

Burgess Hill Methodists



Issue 63 April 2026

EASTER PRAYER

*When everything was dark
And it seemed the sun would never shine again
Your love broke through, Your love was too strong
To wide, to deep, For death to hold
The sparks cast by your love
Dance and spread, and burst forth
With resurrection light, Gracious God
We praise you for the light of new life
Made possible through Jesus
We praise you for the light of new life
That shone on the first witnesses of resurrection
We praise you for the light of of new life
That continues to shine in our hearts today
We pray that the Easter light of life , hope and joy
Will live in us each day
And we will be the bearers of that light
Into the lives of others.*

Amen

Written by Reverend Michaela Youngson



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

Reflection

April 2026

I write this reflection on the Feast of the Anunciation when the Church remembers and celebrates the visit of Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, bringing her news of the favour she has found in the sight of God, offering her the opportunity to be the 'God-bearer.' We hear in the account those famous words of Mary, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.' (Luke 1:38 KJV)

In some ways it feels odd, deep into the season of Lent and Passiontide, preparing for Holy Week culminating in Good Friday, to find myself reflecting on the Advent carol, 'The Angel Gabriel from heaven came.' As we near the end of Jesus' earthly life, we are suddenly whisked back to the start, just for a moment.

Yet it also reminded me of that Christmas poem of T. S. Eliot, 'The Journey of the Magi.' Towards the end Eliot writes,

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
and I would do it all again, but set down
this set down
this: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death?

It is a reminder to us that when we were celebrating the birth of Jesus just a few short weeks ago, we did so knowing that Good Friday would come again. We can't have the birth of Christ without having his death as well for it is all part of the one story of salvation.

However, as we mark Christ's death, we are to remember that this also involves birth. For we do not stay at the cross and the tomb. Instead, whether on the path from the tomb, or in the locked room, or on the road to Emmaus, we join with those who experience the new birth of resurrection life breaking into our world. Without death there could not be the joy of birth into new life.

So, in this Easter season, may we be people who enter fully into this life, sharing in the joys of birth and life, acknowledging the painful reality of death, but holding that hope and joy of the new life that flourishes now and in the age to come, that not even death can keep down.

Happy Easter to you all!

Will

Gift Day

Here are some photos from our Gift Day weekend, where we celebrated our 125th Anniversary



JOIN US FOR THE SOUTHERN SYNOD BIG DAY OUT!

**SATURDAY
20TH JUNE
10.00AM TO 4.00PM**

**TICKETS
£5**

**SHIRES OAST AT
THE HOP FARM
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
TN12 6PY**

MORSHIP TOGETHER

INFLATABLES FOR ALL THE FAMILY

PRAYER & REFLECTION

POP UP CHOIR

CREATION STATIONS

TICKET INCLUDES A BURGER & SOFT DRINK, WITH
ADDITIONAL FOOD & DRINKS AVAILABLE TO BUY AT THE BAR



FREE Online training in April

Share the gift of **encounterprayer** . . .

Father



The reality of the Father's love for us

Worship him for choosing you to be his child and for loving you so much.

Jesus



Taking seriously the presence of Jesus with us

Ask yourself: Where is Jesus for you right now? What do you want to bring to him? How does he respond?

Holy Spirit



Becoming aware of the power of the Holy Spirit within us

Invite him to come and fill you afresh and bring to you all that you need.

Would you like to learn how to lead a simple, but powerful, prayer time in your church, your house group or with your family?

APRIL 14 & 21
Two 1-hour sessions on zoom:
13.00-14.00

We have some great resources to share with you

A quote from one of our trained facilitators:

"I too love "Encounter Prayer" and how it encourages guests to meet with Jesus themselves and as such creates an independence for them to encounter God without relying on an intermediary".

Send us an email to register for the training and we will send you the links and further information:

encounterprayer

A SPACE TO MEET WITH THE LIVING GOD FOR
RELATIONSHIP • HEALING • TRANSFORMATION

**chm@
healingmission.org**

Quiz!

I hope you enjoy the Easter themed Quiz

1. How many Easter eggs are bought in the UK each year?
2. When was the first Easter egg created?
3. Which country does Easter Island belong to?
4. How many eggs have gone into the world's largest omelette?
5. The world's tallest ever chocolate egg was approximately how tall? 2 meters, 5 meters or 10 meters.
6. Which animal delivers Easter Eggs on Easter Sunday?
7. What is Bambi's rabbit friend called?
8. What goes on top of a simnel cake
9. Who is always late in Alice in wonderland?
- 10 Judy Garland and Fred Astaire starred in which 1948 Springtime film.



Girls Brigade



4th Burgess Hill Girls' Brigade – March 2026

We have 18 regular girls attending each week with two or three other girls coming when they can.

This term we are going through the **Easter Story** with all sections:

Palm Sunday,

Washing the Disciples Feet,

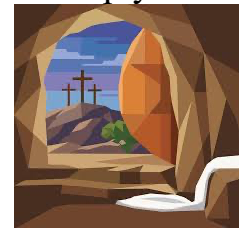
The Last Supper,



Jesus is Betrayed

and arrested,

The Crucifixion and the Empty Tomb.



We have a set of **Belle Plates** and the older girls are learning to play tunes such as Westminster Chimes, Abide with Me and Daisy, Daisy.



The other week we brought out our two parachutes, one is an 'actual' parachute which is nice and light for the Explorers to use and a heavier, multicoloured parachute for the older girls. I don't think we have played 'parachute games' since we moved over from Hurstpierpoint. It was great fun and, needless to say, the girls thoroughly enjoyed this activity.

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

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

Please note that this will not be held on 7th April 2026

This will be held on the 5th May 2nd June and 7th July

Church AGM Sunday 19th April, straight after the service.

Refreshments will be in the sanctuary.

Gift Day

This year we celebrated our 125th Anniversary, with a coffee morning held on Saturday 28th February including music played by some of the members of Patcham Silver band including our very own minister. We thoroughly enjoyed the eclectic mix of music. We also had a special cake to celebrate.

On Sunday 1st March we had a service led by Rev. Pauline was enjoyed by all, it was wonderful to see her and Richard again. This was followed by lunch which was a success, and thanks to everyone who contributed a pudding.

The gift day raised £2,930 thank you to all who contributed.

The photos of the weekend are shown in the gift day section above.

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. 80 million
2. 1873
3. Chile
4. 110,000
5. 10 meters
6. The Easter Bunny
7. Thumper
8. Marzipan & 11 marzipan balls
9. The White rabbit
10. Easter Parade

April 2026 Diary Service Dates

Sunday Morning Worship we welcome you to join us on

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday Worship from 4.30pm led by Rev Will Fletcher

Sunday 12th April – Sunday Worship led by Mrs Margaret Taylor from 10.30am

Sunday 19th April – Holy Communion led by Rev Will Fletcher from 10.30am, followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Sunday 26th April – Sunday Worship led by Rev Paul Tabraham 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 5th April – No service

Sunday 12th April – led by Rev Barbara Evans – Routley

Sunday 19th April – led by Rev Paul Tabraham

Sunday 26th April – 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 May Newsletter to bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com before the deadline of Friday 24th April 2026