

Issue 69 November 2026

Will you anchor hold in the storms of life,
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain,
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move
grounded firm and deep in the saviours love.

645 Singing the Faith



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

Reflection

It feels like my first two months in the CSUA have gone past quite quickly, though they have inevitably been challenging. When everything and everyone is new, from the layout of the manse kitchen to the processes for getting things done at work, there is little one can do without having to consciously think about it, and that is pretty tiring. Also inevitably, some of the administrative and bureaucratic tasks involved in moving to a new ministry context take time, and not knowing quite when things will be sorted out does not help. I am reminded of a t-shirt I used to own which said, 'God, please give me patience, but make it quick!'.

When we look at the conflicts raging across the world at present – most notably, but sadly far from limited to, those in the Middle East and between Ukraine and Russia – it is tempting to join in with the cry of the Psalmist: how long, O Lord, do we have to wait for peace to come? In November, we pause to remember those who have fought in the many conflicts since the Great War, which was meant to be the 'war to end all wars', noting that there has hardly been a day since that wars have not been killing and destroying somewhere in the world. How much longer, we might reasonably wonder, will we have to wait for peace to come?

True peace, as the Bible shows us it, is not merely about the absence of military conflict. That would, of course, be a good start; however, the vision of Shalom to which the Scriptures point is one in which all people are enabled to flourish, and the value of all creation is respected. When the Kingdom of God comes in all its fullness, we are promised there will be no more tears, suffering and pain (Revelation 21). In the meantime, we are in that waiting place, that painful limbo in which we know the ultimate direction of travel but have no idea when we will get there. Jesus does little to ease our discomfort, by pointing out that we cannot know the date and time of God's final setting right of all things (see, for example, Mark 13). Our job is to get ready.

To be ready for peace to come means making a start in the here-and-now. How we relate to one another matters, because it says something about the value we believe we and others have. My uncle is a veteran who served in the Army in Northern Ireland in the 1980s and 1990s, before the Good Friday Agreement and thus amid some of the worst years of the Troubles. I know he really struggles with knowing how badly some veterans have been treated, and especially about a lack of adequate mental health provision which too often results in addiction and homelessness issues. Where we disagree is that addressing this means we should turn our backs on refugees, on those

displaced by conflict, climate change, prejudice and crippling poverty. Compassion is not like pie, and there is no limit on how much love there is to go around in a world which only exists in the first place because of the inexhaustible love of God.

Some of the most profound tensions in our society are exacerbated by groups of people being pitted against one another, by those whom it benefits to sow division. We therefore see, for example, veterans being set against refugees, pensioners against public sector workers, people in work against disabled people who cannot work, trans people against women, Muslims against seemingly everyone else, and so forth. These divisions keep ordinary people angry with one another, and serve to distract from how deeply unequal our society is. It is abhorrent that those who are already wealthy continue to get even richer while so many do not have enough to eat, a decent and secure home, or enough money to not worry about putting on the heating in winter. True peace will not come to pass when injustices like this are allowed to fester, and getting ready for it means challenging divide-and-rule narratives. It means valuing in material terms every single person, as there is simply no such thing as a human being who does not matter to God. Society will continue to be divided if we refuse to address rampant inequality, and the stacking of the system in favour of those who can afford to shower politicians with freebies (sometimes as much as totalling five million pounds!) in return for access to and a voice in the corridors of power. Wars will continue to rage while those in power do not recognise the equal value of Palestinians and Israelis, and cannot even bring themselves to condemn what the International Criminal Court has called genocide. The sacrifices of armed forces personnel, then and now, will not be truly respected while international law is rendered meaningless by inaction in the face of war crimes and genocidal actions.

Friends, if we want to see peace, we cannot sit idly in this time of limbo. We need to actively seek peace by using our voices to speak up for the voiceless, and by learning to see others as God does, as infinitely valuable. Getting ready for peace is hard, but nobody said authentic discipleship would be easy. The Church is called by God to be an agent of reconciliation and peace, to break down barriers between people and embody the peace Jesus himself came to bring. May we have the courage to do so, even when the waiting and the longing feels agonising; after all, if not now, then when?

Updates from Home



PIGS AND POLAR BEARS

In September Lorna and I spent a week in Suffolk. While we were there we visited Jimmys Wildlife Park.



If you have seen on the TV " The Big Bear rescue" on channel 4 you will know what an amazing place this is.

Owned by Jimmy Doherty, he opened a rare breeds farm but soon expanded after discovering there were so many animals needing homes as zoos around the world closed.

If you haven't watched it give it a go, it's an animal program with a happy ending. Here are the photos Lorna took of some of the amazing animals we saw. We will definitely return.







Quiz!

A quiz for dreary November. Enjoy

1. In 1975 Bohemian Rhapsody was number 1 for 9 weeks. Can you name the band that recorded it?

2. Where in the UK is the annual Goose Fair held?

3. Where did Capt. Arthur Phillips land with his 750 convicts in 1788?

4. Which terrier is named after a town in Northumberland?

5. What is the name of the river that flows through Glasgow?

6. In which European country was the world's first motorway?

7. Who was the second wife of King Henry VIII

8. The opera Hansel and Gretel is based on a story by which brothers?

9. What pickled buds are used to make tartare sauce?

10. Who said " That's one small step for man. One giant step for mankind?





Harvest celebration

We all enjoyed Harvest this year.
Our church was decorated beautifully, thank you Jenny for creating such a beautiful display of flowers.
All the food items went to the pantry and was gratefully received by the staff.
Thank you to Karl for such a good service.
And to finish it all off we enjoyed lunch together.

We raised £185 for All We Can.
Thank you to all who contributed.

The leadership team.





BURGESS HILL METHODIST CHURCH

www.burgesshillmethodists.co.uk

Free Family Funday

Saturday 5th December

10am - 2pm

Crafts

Refreshments

Bacon Butties

Games

Bouncy Castle

Cakes and more.....



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:














Church News

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER

We are holding a Festive fun Day, as we did last year
This will be completely free to everyone .Opening at 10am closing at 2pm.
Do come along and support us.
Let your friends and neighbours know .
If you can put a poster up please ask one of the stewards for one.

OTHER CHRISTMAS DATES

Carols by candlelight
4:30 Sunday 13th December followed by refreshments

Christingle service
Thursday 24th December at 4pm

Christmas Day
We will be having a short service 10am until 10:45 Led by Sally; Rev. Karl's wife.

PLEASE NOTE
WE ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER and
SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER

Quiz ANSWERS

1. Queen
2. Nottingham
3. Botany Bay
4. Bedlington terrier
5. River Clyde
6. Germany
7. Anne Boleyn
8. The brothers Grimm
9. Capers
10. Neil Armstrong

November 2026 Diary Service Dates

Sunday Morning Worship we welcome you to join us on

Sunday 1st November – Sunday Worship from 10.30am led by Margaret Taylor

Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday from 4.30pm led by Sally Rush

Sunday 15th November – No service on this day

Sunday 22nd November – Sunday Worship from 10.30am led by Rev Stuart Dyer

Sunday 29th November – Sunday Worship from 10.30am led by Cathy Agius

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 1st November - led by Rev Sheila Foreman Holy Communion

Sunday 8th November – led by Rev Andy Melvin

Sunday 15th November - led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

Sunday 22nd November – led by Deacon Vicky Welsh

Sunday 29th November – led by Rev Barbara Evans-Routley

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 by Friday 27th November.