

SPOTLIGHT

November 2026



Offington Park Methodist Church



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This Month's Cover

Our cover artwork this month features an adder. It is a little late in the year to spot one in the UK, though with our changing climate, who knows?

Because of Adam and Eve, we often think of the biblical snake as a symbol of evil. Yet Jesus turns this on its head, telling his followers to be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). So what kind of wisdom might a snake show?

I have only once encountered an adder. It was resting in the warmth of the sun, but as I came closer, it slipped quietly into the bushes. Snakes are predators, but they are also alert to danger and know when to retreat. Perhaps this is the shrewdness Jesus commends: a careful awareness of the world, the wisdom to avoid needless conflict, and the humility to step back when needed. Jesus calls his disciples to hold together the serpent’s discernment and the dove’s gentleness.

As we share his Gospel, we are invited to be wise, alert, and faithful to our mission, while remaining peaceful, gracious, and free from malice or deceit.

This month’s wildflowers: Rosehips, beech mast, teasel seed heads, ivy flowers.



From Our Minister



Dear Friends,

As we approach November and that time in the church calendar when we hold services of Remembrance for those who have died during conflicts and a Memorial Service for those closest to us, I have been reflecting on more memories.

Sixty years ago today the clock stopped at 9.15am on the last day of term for the schoolchildren in a Welsh mining village. One hundred and sixteen children and twenty-eight adults lost their lives, buried under black slurry which had been deposited on the side of an increasing mound of waste deposits brought up from the mine, because it was cheaper than putting it in a safer place.

The Methodist minister, Rev. Irvine Pemberthy, accompanied the parents (mostly men) to identify the bodies. Many of the children he knew personally as they attended the village chapel. He has remained mostly quiet about the experience, but has realised as he approaches his 96th birthday and is the only remaining ordained minister who experienced this tragedy first hand that it is time to speak about it. I have listened to his story and of those who survived. So many of the survivors have reported that they were told quite clearly, 'you have been lucky, you have survived, never speak of this again.'

What a burden to place on such young shoulders to carry around: not to be able to speak about how afraid they must have been; perhaps experiencing guilt at being spared; trying to live their best lives as they 'owed' it to the ones who would not get the chance to grow up; time to grieve properly for those they had lost. The outcome of this 60th anniversary seems to me to be one of release to be listened to and the healing that is now taking place.

This Advent the Methodist Church has published material under the heading, 'Do not be afraid,' and we will be exploring this together in services and in groups. We all have fears: some are built in naturally to keep us safe, but others are irrational and illogical and have the ability to paralyze normal activity unless they are dealt with. Often the opportunity of identifying and owning the fear is the first step to healing. This is very rarely a quick fix. How sad, that 60 years have

been allowed to go by before some of those children have felt safe enough to have their voices heard.

May our church and community be a place of trust, safety and healing. We continue to be a busy church with mission taking place during the week, not just on Sundays. We are always looking for help in each of the venues: can you help with putting toys out or away, cleaning tables or washing up at the end of Zach's? Can you spare one or two hours in the week? Please don't wait to be asked. If we want the church to grow then we all need to take our responsibility seriously and do what we can, rather than leaving it to others.

As we enter this next church year my prayer is that we will all support each other in our faith journeys, wherever we are and wherever that may lead us.

Every Blessing....Dawn



A Journey Through the Bible EPHESIANS

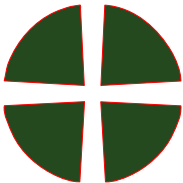
Pythagoras. Algebra. The periodic table. Counting to ten in various languages. We all learnt these things at school . . . and may ask ourselves now, "What difference did those things actually make to my life?!"

In the letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul retells the incredible story of salvation: how it started before God made the world, how we are part of it through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and how it will end with God's people praising Jesus in heaven.

But he wants the gospel to be more than just knowing key facts; like being able to recite elements in the periodic table. The gospel isn't just information—it's knowing Jesus for ourselves!

