

SPOTLIGHT

Offington Park Methodist Church Magazine



September 2021

In this issue

Guest Writer Letter	3	Enjoy Heat or What We Eat?	16
Covid Prayers for Others	4	Kenya Update	18
Services for September	5	Church Family News	19
A Momentous Decision	6	Spotlight on Niger	20
Count Your Blessings	8	Worthing 4 Refugees	21
World Day of Prayer 2021	9	Unwelcome Road (Poem)	23
FBWC Cemetery Tours	10	Money for Nothing!	25
Farewell from Mary	12	JC's Little Nuggets	26

Cover Picture

Our cover shows Beachy Head Lighthouse, built to replace the 1834 Belle Tout Lighthouse on top of the cliffs at Beachy Head, which was often obscured by sea mists.

The new lighthouse was built under the direction of Sir Thomas Matthews, Trinity House Engineer-in-Chief. It is sited about 165m seawards from the base of the cliffs. A temporary cable car was installed for the transport of workers and stones to an iron ocean platform adjacent to the lighthouse and 3,660 tons of Cornish granite were used in the construction.

The 'light', a paraffin vapour burner, gave two white flashes every 20 seconds and was visible from 26 miles out to sea. The lighthouse also had an explosive fog signal (now discontinued), which sounded every five minutes in foggy weather. The lighthouse is now equipped with LED lighting technology.

In 2010, Trinity House said it was leaving the lighthouse to return to its natural grey state, as the red and white stripes weren't necessary with advanced ship navigational technology. A campaign was launched to keep the red and white stripes and the £27,000 required was raised. The tower was repainted with five coats of paint in October 2011.



Dear Friends,

Guest

Writer

Many of us are wondering where the last year has gone! It was a year like no other. Apart from the awful times with the spread of Covid, multiple lockdowns, isolations that many have felt, there were some notable successes to celebrate. The vaccination programme meant that we have opened our church again, in a limited way, but what a delight it was to welcome you in. We can now meet without booking a seat and we can sing, albeit quietly into our masks!

We also had two very successful Yard Sale fundraising events in the car park. These allowed you to pass on some of the items sorted out in lockdown and to benefit the church too. It showed what fun we have when we can get together.

On a sad note, Mary, our Church Administrator, retires at the end of August. No words can express how indebted we are to Mary for serving us so well in the office for the past nine years. We will miss her so much but we wish her every happiness as she finds new ways to spend her time and assure her of a welcome at OP any time. With an ending comes a new beginning and we are delighted to welcome Pam Couchman as our Church Administrator. We welcome you Pam and look forward to working with you.

The new Church year also gives us a chance to start some new ways of serving God here in this place. As we have shared before, starting this month we are hoping to open the church initially Monday to Thursday between 9:00am and 12noon each week with activities, chat, coffee, cake and lots of other ways to welcome people into our building. From having to close our church doors for some time we are now opening them wide so do come and share. Throughout the month we will be setting plans in place and looking for volunteers, ready to offer a wide programme of activities for all ages. Do come for coffee, cake (if you're lucky) and, as always, time to chat.

We are still observing safe distancing and encouraging masks on the premises, but we will ease this as and when we can. We give thanks that we managed to keep everyone safe these past months and thank you all for complying with the rules.

We also look forward to welcoming Dawn back to work which will be a delight and we give thanks for her recovery. It's set to be a great start to the new Church Year. We look forward to sharing with you.

With love,

Joy



Covid-19 Prayers for Others

Although the UK seems to be managing Covid now much more effectively, there are many countries still experiencing high infection and death rates, and many in our own country who still fear the future.

For countries still experiencing 'waves'

We pray for countries that are still seeing Covid infections even after vaccination programmes. For New Zealand and Australia, experiencing new waves, and also for Brazil and the USA, both of whom have seen in excess of 500,000 deaths from Covid-19. We pray for the governments of those countries, that they will act responsibly towards their people and that the people themselves may understand their role in keeping Covid at bay.

For long-term sufferers

We pray for those people who are experiencing a deterioration in health from 'long Covid'. We pray for their families as they face an uncertain and anxious future, and for the medical teams battling to understand and treat the symptoms of long Covid. We pray that medical teams will be able to access the resources they need to treat long Covid victims.

