

# SPOTLIGHT

Offington Park Methodist Church Magazine



**"At the going down of the sun,  
and in the morning,  
we will remember them"**

**November 2025**

## In this issue

|                            |    |                                                  |    |
|----------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| Dawn's Letter              | 3  | Route 66 - Matthew                               | 18 |
| Editorial                  | 4  | The Lighthouse Report                            | 19 |
| November Services          | 5  | EDI Bingo                                        | 20 |
| Mental Health In The Bible | 6  | Bible Heroes: Paul                               | 21 |
| Church Family News         | 8  | They Changed the World                           | 22 |
| SHOUT Christmas Plea       | 9  | Money Matters                                    | 24 |
| Social Justice             | 10 | Great Christian Hymnwriters:<br>Philip Doddridge | 26 |
| JC's Little Nuggets        | 13 | On a Personal Note...                            | 28 |
| CAMEO                      | 17 | The (Side of the) Road Less Travelled            | 30 |

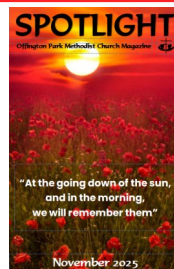
### Cover Picture - Poppies at Sunset

The sun sinks low, the light grows thin,  
and silence settles soft within.  
Across the fields where shadows fall,  
the poppies stand — they've seen it all.

They do not boast, they do not cry,  
just burn their red beneath the sky;  
a living flame, a gentle sign,  
of love laid down beyond the line.

The horizon glows, the colours fade,  
yet peace is born from what they gave.  
And as the evening sky turns gold,  
their story, still, is quietly told.

So when the night begins to climb,  
and memory stirs the heart through time,  
we bow our heads, as the lights grow dim —  
and whisper thanks, remembering them.



**Dear Friends,**

It's good to be back!

Thank you to all those who have covered for me while I have been away, particularly Richard Tanner who took pastoral charge of the church.



From thinking my sabbatical was going to be focusing on my last year with you and what retirement would look like as a single person, things very rapidly changed. This started with a conversation instigated by the Superintendent about whether I would be willing to offer to continue in this appointment until August 2027.

Some practical preparation had already begun towards retirement as Mel looked for and found a new home to live in and so moved out of the manse in July. I was busy reminding myself of the hobbies, interests and friends I might have more time for after August 2026. So lots of prayer and discussion with trusted friends took place.

Having agreed to make an offer to stay, due process needed to be followed and members from different age ranges and positions in the church consulted as to whether they would support this offer. This is never an easy time for a minister and this was no exception: imagine how it might feel if, having offered to stay, the church decided they did not feel this was right.

Retirement is now a little further away and, having had a sabbatical, I now feel re-energised to serve God with you for the next two years. There are exciting times ahead as we look to expand the church's ability to reach out, by appointing both a Pioneer and a Children and Families worker to help explore what a Christian faith community might look like in the future at Offington Park. We are in a fortunate position which we should not take for granted, as many churches face closure.

Our calling is to make disciples, a commission to us all. My prayer is that as we continue to keep Jesus at the centre of all we do, others will come to know and love the Lord.

With every blessing

*Dawn*

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (NIV) **Matthew 28, v18-20***

As the days grow shorter and the crisp air begins to bite, November - the month of remembrance - arrives. On All Saints' Day, we recall the great cloud of witnesses who have run the race of faith before us. This is an opportunity to pause and remember not only the saints of history, but also the "saints next door": those ordinary men and women whose faith, kindness, and service have inspired and shaped us. We remember their example, their faithfulness, and their encouragement to keep pressing on towards the goal.



This is followed by Guy Fawkes' Day (or Bonfire Night) - a tradition rooted in a very different kind of remembrance. It recalls an episode of division and political tension, yet even this fiery celebration can serve as a reminder of how far we have come as a nation, learning (we hope) to resolve our differences through understanding rather than violence.

On Remembrance Sunday, we will gather as a nation to give thanks for those who gave their lives in the cause of freedom and peace. With gratitude we remember their courage and sacrifice, and we pray for all who continue to suffer as a result of conflict.

In the silence and in our worship we echo the words of Jesus:

*"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)*

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)*

So as the fireworks fade and the remembrance poppies bloom, may we take these moments - whether around the bonfire, at the cenotaph, or in prayer - to remember not just history, but hope - the resurrection hope, reconciliation with God, and the light that no darkness can ever overcome.

May this November be for us a time of thankfulness, reflection, and renewed commitment to live as a people of hope - serving others, seeking peace, and trusting always in the steadfast love of God.

**The Eds**

# November SERVICES

## **Sunday 2 November**

8.00am **Holy Communion**

Rev Dawn Carn

10.30am **Café Church**

Rev Dawn Carn

## **Sunday 9 November**

10.30am **Remembrance Sunday**

Rev Dawn Carn

3.30pm **Messy Church**



## **Sunday 16 November**

8.00am **Breakfast Church**

10.30am **Holy Communion**

Rev Dawn Carn

## **Sunday 23 November**

10.30am Rev Richard Tanner

10.30am **Fun Church**

Rev Dawn Carn

## **Sunday 30 November**

10.30am Rev Janet Tanner



## MENTAL HEALTH IN THE BIBLE

This month in our series following the men and women in Scripture who battled with their mental health, we look at



### **Elijah, the suicidal prophet**

***“I’ve had enough.”*** You might have felt something like this during some of your worst moments. The prophet Elijah is remembered as being a mighty man of God. But, the truth is, he was just like you and me. In his lowest, most depressed moment, he’d also had enough. “Take my life,” he said despairingly to God. What did God do in Elijah’s depression? Talk him round? Help him see life a little clearer?

