



## *Issue 59 November 2025*

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

*Heavenly Father*

*Come as a dove flying over still waters of hope,  
Putting peace into the hearts of people who would wage war  
Come to the captives and the refugees.  
Comfort all people who wait for freedom  
And all people who wait for them to be free.  
Come as the sound of silence  
to hear the cries of people whose lives  
are limited by gender based violence and domination.  
Stir up the hearts of all who abuse their power and privilege.  
Come as flames of justice  
To a world where children are hungry,  
A world ripped apart by untruths and greed.  
Come as water cascading down a mountain  
Washing away the inequalities of wealth and poverty  
Come change the story . Come Holy Spirit come now.*

*Amen*

A prayer from Methodist prayer handbook 2025  
Penny McCullough, worship leader, West Midlands.

A prayer for our church in 2025

Dear God of mission

Who alone brings growth to your church

send your Holy Spirit to give

Vision to our planning

And power to our witness.

Help our church grow in numbers

In spiritual Commitment to you,

And service to our local community,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

© Leading your church into growth.

# Reflection

## November 2025

The last few months have been a busy time for funerals across both our churches. At the time of writing this, I will have had 8 funerals between the middle of August and the end of November. Some of them have been church members, others related to those connected with our wider church families. Each one is a person with a web of connections from family and friends. With their deaths, those webs develop a hole.

In the midst of this the Church has the opportunity to offer its crucial pastoral ministry of caring for those in the most need. The care we offer is not just through me meeting the families and preparing and leading the services, but through those who steward when the services are in church, those who do the administration and organizing, those who arrange flowers, play the organ.

However, it isn't just in the official roles that we, as the Church, minister.

Those who turn up to the services, sing the hymns, offer a word of comfort or a smile also contribute to that healing ministry of the Church.

There are many professionals involved in caring for those who have died and their families. The vast majority carry out this service with compassion and empathy. They need and deserve our prayers. What we in the Church are able to offer is that lasting presence long after the funeral has happened. The pastoral ministry to which we are all called – to be agents of love, hope, and presence – isn't limited to just the funeral service. Instead, we are called to carry on remembering those who have lost loved ones and reaching out to them.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> is, in the Church, known as All Souls' Day. It is the day when we remember those who have died, especially in the last year. The remembering that the Church does isn't just a looking back to when particular people were alive on earth. Instead, we remember not only their lives amongst us, but that, in God, their lives continue. The letter to the Hebrews encourages us to remember that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. Charles Wesley commends us with these words:

*let all the saints terrestrial sing  
with those to glory gone;  
for all the servants of our King,  
in earth and heaven, are one.*

So, in this month of remembering, may we do so holding on to that hope that, in God, we remain one united people in worship and service, until we all gather at the throne of God.

With every blessing,

*Will*

## Updates from home

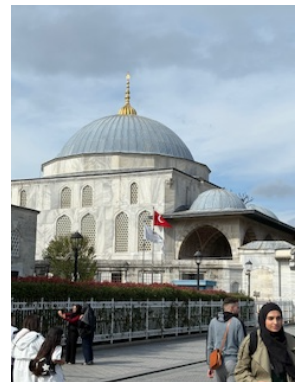
### **My holiday to Istanbul, Troy and Ephesus.**

At the beginning of October, I went to Turkey with 'Just you' which is a holiday company for solo travellers. I have been away with them several times before but this holiday involved staying at four different hotels so I wondered



how I would cope living out of my suitcase. That proved an unfounded worry! More difficult was the amount of walking and the length of coach journeys between hotels and ancient sites. We travelled 1700 miles in the coach. I discovered Turkey is a vast country.

We landed in Istanbul to spend two nights there. On the day after our arrival, we were taken by our guide on a walking tour of the old city, the Blue Mosque and the Grand Bazaar. The next day



before taking our coach to our next hotel we visited Topkapi Palace, the impressive residence of the Ottoman Sultans. Then we were off to our second hotel from where the next day we visited Troy where they are still excavating the ruins.