Do you want to know the difference Jesus makes to your life right now? Do you want to find out about the new nation you belong to? The new person you have become? How knowing Jesus affects your life and relationships? The protective gear Jesus gives you to keep you safe from your dangerous new enemies? Paul lays it all out in Ephesians so you might "grasp how high and deep and long is the love of Jesus for you".

November at 'The Park'



1 November 2026

8:00am	Rev Tony Brazier	Holy Communion
10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Cafe Church

8 November 2026

10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Remembrance / Parade
3:30pm	Messy Church Team	Messy Church

15 November 2026

8:00am	Breakfast Church Team	Breakfast Church
10:30am	Rev Sue Jacobs	Morning Worship

22 November 2026

10:30am	Miss Bridget Quint	Morning Worship
10:30am	Mr Adam Cook	Fun Church

29 November 2026

10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Morning Worship
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For The Fallen By Laurence Binyon



With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Remember, Remember

November is when we also celebrate Guy Fawkes Night. The Gunpowder Plot was an extraordinary event from over 400 years ago. But why do we light bonfires? And who was Guy Fawkes?

Let us return to 1605, when England was deeply divided by religious tensions. A group of English Catholics, led by Robert Catesby became frustrated with the government and developed a plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament on 5 November. Their aim was to kill King James I and create an opportunity for a Catholic uprising.

One such plotter was Guy Fawkes. He knew how to handle explosives and was sent to guard the barrels of gunpowder that were placed in a cellar beneath the House of Lords. But, before the plot could be actioned, Fawkes was discovered. He was arrested, imprisoned, then interrogated and executed, along with several other conspirators. The King's supporters celebrated the failure of the plot by lighting bonfires to celebrate the King's survival. And so began a tradition.

November 5 became a day of public thanksgiving, with bonfires a central part of the annual commemorations. What began as a political and religious celebration morphed into a general community event and the association with Guy Fawkes increased as people began making effigies representing him. Not so long ago, children waited on street corners asking passers-by for a "Penny for the Guy?" On the night itself, the "Guy" was placed atop the bonfire and burned.

Burning an effigy of Guy Fawkes is less common today, although in Lewes the tradition of burning effigies of someone (often a political figure) who is in the news continues unabated.

Traditions have an odd ability to change whilst retaining their historical roots. Bonfire Night is a 400-year-old celebration of a failed coup and a glimpse into Britain's complex past – a story of religion, politics, rebellion, loyalty and dramatic historical change. Guy Fawkes is remembered because he was caught red-handed. Fireworks echo the explosive plot that was prevented.

Remember, remember the fifth of November.





GRUMPY OLD MEN

Tuesday 10 November
10:00am
Quiet Room

You're invited to come and chat – you don't have to be grumpy, old, or even a man!

"Lest We Forget"

A more reflective meeting where we recall what it means to remember and why it is so important that we keep on remembering – lest we forget.

We'll be meeting in the Quiet Room (after coffee and cake in Zach's Café). Please join us.

Taylor Cleaned

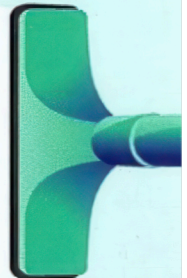
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Why Go Electric?

For years, electric cars have been described as “the future”. The interesting thing is that the future may now be arriving at the car showroom – and for buyers, there has arguably never been a better time to make the switch.

You might think fuel costs are the biggest reason. But it's more simply greater choice and competition. Almost every major car maker offers electric models, while newer brands with increasingly competitive prices have entered the UK market and put significant pressure on car makers to offer attractive finance deals and discounts.

Government support has also returned. The Electric Car Grant offers discounts of up to £3,750 on qualifying new electric cars costing £37,000 or less, depending on the car's sustainability rating.

There is another important factor working in the buyer's favour. Car manufacturers are under pressure to sell increasing numbers of zero-emission vehicles under the UK's ZEV mandate. While the precise targets remain politically debated, manufacturers have a



powerful incentive to keep electric cars moving off forecourts. The result is a competitive market in which buyers can often negotiate far better deals than the headline price might suggest. Recent figures also show strong growth in EV sales across Europe as more affordable models arrive.

