



LINK

The magazine for Hove Methodist Church

The Downs by Terry Pomfrey

Issue No 153

September 2009

HOVE METHODIST CHURCH

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*Our Mission Statement : " To share the love of God, as revealed by
Christ, through the Holy Spirit."*

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Rev Keith Edwards



Dear Friends,

A young boy was looking through the family album and asked his mother, "Who's this fellow on the beach with you with all the muscles and curly hair?" "That's your father." "Then who's the old bald-headed man who lives with us now?"

I have been looking at some photos of me from 10/15 years ago, and I noticed how much I have grown since then – mostly sideways! Perhaps it's time for a new diet? But let's be honest — we all change as the years pass, and some of the changes are not for the better! Physically speaking, few people in their fifties to sixties have improved physically from what they were like when they were in their twenties or thirties.

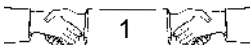
If we are going to grow, we must change. Change is a necessary part of growth, think how you might be now at your current age if you still had the body of a 1 year old! In fact I saw a program on the television which showed a girl who I think was 16 years old but was in the body of a 10 month old baby with a similar mental age – she was trapped in eternal youth! Normally, though, We all grow, we have to in order to survive, and that is just as important for us as a church as it is for us as individuals.

However, perhaps a more important consideration is how we change or grow spiritually. Paul wrote to Christians in Ephesus and he talked about putting off the old person with its sinful actions and attitudes, and putting on the new person, re-created with Christ-like qualities (*Ephesians 4:17-32 NRS*). This kind of growth, this kind of change is not a once-in-a-lifetime activity. Transformation to be more like Christ is an ongoing process, and it's one that leads to growth and it is also one that never stops.

If we are going to grow, we must change. Hopefully as we enter the new Methodist year we can experience growth both personally and corporately as we seek to do God's. And what is the goal of our change and growth?

... so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

Grace and peace to you - **Keith**





An advert in an American diner said;
"We live in uncertain times, order
dessert first".

Swine flu has spread around the
world, we are still in the grip of a
global recession and we are unsure
where either of these will finish up.
Many people are feeling scared and
vulnerable, hoping for the best whilst
preparing for the worst.

There is no way that following Jesus
will make you live one second longer
or even one penny richer, but you may
be able to gain a perspective on life
and peace of mind which is much in
demand today.

Fifty years ago, 26th October 1959: World glimpses far side of the Moon

The Soviet Union has revealed the first
pictures of the far side of the Moon.
The pictures were taken from Lunik 3,
the Soviet satellite launched on 4th
October, and transmitted by radio to the
Earth, 300,000 miles (483,000 km) away.

Forty years ago, 14th October 1969: New 50-pence coin sparks confusion

The seven-sided 50p coin has come into
circulation to replace the 10-shilling note
- but received a mixed reception.
It was the third decimal coin to be
introduced into the British currency which
went totally decimal on 15 February,
1971. The 5p and 10p coins had been
introduced in 1968.
But some shopkeepers, bus conductors
and members of the public complained
that in spite of its distinctive shape it was
too easily confused with the 10-pence
coin or half crown.

Twenty years ago, 25th August 1989: Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft

The unmanned Voyager 2 spacecraft
sent back the first close-up pictures of
Neptune and its satellite planets.
Neptune is over two billion miles from
Earth - the most distant planet in our
solar system.
Voyager 1 meanwhile headed for
interstellar space. Now over thirty years
after the start of their mission, they are
still exploring and sending back data.
Their current mission, the Voyager
Interstellar Mission (VIM) will explore the
very edge of the Sun's domain, and carry
on even beyond that.

Church project 2009 — Martlets

After a successful two years of fundraising for the Aquabox Scheme the charity supported by our church in 2009-10 is much nearer to home. The Martlets Hospice in Wayfield Avenue, Hove, is well known to us all, with many of us aware of the help given by them to family members or friends. The Martlets needs to raise more than £3 million each year to continue its work and, though there are some large fundraising events, smaller community and individual events are equally vital. They are also an indicator of how important the work of the hospice is felt to be and the immediate response from church members has been excellent.



The Martlets
HOSPICE

Already, we have money in the fund and offers of help with events. As coordinator I shall be happy to receive more of both as the year progresses! Some of the events could be ones to which we can easily invite friends or groups which rent our premises, so get your thinking caps on!

The money raised so far comes from a member's gift of unwanted furniture and from donations given at our monthly film evenings this year. What a generous start to the fund.