Another hotel! From this hotel in Izmir, we went to Ephesus



which was a place I had wanted to visit on previous visits to the Turkish coast but when I was on those holidays it was in the summer which is very hot! Ephesus was very crowded but lived up to my expectations. It is amazing to think that it dates back to Roman times and St Paul would have walked where we walked.

From Izmir our coach took us to Bursa overnight and our fourth hotel. The following morning, we were once again on the trail of the Ottoman Empire

and went to visit the Grand Mosque and the tombs of the first Ottoman Sultans.

Back to Istanbul and our last night in Turkey. A boat trip in the afternoon to admire the city from the Bosphorus. The weather was chilly as we went against the tide but when we turned around the sun came out and it was a bit warmer.



Back to the UK on Day 9. Overall, it was a great holiday. All my fellow holiday makers (34 of us in all) were good company. Our local guide was great. He had a lot of knowledge which he regaled us with (probably it bit too much for me to take in). He also managed not to lose any of the party which was a feat in itself! Janet Walton



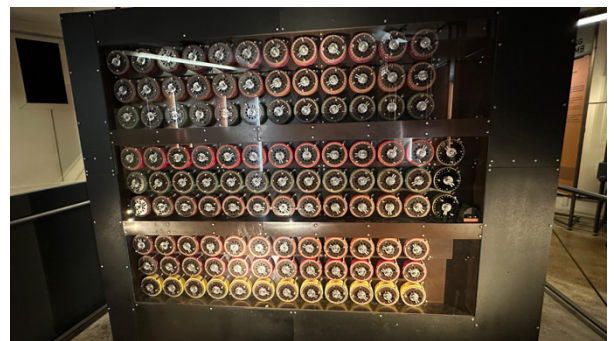
## A trip to Bletchley Park

Every year for the past 8 years we have had a family reunion in Buckinghamshire, and every year I have said 'we must go to Bletchley Park'. Well this year we finally made it.



It is somewhere I have wanted to go for many years. It certainly lived up to my expectations! I was astounded at the number of German / Russian Enigma machines they had, and seeing the code breakers Bombe machine was amazing! The size of

the bombe machine and the amount of work it must have taken to build was phenomenal. We learnt a lot about the people who worked at Bletchley – 8,000 people in total, who worked in 3 x 8 hour shifts, the majority of which were women.



We learnt that not everyone who tried to get in got a place there, with even JRR Tolkien (the writer of the Lord of The Rings) being denied a place.



The story of Alan Turing was told throughout a museum section dedicated to him, with the letter pardoning him for being gay signed by the then Prime Minister Gordon Brown. They even had a £50 note with Alan Turing's picture on it, with the serial number of the date they managed to break the Enigma code.

As soon as the war ended the staff were laid off, apart from the WRENS who had the job of chopping the machines into pieces.

Some of the Nissan huts were set up with the original style lighting, sounds and scents from the machinery so you could imagine the conditions the workers were in.

It was a fascinating place, with so many stories to tell, and I really enjoyed my visit.

From Lorna

# Girls Brigade



## 4<sup>th</sup> Burgess Hill Girls' Brigade – October 2025

I am very pleased to say that last Wednesday, 22 October, we gained two new Explorers who are sisters of older girls, this brings our Explorer numbers up to 13 which is so encouraging.

Explorers: We have continued with looking at **Helpful People** and included time given to the meaning of the Lord's Prayer and decorating a boarder round the prayer to take home. We talked about people who build our houses and all that entails from various other trained people such as Carpenters and Brick Layers and on the last Wednesday before half-term we concentrated on what our teachers do to help us and what we can do to help our teachers.

We didn't get very far with **Caring** as, for various reasons, we did not have many Juniors so we put the Juniors and Seniors together and they prepared, cooked and sometimes ate a different meal each week.