Well, yes, God did do those things. But He couldn’t do them right away; Elijah wasn’t yet ready to receive constructive input. So God started somewhere far simpler.

After letting his prophet sleep, God sent his angel with these down-to-earth words: “Get up and eat.” So Elijah ate. Then he slept again and the angel returned once more to give food.

Food, drink, rest. To say this is the only answer when we feel low or depressed would be way too simplistic (and wrong). But it is an excellent place to start. Our mental health is tied to our physical health. God gets this; it’s how He made us. It’s how He began caring for Elijah.

And once the prophet was more physically restored, he was ready for God’s far deeper revelations and encouragement. When we are spiralling mentally, let’s copy the plan of action God gave Elijah; seeking His presence whilst getting physical rest and refreshment.

CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY  
MINISTRY AMONG WOMEN WORTHING



# THE UNSHAKEABLE KINGDOM OF GOD

A day of worship and teaching for women

FRIDAY 7 NOV 2025

9.15AM - 2.30PM

SPEAKER

*Bekah Legge*

**Cost:£7.00**

**Local Contact:**

*Church Office*

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

# CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



## SINGING AI-AI-YIPPEE-YIPPEE-AI!

What a great concert and tea we had for **Action for Children** last month. So much joyful and fun singing for which huge thanks go to Offbeat (*pink pyjamas!*) This was followed by a super tea, for which huge thanks to all the great bakers. Last but not least, huge thanks to you all for such generous giving. *Donations totalled £680 (plus £140 recoverable by gift aid), raising a total of £820 for the charity. All glory to God.*

**Steve C**

### OFFERTORIES

| Month     | Cash & Cheques | Standing Orders  |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| September | <b>£526.32</b> | <b>£5,688.33</b> |

## Taylor Cleaned

Commercial & Domestic Cleaning  
Car Valeting

Contact David Taylor  
07495 571697

Email: [davidrtaylor0108@gmail.com](mailto:davidrtaylor0108@gmail.com)

Fully Insured

Available in and around the Worthing area



**Help! We need your donations.** We are approaching Christmas when we are making our plans to provide Christmas dinners and food parcels for families in need, plus toys for the children. We plan to create Santa's grotto at our Montague Street shop and breakfast with Santa at our Tarring Road café.

This is in addition to the FREE evening meals and breakfasts given to the homeless and those living in isolation who still need our support and are easily overlooked at this time of year.

Please think about visiting our charity shops, as income from these helps pay for the above, and other activities. Our charity shops are located at:

*219 Tarring Road, near Wall Bros carpets; and*

*147 Montague Street, next to Silverthorne's jewellers*

If you have a donation but cannot get to the shop, let me know via the church office. I can arrange collection.

Please also remember our food bank (you can donate via the box in the church vestibule). We have an ever-increasing demand for items such as baby food, pasta and rice among many other foodstuffs. Please pick up a list of wanted items, or ask me for one. Thank you as ever for your generous support.

**John B**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE - TOWARDS EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.



On 6 March, the humanitarian charity **Care International** hosted a Parliamentary event on why the Government must support feminist-led climate action.

As part of Girlguiding's youth panel, myself and two other Advocates attended this event armed with excitement, curiosity and a stack of badges to give out. The badges proved to be an effective networking strategy and we got to speak to many environmental activists such as Mikaela Loach, who along with other activists, poets, and MP's, delivered speeches empowering the vital roles women play in combatting the climate crisis.

Mikaela Loach is a British climate activist and author of a book called "It's not that Radical." She campaigns for equality around the globe and for a greener future for our planet. She uses her platform to highlight the injustices in the world such as the genocide in Gaza, and provides information about how to become more active as an activist. She recently spoke to the CEO and heads of Shell at their AGM, demanding them to stop polluting the Niger Delta, and she's also spoken at Oxford University on her work as a climate activist.

Often on the front line of the areas affected the most by climate change, it's no wonder that four out of every five people displaced by climate change are women and girls. Called climate refugees, women and girls are included in only 2% of climate emergency polices globally. This leads them to face living conditions that are unsafe and unsanitary.

It's also been proven that a climate panel or action group which has a female member is more likely to be successful in achieving its aims, yet only 34% of delegates at this year's COP summit were female. From these statistics, I hope to convey the message that climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, yet we are the last to be listened to or consulted on the matter, if at all.

Before the event I understood the importance of listening to the voices of women, but I had no idea of the extent to which women are silenced even though they have the expertise required. I came away from the event with new motivation, a lot of new information - and a lot fewer badges!

One such topic I learned about is a trap that we are in danger of falling into. Called environmental fascism, the idea states that over population is a bad thing - and don't get me wrong, I'm not saying it's not. The problem with environmental fascism is the idea that to solve the climate crisis, countries should reduce their populations.