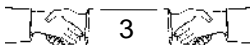
Events this autumn begin on September 19th with a children's sponsored bike ride in Hove Park, organised by Wendy & Andy Crowhurst in conjunction with an Afternoon Tea at 78 The Droveaway. Then in October, Stella & Nick Goddard are holding an Italian Evening at their home. In November there will be a Table Top Sale at the church. This is like a car boot sale but indoors and an individual or group can raise money for themselves or a cause by donating £10 to The Martlets for the use of a table. To come in and buy there is a £1 entry fee, again for The Martlets. Goods are of a reasonable quality but no longer wanted by the seller. For Bob and me this is a good opportunity to de-clutter!

Do join in the fun, here and there.

Sheila Hinton

The Martlets Hospice offers expert and compassionate palliative care. Their aim is to enhance the quality of life and ease the distress of patients suffering from cancer and other serious conditions and for whom curative treatment is no longer appropriate.

The Hospice plays a vital role in helping people to live life as fully as they can right up until the end. Via expert clinical care we ensure that wherever possible peace, respect and calm remain – it's a very simple and very human ethos.



Geoffrey Farrar – a call to the Methodist Ministry

I think most of you already know that Geoffrey Farrar has responded to a call from God to offer himself to the Methodist Church to be trained and in due time ordained as a Methodist Minister. Geoffrey announced this to our Church at a recent Church Council meeting to the great pleasure of all present. Geoffrey has now passed the first major hurdle in the process of “candidating for the ministry” by securing the unanimous and enthusiastic approval of the Circuit Meeting of our Brighton & Hove Circuit. There are many other stages to follow!



Geoffrey began the journey towards these momentous steps over two years ago when Rev Kathleen Allen invited each of us to consider whether God might be calling and equipping us for some work in his service. As a result Geoffrey then offered and was accepted for training as a Local Preacher. As Circuit Tutor for the Local preacher’s training course I have had the privilege of helping Geoffrey through the course and sharing regular fellowship with him. The quality of his work, like the quality of his conduct of worship which you have all experienced and appreciated, has been outstanding and I had no hesitation in giving his application full support at the Circuit meeting on behalf of all of us who know and love him.

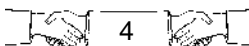
By Christmas he will, all being well, have completed his Local Preacher training and been “accredited” as a Local Preacher at a special service in January. This is a necessary step in the process of entering ministerial training in which we will all be able to share. Through all the stages that lie ahead I know that he will be able to count on the prayerful support of all of us.

Bob Hinton

Heard at Hove

“It is amazing, God chose us ordinary people to do his work”

Rev. Keith Edwards 07/10/2007



Pentecost

For many years the Methodists have met at Ditching Beacon at 8 am to celebrate Pentecost with an open air service.

This year the weather was excellent and there were forty five of us who attended.

The morning broke clear and sunny, and the roads at 7.30 am were almost completely empty. At the Beacon the air was fresh and warm, and a SkyLark sang high in the air.



The service followed its set agenda in a relaxed manner. It was not until the service was over and we were ready to leave, that we noticed all the activity that was occurring around us. There were cyclists, walkers, amateur radio enthusiasts, and runners.

Terry Pomfrey



Heard at Hove

"You can't say I have not got the ability to do...with God we can do it. That's why we call it faith".

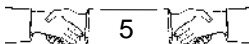
Rev. Keith Edwards. 08/06/2008

"You won't know what God is capable of until you take his hand".

Rev. Keith Edwards. 08/06/2008

"Faith is given to us as a gift through grace; we just have to use it".

Rev. Keith Edwards. 08/06/2008



New Circuit Project

On Saturday 13th June Dorset Gardens had a party. This was to launch the new Circuit Project, twinning us with the New Jukwa Circuit in Ghana. This circuit was, until recently, part of the Cape Coast Circuit and is situated 20 km north-west of the Cape Coast.



The Methodist Church of Ghana was founded in 1835 by a British Minister, Rev. Joseph Danewell. Today it is one of the leading churches in Ghana, with 600,000 members in 15 dioceses. The Superintendent of the Jukwa Circuit is Rev. Kwasi Sarpong, who is the only resident minister in the Circuit. We had the wonderful opportunity of speaking to him on a telephone link-up with Ghana during the afternoon. (I still find it amazing that it is so easy to do this!) We were able to sing to him and pray with him.

It became clear during our conversation with Rev. Sarpong, that our financial and prayerful support for their circuit is greatly needed for church building and supporting outreach activities.