For countries with low vaccination rates

We pray for those countries that cannot afford vaccines or that have slow rollouts of the vaccine. We pray that vaccine supplies will continue to reach them and that they can gather together the resources to increase vaccination rates.

For ongoing and vital medical research

We pray for the scientists researching variants and their impact on existing and developing vaccines. We pray that they too can access resources to enable the fight against Covid and Covid mutations to continue unabated.

For those still uncertain after unlocking

We pray for those who see things returning to normal, but who remain afraid to embrace 'normality' again. We ask that we will be mindful and respectful of others' feelings in what we say and do, and help them to regain peace of mind through our words of encouragement and selfless actions. **Amen.**



SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday 5th September

8:00am Rev Dawn Carn Holy Communion

10:30am Rev Dawn Carn

Sunday 12th September

10:30am Rev Dawn Carn Holy Communion

3:30pm Messy Church Team Messy Church



Sunday 19th September

8:00am Breakfast Church Team

10:30am Mr Daniel Dawkins

Sunday 26th September

Harvest Festival

10:30am Rev Dawn Carn

6:00pm Circuit Service



This article was written by Anna G (daughter of Alan C) and originally published in August 2021 in a local community magazine for South Gloucestershire. It is a report, explanation and discussion on the subject of the Methodist Church's decision on same-sex marriage, which aims to inform and reassure anyone interested and perhaps concerned about the way forward.

A MOMENTOUS DECISION

The recent momentous decision of the Methodist Conference to allow same-sex marriages to take place in its churches follows nearly 30 years of careful and thoughtful discussion, from grassroots congregations in local churches through to the higher organisational levels. It is felt that it is time to move towards being a truly inclusive Church in this way, fully welcoming and affirming all members of our community, and allowing equal marriage for all, in the sight of God.



Of course most of us have not grown up with the idea of two brides or two grooms getting married, so the idea might still need getting used to. On the other hand, for an increasing number of especially younger people, it makes complete

sense; it allows two people of the same sex who truly love each other to be able to make this lifelong commitment to each other in church before God.

What if we disagree? - As Christians in the Methodist Church, our ministers and indeed all of us have a pastoral duty to care for all our members and adherents, regardless of their viewpoint. The Conference vote passed with 85% of delegates in favour, but some Methodists find the decision very difficult and there has been much care taken to ensure that there is still a way for everyone to remain a loved and valued part of the church. We have much still in common, and many other issues to concern ourselves with in doing Christ's work; eg: seeking justice and peace, and caregiving.

In practical terms, Methodist ministers and Church Councils will have the choice whether to opt-in to registration of the solemnisation of same-sex marriages, and the necessary legal paperwork will take some months at least, so there will not be any such weddings this summer.

As you may know, some Bible scholars interpret various parts of the Bible to say that homosexual relationships are sinful, while some totally disagree. (How to make sense of the 66 books of the Bible is another whole lengthy subject in itself).

However, given the limitations of translation and cultural context from a very different time, and editorial policies from centuries ago as to what was included, my personal view is to use the Bible as a very welcome guide on how to live the Christian life, but with a helping of prayerful common sense to try and understand what the words actually mean for us today.

That's not always easy. However, the central theme of Christianity - Jesus's commandment that we love one another - is pretty clear, and St Paul also provides an excellent definition of what love is and what it is not, in his letter to the Corinthians (1:13), a popular reading often used at weddings. Interestingly, Jesus is not recorded as making any statement whatsoever on homosexuality.



In a few years' time we may wonder what all the fuss was about. When the Church of England first voted to ordain women priests in 1992 (Methodists followed in 1994), some objected at the time, but a generation later, it would be difficult to imagine these churches without the ministry of ordained women as well as men.

We have all lived through a horrible pandemic, which isn't over yet, and many of us have sadly lost family members or friends during this time. However this and the slower pace of lockdown, may have given us all a chance to reflect on our attitudes to our relationships.

If we are honest, what are any of us unsure about or even scared of? The LGBTIQ+ community, which may include you or people close to you, has been hurt for long enough.

Isn't it time to do something about that?

Anna G is a Steward at a Methodist Church in the West Country. She sends greetings to all at Offington and especially to those with very long memories who remember her!



