which is sadly closed to the public.

The top of Halnaker Hill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument as it is the location of a Neolithic earthwork structure known as a 'causewayed enclosure'. This Scheduling includes the WW2 radio direction-finding structure.

Dear Friends,

Phone cable, iPad cable, camera cable — all x2, because they all need individual plugs! Blender cable, lead for lamp – so many things to remember, even going away for a relatively short time, in order to ensure that we can communicate and function in a way that we have been accustomed to.



We are blessed with friends who have lent us their caravan for a couple of weeks. We have once again been made to appreciate the blessings of everyday life. When every drop of water must be carried in a container and refilled when it runs out, you quickly realise how much water you use!

All clean wastage from washing and washing up needs to be disposed of, and you are really grateful for mains sewage! So many lessons in what we take for granted as 'normal'.

Over the last months, though, even 'normal' has changed. Who would have thought that we would ever need to book to come to church, or to go out for a meal early in the week?

However, some things never change and although our way of interacting and being with the human race has changed, our relationship with God is still just as accessible as it always was. We don't need to have internet, a special cable or even a special place. God was, and is, and will always be there for us. In crisis, in joy or yes, even on holiday.

I look forward to seeing you in September and pray that you and your families will stay safe and well.

Every blessing,

Dawn

Prayers for the easing of lockdown



As we continue to see lockdown restrictions eased, give thanks to God for the steady decrease in cases of coronavirus and pray that as these measures are implemented we will not see an upsurge in the infection rate.

For the currently sick and infected, we ask God to heal and help them, to sustain their bodies and spirits, and as they recover help them contain the spread of infection.

For our vulnerable populations who may still be afraid and uncertain about easing, we ask for God's protection.

For the young and the strong, we pray that God will give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading the disease as they return to 'normal', and inspire them to help their local communities.

Help our local and national governments as they continue to allocate the necessary resources for combatting the pandemic, and guide them in finding and following a wise balance between continuing care for public health and the actions needed to restore other aspects of life and society so severely impacted by the lockdown.

Give knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice to our scientific community, as they battle to understand the disease, find a workable vaccine, and reinforce the message to us all of the gravity of the virus.

Pray for our media, that they will be led by God to provide helpful, up-to-date, information with an appropriate level of seriousness that educates without causing panic.

We pray finally for ourselves, that we may continue to be good neighbours. Keep us from anxiety and panic. **Amen**

JC's LITTLE NUGGETS

In God's Company: Christian Giants of Business

There are so many phrases to describe money and business. Here are a couple from the Bible:

"The love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Timothy 6:10)

"No one can serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and money. (Matthew 6:24)

I recently read a book called "In God's Company", by Peter Lupson, in which he tells the story of remarkable business people who have, by their actions, sought to bind together the relationship between Christianity and money. Lupson mentions such people as Henry Heinz, William Hartley, William Colgate, John Cadbury and Anthony Rossi (founder of Tropicana fruit juice). The secret of their success was their Christian faith.



No matter what pressures and setbacks they encountered, they never lost their faith, and continued putting quality and care for their employees above profit.

They knew, as we do, that the Lord is always with us on our life journey and will always meet our deepest needs if we put our trust in Him.

John Carr

JAMS AND CHUTNEYS

Pauline Taylor has a selection of jams and chutneys for sale at the giveaway price of £1.50 per jar.

Proceeds will go to Action for Children.



If you are interested in bagging a bargain, please contact Pauline in the Church Office.

COVID-19: as lockdown eases, a look at the climatic impact



The popular notion that COVID-19 has been “good for the environment” - that nature recovered while humanity stayed at home - appeals to many people grasping for some upside to the global tragedy. Reality, though, may not cooperate with such hopes.

The benefits many found heartening early on - from cleaner air to audible birdsong as cars and planes went quiet - were always likely to be temporary. And with lockdowns easing, they have already begun to dissipate. Now, some experts fear that the world risks a future with more traffic, more pollution, and climate change that worsens faster than ever.

It's too soon to know whether that gloomy scenario will play out, but there are concerning signs all around the world. In early April, with shutdowns widespread, daily global carbon emissions were down by 17% compared to last year. But by mid-June they were only about 5% lower than at the same point in 2019. The UK at this time was still in lockdown.