Our Ghanaian friends at Dorset Gardens provided us with an amazing feast of traditional food and each of them wore beautifully colourful traditional dress, along with several members of the Circuit! Their traditional cloth is called kente and is orange, black, red and green, woven into strips. We were also given lots of information about Ghana by Olivia Otoo-Mensah, one of our Ghanaian members.

Now we are planning ways to support the Circuit and the first meeting of the Support Group will be a Faith Lunch on Sunday 6th September at 12.30 pm at Dorset Gardens.

If you would like to be in the Support Group please come along!

Adapted from an article in the Dorset Gardens Methodist Church Magazine

By Beth Whittaker

- *Ghana is named after the medieval Ghana Empire of West Africa. The actual name of the Empire was Wagadugu; Ghana was the title of the kings who ruled the kingdom.*



The world's oldest bible reunited online

(to view go to: www.codexsinaiticus.org)

The virtual reunification of Codex Sinaiticus is the culmination of a four-year collaboration between the British Library, Leipzig University Library, the Monastery of St Catherine (Mount Sinai, Egypt), and the National Library of Russia (St Petersburg), each of which hold different parts of the physical manuscript.



The Codex Sinaiticus bible was written by hand in the mid-fourth century around the time of Constantine the Great. Though it originally contained the whole of the Old and New Testaments and the Apocrypha in Greek, half of the Old Testament has since been lost. The surviving manuscript concludes with two early Christian texts, an epistle ascribed to the Apostle Barnabas and 'The Shepherd' by Hermas. Codex Sinaiticus is named after the Monastery of St Catherine in Sinai, Egypt. St Catherine's is one of the oldest, continuously active, Christian monastic communities in the world and traces its origins back to the fourth century.

By bringing together the digitised pages online, the project will enable scholars worldwide to research in depth the Greek text, which is fully transcribed and cross-referenced, including the transcription of numerous revisions and corrections.

Dr Scot McKendrick, Head of Western Manuscripts at the British Library; - "This 1600 year-old manuscript offers a window into the development of early Christianity and first-hand evidence of how the text of the bible was transmitted from generation to generation."

The Codex Sinaiticus Project was launched in 2005, when a partnership agreement was signed by the four partner organisations that hold extant pages and fragments. The process of deciphering and transcribing the fragile pages of an ancient text containing over 650,000 words has taken nearly four years.

The transcription includes pages of the Codex which were found in a blocked-off room at the Monastery of St Catherine in 1975, some of which were in poor condition. This is the first time that they have been published.

Dr McKendrick added: "The Codex Sinaiticus is also a landmark in the history of the book, as it is arguably the oldest large bound book to have survived. For one volume to contain all the Christian scriptures, book manufacture had to make a great technological leap forward – an advance comparable to the introduction of movable type or the availability of word processing. The Codex was huge in length – originally over 1460 pages – and large in page size, with each page measuring 16 inches tall by 14 inches wide. Critically, it marks the definite triumph of bound codices over scrolls – a key watershed in how the Christian bible was regarded as a sacred text."

Article created from British Library press release

News in brief

Altar-native comedy

A Church is offering a dose of altar-native comedy in a bid to get more bums on seats. Parishioners at the Church of the Good Shepherd Dyke Road were confronted with red noses rather than rosaries as their Sunday was hijacked by a "Holy Fool".

Traditional mass was replaced with balloons, bubbles and a tightrope walk - all intended to further the Christian message. Although ordained Church of England priest Roly Bain admitted he has had people walk out of his unconventional comedy service, he claims getting youngsters rolling in the aisles is crucial to attracting new members to the flock. Mr Bain said: "It's less controversial than it used to be but to make a real difference you have to push people far enough. The other week I had somebody walk out before I started and, if people are like that, you can't do anything. But on Sunday the congregation were really receptive, especially the youngsters, and everybody laughed in the right places, which is always positive."

Father Felix Mascarenhas, the Dyke Road church's priest, said the event was part of the church's Week-long festival to encourage participation. He added: "It was something for younger children and the families in the church. They all seemed to enjoy it. "It's a real gift to bring things down to the level of children and Roly Bain certainly managed it. Some things, such as the tightrope walk, showed true risk taking, which are both important messages in faith. "I don't think I will be copying his preaching style though."

The Christian clown, who lives in Bristol, tours the world with his act. Between administering the conventional service, he includes circus acts as a method of preaching. Mr Bain said: "There are two types of clown the truth teller and the vulnerable lover. I think it is with the latter where clowns and priests are similar. I have always believed that the best clowns are deeply profound and speak of laughter and tears, comedy and tragedy, death and resurrection."