In over-populated countries, this could lead to forced sterilization and mass genocides on behalf of being more environmental. The reality is that although over-population is a problem, it's not the increased number of people that is the issue - it's lifestyles. If people's lifestyles were more environmentally friendly the planet would be fine.

The solution to climate change is to reduce the resources that an individual uses in their lifetime rather than reduce the number of people using the resources. To further back this up the countries that cause the most harm to the climate aren't the countries who have the biggest populations, yet they through environmental fascism, are being blamed.



Environmental fascism is an idea that is commonly held in the west and it's not due to malicious intent; instead it's due to a lack of education around this subject and a normalization of this view.

I've been taught this view in school and you may even hold it yourself without even realizing. It's a view that is incredibly harmful and does nothing to help solve climate change but is already incredibly normalized and accepted in society.

The event itself was extremely eye opening and traveling to Parliament is never something I'll take lightly or for granted. I had a few highlights of the day which included meeting Helen Pankhurst and hearing from MP Jess Philips.

And I enjoyed the food which was a delicious selection of brownies and lemon tart and all vegetarian which I particularly liked. Again, it was a very informative day in Parliament.

**Charlotte C**



You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

*John Bunyan*

# An independent family run Funeral Directors since 1929

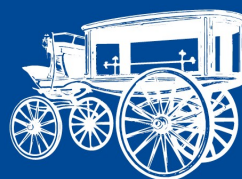


The essence of our family-owned business lies in our dedication to providing compassionate care, support, and guidance to families during their time of need, ensuring that their loved ones are honoured and remembered with the utmost respect and dignity.

Call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

**01903 234516**

**[www.hdtribe.co.uk](http://www.hdtribe.co.uk)**



**Worthing** (01903) 234 516 | **Storrington** (01903) 742 585 | **Littlehampton** (01903) 732 986  
**Rustington** (01903) 787 188 | **Goring-by-Sea** (01903) 249 913 | **Sompting** (01903) 753 232  
**Lancing** (01903) 753 184 | **Shoreham-by-Sea** (01273) 452 169

We invite anyone, grumpy or not, to join us at 10:00am on Tuesday 11 November



## Digital ID Cards – fear or favour?

John C will be leading our meeting

We'll be meeting in the Quiet Room (after coffee and cake in Zach's Café). Do come and join us at this event.

### JC's LITTLE NUGGETS

#### Listen and Follow

(based on John 10, v 1-8 and 27, 28 )



As a young boy, I received a toy farm as a gift, and ever since that time I had loved the idea of being a farmer. So, one holiday, my dad thought it would be a good idea to stay on a farm and see farming in the raw.

Well, that was an eye-opener! I was (apparently) too young to drive the tractor although as it turned out I was old enough to clean up the messy bits – but one job I did love was helping the farmer organise the cows for milking and the sheep for dipping!

I soon realised I wasn't cut out for farming, and instead became an armchair farmer, which consisted mostly of watching "Countryfile" and "All Creatures Great and Small" on the TV.

In one episode in the new series, a farmer was leading the way and calling out instructions to his trusty sheep dog, which was cajoling the animals in the right direction. There was an incident and the sheep dog sprang into action, but got badly hurt protecting the sheep.

We're a bit like sheep sometimes: left to ourselves, we have a tendency to wander and do our own thing. We have many voices in our society, cajoling us to do this or that, but we also have in Jesus the greatest shepherd, who cares for us, and will keep us on the right path if we only listen to his voice and follow his instructions. Thank you, Lord.

God bless you all.

John C

# HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OCTOBER – ANSWERS



## General Knowledge

1. **Eighth month** (from *octo*, meaning eight)
2. **Opal** (also tourmaline)
3. **Libra** and **Scorpio**
4. **All Saints' Day** (Nov. 1)
5. **Autumn**

## History

6. **Communism** (the Bolshevik/Marxist-Leninist system)
7. **1962**
8. **King Harold II**
9. **Black Tuesday**
10. **1492**

## Science & Nature

11. **The Harvest Moon** (sometimes the Hunter's Moon)
12. **Swallow**
13. **Pink ribbon**
14. **The first artificial satellite**
15. **Orionids**

## Literature & Arts

16. **John Keats**
17. **Bram Stoker**
18. **Stephen King**
19. **Spain**
20. **The Great Pumpkin**

## Pop Culture & Holidays

21. **Candy corn**
22. **International Day of Music** (UNESCO's World Music Day is October 1)
23. **Pumpkin**
24. **Columbus Day** (also increasingly observed as **Indigenous Peoples' Day**)
25. **Beer** (especially Bavarian lager)

Worthing **men**cap

# Christmas Fayre

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

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**9:30am - 1pm**

- Stalls
- Tombola
- Raffle
- Games
- Live music
- Refreshments
- Children's soft play

Raising money for your local charity helping  
people with learning disabilities and autism