"The best time to join the electric revolution could be now"

Charging is improving too. As of April 2026, the UK had more than 119,000 public charging devices, including over 27,000 rapid chargers. For those without home charging, this expanding network makes electric motoring increasingly practical.

Of course, an EV is not automatically right for everyone.

Public charging can still be closer to petrol and diesel prices and long journeys will require a little more planning. But battery ranges have improved greatly, choice is wider, incentives are available and manufacturers are competing hard for customers.

Perhaps the greatest reason to consider an electric car now is this: *buyers have a lot of bargaining power.*

Used models are becoming affordable too. As the industry races towards an electric future, today's customer may be in the strongest position yet to benefit from it.

The electric revolution is no longer something to wait for. For many motorists, the best opportunity to join it may be right now.

SUDOKU (no. 1)

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5-Minute Bible Study

Read Luke 15:1-7.

Now think about what you've read. Imagine being that one sheep. You are separated from the flock, perhaps frightened, vulnerable and unable to find your way home. Yet the shepherd does not simply hope that you will return. He comes looking for you.

Consider what this parable tells us about:

the way God sees people who have wandered away?

the value God places on each individual person?

how God responds when someone who has been lost is found?

Ask yourself: are there times when we need God to carry us rather than expecting ourselves to find the strength to get home?

We can sometimes think that church is primarily about looking after the 99 who are already here. Jesus reminds us that there is always a "one" who is missing – someone who may feel forgotten, disconnected or simply unsure how to come home.

Challenge: Who might be the "one" God is asking you to notice, seek out or welcome this month?

OFFINGTON CAMEO

Friday 13 November

"South Downs Film Makers"

Another visit from our friends the film makers with a selection of short films

Friday 27 November

"A viist from our Minister..."

with Rev Dawn Carn

In the Allan Fletcher Hall, 10:15am for a 10:30 start

Margaret H



Rail Replacement Service

I went to catch the train today,
A simple trip, or so they say.
I checked the app. I checked online.
My train, it said, was bang on time.

I reached the station, bought a tea,
And went to platform number three.
Then came the voice, polite and calm:
"Due to operational circumstances, there will be a slight alteration."

The information board went blank.
The train was late, my heart just sank.
A member of staff, with heavy eyes,
Said, "You need platform number five."

I did three to five in two minutes clear,
But the board announced 'no train due here'.
The tannoy crackled to life to say,
"We don't expect any trains today -
- Passengers are advised to use the bus replacement service."



Outside, a queue stood beside a sign
I joined the back of a very long line.
We waited in drizzle, stiff with cold,
While rumours of the buses rolled.

At last a bus appeared at speed,
Already full, but in our need
We climbed aboard like desperate fools,
With suitcases, backpacks, prams and tools.

We crissed and crossed the countryside,
Down roads no sane person ever tried.
To remote stations devoid of staff
Someone muttered, 'they having a laugh?'

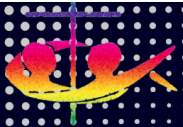
At every stop, more people came.
At every stop, we did the same—
We shuffled bags, we squeezed in tight,
A man announced he'd missed his flight.

We finally stopped, disembarked in haste
To catch the train, no time to waste -
But on the platform, in letters red
Stood a sign that cheerfully said:

BRITISH RAIL APOLOGISES....

The next time my journey from the station
Is marred by delay and cancellation,
I won't get annoyed, I won't see red -
I'll just go home and go back to bed!





Offington Park Methodist Church
presents a....

Trivia Quiz Night

SATURDAY
7
NOVEMBER

MAIN CHURCH
6:00PM

Doors open at : 5:45pm

£8:00 PER PERSON

maximum 6 per team

**INCLUDES DRINKS AND HOME-MADE
FISH AND CHIP SUPPER**

**Information
& tickets**

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The Armour of God

Continuing our series on the Armour of God, as described in Ephesians 6, we look at the **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace**.

