Focus

Autumn 2023



Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit

Deborah's Letter

August 2017, John and I travelled from Ledbury to Brighton full of excitement at the thought of new places to explore, new people to meet, and for me the challenges that ministry in a different context brings.

John was able to continue working for Waitrose, so there was a sense of continuity. For me there was anticipation of what this new appointment would bring, with its mix of District and Circuit work. None of it has disappointed, which is not to say that it has always been easy. At times it has been frustrating, exhausting, challenging, but always fulfilling as we have tried to live out God's call on both our lives.

So here are a few highlights from the past six years, in no particular order:

Circuit worship at Longhill School, when a group of us made bread, some to take home and a loaf for communion.

Gatherings in the manse, for all sorts of reasons: cream teas, business meetings, suppers, BBQs – most of which involved food of some sort.

Baptisms at Woodingdean and Dorset Gardens, of infants and adults, in particular baby Kevin on Christmas Day.

Christmas Tree festivals, with the male voice choir raising the roof with their singing.

Weddings too have been a feature, one in particular stands out; it even had a mention with photographs in the Argus. As the threat of Covid restrictions and the closure of churches loomed large, the long-planned for wedding of Emma and Colin was brought forward at a moment's notice. The joy on their faces will stay with me, the simplicity of a pared back event.

More recently, was the Circuit Together worship at DG, when we celebrated the Circuit of Sanctuary awards. The result of much hard work by a committed and passionate group of people, and kick-starting the work across the circuit to engage in whatever ways are possible with those seeking safety and a refuge from some awful situations.

All Age Worship with the 14th Scout Group: never knowing quite who might turn up, or what might happen. Also visiting Parkwood campsite to meet up with Scouts, Cubs and more recently Beavers, and enjoy the hospitality of the Scouts when they served an amazing meal.

The privilege of being invited into both Rudyard Kipling and Carlton Hill primary schools to lead their assemblies. The connections made there that spill over into Holiday Club. Holiday clubs too have been amazing, organised by Liz, and supported by friends from DG and beyond. These continued through the Covid lockdowns, with John filming a clip for a harvest club whilst we were in the New Forest; and Liz and Rosemary filming 'how to ...' video clips.

Talking of Covid, that has been an experience that brought its challenges, but also its benefits. Worshipping together online, meant that we got to know people from across the Circuit, faces became familiar, as we gathered together on screen from the comfort of our own homes. I was talking to a person this week, in preparation for her mum's funeral, and she explained she felt she knew me because she used to visit her mum and they would watch the recording of the service together. Videos were recorded, mostly by Elisabeth Brooks, but also one with John and Terry in the manse garden, with their puppets perched on garden waste bins. Then there was the logistics of delivering birthday cake for Pentecost (made by a great team at Hove) and mince pies at Christmas to as many of our online worshippers as we could, and the amazement of folk that the ministry team had made this possible. Later, as restrictions lifted and we were able to meet outside, sharing communion with a small group of people in the garden of Jean and Dick Morley.

All of these things have been great experiences, but best of all has been getting to know you, the people in our churches, working with those of you who have leadership roles, and getting along side those who use our church premises. I've appreciated the commitment of so many of you to ensuring that the mission of the church is lived out, with God's call to love being central to all that we do.

Itinerant ministers get used to Welcomes and Goodbyes, but the Goodbyes don't get any easier with experience. This is particularly true when people welcome you in to their lives as so many of you have done; and many of you we would count as friends. So as we leave the Brighton and Hove Circuit, we want to say 'thank you' to everyone who has made our time here something to be treasured and joyfully remembered. We will continue to hold you in our prayers, and ask you do likewise for us (and the church in Wimborne).

Shalom Deborah (and John)

PS: We will also miss the fabulous view across Brighton from the manse, which has formed an important part of my prayer focus for the last six years.

Focus: People

Farewell

Deborah & John Cornish

A reminder of Deborah and John's background. Deborah was born in Singapore but describes herself as having been made in Cornwall. She and John were married in Newguay in 1976, and they have two adult sons, one daughter-in -law and two grandchildren. Deborah was ordained at the Edinburgh Conference in 2006 and, whilst in Scotland, she completed her B.Th. (Exeter) as a long distance student, travelling to Truro for the occasional face to face lecture. Her ministry in Scotland involved a lot of travelling, including over 100 miles for preaching appointments and meetings within the Circuit, From 2009 to 2017 she served in the Herefordshire (S&E) Circuit, with oversight of three churches, and as Superintendent since 2014. During this time Deborah took the opportunity to study at Queens and was awarded an MA in Applied Theology through Birmingham University.

Deborah & John moved to Brighton & Hove and the South East District in September 2017. She took on the incredibly demanding combination of Assistant Chair of District as well as Presbyter for Dorset Gardens & Woodingdean. Meanwhile John ensured the delivery of Waitrose food across the city as well as running the beaver group of 14th Brighton Scouts & assisting on property matters at DG. Both keep sane by caravanning, spending time with family and baking and eating with friends, and of course well known for generous hospitality including cream teas, contributions to events and hosting circuit and church meetings.

From September 2023 they are moving to Wimborne, Dorset, where Deborah will serve as a part time Minister for a two year appointment while John transfers with Waitrose.



We will all have the opportunity to say a final farewell to Deborah and John at the Circuit Together service at 10.30am on 13th August at Stanford Avenue Church followed by a light lunch.











Many will be aware that Cynthia Tudor had been waiting for a place at St. Mary's Convent & Nursing Home in Chiswick and in May received word and so moved earlier than she expected. Cynthia shares the following note and you will get a chance to say your personal goodbyes at the Circuit Together Service on 13th August at Stanford Avenue.

Cynthia Tudor—A new lease on life!

"I had long envisaged that when I was no longer able to get out and about and look after my home as I used to I would move into a care home and here I am in a Convent [picture] established by Anglican nuns many years ago but now an accredited care and nursing home where there is a daily celebration of Mass but a multi faith company of carers.