The Leader 25th June 2009

Archbishop Tutu warns Middle East key to world's problems

The Archbishop told a packed group at the Hay Literature Festival, in mid Wales:

"If we don't solve that problem (the conflict in Palestine) you can give up on all other problems."

"You can give up on nuclear disarmament, on ever winning a war against terror. You can give up any hope of our faiths ever working really amicably and in a friendly way together."

"This is the problem and it's in our hands."

Archbishop Tutu said: "I think the West feels a deep, deep shame for what it did or didn't do during the Holocaust and I think that's right. You jolly well ought to feel that shame."

"But then the penance has been paid, not by the West but it's been paid by the Palestinians."

He said that a recent trip to Gaza had brought back memories of his fight against apartheid in South Africa.

"One of the reasons God put South Africa as an example of success was to give the world some tangible notice that there's no situation that is totally intractable, so the world would have to say 'if they can do it in South Africa then they can do it anywhere.'"

Telegraph on -ine 29th May 2009



MAFF - Living Hope



Pilot Laura Westley, (who we featured in the LINK magazine a few years ago), is in Uganda and writes;

'Gulu: was famous as a town that housed night commuters during the civil war. Children would walk from their villages each night to sleep in shelters or the street. The alternative was being abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army, mutilated, murdered, raped and forced to carry a gun and use it as directed. So, it was with great enthusiasm that I flew Marilyn and her team of four up to Gulu for the day. Living Hope Gulu has 50 ladies learning tailoring.'

'The morning was a ladies' service. The singing, all in Acholi, was just fantastic and a joyful outpouring of praise. The ladies danced and danced as brightly coloured tattered rags became the garments of salvation and royal robes of righteousness that Isaiah writes of before my very eyes.

'I met Nancy, shy and quiet, who didn't really look you in the eye. She smiled and hugged Marilyn; Nancy has a new nose. Someone had sponsored a plastic surgery operation that gave her a new nose. Someone else has disciplined her and led her to the Lord.

Nancy is still praying for new lips and new ears because they, too, were hacked off. But there is now an inner healing that has commenced and Nancy is slowly healing from the inside out.'

Please pray for the people in Gulu, and for the work of Living Hope among these women who have suffered so much but yet continue to rejoice.

From: Mission Aviation Fellowship, News for Prayer July 2009

Proverbs worth knowing

Get your facts first then you can distort them as much as you like

Mark Twain

You can make more friends in two months by being interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you

Dale Carnegie

Everything is data, but data isn't everything.

Pauline Bart

Sometimes we have to lose our minds in order to become ourselves

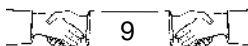
Frederick Paris

There are two kinds of statistic; the kind you look up and the kind that you make up.

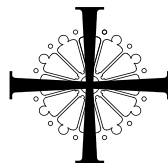
Rex Stout

Evil happens when good people do nothing

Quoted from songs of praise – 12/07/2009



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



Since the last issue of Link we have the following to report.

Called to Glory :

It is with sadness that we report the death of one of our Church members **Elsie Scullion** aged 91. We extend our love and sympathy to her family and friends.

Thank you :

To all who donated to **Action for Children** through the collection box scheme. This years total is £234.09, a slight increase on last year.

To **Joyce Hole**, who does so much in various ways in supporting **Action for Children**.

To all who supported **Christian Aid week**, including those who helped with the collection, raising £236.76.

Congratulations :

To **Peter** and **Babs Beal** who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 23rd of July.

To **Paul Richards** and the rest of Heavy Load, who played at this years Glastonbury Festival. (See article on page 14).

A special thank you, to everyone who runs Sunday Club and Junior Youth Club. You all work so hard and tirelessly. Both the children and parents are very grateful for all that you do and the sacrifice of your time and energy. It makes a huge difference to have these clubs running; both for our children and for the wider community who might otherwise not come through the door of the church. God bless you.

Lucy and Elin

General church news

Men's Club

The Men's Club will start again on Friday 4th September at 7.30 pm with evenings of Billiards, Snooker, Darts and Table Tennis. These are social evenings with refreshments and we hope that new members will be able to join us. We look forward to seeing you

If you have any questions please contact David Sawyer on 736934 or Alan Saunders on 881278.

Monday Guild

Monday Guild which includes; Friendship, talks, hymns, prayers, with tea and cake for people of all ages meets Mondays at 2.30pm. Will start again on the 14th September

Wive's Club

Which meets fortnightly on Tuesday, at 8pm. Includes; Speakers, demonstrations, chat and friendship. Will start again on the 8th of September

Junior Youth Club

Our Christian based youth club for 5 – 11 year olds. This has a varied programme of; games, crafts, swimming, outings, art, music.