A Roman soldier needed good footwear. His sandals were tough, secure and designed to give him a firm grip, even on difficult ground. They helped him march long distances, stand his ground in battle and move quickly when necessary. Without reliable footwear, even the best-equipped soldier could easily stumble or lose his footing.

Paul tells us to have our feet fitted with "the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace" (Ephesians 6:15). The Gospel gives us a firm foundation. Knowing the peace we have through Christ helps us remain steady when life becomes difficult and enables us to move forward rather than retreat.

But these shoes are also about being "ready to go". As Christians, we are called to carry the good news of Christ wherever we go—to our families, workplaces, communities and neighbours.



The Roman soldier's footwear helped him "stand firm and move forward". The Gospel of peace enables us to do the same in our Christian fight.

BAGS OF THANKS!

What a fantastic achievement!

From our Harvest Festival, we donated over 100 bags full of essential food and other needed household supplies to SHOUT, a local charity which cares for Worthing's homeless and for deprived families. Bags were given not only by our own congregation, but also by visitors to Zach's and the Lighthouse soft play. Huge thanks are due to everyone who donated or contributed to a bag.

Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you!!



What's On

NOVEMBER 2026				
Sun	1	8:00am	Rev Tony Brazier	Holy Communion
		10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Cafe Church
Tue	3	12:00pm	Senior Lunch & Social	
Thu	5	11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		6:00pm	Alpha Course	
Fri	6	9:30am	CPAS Day	The Song of Deborah
Sat	7	10:00am	Alpha Course	Mary Humphrey Hall
		6:00pm	Trivia Quiz Night	Tickets - Welcome Desk
Sun	8	10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Remembrance/Parade
		3:30pm	Messy Church Team	Messy Church
Tue	10	10:00am	Grumpy Old Men	Remembrance
		12:00pm	Senior Lunch & Social	
Thu	12	11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		6:00pm	Alpha Course	
Fri	13	10:30am	CAMEO	Sth Downs Film Makers
Sun	15	8:00am	B'fast Church Team	Breakfast Church
		10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	Morning Worship
Tue	17	12:00pm	Senior Lunch & Social	
Thu	19	11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		6:00pm	Alpha Course	
Sat	21	10:00am	MENCAP Fayre	
Sun	22	10:30am	Bridget Quint	Morning Worship
		10:30am	Adam Cook	Fun Church
Tue	24	12:00pm	Senior Lunch & Social	
Thu	26	11:00am	Bible Fellowship	
		6:00pm	Alpha Course	
Fri	27	10:30am	CAMEO	With Rev Dawn Carn
Sun	29	10:30am	Rev Dawn Carn	



Offington Park Methodist Church

Join us on Saturday 12 December 2026

PANTO

'It's A Boy!'

Show Times

13:45 - 15:00

16:00 - 17:15

18:15 - 19:30

Adult: £7.00

Child: £5.00

Babe in arms: Free

Family: £20

**(2 adults, 2 children or
1 adult, 3 children)**



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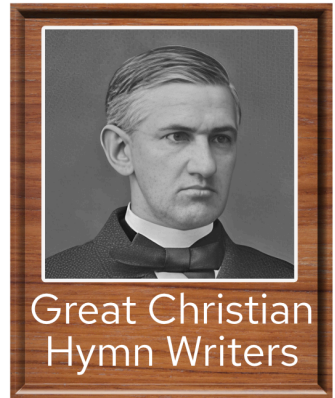
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<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/panto-its-a-boy>

Great Hymn Writers



Horatio Gates Spafford

a life marked by success and tragedy

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."*

Horatio Gates Spafford is remembered today almost entirely because of one hymn - but what a hymn. Although we haven't sung it at Offington, "It Is Well with My Soul" has become one of the most enduring hymns of Christian faith, particularly in times of grief, suffering and uncertainty.

Spafford was born in New York in 1828 and became a successful lawyer and businessman in Chicago. He and his wife, Anna, were deeply involved in Christian work and were friends of D. L. Moody, the evangelist. But the family experienced a succession of devastating events. Their young son died in 1871, and shortly afterwards much of their property was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire.