I have an ensuite room with a delightful view of an extensive garden but mingle every day with people who have a variety of mobility issues both at meal times and when sharing in such activities as scrabble, crosswords, poetry afternoons and outings to local beauty spots or simply sitting in the garden and chatting. It is like having all our

older members in one place with no need to travel to get to see them!

I have also been able to get out and about on my own (plus stick of course) for short walks in Chiswick park or by the Thames thanks to the recent good weather and no hills to negotiate! On Sundays when Helen and the car is available she takes me to Westminster Central Hall my new (old) church. (Preferable to High Anglican Mass!)

I am so thankful for all the rich experiences of worship support and friendship in the Brighton and Hove circuit during the last 28 years but feel very blessed that I am able to be in this caring place and near my family at this stage in my life. Please keep in touch.

Love and every blessing."

Cynthia Tudor

Spotlight On....Ernie Jones

Continuing our feature where in every edition we put the spotlight on one of our Circuit members and perhaps we will learn more about someone whom many will have known for a while. The person is given a list of 18 questions and asked to select and respond to 8. Here is Ernie's choice and answers:



What is your earliest memory?

My earliest memory is when I was just four. I was enrolled at school in the September but in December went down with chicken pox and therefore missed my school's Christmas party. The war was still on so food was hard to get and mostly on ration. I was upset the day of the party because I missed it until there was a knock on the front door and one of the teachers was standing there with a tray full of party food. She had walked half a mile along the busy A6 carrying a tray! Only when I was older did I realise what an effort that was.

Tell me about where you grew up and what your family life was like?



I grew up in Salford near Manchester about a mile from Manchester docks in a terraced house (two up, two down) shaken occasionally by bombs falling on the docks. In those days such streets were like a community where everyone knew everyone, nobody locked their doors and the most important social

thing was that you made sure your step and flags outside your front door was cream stoned every few days! However, in 1947 we bought a television and people, many of them strangers, would knock at the door and ask to just see it working. Nobody before this time had ever seen a picture that wasn't projected.

What do/did you do as a career and why?

I left grammar school at 16 without achieving much and joined a manufacturing chemist in Eccles where I worked in the laboratory on domestic products such as Florazoll which eventually became ZoFlora. After several jobs in insurance I joined Jardine Glanville and after a while I was headhunted by Medex International in London. After several years I formed my own company in Brighton specialising in air ambulance evacuation of sick or injured people from anywhere in the

world back to their own countries. I retired in 2003 and my company was sold to the largest insurance company in the world in America where it still operates.

Who have been your strongest influences in life?

My father was perhaps the strongest influence in my life. From humble beginnings he became director of one of the largest foundries in the UK and the industry appointed him Chairman of the Iron Founders Federation of Great Britain.

If you could change one thing in your past, what might that be?

I passed my 11plus in Salford at the age of 11 years and was then entitled to go to one of two schools. Salford Technical College (which later became Salford University) or Salford Grammar School. I wanted to go to technical college to learn all kinds of skills but my parents insisted I went to the Grammar school to learn modern languages. This I would change if I could.

What are you most proud of accomplishing?

I am proud of starting my own company on the 8th September 1984 and employing just four people and retiring some twenty years later and leaving a workforce of 115 people. To provide a good living for so many people including a pension scheme and annual bonuses for so many years. Makes me feel like I achieved something.

How would you like to be remembered?

I would like to be remembered for fairness in all my dealings throughout life.

What has been the happiest day of your life?

Marrying Kathleen and being able to move into our own house.

Anne Frank once said that in spite of everything, she believed people were basically good. Do you agree? Disagree?

Anne Frank was right. If you look at the history of this world over the last few hundred years you will find that there have been hundreds of wars, insurrections, ethnic cleansing, which have resulted in countless millions of people losing their lives. Since the end of the Second World War and the formation of international associations there have been hardly any wars or major conflicts. It is quite conceivable that in 50 years from now, the world will be a safer place. **Ernie Jones**

Thank you Ernie for answering these questions and sharing your thoughts and recollections.

Tribute to Revd Martin Broadbent

It's a real honour to be asked to share some very personal reflections on a man who was to have such an impact on my life. I first met Martin and Teresa in 1989 at the house of Sylvia and Charlie Lord. Charlie was a Circuit Steward at that time and Martin had been invited to Brighton and Hove to consider the forthcoming appointment for our Stanford Avenue and Patcham churches.

I was a fairly new Church Steward and had just been given 'a note to preach' so was inexperienced in church matters. The first thing that impressed me was the natural energy, enthusiasm and drive and a real charisma that Martin possessed. He was a big man in so many ways as I was to find out in the three short years he was in our circuit.

I remember asking Martin two questions at that meeting. The first was regarding his opinion on The Boys Brigade which was very strong at Stanford Ave and in most of the churches in the circuit. His reply was very positive and genuinely encouraging. The second was more telling: was there a particular reason that he wanted to come to Brighton? I think I can quote almost verbatim his reply: "I've had many years in the Bristol and Bath area and been involved in building developments, ecumenical developments and superintendency and I just want to be a normal circuit minister and CONCENTRATE ON MY WRITING AND DEVELOPING THE HEALING MINISTRY".

I believe Martin had also been a secretary of the old DSR (Division of Social Responsibility) so that energy and drive became more apparent to me.

The second time I met Martin was after his appointment to our circuit as our (Stanford Avenue & Patcham) minister and he was on his knees!

Martin had decided that the ministers' vestry needed decorating to accommodate his books, and become his working office, and not wishing to put expense on the church said he would carry out the decorating, so there he was, on his knees painting the skirting boards, when I happened to call by the church. He swiftly told me to pick up another brush and help! I believe that simple act demonstrated the practical and spiritual side of Martin working guite naturally.