Every Monday 6.15pm - 7.15pm. Will start again 14th September.

Sunday Club

For children as part of our Sunday Morning Worship. Will also start again in September.

Stewards report

This year Harvest Sunday will be celebrated on September 27th.

We will be having a 'Bring and Share' lunch after the service to which everyone is invited.

If you have looked at the plan for the next quarter you will notice that evening services at Hove will be by local arrangement. Attendances on Sunday evenings have dropped considerably over the past five years and the evening congregation usually consists of those required to be there - the preacher, the steward and the musician- and a few others.

The needs of our fellowship are ever changing - and for many Sunday evening is for homework finishing - get ready for school/work/Monday morning.

Despite praise services, shared services, healing services; communion services, the numbers attending (or not attending!) would suggest that there is no need for our current evening service. Bearing in mind the difficulties of resourcing a service with a preacher a steward and a musician we have decided that for this quarter Sunday Evening worship will be by local arrangement. Alternatively there are services at Patcham every Sunday evening to which all are very welcome.

Evening Services will be discussed at the next Worship consultation (date to be arranged).

Please do not hesitate to speak to one of the Stewards if you would like to discuss this further.

The Stewards

Big Lunch... Big Success

By Kenton Hadley, Argus community correspondent 20th July 2009 reproduced from the Argus website.

With the street closed to traffic and the weather forecast looking decidedly iffy, the residents of Goldstone Road came out of their houses yesterday lunch-time, with enough food to feed a small army, to spend their Sunday afternoons together.

It was a scene not often witnessed along British streets, unless there is a Jubilee or some other similar occasion to celebrate, but as part of "The Big Lunch", people across the nation decided they did not need a reason to share some good food in great company. Just wanting to do it was enough.

Bunting was hung between streetlights, balloons appeared tied to railings and children used chalk to draw hop-scotch onto the tarmac, something that would not have been possible along Goldstone Road on any normal day.

Neighbours swapped stories of how long they had lived in the road, what they did for a living, their thoughts about life in general and even their hopes for the future. It's amazing the conversations that can be had when a group of individuals, some having only just met, get chatting over some homemade, hot from the oven fruit crumble. Having the same postcode in common certainly got the conversation going pretty quickly and there was never a lack of something to talk about. There was even a live band, the Prestonville Pirates, that had formed especially for the day. It was definitely a first to see a drum kit being brought out onto the street!

Goldstone Road's Anna Walsh decided to start organising the day after she saw a television advert for "The Big Lunch" which was to be a national event. "I saw the Big Lunch promotional stuff and was completely taken in by their pictures of people doing what we're doing today and it was just something I really wanted to happen. I've enjoyed myself and not having the cars going by is such an amazing thing. My favourite bit was listening to the band, sitting on my beanbag. I was in street party heaven!"

In the beginning Anna knocked on some doors to gauge support and get some much needed assistance, which included Sharon Willard who said: "I think it has gone absolutely brilliantly, it would have been wonderful if the weather had been beautiful from the start. We're definitely going to have one next year!" Although the weather was something of a challenge, it did little to dampen spirits and with some true British determination, people just got on with the business of having a good time.

Continued from page 12

It was just a case of being quick to make a grab for your food as the wind occasionally attempted to send it, and everything not tied down, flying down the road.

One thing that really stood out was the amount of children, some only tiny tots, that live along Goldstone Road and Anna Copley said how much she enjoyed meeting the street's youngest residents: "It's really great to see so many kids. We didn't realise we had so many children in this street. It's like a maternity ward with so many little babies. I hope we do it again next year it was great!" Julie Farrell added: "I knew a few of the neighbours, but have met lots of nice new neighbours and even found someone to give me cello lessons!"

When asked why some people were not naturally more sociable with their neighbours, Chris Walsh put it down to the lack of front gardens and that "it's a bit of a challenge to spend time outside your house and also the road is very full of cars, therefore it is quite a busy place and you don't want the kids to hang around long, so you don't dwell outside your house."

Chris also said how he feels he now knows twice as many people and that "now I'll know people to say hello to I didn't know before and stop and chat to pass the time of day."

So there you have it, an afternoon that was so much more than sociable chat in a convivial atmosphere. As fantastic as that was, it has also helped lay the foundation for a greater sense of community which can now be built upon.