A smart person knows what to say. A wise person knows whether or not to say it.

count your blessings,
NAME THEM ONE BY ONE.

It will often surprise you what the Lord has done.

Old age is difficult to cope with at the best of times, but especially if, like my husband Alan, you have Parkinson's. He has struggled with this disease for over 20 years now, but he has never let it get him down. It's ghastly to watch his struggle sometimes, but we both live by the words of that great hymn: *trust and obey, for there's no other way.*

I'm Alan's second wife. He lost his first wife in childbirth and sadly the baby also died. Then later, his older brother was killed on an Autobahn in Germany while they were holidaying together. At just 19, Alan had to arrange transportation of his brother's body back to England.

But God works His miracles! First, I was in hospital for three months during my first pregnancy and after our son Peter was born I suffered severe post-natal depression and had to have electrical treatment. But I got through it.

Second, as a teenager, Peter had a severe stammer, yet he is now an Anglican vicar in Hampshire with responsibility for two churches.

Third, we also have a beautiful daughter Louise who is a Senior Social Worker on a Mental Health Team. Peter is also a former Social Worker on Child Protection.

When life is hard, when sorrow fills our hearts, when we wonder if God is even there for us, we hold on tight to the knowledge that God's love is the bedrock for our faith and indeed for our very existence. His love, revealed most clearly in the cross of Christ, sustains us, encourages us, and enables us to trust Him to work his miracles - and even to rejoice in the midst of hard times. *Pauline D*

World Day of Prayer

**Build on a
strong foundation**

VANUATU



Broadwater Baptist Church

Dominion Road

Worthing

Friday 10 September

10:00am - 11:00am



This year's service is written by the Christian women of Vanuatu, a South Pacific Ocean nation made up of roughly 80 islands that stretch across 1,300km.

Harborside Port Vila, the nation's capital and economic centre, is on the island of Efate.

Refreshments available at the end of the service
(Covid restrictions may still apply)

EVERYONE WELCOME

**Please support this service and take the opportunity to learn
about the way of life of Christians living many miles away**

Sow carrots in your garden and
humbly praise God for them, as for a
singular and great blessing.

Richard Gardiner (c1533)

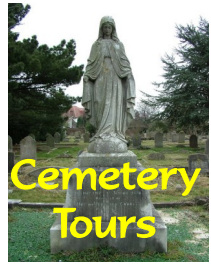


FRIENDS OF BROADWATER AND WORTHING

FBWC CEMETERY TOURS

Saturday 4 September at 11.00am

"LOCAL TRADESMEN"



FBWC invite you to our next tour, postponed from last year, and the good news is that this time hot and cold drinks will be available, together with our usual delicious homemade cakes, for which a donation is appreciated.

We shall be hearing the stories of some of Worthing's traders, three of whom include: George Basson Hoskings, who in 1905 opened Worthing's first café -- Khongs Eastern Coffee Café at 8 South Street. He was a specialist dealer in tea and coffee and incorporated the sale of these within the café. The aroma of coffee emanating from the café enticed many customers in and was enjoyed by those waiting at the nearby bus stops or walking along the street.

Next: Harry Gosden, born in Tangmere, who had trained as a baker by the time he moved to Worthing in 1884. He started working at Knowles Bakery in Broadwater and worked his way up, eventually being appointed manager of the bakery. By 1900 he had entered partnership of the business with James Bushby Knowles. Later, after James's death, Harry took over the business himself.

Third: William Ernest Barker. He initially established a cycle business in Oxford Road. Barker had a very interesting hobby – wireless telegraphy. By 1911, he had set up two wires over his house and together with parts of bicycles from his shop, he made a crystal detector. Eventually, he was granted a licence to set up a wireless station. His son, William junior, took on the cycle business but also opened a shop in South Street, Tarring selling wirelesses & gramophone. Many of us will know the shop.

To hear more about these men and other local traders, please meet at the cemetery chapels at 10.50. It will be a very interesting tour and we look forward to seeing you there.

CAMEO RETURNS

We are delighted to tell you that CAMEO will be returning in September. Although we do not know how things will turn out, we are hoping that we can continue through the Autumn term, meeting on the second and fourth Fridays of the month in the Allan Fletcher hall at 10:30 am.