But we still have the same cars, the same roads, the same industries, the same houses, so as soon as the restrictions are released, we can go right back to where we were. Now, “the risk is very high” that carbon output could exceed pre-pandemic levels. We saw this in the past, not very long ago. In the 2007-08 financial crisis, emissions dropped but then rebounded.



The dramatic air quality improvements seen as many things came to a halt in China during Q1 have now vanished. As factories pushed to make up for lost time, pollution returned in early May to pre-coronavirus levels, and in some places surpassed them before falling back. Desperate for the economic boost that comes with any construction, China is planning a raft of new coal-fired power plants that will lock in big future health and climate problems. Clean energy, not coal is the way forward.

Another worry is traffic. Social distancing is hard to maintain on public transport, and many people are avoiding it for fear of contracting the virus. In China, traffic is back to pre-pandemic levels, even though many people are still not commuting and travelling. Governments are rushing to expand bike lanes, but it is too soon to say if they are going to be anywhere near enough.



In Brazil, the Amazon is among the places worst hit by COVID. The country has become a global epicentre for the disease and illegal loggers have accelerated their destruction of the Amazon rainforest - 64% more land was cleared in April 2020 than in the same month last year - even though 2019 was also a huge year for deforestation. Illegal actions have faced little hindrance from law enforcement and officials seem to be using the pandemic as a smokescreen to allow the destruction to go ahead.

Clearing the vegetation by burning it is creating thick smoke which is causing spikes in heart and lung problems. The smoke could aggravate COVID-19 patients' suffering, and further increase pressure on hospitals already struggling to cope with the pandemic - on top of the climate impacts of rainforest loss.

In Europe, the still-unfolding health and economic crises could pull leaders' attention away from the slower-moving disaster of climate change, which had finally been moving up the political agenda last year as youth protests drove home its urgency,

The world is not going to get another shot at this. We cannot afford to rebuild into the old status quo.

We hope and pray that Governments will embrace calls for a "green stimulus" and use recovery funds to create jobs in sectors such as clean power and energy efficiency, rather than seeking to shore up the economy by bolstering old, polluting industries. Making it a priority to allocate vast sums to move the world toward a low-carbon future - and address the racial and economic inequalities the pandemic has laid bare - would yield far more than a few months of reduced emissions.

Good News! We will re-open for worship on Sunday 6 September



If you feel ready to go back into the building, please read carefully the instructions below about how to reserve a seat and the necessary steps required for before, during and after church.

Don't feel ready to return? No problem — we will continue indefinitely to offer access to all our services and prayer meetings via Zoom and printed copies that can be delivered or emailed to you.

Before Attending Church

There will be three Sunday services: 8:45am, 10:15am and 11:30am.

There will be 30 places available at each service.

Places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis. **You must reserve a place** by phoning or emailing the church office between Tuesday and Thursday morning of the week before the service you wish to attend. ***Face coverings are now compulsory except for those with an exemption. Please declare any exemption when booking to avoid any embarrassment on being asked to wear a mask.***

You will be asked for some details for 'track and trace' purposes.

You can reserve for one week at a time only. Couples/households count as one booking.

Please do not attend unless you have successfully reserved a seat and had it confirmed by the office through email or phone message. Anyone without a confirmed booking may regrettably be turned away at the door.

If you are feeling poorly in any way, please stay at home. Please also use the toilet before leaving your home and please do not bring anything with you that isn't essential.

We will have windows and doors open wide for ventilation, so if you are likely to get cold, please wear/bring extra layers.

Attending Church

Please do not arrive more than 10 minutes before the service, to allow the church to be cleaned between services.

Please observe the 2 metre distancing guides if you are waiting outside and please use the sanitiser that is provided as you enter.

You will not be able to choose where you sit. A steward will guide you to the side of the church designated for that service, where chairs will be arranged for your family, group, bubble. Please do not move around in the service.

There will be no singing at any of the services. Books will not be available and all words will be on the screens.

A collection bowl will be in place in the children's chapel for your offering to be made. Offertory plates will not be passed around during the service.

Communion will be brought to you in your seats and will be administered without words.

After The Service

We cannot serve coffee after services.

You will be invited to leave row by row. The steward on duty will ensure there is a safe distance between individuals and groups.


There will be a bin to deposit the recyclable communion cups in.

Please do not congregate in the car park or around the buildings after the service.

Toilets will not be in use, except in the case of an emergency.