View from the pew ... Happy New Year

This edition coincides with another Methodist New Year so it would be very nice to be able to write a message of thanksgiving for success and expectation, I have no idea what others are thinking or what they are feeling but for my part I find it well nigh impossible considering the state of Christianity at present prevailing in this country at the present time. To give you some idea of what I mean here is a list of items which have appeared in my paper over the past three months.

Professor Dawkins of Oxford has been running summer schools for young people to be taught atheism while the BBC has appointed a Muslim as head of religious broadcasting and is now saying that Thought for the day does not have to be religious.

The Dean of Westminster in an abbey sermon said he was now often noticing that professed Christians are becoming less ready to proclaim their faith for fear of causing offence meanwhile in further proposed tinkering with the House of Lords the Government is questioning the retention of the Anglican bishops.

A lady Anglican Sunday school teacher wishing to exhibit a poster in her local library advertising a fun day with craft for children of all faiths has been turned down, This was in Brighton.

Finally Christopher Howse, a committed Christian and a deputy editor of the Telegraph writes a piece in which he asks how long will it be before the Muslim faith overtakes Christianity in this country.

How long before the enclaves in the north reach Hove ? How long before the Imam is calling the faithful to prayer down Portland road ?

Is it all a waste of time, are we all barking up the wrong tree ? Granted none of the foregoing compares to the persecution of Christians over the centuries but even so there does seem to be an orchestrated campaign by various agencies to undermine our faith. What is the point of making plans for your church, you might as well sell the place to a developer to build flats. Where is the hand of God, where is Jesus and the Holy Spirit ?

I find great comfort in St John, Chapter 16 where Jesus tells of the woman in agony of child birth then the joy of the new baby. He then tells the disciples that He is going away but will return and they will see Him again. So too with us having a difficult time, a time of frustration if not outright loss. We have the same promise, in His own way God will show His hand, we shall see Jesus.
A happy New Year, keep the faith.

Malcolm McSorley.

Hello Glastonbury

To be able to say the headline to this article is any band's dream – and my band, Heavy Load, got to achieve that dream this year. We weren't on the Pyramid stage but that didn't matter – we'd still made it to Glastonbury.

We've had quite an eventful year already. Any one of these could have been considered a highlight – having a movie about us shown at cinemas around the country, and all over the world, and being screened on the BBC. We've had articles in the Guardian, New York Times, LA Times, appeared on local and national news, played New York as well as touring all over the country. We've become spokesmen on disability rights and access issues, been interviewed on Radio 4, Radio 6, and overseas radio stations. We've even been asked to speak to members of the Welsh Assembly. But if you're in a band what you really want to do is be able to get up on stage and say "Hello Glastonbury!"

It's very difficult to describe what the festival is like – it was my first time of going and the pictures on telly really can't convey the sheer scale of the place – and soon you realise that it's about so much more than the music. There were a few bands that I didn't want to miss but the real fun is wandering round and chancing on wonderful and unexpected things. The other thing that you notice is the atmosphere – there's are 177,000 people but no hostility, it's good natured, people are friendly, you end up spending an evening with complete strangers – in fact I found it strangely relaxing in a totally exhausting kind of way.

We weren't spared another of the traditional Glastonbury elements either, rain. Day 2 was a quagmire but by Day 3, the day of our gig, everything had dried out. We were on the same stage Lady Ga Ga had played the day before – but that's the nearest we came to meeting anybody famous. (At least we hung out in the same backstage caravan that she would have!)

We'd been invited to headline a stage called Club Da Da which was showcasing musicians with a variety of disabilities. This was a first for the festival and they are making big efforts to involve more acts from the disabled arts scene, as well as make the festival more accessible to disabled music fans. We were in the new position of being the main act at Club Da Da (not something we're used to) and our set was a typically fast and ferocious assault on our current favourites and we were relieved to see a good crowd had turned up for us. There were even people wearing our shirts – true hardcore fans! There was carnage once we'd released hundreds of Heavy Load beach balls in to the crowd too (a tried and tested festival stunt of ours which always turns a load of grownups into a load of kids).

It's a funny thing being in a band, the hours of preparation, shifting the gear, setting everything up and hanging around for hours, all for 25 minutes of mayhem – but that's what we enjoy.

The gig was fantastic – we had the time of our lives and the only down side was nearly getting busted for 'illegally' selling t-shirts without a permit – we talked our way out of that one.

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That night we headed off to the main stages where the guys got recognised “hey, aren't you the drummer from that film?” - that happened a few times and made the weekend for us.

If you don't like camping, smelly toilets, a bit of squalor, walking, rain, cider, vegan curries or loud music then I wouldn't recommend this as a weekend away for you. But if you can put up with some of those things, it really is like nothing else.

