



Burgess Hill Methodists

Issue 66 July / August 2026

*If we see the world through your eyes, Lord,
Then we see a vision of our world as your love would
have it.*

*A world where all who are weak are protected and
none go hungry.*

*A world where your riches of creation
are shared for everyone to enjoy them.*

*A world where mutual respect is expressed
between different races and cultures and harmony
descends.*

*A world where peace is built with justice,
and justice is guided by love.*

*Give us the inspiration and courage to build it how
you see it Lord!*

*That all may praise together and the only power
exerted is the power of your love.*

Amen

*A prayer from the Methodist prayer handbook
Written by Gwynn Bamford.*

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

Reflection

July and August 2026

One of the challenges in preparing to go is feeling pressure to write something profound for my final services and newsletter items – some may be thinking it is a bit late to try starting being deep!

But maybe that desire to be profound, to be remembered, is part of the problem the Church has to face up to. Many of us have grown up used to the Church being at the centre of public life, and now it isn't. We desire for the Church to reclaim its position, to have influence through its prestige, to be noticed when it is absent. For that is the sad thing – it isn't that most people are hostile to the Church, but they don't even notice that we aren't in the position we once were.

However, what if the calling of the Church is actually something quite different – no less profound, but far more plain. When Jesus speaks of what the kingdom of God is like, he doesn't speak of grand buildings, of people of power or wealth, of being at the centre of society. Instead he speaks of the tiny mustard seed, the small amount of yeast mixed into the dough, of a pearl buried in a field. All of these are small, some are even insignificant, they are hidden. Yet, their power and value isn't found in their size, but in the effect they have on the surroundings or the individuals who discover them.

This isn't a call to give up or not bother. Instead, it is a call to embrace what may be Christ's call to us at this time not purely to lament the change in the Church's position, but also to embrace it. As you move into this next chapter may you not just focus on how to be great and noticeable, but also how to go about the small acts that often go unseen or seem insignificant, yet can have profound effects on those who experience them. May you seek Christ at the margins of our communities and be those signs of hope and transformation. May you be brave enough to take time to stop from the endless round of trying to keep everything going, to sit together and wait for God's call for the next step.

So, what will my parting words be to you all? I can do no better than the reported final words of John Wesley:

'And the best of all is God is with us.'

Will

Updates from Home

Our trip to Austria

Earlier in June Lorna and I had a glorious week in beautiful Austria. We stayed in a small village in the Austrian Tyrol called Söll. Staying half board in a pleasant hotel, our rooms were next door to each other and we each had a balcony with amazing views of the mountains.

We had free bus travel while we were there and made good use of them. We enjoyed a day in Innsbruck and Salzburg which included some of the locations used in the Sound of Music. Austria has to be the most beautiful Country in Europe.....unless you know differently!

Here are some photos to prove my point.

Caroline K



Family update from Lesley

Many thanks for all the prayers supporting myself and the family they have been very much appreciated.

Sadly my mother died on Sunday 21st June. She had multiple organ failure in the end. Mum passed very peacefully into the next life Sunday about 9.30pm. I had only just left her but my sister Judith was with her.

My sister Gillian very much still needs your prayers. She received stem cells from a donor on the Anthony Nolan register. My sister Yvonne was 100% match but a younger donor was preferred. The transplant went very well. Gill is in hospital at the moment though as she has numbness in her lower limbs which is foxing her chemotherapy team and the neurologist! Gill is hoping she will be able to go to the funeral.

My mother in law is in Rookwood care home. She has come to realize that she is not mobile enough to go home. She is reasonably well at the moment and appears to be enjoying life which is wonderful. I would thoroughly recommend Rookwood to anyone the staff are so caring.

Once more thank you for the prayers and kind words I have received. God bless from Lesley

Quiz!

A tricky Quiz for July and August. Hope you enjoy it. Answers later in the Newsletter.

1. Which country has the highest life expectancy as of 2026?
2. What art form is described as decorative handwriting or handwritten lettering?
3. What is Acrophobia a fear of?
4. What is the fourth letter of the Greek alphabet?
5. How many stars are there on the Chinese flag?
6. How many colours are used in the south African flag?
7. Which is the only sea without a coast line?
8. Which country features a shipwreck on it's national flag?
9. In what country is the Chernobyl nuclear plant located?
10. What mountain range separates Europe from Asia?



Girls Brigade



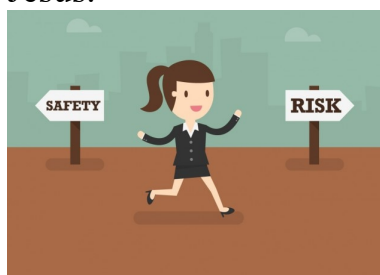
4th Burgess Hill Girls' Brigade

This past half term has seen the Explorers completing **Our Food** where they were challenged with *Why is breakfast important? Do you like packed lunches? Should you eat cakes and biscuits? What's for dinner? and What's a healthy snack.* Needless to say, food samples were available to try out.