## WHAT'S ON - NOVEMBER 2025

|            |           |                |                              |                                    |
|------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>8:00am</b>  | <b>Rev Dawn Carn</b>         | <b>Holy Communion</b>              |
|            |           | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>Rev Dawn Carn</b>         | <b>Café Church</b>                 |
| Tue        | 4         | 12:00pm        | Tuesday Lunch & Social Club  |                                    |
| Thu        | 6         | 11:00am        | Bible Fellowship             |                                    |
|            |           | 7:30pm         | Thursday's                   | Social Group                       |
| Fri        | 7         | 9:30am         | CPAS Day                     | See poster                         |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>9</b>  | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>Rev Dawn Carn</b>         | <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>          |
|            |           | <b>3:30pm</b>  | <b>Messy Church Team</b>     | <b>Messy Church</b>                |
| Tue        | 11        | 10:00am        | Grumpy Old Men               | Digital ID Cards - fear or favour? |
|            |           | 12:00pm        | Tuesday Lunch & Social Club  |                                    |
| Thu        | 13        | 11:00am        | Bible Fellowship             |                                    |
|            |           | 1:30pm         | Knit 'n' Natter              |                                    |
| Sat        | 15        | 6:00pm         | Fun Skittles Evening         | @ Black Horse, Findon              |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>Breakfast Church Team</b> | <b>Breakfast Church</b>            |
|            |           | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>Rev Dawn Carn</b>         | <b>Morning Worship</b>             |
| Tue        | 18        | 12:00pm        | Tuesday Lunch & Social Club  |                                    |
| <b>Wed</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>Mid-month Communion</b>   |                                    |
| Thu        | 20        | 11:00am        | Bible Fellowship             |                                    |
| Sat        | 22        | 9:30am         | MENCAP Christmas Fayre       |                                    |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>Rev Richard Tanner</b>    | <b>Morning Worship</b>             |
|            |           | <b>10:30am</b> | <b>Rev Dawn Carn</b>         | <b>Fun Church</b>                  |

## WHAT'S ON - NOVEMBER 2025

|     |    |         |                                |                 |
|-----|----|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tue | 25 | 12:00pm | Tuesday Lunch<br>& Social Club |                 |
| Thu | 27 | 11:00am | Bible Fellowship               |                 |
|     |    | 1:30pm  | Knit 'n' Natter                |                 |
| Sun | 30 | 10:30am | Rev Janet Tanner               | Morning Worship |

### OFFINGTON CAMEO

**Friday 14 November:**

**"South downs Film Makers present..."**

*A return visit from the Ferring-based film group,  
showing us their recent films*

**Friday 28 November:**

**"Christmas Wreath Making"**

*Get creative and learn how to make a wreath  
to decorate your door. A fun activity with lots of help!*

CAMEO

We meet in the Allan Fletcher Hall,  
10:15am for a 10:30am start

*Margaret Hallard*

### GETTING READY FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas is not just a date on the calendar - it is the reminder that heaven bowed low enough to touch earth, and that love came wrapped not in prosperity or perfection, but in swaddling cloths. We should prepare for Christmas the same way the manger was prepared for the Christ child - not with perfection, but with room.

This advent, instead of filling our days until they spill over, let's make space. Space in our diaries to pray; space in our hearts to forgive; space in our homes to show kindness; and space in our lives to welcome Christ once again.

Because Christmas is not about how full our tables are, but how open our hearts are. Let our prayer be: *Lord, make room in me for You.*

**Amen.**

**POCKET  
SERMON**

# A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

## Matthew



**The Old Testament ends, yet the promised hero – the King of God’s kingdom – never appears;** and we’re left a bit confused.

But the New Testament begins with the book of Matthew; and he shows that the One we’ve been waiting for is Jesus!

Matthew uses the Old Testament to prove again and again that Jesus is the long-awaited hero; the King who brings God’s revolutionary kingdom to earth! He wants us to understand that Jesus’ story isn’t ‘new’; it’s the same story God has been telling since the beginning. Jesus’ birth, life, teaching, death and resurrection were all exactly as God had planned for our hero.

Matthew has a colourful cast of characters from all walks of life; but Jesus is at the centre. Everything He does impacts those around Him; healing them, freeing them and at times making them angry! Many reject Him and some believe; but we must each decide for ourselves how we will respond.

The book finishes with Jesus’ final command: “Go tell everyone in the world about Me!” His story is the real story of our world; and we all have a part to play

### OUT OF THE MOUTHS...

Two children were asked, ‘how do you decide who to marry’. Kirsten, age 10, replied, “no person really decides before they grow up who they’re going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you’re stuck with”

Camille, also age 10, was asked ‘what is the best age to get married?’ She replied. “twenty three is the best age because you’ve known the person FOREVER by then.”



## THE LIGHTHOUSE @ OFFINGTON PARK

the lighthouse  
@ Offington Park



SOFT PLAY AND CAFE

If you're reading this in the Lighthouse, then you already know what we're talking about, but if you've just happened across a copy of Spotlight and never stepped inside our soft play venue before, you're in for a treat when you do!

Imagine a world where cushions become mountains, slides are super-fast adventure chutes, and laughter echoes around every corner. That's us - a place where children can *be children* and grown-ups can take a deep breath, relax, and enjoy the moment. The Lighthouse is all about fun, movement, imagination, and safe exploration. Everything is soft, padded, and ready for little hands and feet to climb, bounce, crawl, wiggle, and giggle!