Our crazy year hasn't stopped there either. We've just been asked to write a theme tune for a six-part Channel 4 drama series which goes out in the autumn and last week we did a gig in Camden with superstar DJ, Tim Westwood. We've also recently been featured on CNN and The Scotsman have just rung me up for an interview about our campaign for disability rights – Stay Up Late. (We were even mentioned in the Sunday Times Style magazine last week).

I'm thinking that you're now thinking that he's starting to make this all up now, but it's all true! Since having the film released we're getting inundated with requests to play here there and everywhere, give interviews or speak at conferences up and down the country and overseas.

What is wonderful is that we're seeing real evidence of ways in which this country (including the media) is starting to listen to people with learning disabilities and take them seriously – realising that they have an equal right as citizens and to make their needs heard. I think there's a challenge there for us as a church in that. What can we do to make sure we're behaving in a way that includes people from all parts of our society and local community? That well known Methodist farmer, and visionary, Michael Eavis, who also happens to run the Glastonbury Festival, has got some good ideas for a start...

Paul Richards



Heavy Load
On stage at
Glastonbury

Photo by permission - Morgan White

A night in Wilderness Wood

I went to Wilderness Wood with Paul (my Dad), Wesley (my brother), Matthew, Christopher, Natasha, Becky, Jasmine, Lauren and their Dads (John, Andy and Mark)



When we arrived we were given a spade and some wheelbarrows. We loaded our tents, firewood, food and our clothes into the wheelbarrows.

We found a small shack made of wood, it was deep in the forest and we camped around it and in it.

With the spade we dug a hole where we could poo and wee. I was pleased to be the first to christen it!

When we started to get hungry we put our food over the fire and began to eat it. We also put Jelly Babies over the fire and watched them explode.

After that we explored the wood in the pitch black. It was very scary. We heard owls, saw loads of glowworms, a field mouse and a toad.

Finally, We went to bed for a good nights sleep.

I was woken by a screeching bird of some sort. Breakfast was cooked on the BBQ again, we had bacon butties, sausages and croissants heated over the flames.

We packed up and headed home for a hot bath. It had been a lot of fun and I got very muddy.

Archie

Behind the Hymn

We plough the fields and scatter

Matthias Claudius, born, August 15th 1740, died, January 21st 1815. He was a German poet, otherwise known by the nom de plume of Asmus.

Claudius was born at Reinfeld, near Lübeck, and studied at Jena. He trained in the theology but became a journalist and civil servant. He spent the greater part of his life in the little town of Wandsbeck, near Hamburg, where he earned his first literary reputation by editing from 1771 to 1775, a newspaper called the *Wandsbecker Bote* (Wandsbeck Messenger), in which he published a large number of prose essays and poems. They were written in pure and simple German, and appealed to the popular taste; in many there was a vein of extravagant humour or even burlesque, while others were full of quiet meditation and solemn sentiment. In his later days, perhaps through the influence of Klopstock, with whom he had formed an intimate acquaintance, Claudius became strongly pietistic, and the graver side of his nature showed itself. In 1814 he moved to Hamburg, to the house of his son-in-law, the publisher Friedrich Christoph Perthes, where he died on January 21st, 1815.

Claudius's poem *Death and the Maiden* was used by composer Franz Schubert in 1817 for one of his most celebrated songs, which in turn became the basis for the 1824 string quartet of the same name.

"We plough the fields and scatter"

In 1783 was published as a short sketch of a harvest thanksgiving in a German farmhouse at which a song is sung. Verses of this were taken to make a hymn and set to the present tune in a publication of 1800.

Jane Montgomery Campbell (1817-1878), translated the hymn some fifty years later and it has, since its inclusion in the *Hymns Ancient and Modern Supplement* of 1869, been a necessary part of any Harvest Festival. Though seeming light and unpretentious, the words are thoroughly biblical.

The tune's composer, Johann Abraham Peter Schulz (1747-1800), rose from humble beginnings in Germany to be the Master of the Chapel to the King of Denmark. It has a wide range, but when a congregation's imagination is captured, as with this hymn, no obstacle seems too great.

Text gathered from internet sources

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

Here are some of the regular activities occurring at Hove Methodist Church:

Monday:

- 2.30pm Monday Guild
Fellowship and friendship. Contact Kathlyn Taylor through the Church Office for details.
- 6.15pm Junior Youth Club (ages 5-11)
Children's activities. Contact Terry Pomfrey or Maggie Symes through the Church Office for details.