The Juniors, Seniors and Brigaders (Company Section) learned to play **Belleplates** which was a bit of a challenge but eventually, the girls were able to play three tunes, Westminster Chimes, Daisy, Daisy and Abide with Me.



Valerie Randell took the final badge for this session with the Company Section which was **Taking Risks**. She explained that life was full of risks, some are good risks that help people, for example, deciding to risk starting a conversation with a new person, some are bad risks that can become harmful to us or other people. The badge also covered identifying risks in the kitchen, keeping safe when going out, using mobile phones and people in the Bible who took risks such as Noah, Mary and the fishermen who followed Jesus.



We invited God to help when making life choices and used this prayer :-
Dear God, Please help us to take a responsible attitude towards the risks that surround us. Help us to learn to make wise life choices and through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we take the risk of following Jesus, Amen

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

Church News

Minister during transition phase

Should you need a minister after Rev. Will has left on the 12th July, contact Rev. Barbara Evans-Routley, mobile phone: 07948119787 email: barbaraevansroutley@gmail.com
In an emergency only please.

Rev. Dr. Karl Rutledge welcome service

The welcome service for Rev. Dr. Karl Rutledge will be on Sunday 13th September, 4pm at Emmanuel church Eastbourne.
Everyone is welcome to attend.
As yet we don't know when Rev. Karl's first service with us will be.

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

On Wednesday 19th August I will be hosting a garden party to raise funds for Christian Aid, at 3 Dunstall Farm Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 8LG. Do come along and support this worthwhile cause
Start time 2:30 pm. I look forward to seeing you.

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2026 / 2027

This is the last call for anyone wishing me to order a copy for them. I already have 8 people wanting copies. If I can interest 2 more people, then instead of £4.99 the price goes down to £4.50.
Please let me know if you are if you would like a copy by the end of July.
Janet Walton

2027 Calendars

Back by popular demand!

Lorna will be creating a calendar for 2027, entitled 'All things Bright and Beautiful'.

The cost will be £10.

To give us some idea of how many to print if you would like more than one copy please tell Lorna or email the newsletter:
bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com

All proceeds will go to Church funds.

Quiz ANSWERS

1. Monaco
2. Calligraphy
3. Heights
- 4 Delta
5. 5
6. 6
7. Sargasso Sea
8. Bermuda
9. Ukraine
- 10 Ural Mountains

Important Information

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

On Sunday 12th July at 4pm there will be a special goodbye service for both Rev. Will and Rev. Paul Tabraham at Haywards Heath Methodist Church. This will be led by Rev. Barbara Evans-Routley and CSUA. Refreshments will be provided after the service.

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:

CORRECTION TO DATES – apologies for the error in previous edition.

July 19th Sunday Worship led by Cathy Agius from 10.30am

July 26th Closed

Sunday 2nd August Holy Communion from 10.30am led by Rev Keith Morrison

August 9th Closed

Sunday 16th August – Sunday Worship led by Pat Oakley at 10.30am

August 23rd Closed

August 30th Closed -United Service at HHMC

July 2026 Diary Service Dates

Sunday Morning Worship we welcome you to join us on:
July 2026 Diary Service Dates

Sunday 5th July – BHMC Farewell service to include Holy Communion led by Rev Will Fletcher from 10.30am

Sunday 19th July – Sunday Worship led by Cathy Agius from 10.30am

Sunday Evening Worship on Zoom in July

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

Sunday 5th July – led by Deacon Vicky Welsh

Sunday 19th July – led by Rev Andy Melvin

Sunday 26th July – led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

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

Bible Book Club will be held on Wednesday **1st July** from 10.30am we join our friends from Haywards Heath, to discuss Hebrews chapters 11 – 13, on Wednesday **8th July** from 10.30am we will share a time together, ending the session in celebrating Holy Communion together.

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.

Midweek Communion will be held from 12.15pm on Tuesday **7th July** all are welcome to join us in the back hall at Burgess Hill Methodist Church.

August 2026 Diary Service Dates

**Sunday Morning Worship we welcome you to join us on:
August 2026 Diary Service Dates**

Sunday 2nd August – Holy Communion from 10.30am led by Rev Keith Morrison

Sunday 16th August – Sunday Worship led by Pat Oakley from 10.30am

Sunday Evening Worship on Zoom in August

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

Sunday 2nd August – led by Rev Sheila Foreman

Sunday 9th August – led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

Sunday 16th August – led by Rev Andy Melvin

Sunday 23rd August – led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

We love to have your input items for the newsletter. Please send your items for inclusion in the September Newsletter to bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com before the deadline of Friday 28th August.