The Lighthouse isn't just a play area, it's a *discovery centre*! Our little visitors climb and build confidence, they crawl and grow strong, they slide and learn to take fun little risks, and they meet new friends and learn how to play together. And the best part? They're having so much fun, they don't even realise they're learning or how clever they're being!

We know it's great for the kids. But what about the parents and carers? We all know the parent shuffle: juggling bags, snacks, naps, naps-that-didn't-happen, and approximately 427 'can I have's' before lunchtime. The Lighthouse is designed for you too, to give you a *break*. Grab a cup of coffee and a slice of cake or a pastry. Watch your child having the *time of their life*. Chat with a friend or another parent. Take a moment to just... breathe. You deserve that. Really.

But there's not just the three-storey frame and spiral slide. We've also got: a safe baby area which we are developing to include more sensory wonders, but which is also suitable for toddlers - it's got big shapes and little challenges.

Whether your little one is just learning to sit or is already flying through obstacle courses like a superhero — there's a space that fits just right.

We *love* welcoming first-timers — no experience required! Of course we love also seeing our regulars. There's no special instructions and no need to worry. Book online - it's easy - then just walk in, pop your shoes off, and let the fun begin - one smile at a time. Many of our families say, "*Why hadn't we heard about you sooner?*"

At half-term, we offer special activities such as dance and drumming lessons, crafts and pottery painting in addition to normal sessions and of course our party Saturdays where you can book an **exclusive** party for your child and their friends. Parties include a soft play session, food and a party host. As a parent, all you need to bring is the cake, party bags and yourself. We'll do the rest! Check us out at [www.lighthousesoftplay.com](http://www.lighthousesoftplay.com). We can't wait to welcome you!

## EDI BINGO SPARKS MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS



Offington Park hosted a vibrant and heartwarming Harvest Event on Sunday 28 September, where up to 80 participants gathered in fellowship together and shared a delicious home-cooked meal. The event also included a unique and interactive activity: the EDI Bingo Game.

Designed to promote conversation around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in a fun and accessible way, the bingo card (which is shown in full below) featured squares such as:

- Spoke to someone from a different generation
- Shared a positive experience with a neighbour
- Learned how to say 'hello' in a new language

The purpose was simple, yet powerful: to encourage interaction and awareness among attendees, fostering a deeper understanding of the diverse experiences and identities within the

|                                                                  |                                                    |                                                                             |                                                       |                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Spoke to someone from a different generation                     | Learned how to say 'hello' in a new language       | Shared a story about your culture or background                             | Found out someone's favourite local tradition         | Gave a compliment to someone you just met           |
| Said hello to someone in the church you had not spoken to before | Talked about a time you felt included              | Learned a new pronoun or gender identity term                               | Shared your favourite inclusive book or film          | Helped or donated to someone in need                |
| Tried food or drink from a different culture                     | Found someone with a different faith or belief     | FREE SPACE – Celebrate Diversity in your group with a song, cheer or dance! | Learned about a local community group                 | Shared a way your community could be more inclusive |
| Found someone who speaks more than one language                  | Talked about a barrier someone faces in daily life | Shared a positive experience with a neighbour                               | Learned about a disability you didn't know much about | Gave thanks to an event volunteer                   |
| Found someone with a different hobby or interest                 | Shared a tradition from your childhood             | Learned about a local cultural celebration                                  | Asked someone about their name's origin               | Shared a way you help others feel welcome           |

church community. Throughout the afternoon, the main hall (and Lighthouse Café) buzzed with laughter, storytelling, and thoughtful exchanges. Participants reflected on how they had already completed many of the bingo actions in recent times - whether through church activities, community outreach, or personal growth.

Some identified things they would endeavour to do in upcoming weeks. We would encourage you to review your personal bingo card and see if you can achieve a row, a column, a diagonal line or, in true bingo fashion, the 'four corners'. Don't forget to shout 'bingo' when you do!

**Tanya**

## BIBLE HEROES

### Paul

*Have you ever felt like giving up? The Apostle Paul would understand. He had a dynamic ministry preaching the gospel far and wide - and yet it was filled with seemingly endless troubles and trials.*

*He was put in prison frequently, flogged severely and exposed to death many times through being beaten, whipped and stoned. He was even shipwrecked three times!*

*He wrote in one of his prison letters: "I have been in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city; in danger in the country; in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have laboured and toiled and have often gone without sleep. I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food. I have been cold and naked".*

*Yet none of this made him lose his faith. We all have opportunities to call it a day; to sit down on life's long, steep climb and say "enough". What keeps us stepping forward when it all feels too much? Open 2 Timothy, Paul's final letter from prison, and he'll explain with his last words why **faith endures to the very end.***



## THEY CHANGED THE WORLD

At Breakfast Church not so long ago, we were presented with a quiz entitled “Ten Christians who changed the world” which gave us a few clues about the person, their initials and years of birth and death.



Some were much easier than others — the first one is easy, and in next month's Spotlight we will be starting a new series highlighting these reformers and telling their story in a little more detail.

See how you get on!