Tuesday:

- 8.00pm Wive's Club - fortnightly Speakers and demonstrations, chat and friendship

Thursday:

- 10.00am Holy Communion
- 10.30am Coffee and Chat at the Church

Friday:

- 2.00pm Polka Tots (ages 0-5)
Parent and Toddlers' Group
- 7.30-10.30pm Men's Social Club.

Saturday:

- 08:30-11am Community breakfast is normally on the last Saturday of every month. Full English breakfast/newspapers/free refills.

Sunday:

- 10.30am Morning service
For details of special and evening services, see the weekly Newsnotes

*Up-to-date information about other activities is detailed in the Sunday **NEWSNOTES** and the names and telephone numbers of people to contact can be found in the "Guide to Church Activities" leaflet available at church*

Final thought... Strange when you think about it

It is strange to think that although 'man' has been to the moon and through space exploration understands the makeup of most of the planets in our solar system, we still know little about the life in our oceans.

Man continues to poison lakes and rivers and dumps ship loads of rubbish and waste into the sea whilst expecting to extract increasing quantities of fish and sea food.

We are slowly destroying the rainforests along with thousands of species that we will never know about. Ironically it is in these forests that we might find drugs that may cure many illnesses and diseases that blight our lives.

Perhaps more bizarre is that whilst the 'Developed' world struggles with ever rising levels of obesity, more than half the world is undernourished and millions are starving.

Climate change is already with us, but governments argue about what they should do about it. Sadly it will be the poorest people and the poorest countries that will be the hardest hit.

The list of imbalances and injustices goes on and on.

September is traditionally our time of harvest, we think of the abundance the land has to offer through good stewardship, but we are also stewards of the whole world a gift entrusted to us by God to pass on, enriched, to our children, rather than drained of all it has.

Terry Pomfrey

COMING UP *Some key events in the next three months*

September

Sundays

6th	10.30 am	Rev. Keith Edwards - Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	United Service at Dorset Gardens
13th	10.30 am	Preacher Mrs Beulah Fletcher
	6.30 pm	Rev. John Pritchard - Holy Communion
20th	8.00 am	Rev. Keith Edwards - Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Preacher Mr Ken Smith
27th	10.30 am	Rev. Keith Edwards - Harvest Festival - Worship Together <i>(followed by bring and share lunch)</i>
19th	Saturday	Church project events - Sponsored bike ride and Afternoon tea
26th	Saturday	Community Breakfast

October

Sundays

4th	10.30 am	Rev. Keith Edwards - Holy Communion
11th	10.30 am	Rev. Keith Edwards
18th	8.00 am	Rev. Keith Edwards - Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Rev. Keith Edwards - Worship Together
25th	10.30 am	Rev. John Tudor
31st	Saturday	Community Breakfast

November

Sundays

1st	10.30 am	Rev. Heather Leake Date - All Saints day - Holy Communion
8th	10.30 pm	Preacher Mr Ian George - Remembrance Sunday
16th	8.00 am	Rev. Keith Edwards - Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Preacher Mr Geoff Harrington
22nd	10.30 am	Rev. Keith Edwards
29th	10.30 pm	Preacher Mrs Cynthia Tudor
28th	Saturday	Community Breakfast

Please note other Church project events;

Italian evening in October and Table top sale in November - see the weekly NEWSNOTES for further details.

The next edition of Link will be the first week in December 2009.

Please contact the editor or church office with articles and events that you wish to be included. All dates were correct when going to print but are shown only as a guide to church activities and may be subject to change.

Please refer to the weekly NEWSNOTES for up-to-date information.



News in brief

Large Hadron Collider to start again,

The Large Hadron Collider is to be run flat out throughout the year in order to make up for lost time and to beat an American rival to finding the elusive Higgs Boson – known as the "God Particle".

The £4bn particle accelerator, which broke down last year, was to be turned off in winter to reduce energy demands during peak electricity prices. But the delays and the news that a smaller less powerful accelerator at Fermilab in Illinois is closing in on the particle has meant it will continue running throughout the year – at an extra cost of £13 million. Dr Lyn Evans, the Welsh scientist who heads the project, said: "It would have been terrible if we'd got everything working and then had to shut it down straight away.

"So we've decided to bite the bullet and keep it going. That means that if the schedule slips by a week or two, it's not so bad. Up until this year that was inconceivable." Built by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), the collider lies beneath the French-Swiss border, near the institution's headquarters in Geneva, at depths ranging from 170ft to 600ft.

Telegraph on line 09/06/2009

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