Our first meeting is on 10 September, and will be in the nature of a chat and a catch-up for us all. The rest of the Autumn programme is yet to be finalised. We welcome former members back, and anyone else who would like to come would be most welcome.

As you will appreciate, some Covid guidance still remains and we are asking attendees to wear masks while not seated. We will also look to keep a measure of social distancing and open windows for ventilation. Please do not come if you feel unwell.

We will keep a record of attendance, and would ask that use of the toilets are kept to a minimum. It will be good to be back and have fellowship together again as we move forward in faith.

With every blessing,
Margaret Hallard.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

If you have still not returned your Personal Details and Consent form to the Church Office, please can you do so as a matter of urgency? Without these forms Offington may not be able to contact you in regard to Church matters and will not know your preferences for how you are contacted or which aspects of church life you are interested or not interested in. We do need these to continue the relationship we already have with you.

If you are concerned for any reason about returning the forms, please speak to the Church Office.

FAREWELL FROM 'MARY IN THE OFFICE'



“Wait a minute, I’ve just got to answer the phone... right, now where was I?” “Oh, my goodness we’ve had loads of emails overnight.” “Hello, lovely to see you” (someone’s just come in).” Oh, it’s the phone again.

Sometimes it feels like everything is happening at once! But would I have it any other way? Not really. As good as it was during lockdown to be able to just get on with my work (there had to be something good about lockdown), I really missed the interaction with other people from the church. This job is more than just a job; a place of work; employment. It’s the people, and the people at Offington are really very friendly. I sometimes say I have 200 bosses, because I work for every one of you!

But the best bit is knowing that in doing this work I am also serving the Lord. I hope He thinks I’m doing a good job! A little while ago Dawn gave me a lovely glass etching which says: ‘Lord, help me to realise that nothing can happen today that you and I can’t handle.’ If I’m feeling a little overwhelmed by events, then it’s lovely to look at that verse and let out a big sigh of relief because that is so true. But these times of feeling overwhelmed have become more frequent, so I think the time is right for me to leave this role for someone who has a fresher approach to it. Now I welcome Pam Couchman to the role and I know that you too will give her a very warm welcome. There is a very awesome lineage of Church Administrators at OP and though it was daunting at first, I’m proud to have been a part of it and I’m sure Pam will ably carry on the good work.

I have loved being Church Administrator at OP. God really knew what he was doing when he planned this part of my life and led me to this place without me always realising it. When I think back nine years, to when I was being made redundant from a job that I hadn’t always enjoyed, I wasn’t sure then what direction I wanted to go. I didn’t want a full time demanding job but I wasn’t ready to give up working altogether.

I must have mentioned this at some point when I was in church (in case you weren't aware I go to Queen Street church (but don't tell anyone!) A friend of mine tapped me on the shoulder one Sunday and handed me a piece of paper. "Here Mary", she said, "you're looking for a part time job, aren't you?" On this scrap of paper (A6 if you're an admin type of person) was an advert for an administrator (part-time) at OP. Just up the road from me, part-time, and working in a Christian environment! This was like my dream job, so I applied.

However, I was a bit concerned because interviews were due to be held whilst I was visiting my daughter in Australia. That was clearly going to be a bit difficult. Brazenly, I wrote that if I was shortlisted I would not be able to attend an interview at the time they stated but would be available later. As if I would be shortlisted after writing that!! To my surprise and joy, I received a reply saying that I had got an interview and could I make a different date? I jumped at the chance, accepted, and was interviewed on the day after I had returned from Australia.

I couldn't have felt much worse! I was totally jetlagged and I really thought I'd messed up the entire interview, but I felt that at least I'd tried and I knew that I'd been given fair treatment. To my surprise and joy (there's been a lot of surprise and joy at OP!) I had a phone call from James offering me the job! I haven't looked back since that time. God just led me safely through all the stages of getting this job and He has led me every day since I've been here. Now, I believe He is telling me to take a rest.

Although there has been a lot of surprise, it hasn't always been joyful; there have been ups and downs, highs and lows, but I have always had the support of a good team of people around me. So I would like to say a heartfelt 'thank you' to my bosses - all 200 of you!