1. Social reformer, statistician and nurse (FN, 1820-1910)
2. Author who used his books to attack oppressive systems (CD, 1812-1870)
3. Doctor and civil rights campaigner. In 1940, he called for an apology after a BBC presenter used the 'n-word' setting a new broadcasting standard (HM, 1882-1947)
4. German composer of 'Messiah' (GFH, 1685-1759)
5. India's greatest architect who saw his profession as an opportunity to represent God's kingdom on earth (CC, 1930-2015)
6. Born into slavery, this anti-slavery campaigner presented a petition to Parliament and was the first woman to do so (MP, 1788-1833)
7. Early social worker and founder of the National Trust (OH, 1838-1912)
8. Scientist who discovered the crystal structure of benzene. She was imprisoned when she refused to register for civic duty in WWII (KL, 1903-1971)
9. Founder of the 'health for a shilling' campaign. Through Methodism, they grounded their business in more than profit chasing, preferring to focus on the people they served (JB, 1850-1931)
10. Born in Benin (modern-day Nigeria), he was kidnapped and sold into slavery. He bought his freedom, was self-taught English and became a pioneer in Britain's abolitionist movement (OE, 1745-1797)



It's a terrible thing, I think, in life, to wait  
until you're ready. *Hugh Laurie*



**TUESDAYS**  
FOR 2 - 4 YEARS



Offington Park Methodist Church, Worthing  
BN14 7TN



9:30AM - 10AM - Ballet and Tap

**BOOK A FREE TRIAL NOW!**



vogueperformingarts@hotmail.com

## MONEY MATTERS

### The “Love-Hate Relationship”



Money is a topic that sits uncomfortably in many Christian circles. It's something everyone needs to live, yet it often feels like something we should treat with suspicion.

Regular churchgoers will hear often about the need to embrace charity, generosity and humility, while the world around them loudly promotes accumulation, success, and self-sufficiency. This tension has created what can be described as a *love-hate relationship* between Christians and money.

At the heart of the matter is a paradox: Christianity does not condemn money itself, yet it repeatedly warns of its dangers. The Bible presents wealth both as a blessing and a potential spiritual trap. How, then, are Christians supposed to navigate something so necessary, yet so risky?

### Money as a Gift and a Resource

Throughout Scripture, wealth is sometimes portrayed as a reward or blessing from God. Abraham, Job, and Solomon were wealthy, and their resources enabled them to serve others, provide for their families, and bless their communities. In this view, money is a tool - something that can be stewarded in a way that honours God and reflects His generosity.

This leads to a core Christian belief: **money is not the problem - our hearts are.** What matters is how money is earned, how it is viewed, and how it is used. Christians are encouraged to work diligently, provide for their households, and give generously. In this sense, money becomes a means of participating in God's work on earth.

### But Money Can Also Be a Master

Yet, the Bible also warns: *“The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.”* (1 Timothy 6:10). This text is often misquoted as ‘money is the root of all evil’ but notice, it does not say *money itself* is evil. The danger lies in **desire** - when wealth becomes an idol or a measure of identity, security, or worth.

Money can subtly reshape the heart. It can do this by promoting pride, independence from God, fear of losing what you have, or envy of what others possess.

Jesus himself said, “*You cannot serve both God and money.*” (Matthew 6:24) The implication is profound: money is not just an object; it is a rival god that competes for our allegiance. And this is where the love-hate tension intensifies. Christians are called to be ‘in the world’ but not ‘of the world’ - participating in economic life without being owned by it.

### **Cultural Pressure**

Modern culture complicates things further. In many societies, success is defined by financial achievement. Even in some Christian contexts, the “prosperity gospel” teaches that God rewards strong faith with material wealth. To many believers, this feels uncomfortably close to treating God as a vending machine.

Others react strongly against this idea, associating wealth with selfishness or corruption. They may feel guilty for earning, saving, or enjoying financial stability - even when these things are brought about in a healthy and responsible manner.

So, what should be our attitude to money? Both extremes - worshipping money and fearing it - miss the biblical balance.

### **Finding a Healthy Relationship with Money**

A Christian perspective on money is built around stewardship, not ownership. What this means in practice is:

- 1. Recognising that everything belongs to God**

We do not possess money - we merely manage it.

- 2. Practicing contentment**

This doesn't mean rejecting ambition, but learning to find peace in other things that are not possessions.

- 3. Giving generously and consistently.**

Generosity is freeing and protects the heart from greed.

- 4. Using money to love people - not the other way around.**

Money is the tool. People are the priority.

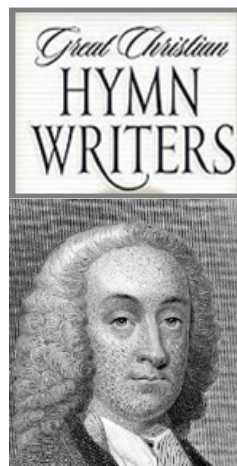
Our ‘love-hate relationship’ with money stems from a recognition of both its value and its danger. Money can alleviate poverty and suffering, and advance good in the world. But it can also distort priorities, fuel pride, and become a substitute for trust in God. As Christians, our challenge is not to reject money, nor to chase it, but to hold it loosely - to use it wisely, gratefully, and generously, while keeping our deepest love and loyalty fixed on God alone.

**Mike P (Treasurer)**

## PHILIP DODDRIDGE

**Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes,  
The Saviour promised long.  
Let every heart prepare a throne  
And every voice a song.**

Philip Doddridge was born in London in June 1702, the youngest of twenty children. Religion ran in the family: Philip's paternal grandfather, John Doddridge was the rector of Shepperton, Middlesex and his mother Elizabeth was a clergyman's daughter.