Our Risk Assessment Group will be reviewing these practices weekly. Please be patient with the stewards and with each other. This is a new experience for everyone and we are doing our best to be safe.

Whilst in the early days this may be a slightly surreal experience, we hope you will once again enjoy being in the building. We pray that you will meet with God in a special way as we slowly return to worshipping together.



Sunday Worship

Sunday 6 September

8:45am	Rev Dawn Carn	Holy Communion (family-friendly)
10:15am	Rev Dawn Carn	Holy Communion
11:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Holy Communion
6:30pm	Circuit Service	Online

Sunday 13 September

8:45am	Rev Dawn Carn	Traditional Worship
10:15am	Rev Dawn Carn	Traditional Worship
3:30pm	Messy Church	Zoom

Sunday 20 September

9:00am	Breakfast Church	Zoom
10:15am	Mrs. Sue Jacobs	Contemporary Worship
11:30am	Mrs. Sue Jacobs	Contemporary Worship

Sunday 27 September

8:45am	Rev Dawn Carn	Holy Communion
10:00am	Fun Church	Zoom
10:15am	Rev Dawn Carn	Traditional Worship

Sorry
You're
Leaving?

A Minister was moving on, and paid a farewell visit to an elderly member of the congregation. As they shook hands, the old man said, "your successor won't be as good as you." "Nonsense", said the Minister, flattered. "No, really", said the old man, "I've been here under five Ministers and each new one has been worse than the last!"



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ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLE CORNER

Wordwheel: the 9-letter word was 'permitted'

It Makes You Think: the word was PARTY and the 'inside' words were arty, par, pry, pay, part and of course party.

Connecting Wall:

Daisy	Dewey	Donald	Louie
Westwood	McCartney	Guinness	Hemingway
Magic	Vicious	Dress	Crop
Pique	Rose	Expose	Lame

Disney Ducks

Fashion Designers

Types of Circle

Can have an accented E



**Be careful with your words.
Once they are said, they can
only be forgiven, not forgotten.**



The good news this month is that we are able to resume physical services at the church from early September. This means that we will once again be able to receive any freewill offerings in cash or from the envelope scheme.

This is good news for our finances, of course, but we realise we will be limited at first to numbers that can attend and the booking system and actions that will be necessary to keep everyone safe will not suit everyone.

I said last month that we are reasonably well-placed to weather the storm, and the return to church will ease some of the pressure on our finances. But, with the possibility of a winter surge in the virus (which we pray will not materialise) we must continue to look at different ways of being and supporting church. The best way to ensure we can survive and grow is to have a steady stream of income from whatever sources we can, including freewill offerings and lettings. As groups slowly return, we should see our lettings income come back.

We cannot make people hire our premises, but there is one area of our finances that we are in total control of - how much and how often we give.

I make no apologies for once again appealing to you—if you give by cash, or through the envelope scheme - to consider switching to bank standing order. This is the simplest way of funding the church through giving. It is free to set up and once running needs no maintenance. If you are a taxpayer, you can also gift aid your giving and the church gets an extra 25% of your gift free from Mr Sunak.

Of course, there will be some who simply cannot switch. But if you can, let me say this: standing orders are not scary! YOU control how much YOU pay, and WHEN you pay it. You can set them up to match how you receive your income - weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, or even annually. Once it is set up, you need do nothing else. No searching for coins or notes on Sundays, no cheques to write and sign, no remembering to make up any amounts because you were away or you forgot the last time. And, with the pandemic still with us, no special visits to the bank or the cash machine. It really is the easiest and simplest way to give, and your gift will be blessed during worship, just as if it had been placed in the collection plate.

It is, as they say, a “win-win” situation!

It is also worth pointing out that, as an Eco-church, we are trying to help the environment by reducing our use of paper and recycling where we can. After accounting for their contents, the empty envelopes are recycled of course. But there is a cost to their purchase and each annual set of envelopes costs the church £1.70. That may not seem a lot, but when we are buying over 50 sets each year that equates to an annual cost of £85 and rising. On top of that, there is an administrative element to managing the scheme. Our bank does charge to process cheques and this is another cost that can be avoided. With free bank standing orders, we don't need to review usage and re-order fresh annual supplies as we do with envelopes.

If you're a cash giver, you may only give when you attend, and you may not always remember to make up for occasions on which you weren't at church. Bank standing order takes care of that. Your giving is regular but you're still in control. Again, if you are a taxpayer we can identify your gift and claim the free money from the Chancellor.