I hope it's not goodbye altogether, though. I'm very local, so I hope to see you in the area. I'll keep an eye out for future events and maybe I'll bump into you there. God bless all of you, you're a fantastic bunch of people.

"Mary in the Office"


DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	5	8:00am	Rev Dawn Carn	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Rev Dawn Carn	All Age Worship
Mon	6	7:00pm	Offington Bells	
Tue	7	11:15am	Keep Fit	
		12:00pm	Tuesday Lunch & Social Club	
Wed	8	6:00pm	Circuit Meeting	Main Church
Thu	9	11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		1:30pm	Knit'n'Natter	
Fri	10	10:30am	Cameo	
		10:30am	World Day of Prayer	See advertisement on page 9
Sun	12	10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Holy Communion
		3:30pm	Messy Church Team	Messy Church
Mon	13	7:00pm	Offington Bells	
Tues	14	11:15am	Keep Fit	
		12:00pm	Tuesday Lunch & Social Club	
Wed	15	11:00am	Holy Communion	
Thu	16	11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
Sat	18	All Day	District Synod	
Sun	19	8:00am	Breakfast Church	
		10:30am	Mr Daniel Dawkins	
Mon	20	7:00pm	Offington Bells	
Tues	21	11:15am	Keep Fit	
		12:00pm	Tuesday Lunch & Social Club	
Thurs	23	11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		1:30pm	Knit'n'Natter	

DIARY FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Fri	24	9:00am	Turning Tides Meeting	Main Church
		10:30am	Cameo	
Sat	25	7:00pm	Harvest Supper	Details to be announced
Sun	26	10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Harvest Festival
		6:00pm	Circuit Service	Retirement of Rev John Scrivens and Mr Bob Boyce
Mon	27	7:00pm	Offington Bells	
Tue	28	11:15am	Keep Fit	
		12:00pm	Tuesday Lunch & Social Club	
Thur	30	11:00am	Bible Fellowship	

DIARY FOR OCTOBER 2021

Sun	3	8:00am	Rev Ian Couchman	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Mrs Lesley Barnes	All Age Worship
Mon -Fri	4-8	All Day	Worthing Mental Health Awareness Week	Main Church 

LESSONS FOR LIFE?

SMILE till your face hurts
SING like no-one is listening
DANCE like no-one is watching

LIVE like there is no tomorrow
DREAM as if there are no impossibilities
CHERISH your family and friends every day
GIVE as if you have plenty
PLAY like there are no winners
LOVE without counting the cost

ENJOY HEAT OR ENJOY WHAT WE EAT? THIS COULD BE OUR CHOICE!



Fruit and veg farmers have been hard hit by extreme weather events over the past few years. Heavy rainfall in 2015 and 2016 flooded farmland and destroyed crops.

Summer heatwaves not only scorch us, but also farmland. The 2019 and 2020 heatwaves have caused devastating reductions in crop yields and high financial losses. The lack of water and extreme heat caused potato yields to drop by 20%, and allegedly left our beloved British chip more than one inch smaller! If events of this magnitude persist, some growers could potentially be put out of business.

What does the future hold for British fruit and veg farmers?

If our emissions continue to increase, there is an increased chance of milder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers, along with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extremes. Higher summer temperatures and reduced water availability in eastern and southern England (the country's biggest agricultural areas) could make current farming activities impossible, due to limited water supplies and dry soil.

A trend towards wetter winters is likely to introduce other problems such as soil compaction and erosion.



Changes to average temperatures and rainfall patterns will have a large impact on the agricultural industry — but the real threat to farmers is the rise in extreme weather conditions. If warming continues at its current rate, heatwaves will become longer and more intense, and by 2050 could occur every other year. There is also a high chance of record-breaking rainfall hitting parts of England each winter, further increasing the risk to farmers operations and ultimately their livelihoods.

Make no mistake - this is a big deal. There is a real risk that the things we love, such as great British food, could be lost to climate change. We need to act. And we need to act fast.

Can we save British fruit and veg?

The answer is yes, we can, but we must act as individuals as well as lobbying Governments and organisations, to pull together and start reducing our carbon emissions today.

