

Issue 68 October 2026

God whose farm is all creation,
Take the gratitude we give;
Take the finest of our harvest,
Crops we grow that all may live

Take our plowing, seeding, reaping,
Hopes and fears of sun and rain,
All our thinking, planning, waiting,
Ripened in this fruit and grain.

All our labour, all our watching,
All our calendar of care,
In these crops of your creation,
Take, O God: they are our prayer.



Leslie thomas John Arlott (1914 - 1991) Singing the faith hymn. 122

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

Meet our new Minister - Karl

Greetings! It is good to have finally landed in Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath after months of rounding off in Kingston and getting ready for the move. I'm excited to be here and to have the opportunity to work with you all, as we seek to discern what God is calling us to be and to do in the coming few years.
I thought it might be useful to share something about me as we get to know one another, so here are ten things about Karl:

1. I am originally from Preston, and am a proud Lancashire lad even as I have lived and worked in a range of places since leaving home at eighteen to go to university.
2. My background is in maths and physics. I remember watching a series made by Stephen Hawking when I was a teenager, based on his book 'A Brief History of Time'. That captivated my imagination and led me eventually to doing a PhD in mathematical physics, which I enjoyed very much.
3. The downside of being in a university maths department is that while the TV series 'The Big Bang Theory' is exaggerated for comedic purposes, it is not by much! After eight years in that environment, I decided that academia was not for me and I wanted a change. Besides, I had also by then met my wife, Sally, and sought greater geographical stability than would have been offered by undertaking a series of postdoctoral positions.
4. Sally and I have been married for thirteen years as of this summer. Having met at university, we have since dotted around the country together a bit as work has led us to different places. Sally works for the Methodist Church, and is currently involved in redesigning the study course undertaken by trainee Local Preachers.
5. Before I left to train full-time for ordained ministry, I worked as a risk analyst for a major high street bank for five years, latterly in a team that validated mathematical models across the bank in Europe, the US and South America. I thus got to spend time working out in Spain, Norway and Germany among other places, and gained experience in project management across borders, regulatory compliance and other fun things, as well as loving the travel.
6. I didn't grow up going to church, but I became a Christian in my early twenties, after a period of attending Quaker meetings and exploring my spirituality for myself and away from the pressures of the Christian

Union. Having ended up both worshipping in an Anglican cathedral and attending a Methodist student group when I was a postgraduate up in Durham, I eventually settled into Methodism really because of ministers who took me under their wing, encouraged and challenged me.

7. This is my second appointment, having spent the past nine years in the Kingston upon Thames Circuit, looking after churches in New Malden and Kingston. Hopefully there won't be another global pandemic in the middle of this appointment!
8. Outside of work, I enjoy a range of interests including photography, walking, playing tennis (badly!), reading, science-related stuff, films and poetry. You may well find me wandering the South Downs, capturing the sunset on Brighton beach, or running after a tennis ball in Victoria Park!
9. During my first sabbatical, I was able to fulfil a long-held ambition to go on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella in Galicia, Spain. Over three weeks, I walked from Porto following the Atlantic coast until storms and land slips forced me further in land. It was a fantastic experience which I would thoroughly recommend to anyone fancying adventure, and I met some great people along the way.
10. I am on a diet, so please do not feed me biscuits, cake or big meals! I am determined to finally get rid of my belly!



Me arriving in Santiago de Compostella, back in March 2024.

Updates from Home

Cycling Holiday

We have recently returned from a cycling holiday and as with these types of holidays we have done before we like to extend them a little by travelling to and from by train. We set off from Burgess Hill, taking the train to St Pancras where we changed onto Eurostar for the journey to Paris Gare Du Nord station. We took the very short walk to Paris Gare de L 'Est station where we boarded a train to Mannheim in Germany. The picture is of the water tower in Mannheim.



We stayed overnight there and had a little time to explore this interesting city before catching our next train to Saltzburg in Austria. We again stayed overnight in this very Mozart orientated city and had enough time there to take in the very old but compact centre of the city. The next morning, we boarded our last short train ride to a town called Villach which is where our cycling holiday began. We collected our hired bicycles and set off the following morning to Tarvisio, a town in the Italian Alps very close to the border of not just Austria but also Slovenia. This picture is of us just setting off from Tarvisio.