On becoming our minister at Stanford Avenue Martin quickly identified the collective vision of the church as a need to modernise the building, and with that energy and drive which enthused so many of our people, he steered us through that amazing time of regeneration which resulted in our still lovely church.



Brighton & Hove Methodist Circuit

All Saints Day Service

Wednesday 1 November 2023, 7.30pm at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church BN1 6FD

At this service we remember with thanks the lives of those we loved who have died in the previous year. We read out the names and remember via the lighting of candles those whose funerals have been held in our churches or whose services have been conducted by ministers and lay people within our Circuit.

All are invited and welcome, please contact steve.preston@brightonhovemethodistcircuit.org.uk

by 24th October 2023 if there is anyone who you wish to remember in this way.



On one occasion during the preparatory meetings to discuss the modernisation, Martin made it very clear that he would like to remove the letters above the Apse at Stanford Avenue (Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise). After over an hour of debate he said "What I think I'm hearing the meeting say is that they should go". I've never heard such a thunderous response of "NO" come from any meeting. When the works were completed some 18 months later, a service of re-dedication was held and at that service Martin said in public "I wanted to get rid of those letters and I was wrong- they look absolutely splendid!"

I mentioned earlier that Martin was a big man and I think it takes a big man to publicly say that he was wrong.

Not long after Martin's appointment as 'a normal circuit minister', he was appointed superintendent following a ministerial departure within the circuit and he also became minister at our Hove church.

A lay worker role had been created to help support the churches and I applied and became a part-time pastoral assistant at Hove, for one year. It was personally a wonderful time for me and I made many friends and really got to know Martin, working alongside him for that year, and seeing that natural side of ministry that people wouldn't normally get to see.

My remit was largely pastoral - visiting adherents and those who found it difficult to get to church. I also arranged for house communion to be brought to people and will never forget those special meetings.

One person in particular who was a resident in a nursing home had asked for that house communion and said "Next time, could I invite a friend?" When we went for that next visit the lady had invited 6 residents to share - natural evangelism carries no age! Many people I visited during that year made the same comment regarding Martin- "He's a very priestly man", a comment that was so appropriate.

It was during one of our Monday morning briefings that Martin received a phone call which I believe changed the course of his ministry. After politely asking me if it was okay to take the call and assuring me I could stay in the office whilst he took it, I watched the colour drain from his face. "What on earth has happened?" I asked "and are you able to tell me?" His reply was "You won't believe this but I've been asked if I'm prepared for my name to be put forward with three others for consideration to be Chair of District ". He then asked me for my opinion. I replied "I want you to stay but can't think of a better person for the position ". And the rest as they say is history.

I should add that Martin was also instrumental in helping our Hove church get their modernisation under way.

After becoming Chair of District, Martin brought many of those natural skills to bear, always remembering his primary responsibility to be "Pastor to the Pastors" as he succinctly put it, and this gave him a broader opportunity of exercising that 'healing ministry' of which he'd spoken so enthusiastically about at our first meeting.

As Chair of District he was also able to employ his natural ecumenical ministry, with invitations to other denominations to speak at Synod. One particularly memorable occasion was one Synod held at Portland Road when the Archbishop of

Westminster, Cormack Murphy O'Connor spoke, particularly regarding unity, and saying "We start with each other's differences and end up with each others strengths!" Martin went on to become an honorary Canon at Chichester Cathedral and had a room named after him at Westminster Central Hall (The Broadbent Room) during his tenure as Chair of District.

I had the pleasure of staying at Martin and Teresa's lovely house in Bath in 1995 as a rep to Methodist Conference (Bristol) and what a wonderful and funny week I spent there finding out about Martin's love of sport and music amongst his many gifts. My fellow house-mate during that time was Revd Harvey Richardson which was the start of another lifelong friendship. How we laughed that week!

My wife Esther and I were able to return that hospitality when the World Methodist Conference was held in Brighton in 2001. Martin and Harvey stayed with us that week and the humour was undiminished.

I could go on and will be happy to share my many memories with anyone who wants to know.

In conclusion, I finish with a verse from a hymn which Martin introduced to me and which has become my favourite hymn I think. It was one of the things we discussed when I last spoke to him. The hymn is "Hark what a sound!" (Hymns & Psalms 236 to the tune 'Highwood').

Last year at Advent I took a morning service in our circuit and chose that hymn. When I got home there was a message on my answering machine which went something like this: "Hello Geoff and Esther. I've just come home from worship in Bath Abbey and we sang that splendid hymn 'Hark what a sound' and it made me think of you!". I immediately rang him back and we had a good natter and spoke much of coincidence and God-incidence! That final verse just sums up for me Martin's ministry and friendship:

"Through life & death, through sorrow and through sinning, He shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed: Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning, Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ".

It is somewhat appropriate that the service celebrating Martin's life and ministry was held at Bath Abbey. Thank you Martin for your ministry and friendship, I shall miss you.

Geoff Harrington

Focus: Features

Earth Church: "One is nearer God's heart in a garden than anywhere else on earth" - Dorothy Gurney.



Following conversations about how much we love being in nature and what a blessing gardening style activities can be, we've decided to try to hold a gathering of earth church enthusiasts alongside the volunteer gardeners in Withdean Park. We have approached the Friends of Withdean Park who have told us they would welcome

our contribution.

So, our proposal is to meet at my house, 28 Peacock Lane, BN1 6WA, on **Saturday, September 30, at 2:00.** We will spend a few moments together probably in my garden and then go into the park to meet up with some of the Friends who will suggest what we could do for the next hour or so to care for the park. We will then return to my house for a cuppa (and a wash!) and a time of reflection on the afternoon. The afternoon will be open to everyone, including keen youngsters. More details will be available nearer the time. If you hope to come along, please let me know: email: cpark1947@gmail.com or phone 01273 640247.