In November 1873, Anna and their four daughters sailed for Europe. Spafford was delayed by business and planned to follow them later. Their ship, the *Ville du Havre*, collided with another vessel in the Atlantic and sank. All four daughters died. Anna survived.

Her telegram to Spafford simply said: "Saved alone. What shall I do..."

Spafford immediately travelled to join her. During his voyage, the captain told him that they were passing over the place where the *Ville du Havre* had gone down. Spafford later described the location as being over waters three miles deep. It is widely believed that it was during this voyage that he wrote the words that became the hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul."

The extraordinary thing about the hymn is that it doesn't pretend that suffering doesn't exist. It begins "when peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll..."

There is both peace and sorrow. Spafford doesn't say, "Everything is

fine." Rather, he expresses a deeper conviction that his faith in Christ can survive even when circumstances cannot be understood.

The hymn then moves through several aspects of Christian faith: trust in God despite suffering; confidence in Christ's saving work; freedom from sin; hope in Christ's return; and ultimately the assurance that faith can remain secure when everything else is shaken.

That is perhaps the secret of its longevity. It isn't simply a hymn about Spafford's tragedy. It became a hymn in which generations of Christians have been able to place their own tragedies.

Spafford wrote the words, but Philip Bliss, the prominent nineteenth-century gospel singer, composer and evangelist, helped give them their enduring musical form. Bliss composed the tune *Ville du Havre*, named after the ship on which Spafford's family had travelled. The hymn was first performed in Chicago in 1876.

The hymn continues to appear in many hymnals across different Christian traditions, including African Methodist Episcopal and ecumenical collections, as well as mainstream Protestant hymnals. Its appeal extends far beyond a particular denomination simply because "It Is Well" gives Christians words when their own words fail.

At a funeral, it can express grief without despair. During illness, it can express trust without pretending everything is easy. During a personal crisis, it can become a declaration of faith.

In ordinary worship, it becomes a reminder that Christian peace is not necessarily the absence of trouble. Perhaps most remarkably, the hymn's famous declaration was not written from the comfort of an armchair. Spafford was writing after losing his children. That gives the words a particular weight.

There is an interesting final chapter to Spafford's story. Following the tragedy, he and Anna became increasingly religiously unconventional and eventually moved to Jerusalem in 1881 with a group of followers. They established what became known as the American Colony, which later played an important role in Jerusalem's history.

It is through this one hymn that Horatio Spafford's voice has travelled furthest. He didn't write dozens of famous hymns. He didn't establish a major school of hymn writing. He wrote one hymn that became immortal. And perhaps that is an especially powerful legacy for a hymn writer.

The One Who Came Back

I remember the sound of ten voices crying out. "Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us!"

We stood at a distance, as the law required. We were lepers – unclean, unwanted, separated from our families and our homes. We had learned to live with loneliness.



Then Jesus looked at us. "Go, show yourselves to the priests." It seemed strange. He hadn't touched us. He hadn't said that we were healed. But we went. And as we walked, something happened.

I looked at my hands. Clean. I touched my face. Clean. The sores were gone. The pain was gone. The shame was gone. I was free!

We all shouted for joy and hurried towards the priests. But suddenly I stopped. How could I go on? The man who had healed me was still behind me. I turned around.

I ran back to Jesus, praising God as loudly as I could. When I reached him, I fell at his feet. "Thank you." It was all I could say.

Jesus looked around. "Were not all ten cleansed?" he asked. "Where are the other nine?"

I didn't know what had happened to them. Perhaps they were already celebrating with their families. Perhaps they were simply too excited to think about the man who had given them back their lives.

Then Jesus looked at me. A Samaritan. An outsider. The one nobody expected to return. "Rise and go," he said. "Your faith has made you well."

I had come back to say thank you. But as I knelt there, I realised something. I had received far more than clean skin. I had found the One who had given me a new life. And perhaps that is why I was the one who had to come back. Because sometimes, when God gives us an answer to prayer, we are so eager to run forward into our new life that we forget to turn around and say:

"Thank you, Lord."

Back by popular demand!