This is OUR church and we have a duty and responsibility to properly fund the work that it does in the name of God. Giving should be regular, not casual or occasional.

As I said previously (again I make no apologies for repeating it) the huge benefit to the church is that we receive your offering whether you can attend church or not, and we can budget and plan our expenditure knowing that your offering will be there in our bank when we need it.

Please think about switching to standing order giving, and if you feel led to make the change, please either:

- a. Ask your bank to arrange a regular payment (remember YOU decide the amount and WHEN it is paid out) to Offington Park Methodist Church Worthing. Our account number is 00013735 and our sort code is 40-52-40. Please make sure you add as a reference "offering / your surname".
- b. Log on to Internet banking if you have it and set up a regular payment to the church account (details as above;) or
- c. For more information on giving, contact the Treasurer, Alison Wright, via the church office or by email to treasurer@offingtonpark.org.uk.

Thank You.

Mike Powell, Lay Chair of Finance

SUDOKU (medium difficulty)

7			1					3
1	4						8	9
		8	3	4				
4	5			1		8	3	
			8		4			
	2	6		7			4	1
				3	2	4		
6	3						7	2
					1			3



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Chris Ludlow 07899 980090 chrisludlow6@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS CRICKET

Despite the weather and the season, the RAF and the Army decided to play a game of cricket. The Army batted first and knocked up a good score.

The RAF, undaunted, went in but did not do so well. Their score was 25% less than that of the Army.

Full of confidence, the Army batted again, but this time they did not do so well. They scored 25% less than the RAF.

Unfortunately, the RAF did not live up to their supporters hopes and in their second innings they scored 25% less than the Army's second innings.

The Army won the match by 50 runs.

What were the full scores of the match, innings by innings?



SPOT THE LADY



An old man died and left £1,000 in his will. He was a difficult person in life and would have liked to have taken all his money with him.

That being impossible, he determined to make the distribution of his estate as challenging as possible for his Executor.

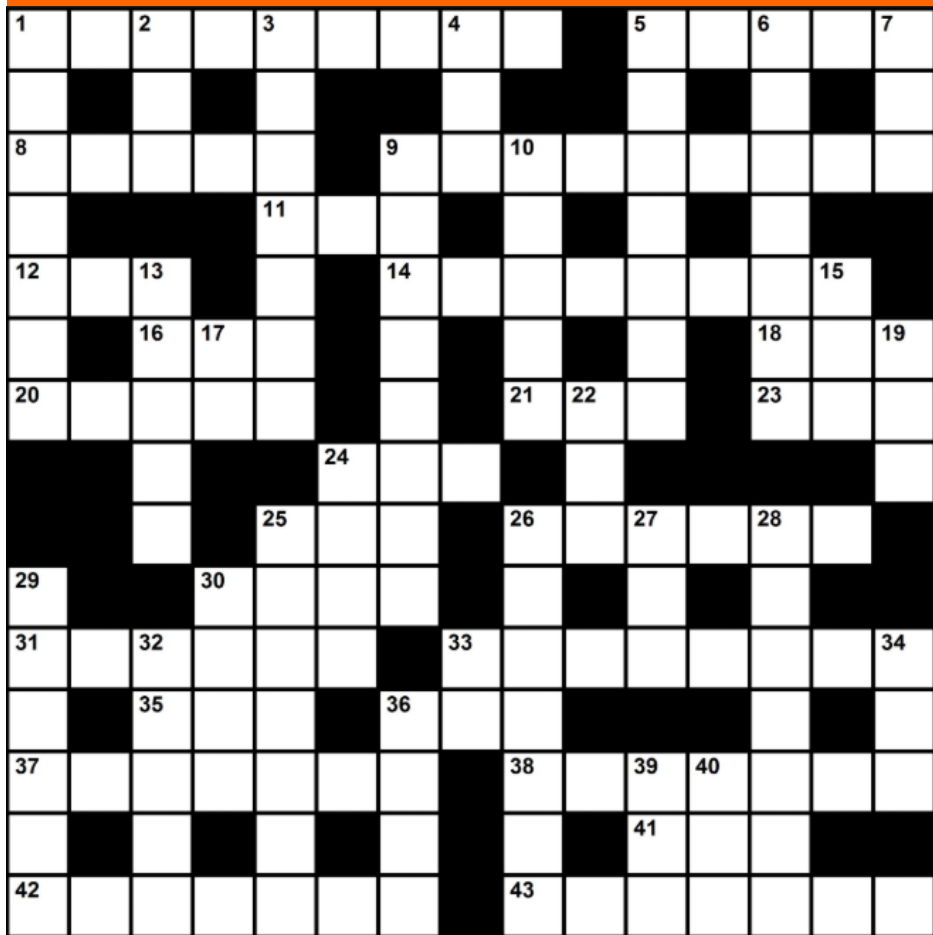
He wanted his money shared between his three relatives and their husbands.