Start shopping locally, or at least look for local produce and eat seasonally. For example, tomatoes are widely grown in Sussex and we shouldn't be eating Spanish tomatoes which have travelled miles to our shops. These small acts reduce our food miles while supporting the local economy and most importantly assist our health.



Eat less meat. Beef and lamb are the biggest problems here - producing nearly 60% of UK agricultural emissions. For regular meat eaters, reducing our meat intake may feel quite daunting but we don't all have to become vegetarian overnight! Just eating a bit less red meat (for example, having meat-free Mondays) would make a huge difference. It's not about taking Draconian measures - its about looking sensibly at what we can do to help. There are lots of easy-to-make tasty, healthy alternatives to meat. We have to start somewhere!

Don't waste food. In the UK, a staggering £13m worth of edible food goes into the bin every year. This avoidable food waste generates 19 million tonnes of greenhouse gases over its lifetime. Preventing that pollution is equivalent to taking one in four cars off UK roads - a major win in terms of fewer emissions.

While there are many areas of food waste that we can't control, we can still be conscientious and sensible. We can all plan our meals to make maximum use of the quantities we may have to buy. We should all buy only what we need, store our produce properly and be clever with our preparation. Then we can all turn our homes into zero-food-waste zones.

As a country and as responsible members of society, we must step up and play our part, so we can ensure the delicious, healthy, home-grown produce we enjoy today is still available for generations to come.

KENYA CONNECTION (supporting Shauri Yako)

FOG AND RESCUES

Hello friends,

isn't it glorious to back in the church properly? I had a lovely day a Sunday or so ago, with Pam's beautiful service in the morning and Sue leading us in Café church in the evening. Lots of live music and a truly living message.

This month I have a quick update for you, thanking those who contributed to the toilet fund. We have now provided a fourth toilet in Beth's village. There's no picture of the finished article as yet, but do keep an eye on the board at church.

Many big towns in Kenya have a 'Shauri Yako', the slum or the poor part. Pictured right is the small child who unfortunately fell into the defunct toilet and needed rescuing. That was a traumatic moment.



The picture on the left is one of people who will benefit from the new loo – they send you greetings, love and thanks. Note from the picture the weather that Kenya is currently experiencing - thick fog and no sun. Quite unusual.

Needed next is a 5,000 litre water tank! Who knew that a giant plastic bucket could be so expensive?! This can be filled with harvested rainwater, and saves using river water that needs fetching and isn't often very clean.



As you probably know, the average household in the UK uses 150 litres of water per person per day – quick showers use around 40 litres, less than baths (at 80 to 100 litres!). Washing machines use about 50 litres each time, so it all adds up. 5,000 litres of water will keep several Kenyan families going for two weeks or more.

And here's an interesting thing I found out – in Swahili, the name Shauri Yako literally means 'Carry your own cross' and is an expression meaning, 'your problem.' I'm so glad we can help them carry their cross, and lighten the burden a little as we walk together.

Thanks for your continuing support.

Hazel Child

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



Thank You.

To all my friends at Offington Park: thank you for all the flowers and cards for my special birthday. So very much appreciated.

Joy Earl

OFFERTORIES

27 June & 4 July	£460.02	Giving by Bank Transfer / Standing Order totals approximately £4,000 per month.
11 & 18 July	£1,238.00	
25 July & 1 August	£557.50	
8 & 15 August	£285.42	

*Thank you for all you give - both financially and with service.
Please remember opportunities for Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer*

A garden is a thing of beauty
- and a job forever.

Richard Briers



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

- Home inspection: testing your electrical circuits against UK standards to find any potential hazards and highlight any lack of earthing and bonding
- Replace Fuse Boards; House Rewires; Smoke Detectors
- Additional power sockets and renewing light fixtures
- Electrical repairs and maintenance

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

Chris Ludlow 07899 980090 chrisludlow6@gmail.com



Spotlight on NIGER

French-speaking Niger has a population of 23.6m, less than one-third of the UK, but occupies five times the area. Nine out of 10 adults in rural areas cannot read or write.

Whilst almost everyone is Muslim, there is usually respect for Christians. One lady told of an incident in which money was stolen by someone entrusted with it, and she was appointed to take over because she was a Christian and could be trusted. On another occasion, the same lady was going to church when she was stopped by guards—who let her through when they saw her Bible! That was answered prayer, as she'd not remembered her ID on that day!