As you can see from these photos, we have finished filling shoeboxes for the Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal, putting together 13 boxes filled with helpful items and treats for families and the elderly in Ukraine, Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria. Thank you to parents and members of the Church who have contributed suitable items so generously to make this possible. This slotted well into the older girls' badge **World Need**.

After half-term we will be thinking about preparing for Advent and Christmas.

Margaret Taylor ~ Captain ~ 4th Burgess Hill Girls' Brigade - October 2025

# Quiz!

Test your general knowledge with a quick quiz, answers later on in the newsletter

1. Which country has never progressed passed the first round of the football World Cup.?
2. In which English county would you find St Michael's Mount?
3. Which sea is nearly 1,300 feet below sea level?
4. What is a Jansky a unit of?
5. The Electronic Secretary was a prototype of which device?
6. Which European city staged the 1928 Olympic Games?
7. In which continent is the river Plate?
8. Which French town has a reputation for miraculous cures?
9. Who wrote the fantasy novel The Colour Of Magic?
10. The Dace is a member of which family of fresh water fish ?





# Church News

Unfortunately, the war in Ukraine continues and is getting worse. The people over there are running out of food. If you can help us fill the box in the welcome area with non-perishable items, Heather our contact would be very grateful, they are trying to do 2 drop offs a month at the moment.

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Dear Friends

I hate to mention Christmas when it is only November, but time flies and I know how busy you all get so here are some dates for your diary.

Don't worry we will put them in the December/ January newsletter as well.

## SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER

Our Festive Fun Day. Not just for children! Come and enjoy a bacon roll or a cream tea with your friends. Make a Christmas decoration or card. Get a jigsaw or a really good read. Books gratefully received any Sunday from now on.

We look forward to seeing you on the day between 10am and 2pm.

## From 1st DECEMBER

Bring your Christmas Card for your church friends and pin it up on our notice board.

Make a small donation to All We Can.

## SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER

4:30 pm will be our Carols by candlelight service. Followed by toasted crumpets and homemade mince pies .

## WEDNESDAY 24th December

4pm our Christingle service. This is a lovely service and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. No refreshments so you can go straight home and get the turkey prepared!!!

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## All We Can

The harvest service on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, the meal we all shared the following Sunday and the collection raised £200 for All We Can. We have chosen to support their fund for 'Building Resilience' which helps in times of disaster to help families to build stronger, resilient homes to help to minimise loss of life and damage.



## Website and Email address

**The church now has a website!**

**[www.burgesshillmethodists.co.uk](http://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 Scotland
- 2 Cornwall
- 3 The Dead Sea
- 4 Radiation
- 5 Telephone answering machine .
6. Amsterdam
7. South America
8. Lourdes
- 9 Terry Pratchett
10. Carp



**Burgess Hill Methodist  
Church**

**Free Festive Fun  
Day**

- Crafts
- Refreshments
- Fair Games
- Bacon butties, cream teas
- Jigsaws and books
- and More...

**Burgess Hill Methodist Church,  
Gloucester Road, Burgess Hill,  
RH19 8QD**

**For more info visit:**

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



## **November 2025 Diary Service Dates**

**Sunday Morning Worship we welcome you to join us on:**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** – Sunday Worship led by Stuart Dew from 10.30am

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November** – Sunday Worship led by Rev Will Fletcher from 4.30pm

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November** – Holy Communion led by Rev Will Fletcher from 10.30am

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** – Sunday Worship led by Mrs Christine Sweet from 10.30am

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November** – No Worship at BHMC we join our friends at All Saints URC B/ Hill

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> November** - led by Rev Sheila Foreman

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November** - led by Rev Evans-Routley to include Holy Communion

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November** - led by Rev Andy Melvin

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November** - led by Rev Evans-Routley

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November** – Haywards Heath CS / 4pm

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](mailto:will.fletcher@methodist.org.uk).

We love to have your input items for the newsletter. Please send your items for inclusion in the December / January Newsletter to [bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com) before the deadline of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025.