Cynthia Park

People and Groups in New Testament times:

This series of articles look at a number of matters relating to peoples and groups in the Mediterranean world in the period c. 150 B.C. to 96 A.D.

14. The Essenes

In 1947 the first of what have become known as the Dead Sea Scrolls (DSS) were discovered by Bedouin shepherds in caves near Qumran by the Dead Sea. Both Roman and Jewish writers had referred to a Jewish group called the Essenes and the archaeological site of Qumran was also known. The initial thinking was that Qumran was lived in, and the DSS written by, the Essenes. This idea has come under much scrutiny but this is still the consensus, although not all the DSS are Essene. It is possible that the Qumran community were a breakaway group of

Essenes, founded by a man they called 'the Teacher of Righteousness'. The DSS commentary on Habakkuk makes several references to 'the Man of Lies' and given the fact that a sect's bitterest attacks are usually on those closest to it ideologically, he may be the leader of the Essenes from whom the Qumran community broke away. Future discoveries may counter this idea. No more than 200 men ever lived at Qumran but both Josephus and Philo give the total number of Essenes as about 4000 men, and state that they lived in both



towns and villages. Most were celibate but, according to Josephus, some married for the purposes of procreation. Josephus also names some Essenes, three were connected with accurate foretelling of events or interpretation of dreams: the fourth, John the Essene, was one of the commanders during war against Rome 66-70 A.D. These cannot have been part of the Qumran community who were very exclusive.

The meaning of the word 'Essene' is unclear as is their origin. They were probably a group of priests and others in the 2nd century B.C. who objected to Hasmonaeans being high priest; the Hasmoneans were not descended from Zadok. They became a legal school renowned for their piety, living simple lives practising both agriculture and crafts. The Roman writer, Pliny the Elder, and Josephus and Philo describe some of their beliefs and practices and this, combined with the DSS themselves, enable us to have a reasonably good idea of what both the Qumran community and the wider Essene sect believed.

- a) They opposed the temple cult in Jerusalem as being polluted, presumably through not having a 'legitimate' line of high priests.
- b) They had their own distinctive biblical commentaries and versions of scripture. The DSS include over a dozen copies, some just fragments, of Jubilees, a re-writing of Genesis.
- c) They valued purity greatly and tended to be exclusive. Becoming a member was a lengthy process.
- d) The Qumran community held all possessions in common and forbad lying about it. The picture of the early church in Acts 4 verses 32-37, and the story of Ananias and Sapphira, would fit the Qumran community very well.
- e) Unlike all other groups in the classical world the Qumran community rejected slave-holding.

f) They were more rigorous than any other group in their observance of the sabbath. The Damascus Document of the DSS states that:

'No [one] shall assist a beast to give birth on the Sabbath day. And if it should fall into a cistern or pit, he shall not lift it out on the Sabbath. ... should [anyone] fall into the water or (fire), let him not be pulled out with the aid of a ladder or rope or (some such) utensil.'

The comment of Jesus in Luke 14 v 5 refers to this Essene belief.

g) They had very specific ideas about the future. There would be a final war between good (themselves) and evil (almost everyone else), in which God, and they, would be victorious. They would enter Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple: women would be excluded from the city except for short visits: the role of women in the Essene world is unclear. The new community would be led by two messiahs, the Messiah of Aaron (the priest-messiah) and the Messiah of Israel (the king-messiah), the former would be in charge.

Their extreme rigor must have been one of the reasons for their lack of appeal to the bulk of their fellow Jews and, after the war of 66-70, they disappear from history.

We shall look next at some of the lesser known groups.

Mick Hickman

A Methodist Way of Life

God loves you unconditionally, no strings attached. That's the good news.

A Methodist Way of Life is a way of saying yes to the good news.

There are twelve things that we can do as individuals or as a church community.

None of this makes God love you any more - but they may help you realise how deeply you are loved.



May you be transformed as you reflect on your encounters with God that come through doing these activities.

https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/worship/

4. Care

We care for ourselves and those around us

Jesus made it clear: his followers should love their neighbour as themselves. Loving each other is at the centre of this journey. Take care of yourself, rest when you are tired, enjoy the things you like doing, get a good balance of work and leisure. This will

help you to care for other people.

Simple things to try

Practise listening to someone else for 10 mins without offering advice, telling your own story or trying to make them feel better. If you are tired right now take a screen break.

Look for people who are being left out of social gatherings and

start a conversation.

Creation

If you ask the average Christian about Creation, you may well get the answer to the effect that it is undoubtedly wonderful but it all happened a very long time ago. There is a measure of disagreement in scientific circles about

the emergence of the universe.

Stephen Hawking takes the view that the Big Bang and Einstein's General Theory of Relativity adequately account for the large scale structure of our universe, though accepting that the other great theory of our time,- Quantum Mechanics - has not yet had its say. (Quantum Mechanics deals with particles etc. that are smaller than an atom.) He says that the history of science is the gradual realisation that events do not simply happen; there is an underlying plan. It is good to hear that view from a leading scientist; it shows that religion and science are not necessarily in conflict.

Martin Rees, the Astronomer Royal when he wrote his book 'Just Six Numbers' believes that our universe is underpinned by mathematical laws - not a matter of chance, then. And there is very wide agreement that the expansion that followed the Big Bang was so powerful, and some add so precisely laid down, that it produced the universe as we know it. In addition, I know of no scientist who denies that the universe is still expanding today. It is continuing that first great explosion of 11 billion years ago, without interruption or change, and creating a bigger and bigger universe as it does so. I believe God is as creative in this enlarged Universe as He was in the first.

For me, God will always be creative, for love is creative, and He is the God of unending love. We should not only look backwards to find God. He is with us, in Creation, here and now, and He will be with us in our future, too. He is a very present help - and He is there for us right now. Our bible says no less.

