



Burgess Hill Methodists

Issue 65 June 2026

Lord and Master of our lives,
Take from us the spirit
Of laziness,
half-heartedness,
Selfishness,
and Idle talk.
Give us rather the spirit
Of integrity,
Purity of heart,
humility,
faithfulness
and love.
Lord and king,
help us to see our own errors,
and not to judge our neighbours;
For your mercy's sake.
Amen



Taken from The book of a Thousand Prayers.

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

Reflection

June 2026

*Here's the church,
here's the steeple,
open the doors,
and here's all the people!*

I wonder if you remember saying this rhyme as a child or to children in your family or friendship circle, using your fingers to make the building and the people contained within. It has suddenly become a favourite in our family.

It has become common in recent years to stress that the Church is the people and not the building. I don't think there are many who would dispute this. Our focus should always primarily be on the living stones who are being built into God's holy Temple, rather than the bricks and mortar of our buildings. However, that doesn't tell the whole story.

For those who have lived and worshipped in a particular community for all or much of their lives, the physical place comes to hold real meaning. It is why there is real grief when a church building closes.

This connection to place isn't anything new. Way back in Genesis, when Jacob was fleeing his brother, Esau, he saw one night in a vision a ladder stretching up to heaven and the angels ascending and descending. In the morning, he set up the stone he used as a pillow to be a memorial, that spoke of the holiness of that place. This is only one of many occasions when the people of God recognised somewhere as holy because of an encounter with God there.

The places we encounter God are special and, whilst they shouldn't ever take the place of God in our focus and discipleship, we also shouldn't disregard them lightly. I recognise that, wherever I go, I will always be an incomer. As such, I have always felt that weight of responsibility for these sacred spaces where many of you have had significant experiences of God and God's love for you.

It can also be tempting to judge ourselves by other churches and, particularly, by how many people they have attending. We can easily slip into a theology which says that churches that are living how they should be will therefore have the biggest congregations. We can then look down on those smaller than us, or feel inadequate compared to those larger than us. I have recently been on a course about rural mission and ministry, as I prepare for my next appointment. On that course one of the speakers reminded us that a tangerine isn't a failed orange – it has beauty and purpose as it is. Small churches aren't necessarily failed big churches – God doesn't judge us by our size, but by our faithfulness.

Therefore, may we treasure the whole of our church – the people and the place – and look again at the beauty that God sees in us and the delight God finds in us.

With every blessing,

Will

Updates from Home

Our Cambridge trip

Many of you know, Karen and I went to Cambridge at the end of April for 4 nights, Monday to Friday. We caught the train from Burgess Hill expecting to get off at Cambridge, unfortunately this didn't happen, due to difficulties with the drivers we had to change trains at Royston, not too difficult just a short delay.

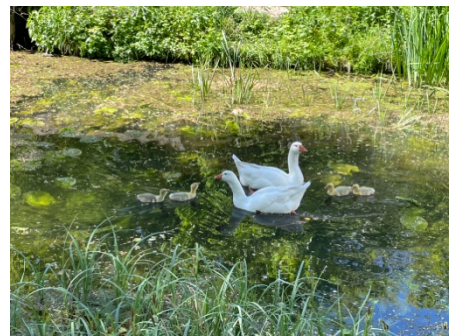
When we arrived in Cambridge we had a quick lunch and then decided to walk to our hotel, only a 25 minute walk, we asked a local guide and set off. The trouble was neither of us could remember all he said! We asked many people along the way, it did seem a long 25 minutes and was probably nearer an hour, but we made it. The very nice staff gave us rooms on the 4th floor near each other. I was very pleased there was a lift.



Tuesday morning we were happy to find the bus stop was right outside the hotel. The weather was a little damp and rather cold, we decided to go into Cambridge city centre and see what was around. We visited one of the museums and had lunch we were delighted when we left the weather had cleared up and it was bright sunshine, time to visit the botanical gardens. A real treat with many flowers out including peonies with blooms the size of dinner plates.

Wednesday we caught the bus from Cambridge bus station directly to Anglesey Abbey.

A National Trust property. We enjoyed the trails around the grounds it even had a water mill. In the small river we came across 2 beautiful white geese with 4 little goslings which were a delight to watch.



Thursday we went back into the city, visiting more museums and the very interesting ancient round church showing a video of the history of Cambridge which was very informative. That evening we attended evensong at The church of. Great St Mary as suggested by Will. The children's singing was beautiful.

Friday came too soon, once again the journey home wasn't straightforward the direct train to Burgess Hill was

cancelled. We had to go via London, but it turned out to be quicker and we were home around 30 minutes early.