Said the will: "I've put aside £396 for my three nieces. Alice is to get £10 more than Bertha, Eliza is to get £10 more than Alice.

Now the husbands: Will Grey has to have the same as his wife, but I'll give Tom Green half as much again as I'm giving his wife. I like Sam Jones, so he's getting twice as much as his wife.

The first thing the Executor had to do was work out the first names of Mrs Grey, Mrs Green and Mrs Jones. What were they and how was the estate distributed?

FAMILY CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Ninth month
- 5. Colour
- 8. Nag
- 9. Pulled apart
- 11. Knock
- 12. Encountered
- 14. However
- 16. Eggs

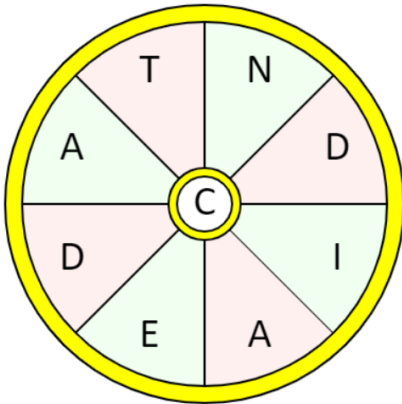
- 18. Consume
- 20. Reaches across
- 21. Still
- 23. East Sussex town
- 24. Age
- 25. Rod's unruly friend
- 26. Play
- 30. Traffic queues
- 31. Blood vessel

- 33. Has a mind to go up!
- 35. Slippery character
- 36. No ice in workplace!
- 37. More terrifying
- 38. A rag man (anag.)
- 41. No name for a boy
- 42. Change colour of car
- 43. Spiny Anteater

CLUES DOWN

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Plots | 17. Atop | 30. Mock unsaintly entertainer |
| 2. Each | 19. ___- Mex, cuisine | 32. Drops of salty liquid |
| 3. Appears | 22. Lughole | 33. Kipling poem |
| 4. First lady | 24. TV award | 34. Not very bright |
| 5. Exercise | 25. Before now | 36. French airport |
| 6. Number | 26. Musical announcement | 39. Tree |
| 7. Andi's TV Duck | 27. Wise old bird | 40. Graphical User Interface (inits) |
| 9. Roomy | 28. Disregarded | |
| 10. Small minded | 29. Salad for Julius? | |
| 13. Railed vehicles | | |
| 15. Horse feed | | |

WORDWHEEL



How many words of three letters or more can you make from the letters in the wheel?

All words must include the middle letter and proper nouns are not permitted.

Can you find the 9-letter word?

GOOD SCORE: 55 words

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS

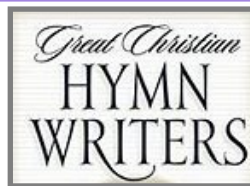
1. Inn; 4. Croak; 6. Go; 8. Bum
 11. Strike; 13. Hide; 14. Blend;
 15. Tic; 16. Loam; 18. By; 19. KO
 20. Omit; 21. Nice; 22. Zero;
 26. Me; 28. Us; 29. Gasometers
 32. Opener ; 33. Postern

DOWN

2. Netherlands; 3. Auk; 5. Orchid;
 7. Osteoporosis; 8. Birdwatchers;
 9. Metro; 10. Whisk;
 12. Abundance; 17. Am; 23. Exe;
 24. Hammer; 25. Pa; 27. Orbs;
 28. Up; 30. Tap; 31. Zo

FRANCES JANE VAN ALSTYNE

*Blessed Assurance! Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.*



This classic hymn, written by Frances Jane (Fanny) van Alstyne (nee Crosby), came into being when Fanny's friend and composer Phoebe Palmer Knapp was visiting and played a tune on the piano. She asked Fanny what it sounded like, and she responded "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine!" The two friends then continued to sing the melody and write the lyrics together.