Selwyn Veater

Low Sunday

We went to church on the Sunday after Easter and our preacher reminded us that it was Low Sunday, so called because it falls in the week after the crucifixion and the high of the resurrection. However, my mental state is more mundane. I had returned from a week's ski holiday where we had been able to sample God's gifts, sunshine, activity, fellowship, scenery and wonderful food and was facing the prospect of 20 days of hospital treatment. A lady offering Thought for the Day recently seemed to sum up what I had felt when she gave us a quotation from



Ecclesiastes "Few things in life are better than to enjoy your life and the good gifts from God in a spirit of faith towards God". This was not a quotation that I was aware of but after a few minutes with The Bible Gateway I suspect the this is a paraphrase of Ecclesiastes 5 v 18. Others may enlighten me otherwise.

When I think about it, I know very little about Ecclesiastes except for the passage about 'the time for life' which was popularized by The Seekers, music of my generation shall we say. A quick read through the Wikipedia entry for Ecclesiastes probably tells me why it is little used 'vanity, vanity all is vanity', 'eat, drink, be merry for tomorrow we die'. Quite different to the story of the Wemmick's https://mygoodtimestories.com/2013/11/14/the-story-of-the-wemmicks-feeling-good-about-ourselves/ that we were introduced to one Sunday recently. This tells us that each Wemmick was made by Eli and was therefore special to him, because Eli "didn't make mistakes".

I am not sure that this is the place to open up a discussion about whether or not the human body is a perfect creation. However, there are one or two features of the human body which would, at the very least, call this into question.

But I am not at all sure how important such musings are in the overall arch of the Christian story. Over Christmas and Epiphany, the Methodist Church was streaming a film There is Room along with the series of articles: - There is Room for You and Me, Room for Difference, Room for all of Nature, Room for Young and Old, Room for People Experiencing Poverty, Room for Refugees, Room for God and Room for Revelation. In fact, room for everyone, wherever we are in our Christian journey and whether you are following The Way or A way. After all, it all started with a single Mum who gave birth in a stable, whose child

was visited by rich and poor and then she along with her partner and child fled as refugees to a foreign country.

Such inclusivity was attempted by King Charles for his Coronation, with multiple faith representatives and numerous examples of diversity. However, it was Zadok the priest I had been hoping to hear and was not disappointed. The nervous anticipation of a chorister waiting to be suddenly singing fortissimo from nowhere is terrifying. But probably not as terrifying as that which must have been experienced by the young chorister who welcomed to King Charles In the name of the King of Kings: seemingly the only time during the entire proceedings which went off without a crib sheet.

Maybe Charles and his family will experience a Low Monday after the highs of the Coronation and the joy of the Coronation Concert?

Peter Farley

Focus: Summer 2023

A look back at some Summer events: Woodingdean Cameo meets Monty

So we're off on a jolly, looking forward to fun

Nice comfy coach, just a two-hour run The Kennet and Avon, not been there before

A barge on canal we're sure we'll adore

Boat loaded, we're seated, with promise of lunch

We're off! What a cheery and fun-loving bunch!

Oh the peace and the quiet, the sun and the breeze

as we moved through the water, towed by Monty with ease.

Erm, in case it's not clear, I must say of course

That Monty is hunky, a handsome shire horse

Through locks, under bridges, Monty plodded the path



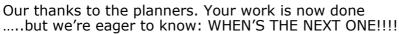
No one fell in, got an unplanned cold bath!

Ploughman's for lunch, washed down with the tea

As we enjoyed peace, and tranquillity

No noise and pollution, no engine to drone While we just relaxed, took pics on our phone

Sadly it's over, we're back on the bus Tired and happy, a day with no fuss And so, thank you Monty, we've had a great day Back to the real world, back to the fray



Ann Collins

Cabaret Comes to Patcham

On the evenings of April 21st and 22nd, Brighton's leading amateur performing troupe, Barnstormers, expanded their boundaries by combining a riveting cabaret evening with a superlative three-course dinner.

The humble church hall was magically transformed by stage designer Karin Ashby with red velvet wall curtains, gold streamers and an artistically painted back drop. Each table had an exquisite flower arrangement and was served throughout the evening by professional silver service staff.

Lights went up to an Abba medley sung and danced by the full company. The singing was crisp and sharp to start the show a near bang and was matched by joyous choreography from Tamsin Renno.

Starters (prawn cocktail, stuffed mushrooms, duck pate) were





served. Next came an excellent selection from popular stage musicals brought to life by talented soloists such as Sheila Casey, perfectly capturing Sister Superior in I Haven't Got a Prayer from Sister Act. The segment concluded with the company's very moving rendition of You Will Be Found from Dear Evan Hansen. The main course followed (chicken in wine sauce, pork belly, superb veg pie). At 9pm exactly the second act brought us songs from Titanic, Jesus Christ Superstar and Finding Neverland. It finished with a never to be forgotten Spice Girls medley exuberantly performed by (in)appropriately attired the Yeomen of the Barnstormers.

At the last interval, out came the desserts (3 options) with coffee and choc mints enjoyed while five closing numbers sung by company members included Louisa Taylor's memorably as Diva somehow singing off-pitch as her character. The cabaret concluded with the full company coming together to deliver a fitting close of Spread the Love from Sister Act.

As always the Barnstormer's evening was highly enhanced by the musical accompanist of MD Russell Taylor and his talented trio of Alex Harrington, Paul Harrington and Peter Webb.

Finally the magic of the two evenings could not have been brought to life without the amazing work of director Imogen Fox in only her second show (wow) and the absolute sterling kitchen skills in planning and execution of Chefs Christine Ashby and Angie Webb. All this for £20! No wonder every ticket was sold.

