



Issue 61 February 2026

Loving Heavenly Father

You created our wonderful world and you saw it was good.

You set humankind over it to take care of it and to be good stewards.

Forgive our lack of care;

We have trampled harshly when we should have stood in awe and wonder.

We have taken your provision for granted.

Through our greed, apathy and lack of wisdom we have spoiled what was good.

Help us to see the world through your eyes and take our stewardship seriously.

May we tread your earth lightly and lovingly in praise of you, its maker.

Amen

Written by Kathryn Walker . Methodist prayer handbook 2021

*Our mission statement:
We are called to be a
growing, inclusive,
evangelistic and
justice-seeking Church*

Reflection

February 2026

It feels a bit late now, but Happy New Year to you!

As many of you know, it wasn't the greatest Christmas and New Year in the Fletcher household with various bouts of ill-health. It certainly marred the festivities and meant that it was a little way into January before I really felt that I had got going again.

However, it did show the Church in its best light. There were people who have gone above and beyond in not just offering, but also providing, practical support to Helen and me over this time that enabled us just to keep going. We have also been touched by the messages, cards, and emails we have received from people expressing care and concern for us. My apologies for those I haven't managed to reply to, but know that they did keep us going during difficult times.

In the middle of this month many in our society (whether they have a Christian affiliation or not) will mark St. Valentine's Day. There will be cards aplenty telling us what true love is like. We have our own definition. In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he sets out that the greatest gift they could seek was love. He then detailed the qualities of true love – it is patient, kind, it isn't arrogant or rude, it believes all things, bears all things, hopes all things.

St. John tells us that, as Jesus was preparing those first disciples for his imminent departure, he gave them the commandment that they were to love one another as he had loved them. The humble, self-sacrificing love that we see in Christ is to be our example. He told them, 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This love we are called to show should manifest itself in practical actions and expressions of concern. As St. Paul would tell the Corinthians in that same letter it would mean that we would all rejoice when one part of our Church family rejoiced; but that we would all suffer when one part suffered. It is a high calling and a hard calling because there aren't limits to who can receive this love – it isn't only for those we like, or who think as we do, or believe as we do. It is a love that must permeate all our emails and messages, our conversations and actions.

May we seek in this year to come to be people who better fulfil that call to love as Christ loved because it is only then that people will know we are Christ's disciples – by the love that we have for one another.

With every blessing,

Will

Updates from home

On the first Saturday of the new year Lorna and I were both feeling in need of some fresh air and exercise, after spending too much time eating and sitting around chatting with family and friends over the festive period.

We wrapped ourselves up, found our walking boots and binoculars and drove to Pulborough Brooks to do some bird watching.

When we arrived we were amazed at how busy it was. We chose to go our normal way around and were treated to glorious views of 100s of ducks, geese and lapwing.

The water was high which was good to see. There are 4 hides and in Hide 3 a very kind chap allowed me to look through his scope, pointing out a White-tailed eagle.

My joy at seeing this magnificent bird was insurmountable. Last year 3 of these birds were found dead unlawfully killed by game keepers, in Sussex. I thought they were all gone. How wrong I was. Lorna also had a look through the scope and admired it as well, then we moved on so others could see.

We walked to a view point further on and were watching geese which suddenly all took to flight, we looked up and the Eagle was flying just above us it was an amazing sight.

Lorna took these photos. I hope you like them.
From Caroline



Many thanks for your prayers. I thought I would include a photo so you can see who I am talking about. The photo was taken last October at my mum's 90th birthday.

My sister Gill (the other red head in the photograph) has acute myeloid leukaemia. I have been asking for prayers. Gill has felt that God has been carrying her through her treatment. She has had a really positive experience of chemotherapy.

Gill has been told that her leukaemia is in remission. Praise the lord. She just needs a 'mop up' course of chemotherapy.

Gill will then need to receive Stem cells from a good match donor. Siblings are the first ones to be tested as they are likely to be the best match.

Unfortunately my sister Judith (standing the other side to my mum in the photo) has a health condition which rules her out of donating. I was tested but my results came back as only 50%. I asked for prayers again and praise the lord Yvonne, my eldest sister results came back 100% match.

My mum is currently in hospital but she is coping with that okay and will hopefully be home soon. My mother-in-law is in a care home at the moment for respite care and should be going home in the next few weeks so life has been a bit busy at the moment.

Once again many thanks for holding the family in your prayers, the Lord has certainly been answering them. God bless love Lesley



Girls Brigade



4th Burgess Hill Girls' Brigade – Church Newsletter February 2026

After reaching the dizzy heights of having 24 girls attending GB regularly since September 2025, it was a bit of a shock when, after enrolling our five latest recruits on Sunday 11 January, on the following Tuesday, three of these girls left. The up-side is that the parents have said it might be possible for the girls to return at some point in the future.

Badgework started this term: :-

Explorers **Other Countries:** This is a lovely badge covering *What types of homes do people live in around the world? What food do people eat around the world? Why do people in other countries wear different clothes? What languages do people in other countries speak and How can we help people in other countries?*

The Juniors and Brigaders are under the charge of Molly Slater this half-term and she is exploring aspects of **Baby Care and Child Care** which the girls are thoroughly enjoying.

We sent 11 shoeboxes to the **Link to Hope** Shoebox Appeal. Thank you to all those who contributed items to this worthy cause. Next October we will support the Charity run by Heather Farrant.

As well as our badgework each week, there is always time for a craft, snacks and a few games to round off the evening.