Afternoon Tea and Praise



**Sunday 15 November
2:00pm to 4:00pm**

**£12:50
per person**

**Please do come and enjoy
this joyful mix of food, music and fun
in aid of *Action for Children***



**Enjoy sandwiches, scones, cakes, tea (of course!)
and Songs of Fellowship (led by Jubilate) where
you can join in with some of your favourites**

**More information and tickets: Steve & Karen C (via
church office) or the Welcome Desk 01903 205722
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Offington Park Methodist Church

'Set and Forget'

Are you a 'setter and forgetter' – still putting the same amount in the collection that you did five or even ten years ago?

If you are, do you really feel that 'setting and forgetting' is a serious way to show a financial commitments to the church? For some of us, our finances may be the same or worse than five years ago. If that's you, then you are being generous, and thank you for your support.



But if your finances have improved or you have a decent amount of money left over after the bills are paid, then the simple act of 'setting and forgetting' (plus the ravages of inflation) have likely eroded what was once a generous gift into what are now the leftovers.

The State Pension alone has risen by over 34% in the past five years. How does the principle of 'set and forget' stack up against that, or against the cost of a couple of takeaways per month, or a couple of restaurant meals? Is what you give, for example, less than you now spend on coffee, subscriptions or online purchases?

It is a matter of record that when Sunday comes around, the church always seems to get the small change, because people have got used to thinking of church giving as a ritual rather than a serious financial commitment.

Don't get me wrong – this is not an attack on anyone. But here's the facts: the church isn't powered by prayer alone. Somebody still has to pay the bills. Faith is of course important and so are our team of dedicated volunteers, but the buildings don't care how sincerely we sing hymns. The boiler doesn't accept prayers as payment. The insurance company doesn't offer a Christian discount. We might not have an old building with higher repair costs, but even with a modern building comes responsibilities that cost money. Heating, insurance, safeguarding, maintenance, staffing and running community activities all costs money.

Now for the awkward comparison. We will happily spend out on specialist coffees, a sandwich or even a delivery charge. Yet when it comes to supporting the institution we claim to value, suddenly our

generosity becomes limited.

Ask yourself this: "if our church disappeared tomorrow, what would our community lose?" I'll tell you. It would lose: a place of worship; a place for funerals, weddings and baptisms; a place where people can sit quietly when life has gone badly wrong; a place where lonely people can meet others; a place where volunteers give their time to help people who need it; a community space for busy and often stressed mums and carers to get some relaxation while children play.

If those things matter, why should our financial support be treated almost as an afterthought? Let's ditch the 'set it and forget it' habit – because habits are dangerous when they survive long after the circumstances that created them have disappeared.

This isn't about guilting those with little cash. It's about challenging the financially comfortable. This distinction matters. The amount isn't the point. Intentional generosity is. Perhaps as a church we have been too polite about money for too long. If we need, say, £100,000 to deliver effective mission, we need to be blunt and say so. Christianity has always been about sacrifice, giving the first fruits, and delivering on our mission objectives – not about giving the leftovers.

If faith really matters, it should have some financial consequences. Generosity is supposed to cost – because if we always give only what we won't notice missing, how generous are we really being?

Some of us may be still giving the same amount because we have carefully considered our circumstances and know that is an affordable amount, but others may be giving the same amount because they've been giving it for years and have never stopped to think about it. Those are very different things.

So, next time you're in church, or Zach's, or the Lighthouse, pause for a moment. Look at the building around you. Look at the people keeping it going. Think about what it costs.

Then ask yourself one brutally simple question: "If I really believe this place matters, is this honestly the most I am prepared to give?"

If the comfortable answer is yes, fair enough.

But if the uncomfortable answer is no, isn't it time to stop 'setting and forgetting' and start giving the church your considered support?

Church Treasurer

JC's Little Nuggets

True Treasure

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field."

Matthew 13 v 44



Have you ever watched the TV series "the detectorists"?

I really like the series - it tells the story of the lives of two eccentric guys who spend their days with metal detectors. They go out in all weathers, plodding along tracks and open fields.