Paul McGrail

Anthony Boateng, Methodist Vice President at Woodingdean

On Sunday 14 May, I shared worship with Anthony Boateng, the Vice President of Methodist Church, at Woodingdean. Anthony was informally interviewed by Terry Hammond as Anthony shared about his role, his overseas visits and his vision. Anthony

gave a thought-provoking sermon reminding us of the everlasting presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our call to discipleship. He challenged the congregation to think of what revival might mean to us. After the service, a group of us went to Downs hotel for a meal, kindly hosted by Woodingdean members. This gave us an opportunity to have further conversations with Anthony and to learn more about his work.

Deeptima Massey

Stanford Avenue's 125th Anniversary

Revd Kathleen Richardson preached at this special service which was much appreciated and followed by a fine lunch. Did you know a 125-year anniversary is called a quasquicentennial. This word is pronounced 'kwos-kwi-sen-tenee-uhl'.

Angelic Voices at Stanford Avenue

At the same May weekend the Women of Note concert at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church raised over £500 to split between the church and the Trussell Trust Food Banks network. Come and see us at Hove on December 2nd.

Cath Oddhayward Cream Tea delight

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to the cream tea on 24th June. We had a wonderful afternoon and took £360 which will be split between

£360 which will be split between Action for Children and Matthew Rusike Children's Home in

Zimbabwe. **Deborah Cornish** Thanks to Deborah & John for hosting this once again.



On Saturday 8th July Stanford Avenue held a coffee/soft drinks & cake morning plus table top sale of preserves, cakes and crafts, all in aid of Action for Children.

The following day was a special all age Action for Children Service where pictures were shown of what things make being a child or young person





happy in their home and remembering some children and young people in the UK who live in poverty, with not enough to eat, no heating in the winter, no space or nice clothes. Overall the weekend raised £505 for Action for Children.

Thankyou to everyone for the wonderful support.

Gaynor Paul

Thanks to Gaynor and Geoff Harrington for organising this event.

Coronation celebrations

Back on 6th May Churches put up the bunting with a variety of events. Both Patcham and Woodingdean opened for shared TV viewing of the ceremony with accompanying refreshments and a Coronation Big Lunch the following day at Patcham. Dorset Gardens threw a right royal buffet lunch following their church anniversary service whilst Hove held a joint tea party and concert the following Saturday collecting a magnificent £774 in donations for the Martlets.



Hove Street Party

We should have known better than to choose a date at the beginning of Wimbledon! Still, it could have been a lot worse, the rain kept away and the clouds and winds let the sun through. The Martlets Choir sang a beautiful set for us all, Maggie, John and Mark ran a tight ship on the BBQ front, Donald on drinks and Lai, Gloria and Vera on cakes. Thanks to everyone who turned up on the day, it was a lovely community event. We raised £600 for church funds.

Elin Star



Mission Focus

Circuit Refugee Project

Our Circuit project is so rewarding and engages with so many people, I'm loving it, and I'm sure I'm not the only one. I even had a message from the lovely Anna at Leeds Craftivists sending their congratulations and good wishes when they saw the article and photos in the recent The Connexion magazine.

Since the circuit awards service I'm very sad to say that Deeptima has had to stand down from being co-lead with me due to health reasons (I don't think it was anything I did!) We send her our thanks and good wishes, we will miss you Dee. Although I understand she will be keeping an interested eye on the project and maybe persuaded into getting involved here and there. It's been great working with Dee, she really keeps things on track and her organising and record-keeping is fantastic.

It's going to be a hard act to follow, but I'm delighted to say that Ruth Samur from Hove church has stepped up and is taking Dee's place as project co-lead with me. We are very grateful to her, thank you Ruth. We've had a meeting to check-in and do a little planning for the autumn - watch this space! On Refugee Sunday at DG we had some young women from the Ukrainian Ladies Choir sing some folk songs to us which was beautiful and moving. Terry from Woodingdean is currently making arrangements for the whole choir to sing at Woodingdean church on Saturday 30th



September as part of a 'Harvest Tea'. It's still in the planning stages but pencil it into your diary - you don't want to miss it! We've had stalls at various markets and fairs around the circuit - both church and community and sales have been very good - it



also raises awareness of course so it's a great witness too. I was recently at Carlton Hill School Fair near DG which is a School of Sanctuary so we are building ties there. I took our cards and also some hats, scarves and wraps which have been crocheted and donated to sell for project funds. To be honest I didn't think I'd sell many on a sunny day, but I sold several, and people were so

complimentary. It was a way to start a conversation about what we do as well, so again, it was working on lots of different levels. If you're a crafty type and would like to make some things to sell on our project stalls - either in your church or for when we take it out and about, we'd love to hear from you. It doesn't have to be crochet of course.

We've been sharing any project information, events and invitations to things such as workshops and concerts on our DG Facebook group and page - if you are on there do take a look and

share, where appropriate; especially if you are admin for social media at your church.

Patcham continue to collect faithfully for the Voices in Exile food bank, who very much appreciate their generous donations.

Ruth has been regularly sharing project information, events and





activities via Hove Newsnotes. She has almost sold out of our fundraising notecards and also thanks Hove members for the regular toiletry donations we give to Network for International Women (NiW). Hove continues to build a strong relationship with this amazing charity, NiW, who run weekly Sanctuary afternoons at All Saints church in

Hove, as well as a range of other classes, activities and support for local Sanctuary seekers. At All Saints there has been enthusiastic talk of building a community garden there, which will be fantastic for well-being as well as nutrition. Ruth attended another NiW Art Class to thank our Notecard competition winners & have a go at Kintsugi together (the Japanese art of repairing broken china). Ruth also helped for one session at a wonderful NiW /Sussex Mindfulness Session for international women, in the open air at Stanmer Park. Relaxing mindfulness activities around a campfire were followed by chat and tea brewed over the fire. The course runs weekly for a couple of months and some of the women loved the first course so much, they have returned for this second course. On May Bank Holiday, Olga, our Ukrainian friend, who used to live with Jonathon & Charlotte, taught Ruth and two friends how to make a Ukrainian rolled doll each. We

were amazed at all the traditions involved and that there was no sewing at all either. £50 was raised for the Circuit Project. It takes about 3 hours (4 hours with breaks and food!). Ruth could ask Olga if she would ever like to do it again, if any other small group is interested, let Ruth know. 3 attendees worked well.

