

Prayer point from Sunday

- For care and support workers in homes and in the community.

Home front

- ✚ Happy Birthday to Liz Swann, Pam Honeywood and Pam Lupi who celebrate their birthdays this week – many happy returns!
- ✚ Happy Birthday also to the lovely Karen who is a pillar of Lunch Club and with Jacqui phones round the regulars
- ✚ Lai and her family are keeping well and safe during lockdown. She sends her love to all the church family.
- ✚ Pam Lupi is also keeping well, though she has not yet managed to sell her flat. She's looking forward to coming in and helping when we're back in the building.
- ✚ Barry popped into the office on an errand for Deeptima – he's had enough of the lockdown, and is going to the Ash Wednesday service at St Barnabas with Rose

F&F Lunchclub update

In honour of Valentines Day this week Suzanna Hill (Rachel's sister-in-law) with Lydia her daughter made little heart cupcakes which were individually boxed in the Upper Hall by James and Lily who joined the F&F crew this Tuesday. The cakes went out as a little extra with the lunches (this week a beef bourguignon or bean stew with braised red cabbage and celeriac potato mash).



If you, or anyone you know, could really benefit from having a hot meal delivered (with love) on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week, please contact Caroline or Rachel. **Rachel Richards**



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Minister: Rev Andy Lowe

Sunday 21 Feb

First Sunday in Lent 10.30 service online

with Rev Deborah, Rev Dan and Dr Deeptima Massey

11.30 Coffee morning on Zoom – ask Rev Andy or Rev Dan to send you a link for this to meet up for a chat after the service

And as lockdown grinds on through Lent we practice endurance and fortitude, remembering to share God's love as we can with our companions on the journey, and looking forward to a time when we can worship and celebrate together once more.

Previous services also available on Youtube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCm05631kHuZgUbYm2xVwUQ>



Prayer

Come, source of eternal Light. Come, giver of eternal Life. Fill our hearts with your love, fill our mouths with our praise and fill our lives with your presence; now and for ever.

Amen

Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022)

Hove Methodist Church Mission

To share the love of God, as revealed by Christ, through the Holy Spirit

Church services 22 – 28 Feb

Covid lockdown continues

25th Thursday Lent talk online with Rev Deborah Cornish

28th Second Sunday in Lent 10.30 service

with Rev Andy, Rev Deborah and Mrs Mary-Anne Key

6.30pm Prayer & Meditation with Rev Dan



Lent

Lent has now begun. The online Lent talks continue every Thursday at 2pm using Zoom Please contact Deborah Cornish on 01273 501279, email deborah.cornish@methodistsoutheast.org if you are interested in attending these, so she can get the material and sign in details to you.

Andy Lowe

Church future

At the church council Jonathan our Treasurer presented a bleak picture of the last financial year. We had double our usual annual deficit; not a pretty picture, and one that won't improve much in the current financial year so far. However, three Brighton & Hove community groups have joined to offer an alternative picture. They propose pitching their tents here and joining with us to create a community base in Hove. Two of the groups are already known to us; Stay Up Late, the charity headed by Paul Richards will rent the Fellowship Room as an office and HQ; Brighton & Hove Table Tennis Club opened sessions here during the summer, then had to close due to Covid. They will use the Upper Hall and Church spaces, working around other renters. The third group, Nam Yang Community Association Martial Arts Club is not so familiar, though one of their instructors already teaches a martial arts class for women here. They are planning to move into the Lower Hall although other groups will still be able to use it. All three groups have been recognised for their work with community organisations, in schools and prisons. All three groups envisage following in the footsteps of Food & Friendship, co-operating with the church and each other to create an inclusive, diverse community base here. We would benefit from their energy and input, and financially we would be around £20,000 a year better off. More information to come over the next few weeks.

Andy Lowe

Racial Justice Sunday

As Andy mentioned in his reflection, last Sunday was Racial Justice Sunday (RJS), which had its 25th anniversary in 2020. That anniversary coincided with the tragic killing of African American George Floyd, and the re-emergence of Black Lives Matter



movement protests on both sides of the Atlantic. This, together with the disproportionate impact of Covid 19 on minority groups led to much discussion in churches, with most denominations in Britain and Ireland recognising the need for reflection, discussion and change. Churches Together in Britain & Ireland write that 'this was a moment for Christians to be bold and prophetic – for us to look to Christian scriptures which speak of a God who loves justice, and a Saviour who was "sent....to set the oppressed free"...All journeys begin with steps, and for us, those steps involve the "Three 'R's' of Remembering, Reflecting and Responding:

- **Remembering** the importance of racial justice
- **Reflecting** on human diversity and thanking God for it
- **Responding** by working to end injustice, racism and ignorance through prayer and action.

They are known as the "Three 'R's'" because education in its broadest sense plays such a key role in racial justice. To celebrate RJS 2021 they are publishing their entire Racial Justice archive here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/rjs-2021-resources/>. The URC put together a leaflet for RJS last year, it's circulating with this Newsnotes. **Elin Star**

World Day of Prayer 5 March

Deborah Cornish is holding a service online for those with access, meanwhile the Hove group of churches have decided that the Hove group service will be postponed and will take place in June or September. The time on March 5 will be spent in prayer and phone contact with other MWIB members. Offertory cheques may be sent to World Day of Prayer, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells TN12RR I have the booklets if anyone would like one. **Rose Bateman**