The scenery was lovely, but we climbed steadily throughout the day. The next days ride was to a town called Udine and consisted of a cycling part down an old railway line which followed a beautiful valley and then a transfer by vehicle to the hotel. Up until our arrival in Udine the weather had been wonderful, but it changed dramatically, and our next days ride was undertaken in pouring rain. We were heading for a town called Palmanova, which is a fortified town built by the Phoenicians and is unusual as it is centred around an octagonal piazza. The thunderstorms continued all night and we feared that our next days ride would also be in the rain. We set off in the dry and very fortunately stopped for a cup of tea just before a huge downpour. We waited until it stopped and luckily managed the rest of the day in the dry.



We were heading for our final destination, a town called Grado, a lovely resort on a peninsular in the Adriatic. We had another day here to recover and enjoy the town and its lovely beaches. This is a view of the port in Grado.

It was then time to head back home. So, we started by catching a bus to the nearest railway station, which was at Cervignano del Friuli and then catching our train to Milan, changing at Venice on the way. We stopped overnight in Milan before catching our next train to Basel in Switzerland, changing at Zurich on the way. Our last day involved a train to Paris Gare de Lyon, transferring to Gare du Nord to catch our Eurostar service back to London.

Overall, we had a wonderful time and adding getting there and back by train increases the fun and interest to the holiday.

Chris and Caroline.

Quiz!

Here is a quick quiz to test your general knowledge, enjoy! (answers elsewhere in the newsletter)

1 What is the capital city of New Zealand

2. Which musical featured the song “When I marry Mr Snow”

3. In TV ads. Shane Richie knocked on doors holding a packet of what

4. What did the W C stand for in the name W C. Fields.

5. Street artist Banksy is originally associated with which City

6. Who first sang the theme music to Heartbeat

7. Who was Queen Elizabeth 2nds paternal grandfather

8. In which city was Sean Connery born

9 Where would you see the Dow Jones index

10. What was the Turkish city of Istanbul called before 1930.





Church News

Harvest Celebrations

We all get busy so here is the information for Harvest next month
Our Harvest Festival led by Rev Karl Rutlidge will be on Sunday 11th October, 4:30 service
Followed by tea and cake. Donations of cake gratefully received on
the day. BB and GB have been invited.

If you are able to donate tined food, or any un perishable food items
Karen and Caroline will be decorating the church on Friday 9 th October
between 10 - 11am. We would also be delighted to receive any fresh flowers.

Food donations will go to Burgess Hill Pantry,
All money donated on the day will go to All We Can.

Sunday 18th October

Re dedication of pastoral visitors plus Holy Communion 10:30 service
Taken by Rev Karl Rutlidge.
FOLLOWED BY HARVEST LUNCH
This will be a buffet meal and a sign up sheet will be available from mid September.
A voluntary donation of £5 per head for 2 courses will be greatfully received to cover the cost of food. Once costs have been covered any outstanding amount will go to All We Can.

PLEASE BOOK THE DATE.

Fun Day

SATURDAY 5th December we are once again holding a fun day. With a bouncy castle, crafts, refreshments etc. Please come along and support.

Quiz ANSWERS

1. Wellington
2. Carousel
3. Daz
4. William Claude
5. Bristol
6. Nick Berry
7. George 5th
8. Edinburgh
9 Wall Street
10. Constantinople

2027 Calendars

The calendars have arrived! They are £10 and all proceeds go to Church funds. If you would like one please contact Caroline Keast or email: bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com
Here is a reminder of the photos:

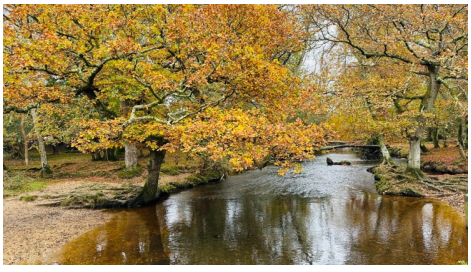










October 2026 Diary Service Dates

Sunday Morning Worship we welcome you to join us on

Sunday 4th October – Sunday Worship from 10.30am led by Rev Keith Morrison

Sunday 11th October – Harvest Festival from 4.30pm led by Rev Karl Rutlidge

Sunday 18th October - Holy Communion from 10.30am led by Rev Karl Rutlidge to include the rededication of the Pastoral Visitors

Sunday 25th October – Praise Service from 10.30am led by Caroline and Karen

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 4th October - led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

Sunday 11th October – led by Rev Sheila Foreman

Sunday 18th October - led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley and Rev Dan Balsdon

Sunday 25th October – led by Rev Jonathan Gaylord

We love to have your input items for the newsletter. Please send your items for inclusion in the October Newsletter to bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com before the deadline of Friday 30th October 2026