Before Philip could read, his mother began to teach him the history of the Old and New Testament, but his more formal education was first from a private tutor and later a private school in London. In 1712, he then attended the grammar school at Kingston-upon-Thames where his maternal grandfather had been master.

Philip's mother died in 1711 when he was just eight years old, and he lost his father four years later in 1715. Under a guardian, he moved to a private school at St Albans. But the guardian squandered his inheritance, leaving him destitute in St Albans at the age of 13. Here, Presbyterian minister Samuel Clarke took him on, treating him as a son, guiding his education and encouraging his call to the ministry; they remained lifelong friends. Doddridge preached at the funeral of his older friend in 1750, remarking: "To him under God I owe even myself and all my opportunities of public usefulness in the church."

On 22 December 1730 Doddridge married Mercy Maris at Upton-upon-Severn after a brief seven-month courtship. They had nine children, though only four survived to adulthood.

A year earlier, he had accepted an invitation to be pastor to an independent congregation at Northampton, where he was a popular preacher, delivering practical sermons that aimed to cultivate a spiritual and devotional frame of mind.

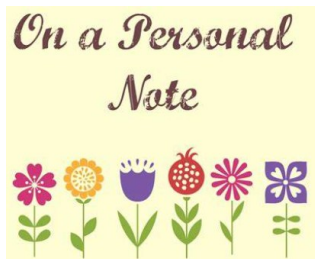
He was known for ending his sermons with newly crafted hymns as a congregational response to the lesson, and in the 1730s and 1740s Doddridge became a prolific author and hymnwriter. He developed close relations with a circle of influential religious thinkers and writers, including Isaac Watts.

**“Hark, the Glad Sound! The Saviour Comes,”** possibly one of his most famous hymns, was written in 1735 and references Christ’s message from Luke 4, verses 18–19, referring to Jesus’ reading of Isaiah 61:1–2 in the synagogue. An advent hymn concerning the birth and mission of Christ, its verses speak of Christ coming to “release the prisoners” and “bind the broken heart.” The hymn functions as advent expectation (waiting for Christ) and as proclamation of redemption (Christ has come), and remains a staple in congregational worship today.

Throughout his life, Philip Doddridge was never truly healthy and the heavy demands of ministry, teaching, writing and travel all took their toll. In 1751, he sailed to Lisbon, hoping that the change of climate may help with healing. It didn’t. Philip Doddridge died of tuberculosis on 26 October in Lisbon and is buried in the British Cemetery by St George’s Church, Lisbon.

Doddridge’s academy evolved into a training centre for ministers of the Congregational and United Reformed Church. The Doddridge United Reformed (formerly Congregational) Church in Doddridge Street, Northampton, which contains a memorial to him, was where he ministered from 1729 to 1751.

After 49 years of worship at Offington Park Methodist Church I have now moved to Oxfordshire to be near our daughter Jane, son-in-law Richard and two little grandchildren.



Peter and I were married at Offington Park Methodist Church on 20 March 1976 by Revd Clifford Johnson and Offington Park has been my place of worship ever since. The very warm welcome that we both experienced at that time has never left me. I was a complete stranger in the area, coming from Australia via London.

I have been privileged to serve the Church in a number of positions and the fellowship and friendship I have experienced I value very much.

Peter died very suddenly on Christmas Day 2023 and it seemed a sensible move to live near Jane, Richard and the children.

I now worship at a 17th Century Parish Church just nearby and from time to time at Wesley Memorial Church in Oxford. Both of these congregations have made me feel very welcome just as Offington Park did all those years ago.

When I arrived at Offington Park the logo at the time was “The Church by the Green where God can be seen.” May this continue to be the case both now and in the future.

With love and Blessings.

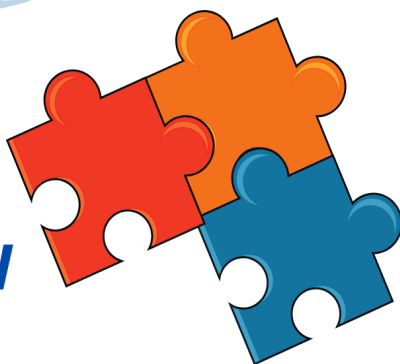
***Susan P***

**Offington Park Methodist Church**



**Coffee and  
Cake  
Morning**

**and  
Jigsaw  
Sale**



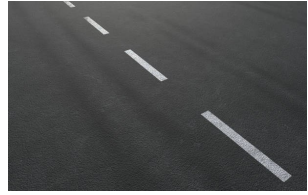
**Saturday 29 November**

**10:00am - 12:00pm**

**in the main church**

## THE (SIDE OF THE) ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

Here in the UK we drive on the left and our cars are right-hand drive. Whilst you can drive a left-hand-drive car in the UK, it's a bit more challenging, your lights will be angled towards oncoming traffic and you'll also be on the wrong side for toll booths and drive-throughs!