Fanny was born into a family of strong Puritan ancestry in New York on March 24, 1820. As a baby, she had an eye infection which a quack doctor treated by placing hot poultices on her red and inflamed eyelids. The infection did clear up, but scars formed on the eyes, and the baby girl became blind for life. A few months later, Fanny's dad became ill and died. Mercy Crosby, widowed at 21, became a maid while

Grandmother Eunice Crosby took care of the little girl.

Eunice took it upon herself to educate her little granddaughter and became the girl's eyes, vividly describing the physical world. Her careful teaching helped develop Fanny's descriptive abilities, and also nurtured her spirit. Eunice read and carefully explained the Bible to her, and she always emphasized the importance of prayer. When Fanny became depressed because she couldn't learn as well as other children did, Eunice taught her to pray to God for knowledge.

In 1834 Fanny's prayers were answered when at age 12, she joined the New York Institute for the Blind (NYIB). She went on to teach at the school for 23 years, becoming something of a celebrity and called upon to write poems for almost every conceivable occasion.

Crosby became known as the "Queen of Gospel Song Writers", writing over 8,900 hymns and gospel songs during her lifetime. Some of her best-known songs include "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour", "Praise Him, Praise Him", "Rescue the Perishing", and "To God Be the Glory". Some publishers were hesitant to have so many hymns by one person in their hymnals, so Crosby used nearly 200 different pseudonyms!

At age eight, Crosby wrote her first poem which described her condition. She later stated: *"It seemed intended by the blessed providence of God that I should be blind all my life, and I thank him for the dispensation. If perfect earthly sight were offered me tomorrow I would not accept it. I might not have sung hymns to the praise of God if I had been distracted by the beautiful and interesting things about me."* She also once said, "when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Saviour"

From 1832, a music teacher came to their house in Ridgefield twice a week to give singing lessons to her and some of the other children. Around the same time, she attended her first Methodist church services at the Methodist Episcopal Church, and she was delighted by their hymns.

In 1843, Crosby met Alexander van Alstyne. He also was blind and enrolled at the NYIB. They married on March 5, 1858. With her income as a poet and lyricist, and her husband's earnings as a music tutor, they could have lived comfortably but had other priorities and gave away anything that was not necessary to their daily survival". The couple separated in 1880 but insisted that they "maintained an amiable relationship."

Fanny Crosby died in February 1915 after a short illness, aged 94, and is buried at Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport, Connecticut. She left money in her will for "the sheltering of senior males who had no other place to live." The Fanny Crosby Memorial Home for the Aged opened in 1925 after local churches raised \$100,000. Fanny Crosby was posthumously inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1975.

the new normal

(as seen through the eyes of a Teacher)

As we prepare to return to church and begin to consider what the 'new kind of normal' is going to look like, I thought it might be helpful to share with you what it felt like in school when we began our 'new normal'. We had said good-bye to the children in our care at 3:15pm on Friday 23 March. We had no idea when we would see them again or what the weeks ahead had in store for us. Those of us who teach from the heart said those good-byes with heavy hearts and tears in our eyes.

Our first 'new normal' began on 26 March when the school became a place of safety for just the children of Key Workers and those children who would be vulnerable if they were to stay at home. Our roles as Teachers had changed overnight. We were no longer in the business of education. We were keeping children safe, looking after their emotional wellbeing, and making sure that everyone was fed. We made phone calls to those families we were worried about, we sent out home learning, we delivered food parcels and some of us made doorstep calls to families in desperate need. It was frightening, exhausting and extremely stressful and we seemed to be running on adrenaline constantly.

But it wasn't long before those feelings were overtaken by feelings of love, strength and pride in our little team. In the 'new normal' we sat at the dinner table and ate with the children. We talked about things that we didn't have time for in the usual busyness of the everyday. We hosted Wimbledon on the playground, we made giant paper aeroplanes, we even turned the PE mats into a great water slide. There were grazed knees, happy faces and memories made.

It wasn't long before that 'new normal' came to an end as Mr Johnson informed us that we would be bringing in more children. On the last day of that 'new normal' the ice cream van came with ice cream for all and once again, with tears in our eyes, we said good-bye to those children and prepared for the 'next new normal'.

On 1 June, we welcomed back even more children and began the ‘next new normal’ in our ‘bubbles’.