Theological training among church leaders is low and this can be a big barrier to promoting the Christian faith. Please pray for Niger, a poor nation and a tough place to be. Pray for energy, perseverance and passion among leaders sharing God's word, and for families still recovering from devastating floods in 2020.

Taylor Cleaned

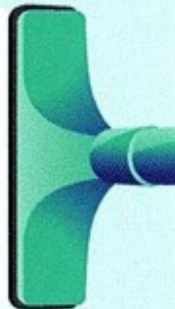
Commercial & Domestic Cleaning
Car Valeting

Contact David Taylor
07495 571697

Email: davidrtaylor0108@gmail.com

Fully Insured

Available in and around the Worthing area



WORTHING 4 REFUGEES UPDATE

Good news!

Worthing 4 Refugees, in partnership with Family Support Work, is planning to re-open the monthly drop-in on the last Monday of every month starting 27 September. Opening times are 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

The drop-in is for refugee and asylum-seeking families. It is a social space with food, games/activities for the children, information services and signposting to assistance organisations for adults.

We are now recruiting volunteers specifically for the drop-in.

We need drivers, befrienders, people willing to do activities with the children, people to help set up and take down, people to help in the kitchen with food (bring and share) and washing-up.

You don't need to commit to every month. Please consider if you could be a part of this team. If so, please come along to an information meeting on **Monday 6 September from 4:00pm to 5:30pm at Maybridge Community Church, 77 The Strand, Worthing, BN12 6DR.**

If you are attending the meeting, or if you would like to know more about these opportunities to serve the community, please get in touch with Gay Jacklin, Worthing 4 Refugees Lead. (number available from Church Office).

Thank you.



Take a piece of string and tie knots in it for any things that weigh heavily on your heart and for which you would like to feel forgiven.

Name each thing as you untie the knot represented by it and say sorry, trusting in God's mercy and love. .

**A PRAYER
FOR
FORGIVENESS**





Are you concerned about, or interested in, the environment or environmental matters?

You could be the person we need to head up our Eco Group.

In modern parlance the word Ecology is usually abbreviated to Eco and is taken to mean 'not harming the environment'. Eco has now been recognised by many Governments and Churches as being a worldwide issue.

We will all be familiar with terms such as 'Climate Crisis', 'Emission Targets', 'Global Justice'. In fact, everything that the human race has a hand in seems to negatively impact the environment. The alarming rise in CO₂ emissions and climate change has led to the United Nations holding worldwide conferences on the matter. The next conference (COP 26) is being held in Glasgow in November.

Eco at Offington

The Eco group was started at Offington in 2007. Shortly afterwards, we joined the Eco church movement, which awards bronze, silver and gold medals depending on the results of an 'environmental audit' at the church. We currently have a bronze medal and are working towards a silver. Along the way the group has arranged recycling facilities at church, a 'wonky vegetable harvest festival', days out to a farm and many other ecologically-focused events.

Having led the Eco team for 14 years I feel that the time is right to let someone else lead the group. We are looking for someone with a real heart for the environment and who is comfortable researching the wealth of Eco information on the Web and/or learning about the environment, what Governments around the world are doing to protect it and what we can do as a church to play our part.



If you feel called to take on this role, want to know more about it, or you know of someone who might be interested, please speak to me.

Chris L

UNWELCOME ROAD

I'm plodding down the pathway
of a long, unwelcome road.
Throughout this stormy journey,
I've acquired a heavy load.

I'm someone I don't recognize
I'm not myself at all,
I see the world through weariness,
A hazy, numbing pall.

My destination's hidden
I can't return to what's behind,
But somewhere in the middle
Is a life that now is mine.

I never chose this journey,
I don't embrace it now,
Healing's off on the horizon.
Closure's out of reach somehow.

At least my feet are moving
But grief will still arrive
Though pain is inconvenient
Tears tell me I'm alive.

Then I hear a quiet murmur
As I move through shadowed blur
Could it be a breath of hopefulness?
An optimistic stir?