Messy Church at Hove in



June had a Refugee
Week theme, with the
children making prayer
chains to think about
friends and family,
reflecting that Refugees'
friends and family are in
our prayers too. Other
activities included 'Unity
Hearts' & drawing what
we'd pack in a suitcase
for a long journey. Sue
then read a story and
we sang songs reflecting
the theme, before eating



a lovely supper together. On Refugee Sunday, Hove had a moving and informative speaker, Maud Casey, who has worked with Sanctuary seekers in Brighton and Hove for 20 years. She is a trustee at Sanctuary on Sea & a volunteer for Thousand 4 Thousand & the Migrant English Project. She spoke about her daily work in our local community, which was very insightful and moving. She told us about some of the amazing things local sanctuary seekers are doing, including working so hard to learn English and starting a Cricket Team at Sussex County Cricket Ground! Speaking of sport, Nam Yang Martial Arts, who are a Sports Club of Sanctuary permanently based in Hove's lower hall & Community Hub, give Sanctuary seekers free access to their classes. A couple or so of the local hotel residents already attend regularly and Ruth had a great chat with one young man who is so enthusiastic about Nam Yang and also about learning English and hopefully further studies if he gains refugee status. Ruth complemented him on his English and he said when he is at Nam Yang he feels so confident to speak because everyone is friendly, but he feels less confident when he is out and about.



Thank you to everyone who is working to make the project so successful. Please be in touch if Ruth or I can help you in any way.

Ruth Samur & Sue Harrington

Circuit Refugee project Co-Leads

All Saints Day Service

1st November 2023 7.30pm at Stanford Avenue

Our annual All Saints Day service is an opportunity for us to remember with thanks the lives of those we loved who have died in the previous year. During the service we read out the names of those whose funerals have been held in our churches or whose services have been conducted by ministers and lay people within our Circuit. The service gives space for remembrance and the opportunity to light a candle in their memory and then a space to light candles and remember others who have died who have been important to us.



All are invited and welcome to the service, please contact Steve Preston if you wish to nominate a special person. The service is at 7.30pm on November 1st at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church BN1 6FD

Business Focus

Safeguarding Update

If you still require training there are online versions available covering Foundation and Advanced level, please email Steve Preston for more details.

In the meantime, I am reminding you of the Methodist Church safeguarding policy statement.

Rosemary Cuthbert Circuit

Safeguarding Officer

Protecting our Data (GDPR)

We must all remain vigilant when handling any information that covers personal information. Please see further information and overleaf at www.ncsc.gov.uk







This advice has been produced to help charities protect themselves from the most common cyber attacks. The 5 topics covered are easy to understand and cost little to implement. Read our quick tips below, or find out more at www.ncsc.gov.uk/charity.



Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) events

The Southeast District are pleased to facilitate an online talk (via Zoom) on

Neurodiversity and inclusive practices for autistic people (Thursday 21 September, 7.30 to 8.30pm)

This talk will be delivered by Dr Sebastian (Seb) Shaw. Seb identifies as multiply neurodivergent – autistic, ADHD, dyslexic, and hypermobile (hEDS). He is passionate about improving experiences for neurodivergent people in relation to healthcare. He has provided the notes below to share with participants in advance of the talk.

The 'neurodiversity paradigm' invites us to think more critically about things that we previously accepted as fact. Specifically, it promotes thinking of neurodivergence (e.g., autism) as a set of differences, which can contextually become strengths or challenges depending on a variety of other (often external) factors. This offers a challenge to more traditional medical views, which considered such differences to be disorders with degrees of deficit/impairment that sat

along a linear spectrum. Increasing uptake of this 'neurodiversity paradigm' has led to neurodivergent people being more meaningfully included in research and educational design. This has allowed recent research to begin to refute some old stereotypes, such as 1) autistic people not feeling empathy, or 2) autistic people having poor communication skills. The talk will conclude with a brief overview of some considerations around inclusive practices for autistic people, drawing on the "autistic SPACE" framework

(https://www.magonlinelibrary.com/doi/full/10.12968/hmed.2023.0006). It is essential to register for the talk. The link is

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/

tJElceutqDwqGtPWKSn32E6uvmOT9es_rJr5

There will also be a second talk on the theme of dementia. This would be an opportunity to hear a different perspective.

Dementia - Shouldn't Be A Lonely Journey

On Wednesday 27 September, 7.30 to 8.30pm via Zoom Please register here:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/

tJwvcumtrDwsH9IQSkhQ6bbnhxCFzZ7ZmRRf

The talk will be led by Julie Barnett, Dementia and Frailty Care Coordinator, Foundry Healthcare Lewes. Julie has been in this role for almost 5 years. In her talk, Julie will cover a pathway to diagnosis including signs to be aware of and the range of symptoms that can be experienced, along with difficulties faced by the person living with dementia and their families / carers. She will also talk about the support that is available through organisations/ groups/ training. Julie has kindly offered to take questions on any aspect of dementia/cognition subsequent to her talk.

Removal of Pay & Display Machines

Since 31st May all* pay and display machines have been decommissioned/removed. The Council have done this to save an estimated £220,000 in 23/24. Payment is now via: Pay by Phone app, Pay by Phone telephone number 01273 458458 paying by credit/debit card or purchasing parking at a Pay Point vendor. The nearest vendors to our three impacted churches are:

Dorset Gardens: City News, 4 St. James Street (9.00 – Midnight on Sunday) and Co-op, 41 – 43 St. James Street (06.00 – 23.00 on Sunday).