My thanks to Ellie, Valerie, Amorette and Molly for leading the girls in the various activities and to the parents who bring the girls so regularly each week.

Margaret Taylor ~ Captain ~ 4th Burgess Hill Girls' Brigade – January 2026

Family Funday / Boys Brigade

The Boys Brigade have very kindly sent us some photos from the Festive Family Funday showing that the games were enjoyed by all! and another showing how many Boys we now have in our Brigade, an amazing amount I'm sure you will agree!
Thanks to Mary for sending these through.



Quiz!

How well do you remember last year?

All these quiz questions are about 2025 can you get them all correct.

1. Who was named new Pope in May 2025?
2. Which country won the Eurovision Song Contest in May?
3. Which rock band reunited for a tour and held their first performance since 2009?
4. Who won the men's singles at Wimbledon?
5. Which country won the women's Euros. 25?
6. Which iconic high street fashion shop brand announced it would be making a return?
- 7 Who won the women's Rugby World Cup?
8. Which world famous art gallery was robbed in October?
9. What did Oxford University press name as the word of the year?
10. What was the highest grossing movie of 2025?



Church News

Action for Children

The Christingle service on Christmas eve made a great start to the celebrations and was enjoyed by all. The total raised was £144 which was slightly more than last year. I have requested a thank you letter and will put it in the welcome area when it arrives. I would like to put in a request for any unwanted knitting wool as I have started knitting for refugees. Many thanks and wishing you all a happy New year. Mary Grover

Sunday 8th February

Our 4:30 service will be slightly different than usual. We are having a memorial service in the church not the back hall. It is for us to remember loved ones we have lost at anytime. They don't have to be associated with the church. If you would like someone you loved but have lost mentioned you can either Email bhmethodists@gmail.com or just hand the details to Karen, Caroline, or Lorna before or on the day.

We will have refreshments after the service.

SATURDAY 28th FEBRUARY GIFT DAY.

This is always a good day for us. This year we are holding a coffee morning with entertainment. From 10:30 until 12

Will is joining us along with some friends from Patcham Silver Band to play for us.

There will of course be tea, coffee and cakes.

For Gift Day donations please either donate on line using the details below

Using the reference Gift Day. account number 41001337.

Sort code 40-15-16 payee Burgess hill Methodist church.

Cash can be placed in an envelope

Or cheques made out to Burgess hill Methodist Church and handed in on the day.

Please be aware we are extremely grateful for your donations. Our building is in need of a lot of work!!!

SUNDAY 1st MARCH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Reverend Pauline Crispin has agreed to take our service on this special day.

Many of you will remember Pauline , she was our minister from 2007 until 2012.

I'm sure you will agree that it will be lovely to see her again.

After the service there will be lunch in the back hall, to which you are all invited.

We need to know numbers, so please sign the form on our notice board by Sunday 22nd. All we ask is for a voluntary donation of £5 to cover the cost of the food which will be Chicken casserole, mashed potatoes and garden peas plus a choice of dessert.

We hope you will join us, the more the merrier.

6th March World Day of Prayer

It is the World Day of Prayer on 6th March, there will be a service in the Salvation Army Hall, Cyprus Road 10:30am all welcome

Website and Email address

The church now has a website!

www.burgesshillmethodists.co.uk

We thought it was about time that we had a website – especially as if you googled ‘churches Burgess Hill’ we were not listed at all! So the next time you lose your service dates in the newsletter, or you want to show someone a picture of the church, you can look it all up on the website.

We have also taken steps to improve our email security – we do sincerely apologise for the random emails you received when our email address was hacked. They are now much more secure, but you will notice a slight difference in the email address which is now:

bhmethodists@gmail.com (not Talktalk.net). Please save the new email address.

If you do accidentally email the old talktalk email then don't worry, it will be forwarded to the new email address (but we will close the account in a few months time).

Quiz ANSWERS

1. Pope Leo XIV
2. Austria
3. Oasis
4. Jannik Sinner
5. England
6. Top shop
7. England
8. The Louvre
9. Ragebait
10. LILO and Stitch.

February 2026 Diary Service Dates

Sunday Morning Worship we welcome you to join us

Sunday 1st February– Sunday Worship led by Rev Peter Shilling from 10.30am

Sunday 8th February – Sunday Worship led by Rev Will Fletcher from 4.30pm

Sunday 15th February – Holy Communion led by Rev Will Fletcher from 10.30am

Sunday 22nd February – Sunday Worship led by Mrs Pat Oakley from 10.30am

Sunday Evening Worship on Zoom

Every Sunday evening, we join our friends from CSUA for an evening time of Worship held online from 6pm, unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 1st February - led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

Sunday 8th February - led by Rev Paul Tabraham

Sunday 15th February - led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley to include Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd February - led by Rev Will Fletcher

Every Tuesday evening, we join with our friends from Haywards Heath for evening prayers from 8pm online.

Every Wednesday morning from 10.30am we join our friends from Haywards Heath for Bible Book Club. Refer to the weekly church notices for more detail.

All are welcome to join us for any of the online sessions, please ask Rev Will for the access details. Contact details are 01444 215652 or Will Fletcher will.fletcher@methodist.org.uk.

Every 1st Tuesday in the month – midweek communion from 12.15pm all are welcome in the back hall at BHMC

We love to have your input items for the newsletter. Please send your items for inclusion in the March Newsletter to bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com before the deadline of Friday 20th February 2026.