It was a delight to see children that we had missed so very much, but it was harder than ever, as they rushed towards us, to stop them before we could hug. Explaining to a five year old why we couldn’t hug took some doing and went against everything I believe in as a Teacher but it wasn’t long before we had adopted a whole host of other weird and wacky ways to greet each other and share some love.

The children sat at individual desks and took part in more formal learning than they were used to. There were big gaps between them, and the usual classroom buzz was seriously lacking. Again, in the first instance the ‘new normal’ felt horrid but it wasn’t long before we discovered there was space to dance behind our desks and that you can make some amazing masterpieces in art when you are not allowed to share the resources.

One day in the unusual quietness of the classroom, as I looked around at the children I found myself lifting each one of them to God in prayer. That’s not something I get time to do when I have a full 30 and as I prayed, I had a vision of God filling the empty spaces between them with his presence. Maybe this ‘new normal’ was a God given opportunity. When the term came to an end, we said our good-byes once again with love in our hearts knowing that September will bring another ‘new normal’ in education.

I am fairly certain that when we first go back to church its going to feel a bit strange. There will be things about the ‘new normal’ that we will notice immediately and feel that we don’t like. But I am also fairly certain that if we are open-minded we will quickly find the ‘new normal’ contains lots of things we do like.

Who knows, maybe God is creating a new opportunity at Offington Park if only we open our hearts and minds enough to see it.

Sue Jacobs

Our popular Art Club will be restarting soon. Jenny Guy has given this up due to ill health, so the Club will be run by Joyce Standing with help from others.

The format will be different, with members working on their own pictures, but helping each other to improve each week. Please contact Joyce via the Church Office if you wish to join the new Art Club.



Reaching Abandoned Places and Forgotten People (an update from Kenya)



O Happy Day!

Hello Friends,
What a journey it's been, these days of lockdown!
We have all learned so much, and adapted so fast.

I'd like to bring you some updates from Kenya, as many of you have so kindly supported the work there. Five long months after lockdown was first declared in Kenya, only now is it beginning to lift in the countryside. Beth Wawira, a woman who spent her time promoting education and health for girls, has been working tirelessly to keep her community fed and well. She thanks us all for the support we have given – not just money, but love and prayers.

I held an event in July that raised nearly £800 and I learned a lot about Zoom and how to run a quiz and music on it! I was so grateful to those of the church family who donated, attended and contributed time and prizes.

There have been some heart-breaking stories. Beth rescued a young family of siblings who had suffered terribly after their parents died of AIDS, and were on the verge of starvation – they were unwanted by their village so Beth brought them to her home. Another small family needed help because the mother, in despair, tried to kill herself and her child. We paid for their treatment, and food to keep them going, and Beth gives counselling.



Baby Angel

A 4-month-old baby called Angel is currently with Beth. She was abandoned by her father in the forest, after he had beaten and stabbed her mother, Agnes, in the leg. Angel was found later by villagers, who fetched Beth. No one would touch the baby to pick her up, in case they became responsible. Agnes was found the following day, and Beth took her to the local hospital for treatment. Because of us, this young mother could have the x-ray, antibiotics and stitches she needed.

She will be kept safe until mother and baby can return to their family in the West of Kenya.

We also bought a goat to feed babies whose mothers had lost their milk (what a wonderful Christian Aid tradition that is!)

And sometimes bread was a huge gift. Children often turn up having walked several miles to collect food and to stop them trying to eat the rice raw from the packet, Beth will often cook for them. One morning she didn't have the facility to cook and just handed out slices of bread for the children to eat, so they had the energy to walk home!



Bread—a great gift!

And through all this, enough money is sent for Beth to give out rice and maize each week to the very poorest families.

Beth has a house on a small farm, and 14 people are living in it! She is willing to give up some of her farmland to build a little house for the family she rescued to live in.

Our dream is that this house will grow, and become a place of refuge for abandoned or abused girls escaping early forced marriage, but to begin with it just needs three rooms. A kind builder has agreed to start the work as soon as materials can be bought, and wait for his labour to be paid.



Beth & Wagatonye

The lady pictured here with Beth is Wagatonye. She is very elderly and frail, but she remembered Beth had cared for her before, and she walked miles to find her, confident that she would be cared for. She hadn't eaten for two days. Beth fed her of course, and sent her home with enough food to keep her going. If you'd like to help Wagatonye in her last years, it will cost just £15.30 to provide her with enough food for a month.