Stanford Avenue: Corner News, 148c Ditchling Road (06.00 – 23.00 on Sunday) and Co-op, 269 Preston Drove/Ditchling Road

(07.00 - 22.00 on Sunday).

Hove: Co-op, 67 - 71 Portland Road, (07.00 – 23.00 on Sunday) and Joes Convenience Store, 2 Blatchington Road

(8.00 - Midnight on Sunday).

https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/parkingand-travel/parking/paid-parking-formerlyknown-pay-and-display

A study by charity Independent Age estimates those aged 65 or over are £1,000 a year worse off because they cannot easily use the internet or a mobile phone.

Age UK has warned that the 2.4 million people aged 65 and over in the UK, who still rely on cash, risk being marginalised by



such moves. Age UK states "39% of over 65s don't feel confident using a smartphone" and struggle to deal with problems such as poor network connectivity. A BBC survey found 59% of respondents felt angry about the idea of machines being removed, with the figure rising to 73% for those aged 65 and older. In April, Levelling Up Secretary Michael Gove wrote to councils in England telling them they must ensure parking services remain accessible to all.

Can I get a Blue Badge?

You may be eligible for a Blue Badge if you have any enduring (lasting for at least 3 years) and substantial disability that means vou:

- drive a vehicle regularly, have a severe disability in both arms and are unable to operate, or have considerable difficulty in operating, all, or some types of parking meter.
- have been certified by an expert assessor as having an enduring and substantial disability which causes you, during the course of a journey, to be unable to walk, experience very considerable difficulty whilst walking, which may include very considerable psychological distress
- may be at risk of serious harm when walking or pose, when walking, a risk of serious harm to any other person. If eligible you can apply online or by post to Brighton Council (Blue Badge Team, G39 Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BO) telephone 01273 296 270. Please ask if you need help making the application as someone else can submit this for you. *Except for five council barrier car parks: The Lanes, Regency Square, Trafalgar Street, London Road and Chapel Street.

Dates for your diary

- Monday 14th August Being A Dementia Friendly
 Community evening talk at Stanford Avenue. Details to come.
- <u>Thursday 31st Aug</u> Local Preachers' Meeting, 7.30pm at Dorset Gardens.
- <u>Saturday 2nd September</u> **Woodingdean Carnival** proposed new date. Woodingdean Methodist church is taking two stalls, one of books and the other for a 'Bag tombola'.
- <u>Saturday 9th September Community Breakfast</u> at Hove Methodist Church from 9.30—11.00am.
- <u>Saturday 9th September</u> **BIG SING** at Dorset Gardens from 2.30-4pm. Doors open at 2pm for a cuppa. Theme is praise and thanksgiving. Pianist Ken Smith. Send nominations for hymns to Deeptima by 25th August.
- Sunday 10th September Pilgrimage for Climate Justice and Peace (please see poster)
- Monday 18th September Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm at Dorset Gardens
- <u>Saturday 30th September</u> Earth Church assisting the volunteer gardeners in Withdean Park. Meet at 2pm at 28 Peacock Lane, BN1 6WA.
- <u>Saturday 30th September Flowerpot Festival</u> at Stanford Avenue, more details to follow.
- <u>Saturday 30th September Harvest Tea</u> at Woodingdean Methodist Church, more details to follow.
- <u>Saturday 14th October</u> <u>Local Preachers Study Day</u> at
 Dorset Gardens will be led by the Revd Harvey Richardson
 and the Revd Andrew Pratt. Please let Beulah Fletcher know
 if you would like to join this.
- <u>Saturday 14th October Murder Mystery Meal</u> at Stanford Avenue, more details to follow.
- Monday 30th October Local Preachers' Meeting, 7.30pm at Stanford Avenue

- <u>Saturday 18th November</u>, **Christmas & Craft Fair** at Stanford Avenue Methodist Church.
- <u>Thursday 23 November</u> Circuit Meeting, 7.30pm at Woodingdean
- <u>Saturday 2nd December</u> Women of Note Christmas
 Concert 3pm at Hove Methodist Church.

Special Worship Services

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Sunday 13th August	10.30am	Circuit Together Service at Stanford Avenue
Sunday 15th October	10.30am	Circuit Together Service at Dorset Gardens led by Revd Harvey Richardson and the Revd Andrew Pratt
Wednesday 1st November	7.30pm	All Saints Day Service at Stanford Avenue (see separate article & poster)
Thinking Aloud	6.30pm	(Online service) held monthly on 10th Sept, 8th Oct & 12th November.

Dorset Gardens

Sunday 22nd October	10.30am	Revd Robin Selmes will
•		return to DG to lead a
		service celebrating 100
		years of 14th Brighton
		Scouts troop.

Hove

Sunday 26th November	10.30am	Former minister Revd Colin
•		Smith will return to lead
		morning worship.

Patcham

Sunday 10th September 10.30am Revd Elisabeth Brooks will return to lead morning worship. Appropriately it is Education Sunday.

PILGRIMAGE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE and PEACE

Sunday 10th September

St Luke's Prestonville, 64 Old Shoreham Rd 1pm One Church, Florence Rd 1.30pm St Peter's, York Pl 2pm Buddhist Centre, Tichbourne St 2.25 pm Friends Meeting House, Ship St, 2.45/3.00 pm Seafront Groyne by Palace Pier 3.15 pm

We come together to walk in witness to the suffering of our earth and her people with hope for healing,

as a reminder about the climate and ecological crisis and people affected by war.

We remember that those who have done least to cause this emergency are suffering its worst effects.

We offer a safe and reflective activity with space to hold our frustration, fear and grief

and to model a new way of being in relationship with each other and the earth.



Copy Deadline

Please submit your articles & photos to Steve Preston for our 2023 Winter Edition by 13th October. Thank you.

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Superintendent: Rev Andy

Lowe