The UK is one of 74 territories that drive on the left, with 167 that drive on the right. This means that, of all the roads around the world, 90% of their total distance is the 'wrong way round' to us. There is a definite political dimension to which side of the road a country drives on and of all the current British territories, it's only Gibraltar that falls in line with the other countries in Europe. **Where have these traffic conventions come from? Nobody knows, but here are some likely reasons:**

### **The Romans (what have they ever done for us, eh?)**

The ancient Romans were famed for their straight roads, but which side did they use? In 1998 during an archaeological dig at a Roman quarry near Swindon, the road leading to and from the quarry site was well enough preserved for the archaeologists to clearly see that one side had grooves worn into it. As carts would enter the quarry empty and leave heavily loaded, the grooves were presumably caused by cart traffic leaving the site, meaning that (at this location, at least) the Romans drove on the left. Supporting this is a theory that the left would have been the best side to use for marching Roman troops so that the sword and scabbard, worn on the left-hand side, would not catch against troops marching in the opposite direction. Another is one we've all probably heard, that a left-hand side position would place the right, sword-wielding hand nearer to a potential oncoming adversary. As right-handed people have always been numerically dominant, marching and driving on the left would suit the vast majority of people.

### **Medieval Europe**

It seems that traffic conventions set in place by the Roman Empire continued to be followed by the kingdoms that inherited Western Europe until the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806. This suggests that, at least until the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, most of Europe had left-hand traffic like the UK.

But medieval society was very superstitious. The Church at that time believed that left-handedness was demonic, and left-handed people either had to adopt the right hand or face persecution. Another theory is that the only way to mount a horse wearing a sword on the left would be from the left - so for ease of mounting or dismounting the left side of a road would be used. Yet another theory adds that to approach somebody in peace, you would offer them your right hand to shake, as opposed to approaching them in anger with a sword or dagger in hand. Medieval society was highly violent and nearly everyone would be armed for personal security. It was a mix of inherited Roman custom and social customs of a more violent society.

### **The right-hand revolution**

During the American War of Independence, French revolutionary the Marquis de Lafayette suggested to George Washington that the colonists adopt the right-hand traffic convention and there is a 1792 Pennsylvania statute specifying to keep right.

In Europe, the French revolution sought to overthrow Papal authority by subverting its conventions and edicts, such as that on pilgrims in Rome. There is also a theory that Napoleon changed the side of the road used because he himself was left-handed. However these may have contributed, during the revolutionary conquests the side of the road that was driven on became politicised. As the French armies swept across Europe, they introduced the right-hand law to symbolise freeing countries from their old medieval social and political systems.

Changing the side of the road on which people travelled was a symbolic act, meant to show the power of the new regime over all aspects of society. Those powers that resisted Napoleon's advances – Britain, Portugal, Austria-Hungary and Sweden – all continued to keep to the left.

Napoleon's failure to conquer all of Europe caused a variety of conventions across countries. In Belgium the situation was only addressed in 1899 to bring order to an increasingly busy road system. But in the case of the Dutch colony of Indonesia, driving on the left remains in place even though the Netherlands drives on the right!

### **The Right Wing revolution**

Hitler tried the same as Napoleon in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, changing Austria, the former Czechoslovakia and Hungary to drive on the right. Only one country in continental Europe remained on the left – Sweden. It changed in 1967.

### **The colonial and anti-colonial influence**

Slowly, driving conventions were imposed on colonised people. Britain spread the left-hand rule to many of the territories it colonised. In Japan and China, with British influence, travelling on the left was formalised by governments in the late 1800's. The move towards independence, however, saw post-British Empire nations like Nigeria and Ghana switch to the right.

Following independence, Pakistan considered changing to the right. Their decision not to was all down to camels! At the time the country was dependent on camel trains and camels were trained to walk on the left. Retraining them for right-hand traffic was a task too far. The country reconsidered the move and stayed on the left!

The anti-colonial impetus for changing the road conventions seems to have petered out after the initial flood of newly independent nations asserting their new found freedom and in recent years economic reasons have taken the forefront. In 2009, Samoa – previously a German colony – which drove on the right, changed to driving on the left. This wasn't in order to throw off the reigns of colonial power, however, but in order to benefit from cheaper car imports from Japan and Australia!

## NEXT EDITION

| <i>Copy Deadline</i>           | <i>Publication Date</i>        |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Sunday 23 November 2025</i> | <i>Sunday 30 November 2025</i> |

Please submit material for the next edition  
to the Editors at:  
**[offingtonspotlight@gmail.com](mailto:offingtonspotlight@gmail.com)**

A dog walks into a wireless telegraph office and asks to send a message.

“Sure”, says the Telegraph Operator, “what would you like to say?”

The dog thinks for a moment, then dictates “Woof, woof, woof, woof, woof, woof, woof, woof, woof, woof, woof, woof.”

The Telegraph Operator takes the message and reads it back to the dog, who seems happy with it.

“How much will that be?” asks the dog.

The Telegraph Operator tells him and, as the dog is paying, he says, “you know, we charge per every 10 words, so you could have an extra ‘woof’ for free.”

“But then it wouldn’t make any sense!” says the dog.



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

Tel: 01903 205722

Email: [office@offingtonpark.org.uk](mailto:office@offingtonpark.org.uk)

Web: [www.offingtonpark.org.uk](http://www.offingtonpark.org.uk)