*"I'm your destination
I'm the road beneath your feet.
I'm the water that sustains you
I'm every light you meet.*

*I know your face, beloved,
You are intimately known.
I'm your compass. I'm your partner.
You do not walk alone."*

Suzanne C Goodsell

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS - A GLOBAL PICTURE (January 2021)



Many readers will be aware of the Bible translation work carried out across the world by Bible society.

But did you know that **over half** of the world's languages have **no scripture** at all, and approximately **1.5 billion** people do not have a full Bible in their own language?

Clearly, translation work is an ongoing, mammoth task. In 2020, despite the pandemic, over 707 million people were given access to God's word in their language. The world's first Sign Language Bible was completed in 2020 and in the same year over 46 languages received God's word for the first time. Now, over 5.7 billion people have access to scripture in their own tongue.

As we all attempt to rebuild and reimagine society in the light of Covid-19, think about the role scripture can play in helping people know more about God and his plans for their lives. Translations work is never-ending, just as our own language changes and some words become outdated, so it is across the world.

If you want to help, contact Bible Society on 01793 418222 or visit <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk>.



OUT OF THE MOUTHS....

*Written by a child in a school essay,
after visiting a church in Melton Mowbray:*

**"The difference between the Church of England
and the Methodist Church is that
the Methodist Church has double glazing".**



MONEY FOR NOTHING!

As a charity, Offington Park is part of the Gift Aid scheme where the tax you pay on your income can be reclaimed whenever you make a gift to the Church (provided we keep the appropriate records).

giftaid it
Making donations go further

You will be delighted to hear that in the tax year to April 2021 we were able to claim back £15,000 from the Government as extra income. Thank you.

A few reminders:

- If you are a tax payer and haven't filled in a Gift Aid form, please request one from our Gift Aid secretary Caroline C or e-mail her via opmcav@gmail.com. Equally, talk to / email Caroline if you have any queries.
- If you have filled in a form but no longer pay tax, please let Caroline know as we are not allowed to claim gift aid for non-taxpayers.
- The easiest way to make donations traceable is to use a bank transfer / standing order. This also reduces our cash/cheque handling, for which we are charged by our bank. Donations via the envelope scheme can also be included.

It's rare in this world that you can get something for nothing but, beyond filling in a simple form, here the Church enjoys 25% extra from your donations with no effort on your part.



JC's LITTLE NUGGETS

Life-saving Gifts



The Circuit Justice and Peace group have adopted for this year the theme of interfaith working between Abrahamic faiths: Jews, Muslims and Christians.

Recently I came across the story of a modern-day Good Samaritan whose act of great kindness shone like a light in the darkness.

Nigel Yehoshua, a 56-year-old Jewish electrician died on May 17 this year, as the result of a head injury sustained during the riots in Jerusalem. Instead of feeling bitterness, he became an organ donor. This gift of organs saved four lives, two Arab and two Jewish, with surgeons of all faiths working on the transplant operations.

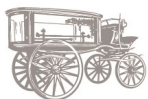
As with the original Good Samaritan who broke down barriers to help, this modern day Samaritan also broke down barriers. Like Jesus, he lost his life but in doing so gave life to others - the greatest gift of all.

We thank you Lord for your love, often found in the most difficult situations and in the hearts of the not-so-obvious people.

John C

SUDOKU CHALLENGE (Medium Difficulty)

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



H D **TRIBE** Ltd

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

3 Generations of Service, One Standard of Excellence



Quality, affordable funerals from a local company that you can trust.

Funeral services how you want them, when you want them.

An independent family firm established in 1929.

01903 234516

130 Broadwater Road, Worthing BN14 8HU

**Local Offices at Goring, Lancing, Littlehampton,
Rustington, Sompting, Shoreham & Storrington.**



24 HOURS A DAY
www.hdtribe.co.uk

NEXT EDITION

Copy Deadline

Publication Date

Tuesday 21 September

Thursday 30 September

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

offingtonspotlight@gmail.com

Bill was looking to buy a horse. He looked in the small ads and saw the words 'Christian horse for sale'.

The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop."

Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop.

Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff.



Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"

Offington Park Methodist Church,
South Farm Road, Worthing,
BN14 7TN

Tel: 01903 205722

Email: office@offingtonpark.org.uk

Web: www.offingtonpark.org.uk