Why do they bother? Because they hope to find hidden wealth, a treasure of such magnitude that it would change their mundane lives forever.

A dream come true.

In the Bible, Jesus told a parable about a man who found hidden treasure in a field. When he found it, recognising its value, he was willing to sell all his possessions to purchase the field.

The parable is teaching us that the Kingdom of God, though its true worth is hidden at present, is of such great value that we should be willing to give up all we have in order to gain it.

No amount of wealth or treasure can compare to the treasure of finding Jesus and asking Him into your life.

Each day, I thank the Lord that without a metal detector, I found Him - the Lord, who came to seek and save.

God bless you all.

JC

An independent family run Funeral Directors since 1929

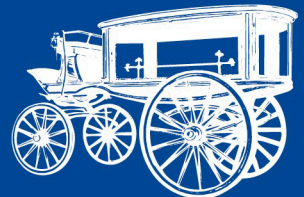


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Triple Lock Changes Explained

The recently announced proposed changes to the State Pension triple lock may have caused some concern for people relying on just the state pension, with some commentators talking about a cut. So here we try to explain what is likely to happen from April 2030.

If you don't already know, the triple lock allows the State Pension to increase each April by whichever is highest of inflation, 2.5% or the average earnings growth. This is intended to protect pensioners from rising prices while allowing them to benefit when wages increase. The State Pension increased by 4.8% in April, reflecting earnings growth.

From April 2030, the Government proposes annual increases of **at least** the higher of inflation or 2.5%. However, instead of earnings growth automatically determining the increase whenever it happened to be the highest of the three figures, there would be a longer-term link to earnings. If the State Pension fell behind the level needed to maintain its value relative to average earnings, an additional increase **could** be made to bring it back into line. The Government says the savings would help fund a proposed National Care Service and more details on that are expected later.

MoneySavingExpert founder Martin Lewis has described the proposal as moving towards a "2.5-times lock" and offered an example of why the change is more complicated than simply saying that pensioners will lose the earnings element.

Suppose inflation were 3%, 4% and 3% over three years, while earnings rose by 2%, 6% and 2%. Under today's triple lock, the pension would rise by 3%, 6% and 3% (12% overall). Under the proposed system, the pension could instead rise by 3%, followed by a catch-up increase of around 5%, and then 3% (11% overall). The difference is therefore smaller than some headlines might suggest.

The important point is that **the State Pension is not being cut**. It will continue to increase, with the proposed system designed to stop pensioners falling behind average earnings over the longer term.

For now, the message is simple: the triple lock remains in place until April 2030; after that, the Government proposes a modified system designed to balance pensioner security with the long-term cost of providing pensions whilst attempting to better fund later life care.

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Get in touch to find out more:

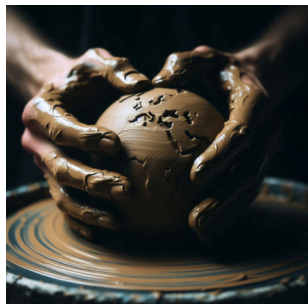
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e: worthing@caremark.co.uk

w: caremark.co.uk/worthing-adur



They Changed the World



Jesse Boot (1850–1931)

Businessman and Campaigner

In Victorian Britain, the cost of healthcare could be a significant burden. Enter Jesse Boot, the Nottingham businessman who transformed his family's small herbalist shop into what became Boots the Chemist.

Aged 13, Jesse left school to help Mary, his mother, run the family business following his father's death. By 1877, he controlled it. He had a simple but revolutionary idea: good healthcare should not be the preserve of those who could afford it.

His answer was the famous “Health for a Shilling” campaign. Jesse bought medicines and other products in large quantities, selling them at prices considerably lower than many competitors. In 1884 he employed Boots' first qualified pharmacist, and the business began developing its own manufacturing and scientific expertise.

What began as a Nottingham herbalist soon became a fast-growing nationwide chain. By the 1930's, there were over 1,000 shops.