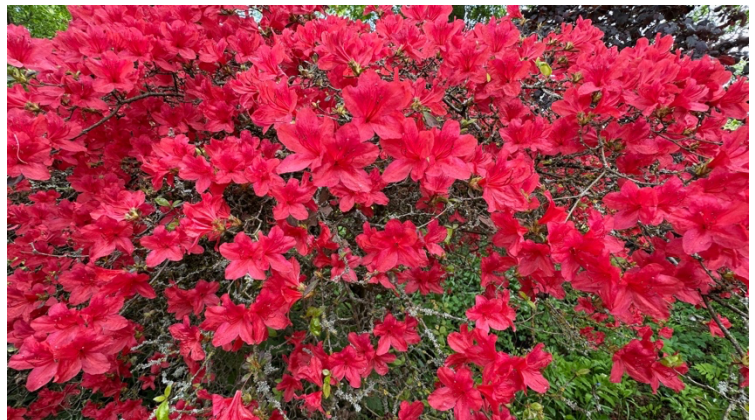
All in all we had a great time.
Caroline K.



A visit to Wisley

Mum and I recently visited Wisley, we were delighted to see the garden, including the Azaleas, Roses, Irises and a myriad of other flowers. We managed to dodge all the showers and had a thoroughly enjoyable day! Here are some of my photos

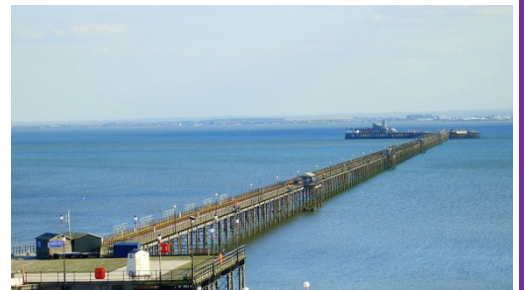
From Lorna



Quiz!

A summer time Quiz for June. Hope you enjoy it. Answers later in the Newsletter.

1. Which British seaside attraction is 158 meters tall?
2. At 1.34 miles where is the longest pleasure pier in the UK?
3. What was the name of the ITV holiday show fronted by Judith Chalmers which ran from 1994 until 2003
4. Thunderstorms are most likely to hit the Southeast of England? True or False
5. The month of July is named after which famous historical person?
6. When does summer officially start?
7. Celebrated in April, the first day of summer is a national holiday in which European country?
8. What was the first name of Clegg in the sitcom, Last of the Summer Wine?
9. Castel Gandolfo is famous for being whose summer residence?
10. The summer solstice occurs in which month in the Southern Hemisphere?



Church News

Midweek Communion led by Rev Will Fletcher

An informal communion, held on the first Tuesday of the Month.
From 12.15pm for 30 Minutes All are Welcome

This will be held on the 7th July

Saturday 13th June

Church council 10am in the sanctuary. Everyone is welcome.

Summer cleaning

On Tuesdays during the summer holidays , ie the end of July until early September Karen and Caroline K will be cleaning and tidying cupboards in the kitchen and elsewhere . If you would like to help us, even if you can only spare an hour, we would greatly appreciate your help. Please speak to one of us.

Garden Party

Garden Party in aid of Christian Aid will be held on Wednesday 19 August, 2:30pm in Caroline's garden 3 Dunstall Farm Road, Burgess Hill.

Methodist Prayer Handbook

Please can you let me know by the end of July if you would like me to order a copy of the 20256/2027

Methodist Prayer Handbook. It is entitled 'Sorrow & Joy.' The cost this year will be £4.99 plus a share of the postage charge. The price is the same whether you would like a normal or large print version.

Janet Walton

Important Information

Wills last service at Burgess Hill is going to be Sunday 5th July. At 10:30

On Sunday 12th July in the afternoon (time to be confirmed)
A special Goodbye service will be at Haywards Heath followed by refreshments

After these services Will moves and Karl doesn't join us until September, therefore it has been decided for us to go to fortnightly services. July and August will look like this:

July 19th Closed
July 26th 10:30 service

August 2nd closed
August 9th Service
August 16th closed
August 23rd service 10:30
August 30th Closed.

Once we have the plan, I will be able to give you more details.
Any questions do ask Caroline K or Karen.

Quiz ANSWERS

1. Blackpool tower
2. Southend
3. Wish you were here
- 4 True
5. Julius Ceaser
6. 21st June
7. Iceland
8. Norman
9. The Popes
- 10 December

June 2026 Diary Service Dates

Sunday Morning Worship we welcome you to join us on:

Sunday 7th June – Sunday Worship from 10.30am led by Graham Campling

Sunday 14th June – Sunday Worship from 4.30pm led by Rev Will Fletcher

Sunday 21st June – Holy Communion from 10.30am led by Rev Will Fletcher

Sunday 28th June – Sunday Worship from 10.30am led by the Christine Sweet

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 7th June – led by Rev Will Fletcher

Sunday 14th June - led by Rev Paul Tabraham

Sunday 21st June – led by Rev Will Fletcher

Sunday 28th June – led by Rev Barbara Evans – Routley

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 for both online services.

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.

We love to have your input items for the newsletter. Please send your items for inclusion in the July / August Newsletter. to bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com before the deadline of Friday 26th June.