Please consider if you can help. I am happy to take cash or cheques, or the project can be found online at Just Giving – Abigael's House:

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/abigaelhouse

I will be delighted to bring you news as the project progresses, and of Beth's incredible work in faith. I have learned a great deal about the Christian journey from her, as she seldom falters, and never questions the enormous responsibility she feels God gave her.

Hazel Child



China is huge. It is over 40 times larger than the UK with a population to match. At almost 1.4bn, China has over twenty times the UK population.

There are many regional languages, Standard Mandarin being the official one. Literacy rates are very high at over 90%. Neighbours include Russia, North Korea and India amongst others.

China has over 100m Christians (amazing since the Bible was banned there around 40 years ago) but restrictions on what they can do still exist and cults still spring up frequently.

Please give thanks for the many people that are finding the Lord in China, and pray that they are protected from poor teaching. Pray that Bible provision will continue and access to it will grow. Finally, please pray for those delivering the Word in China at this important time, that they may continue to receive strength, courage and encouragement.

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CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



SIGNIFICANT BIRTHDAYS

**Fatima H
Hilary L**

Many congratulations and best wishes for your day!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**Adam & Sally C (Silver - 25 years)
John & Sue H (Coral - 35 years)**



Many congratulations and best wishes for many more!



**DEATH
Nora P**

*We remember her witness among us
and hold her family and friends in our prayers at this sad time*

THANK YOU FROM BETTY M

I just want to thank the church for their good wishes on my 90th birthday and to thank Dawn for bringing me such beautiful flowers and a cleverly made card. I had intended to celebrate at Christmas when all of my family hopefully would be here - but one thing we have learned this year is that you can't make plans. My best wishes for reopening the church.

**THANK
YOU!**

PRAYER BOOK

Although we cannot access our Prayer Book at the moment, we continue to hold in our prayers anyone known to us who is suffering from poor health, loneliness or who may be living in fear of what the future may hold.



**"God is too good to be unkind
and He is too wise to be mistaken.
And when we cannot trace His hand,
we must trust His heart."**

Worthing Mental Health Awareness Week

building understanding and sharing hope

5 - 10 October 2020



The 8th Annual Worthing Mental Health Awareness Week is going to be different!

Plans are still being finalised, but we hope to have on-line and virtual events throughout the week.

In particular we hope the launch (10am on Monday 5 October) by the Mayor in the Mayor's Parlour at the Town Hall will be live-streamed to Facebook, which will allow anyone to see it.

Traditionally, the Mayor's Chaplain lights a Peace Candle and starts WMHAW with a prayer. This year, the Chaplain will extend the invitation to all to light a candle in their homes.

It will, of course, be a reduced programme this year. But we will still be holding discussions, and sessions on Mindfulness and talks on promoting wellness.

There will be no Information Centre, but we hope representatives from local charities will be able to lead mini-sessions so they can talk about the work they do. I am keen to promote our local charities and organisations, as they are facing reductions in income from having to cancel fund-raising events and yet are seeing an increase in demand. Many will have to restructure, or re-prioritise services.

Every year I ask for prayers for WMHAW, and this year is no different. Please pray for this Week. Pray that we are able to put a programme together which offers information and ideas for self-care. Pray that the technology works, and that people are able to engage with it.

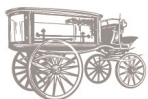
Carol Barber

Look out for more details soon and follow us on:

Twitter: [#WMHAW20](https://twitter.com/WMHAW20)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/worthingmentalhealthawarenessweek>

Web: <https://worthingmentalhealthweek.co.uk/>



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NEXT EDITION

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Sunday 27 September

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

offingtonspotlight@gmail.com

Two men were walking through the desert. They were nearly out of water when they saw a small market in the distance.

They hurried up to it to see if they could get some water. At the first stall they asked for water, but were told, "sorry, we don't have water. Only sponge cake, jelly or custard".

They went to the next stall and again asked for water. The stallholder told them, "I have no water, but you can have some custard, or maybe a sponge cake or jelly."

They approached the third stall, but the stallholder said, "I have plenty of jelly, custard and sponge cake, but alas no water."

Bitterly disappointed, the two men walked back into the desert. One man turned to the other and said, "That was a very odd market."

His friend replied, "yes, I think it was a trifle bazaar."



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