Although enjoying commercial success, Jesse and his wife Florence believed that a successful business also had responsibilities towards its employees and its community. Boots developed sports and social facilities, educational opportunities and pioneering welfare schemes for its workforce. Jesse became a major benefactor of Nottingham, donating land and money towards what became the city's university as well as supporting parks, sports grounds and housing. Jesse saw that business could be profitable without forgetting people who had less money.

The Boots of today is vastly different from the little herbalist shop Jesse inherited. Yet the idea behind “Health for a Shilling” helped change the British high street and contributed to a much broader expectation that healthcare, medicines and advice should be accessible to everyone.

Jesse Boot did not simply build a business. He made affordability, accessibility and social responsibility part of its purpose.

CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY
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The Song of Deborah

A day of worship and teaching for women

Speaker
Sean Carter

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026
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Cost: £7.00

Local Contact:
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Offington Park Methodist Church
South Farm Road, Worthing, BN14 7RX



Mental Health in the Bible



Peter

The man with a guilty conscience

"What do you do when you just feel awful? Peter did something we can probably all relate to. After he let Jesus down (big time), he wallowed in self-pity and misery.

If Peter's story had ended there, it would have been just another example of a man so caught up in his shame and guilt that he couldn't see a way out. But that's not the end . . .

Feeling like a total failure, Peter went back to the only place life made sense—his old fishing boat. Peter was sorry he'd let Jesus down, but he hadn't yet turned back to God; he'd hidden in the familiar comfort of his old way of life.

Suddenly, Jesus showed up on the shore, calling out to Peter and the other disciples.

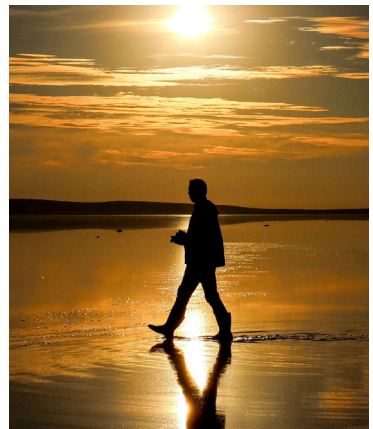
Peter had seen Jesus' love in action; He'd touched lepers and tended to the unloved. But when Jesus showed up just for Peter, perhaps he experienced the enormity of that love like never before. Peter couldn't get to Jesus quickly enough! "He jumped into the water" and swam to shore!

What brought Peter out of his guilt-ridden wallowing?

Realising the unfailing, faithful, infinite love of Jesus wasn't just for others, but for him too.

When you feel lost and ashamed, Peter shows nothing you do changes or limits God's love for you.

Jesus stands by the shore calling you to forgiveness and a renewed relationship.





DEATHS

Janet E
Teresa A



We give thanks for their lives and pray for
their families and friends at this sad time

OFFERTORIES

Month	Cash & Cheques	Standing Orders
August	£526.00	£5,293.33
September	£543.08	£5,733.33

WISDOM FOR A TECHNOLOGICAL WORLD

"We have never had more information at our fingertips;
true wisdom is knowing what to do with it."

4 X 4 CONNECTIONS

Rearrange the words below to form four connected rows of four.

MALCOLM	SCARLET	GEBRSELASSIE	HIGHLIGHT
JEAN BRODIE	EXTENSION	PIGGY	BRAID
BANANA	DREAD	CONGENIALITY	INTERTOTO
MEET	MARPLE	BANG	HAVISHAM

NEXT EDITION

Submission Deadline: 21 November, 2026

Publication Date: 26 November, 2026

Please submit material for the next edition of Spotlight to:

offingtonspotlight@gmail.com

And Finally . . .

A man walked into a builder's yard and asked for 20,000 bricks. The clerk stared at him. "Twenty Thousand?"

"Yes, please" replied the man.

The clerk was intrigued. "What on earth are you building?"

"A barbecue", said the man. The clerk blinked. "A barbecue?" "That's right", the man replied.

The clerk looked at the order again. "You know, sir, most people build a barbecue with just a few dozen bricks?"

The man nodded. "Yes, I know."

"Then why do you need 20,000 bricks?"

The man shrugged and said, "because my flat's on the 18th floor".



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