

Burgess Hill Methodists



Issue 64 May 2026

Loving Heavenly Father

When it is so easy to criticise, help me to encourage

When it is so easy to grumble help me to be thankful;

When it is so easy to hold back, help me to volunteer;

When it is so easy to complain, help me to appreciate;

When it is so easy to hold a grudge, help me to forgive;

When it is so easy to put down, help me to build up;

When it is so easy to be negative, help me to be positive;

When it is so easy to be despondent, help me to be hopeful,

And give me the Will and strength to do these things .

Amen

A prayer from the Methodist handbook.

Written by Dick Arnold.



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

Reflection

May 2026

For many decades May has been the month when Christian Aid week has occurred. It is an opportunity to focus on the important work that Christian Aid does around our world. This year it is from 10th – 17th May. The focus of Christian Aid Week 2026 is on Fridah and Belinda, urban farmers in Nairobi. There will be particular acts of worship focusing on this on the morning of Sunday 10th May at Haywards Heath and in the afternoon at Burgess Hill. This month we also celebrate the last two major festivals of the Church year – Ascension Day (14th May) and Pentecost (24th May). They draw to a close for another year the Easter season. On Easter Day we proclaimed that Christ is risen and death defeated. Yet the Christian Aid Week services, and the week in general, are important reminders that our world still does not fully reflect God's vision for how the world should be – there are still too many people who lose out and suffer around our world – including close to home. Death and the forces of sin have been defeated, but they still hold much power in our world. Christian Aid Week reminds us that poverty and injustice aren't merely social issues that some may be interested in but are matters of faith that affect us all. Our God isn't only interested in individual souls being saved, but in the transformation of the world.

On Ascension Day we mark Christ's return to God's heavenly kingdom where he sits enthroned at the right hand of the Father. There he prays for each of us as we seek to walk his path of humility and service; but there also each of us, along with everyone else – Presidents and politicians included – must stand and give account of our lives. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus makes clear that this will include whether we welcomed the stranger, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, visited those sick or in prison.

As we acknowledge our world that doesn't live up to God's vision, we recognise therefore that we have work God calls us to do. We are to be Christ's hands and feet working with God to see God's kingdom come. On Pentecost we celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit to empower us to live those lives of holiness and mercy, seeking justice for those who still don't have it.

It can be easy to despair at the state of our world. But may we discover renewed hope and energy from God's Spirit to work together and with God to see that vision fulfilled of God's kingdom on earth as in heaven.

Will

Updates from Home

Ted and I went on a cruise Portugal and Spain back in March hoping that we might find some sun but it was not to be!



Our first port of call was O Porto in Portugal. It has quite a few connections to France and Spain in the buildings we saw which included a Baroque and a Romanesque Cathedral. The next day it was Lisbon with a coach ride through the city which we have visited several times, so we remembered the

castle on the hill, the tram ride through the cobbled streets and up the very steep hill to the top. Our destination this time was a visit to the statue of Christ the king on the river Tagus which was built in memory of the fact that they were saved from World War II. The statue is 28m tall and stands on an 82m pedestal. It also stands on a hill so it can be seen for many miles.



Malaga in Spain was our next destination. We had booked a trip to Mijas a village up in the hills and mountains, spectacular views and the village has some Arab influences with a chapel of the virgin of the rock on the side of the mountain, Picasso lived there, enjoying the amazing views.



Cartagena came next, and has been settled since 220 3BC with Roman Muslim and Arab sites. The Roman Theatre was hidden for 1500 years and when excavated was shown to hold 6000 spectators at the time. There is also the remains of a third century BC defensive wall to be found.

Palmer is a place I visited when I was 20 - a long time ago!!

It holds many very happy memories.

We decided on a ride to Val de Moussa which we thought would be interesting. Chopin and George Sands had a villa there (I hoped to revisit it but it was closed). The village is very busy these days with many tourists. It was very pleasant, with lots of old cafés and shops. Coming back we visited Bellver castle which overlooks Palma with lovely views.



Rain greeted us as we docked in Barcelona as we've been there a number of times, we stayed on board and watched a flamenco Show which was great.

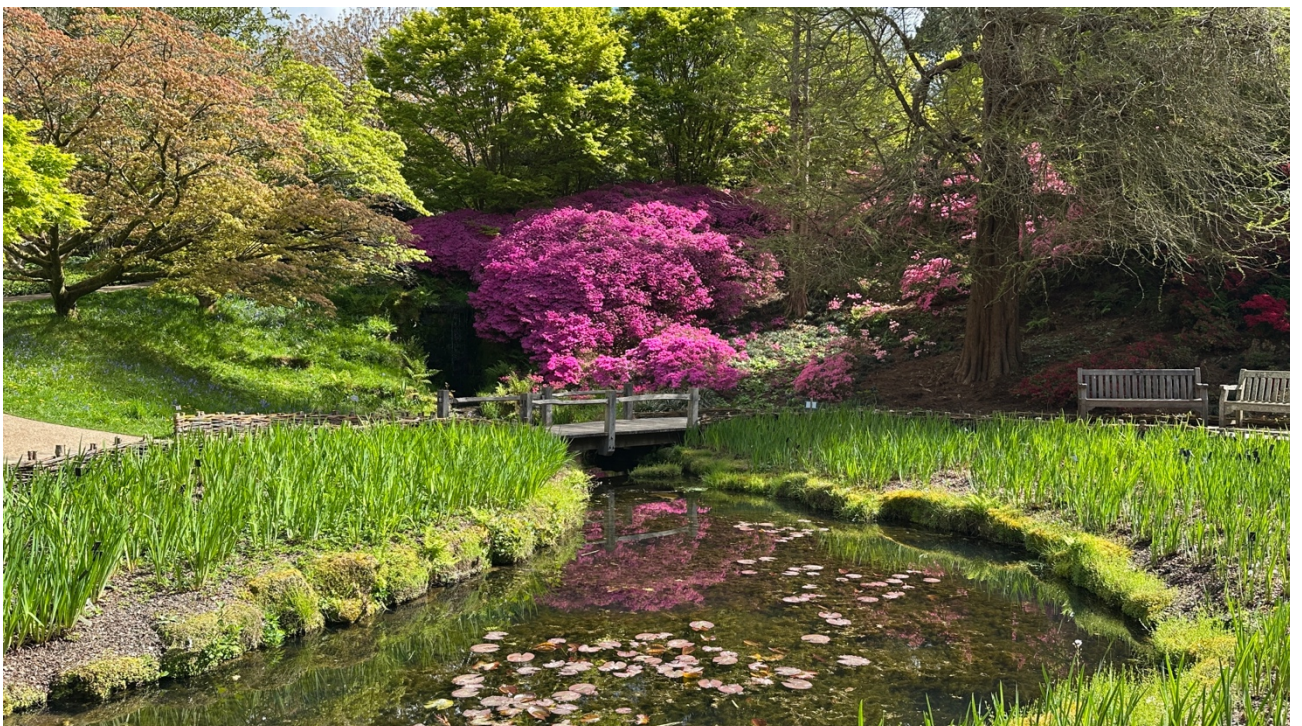
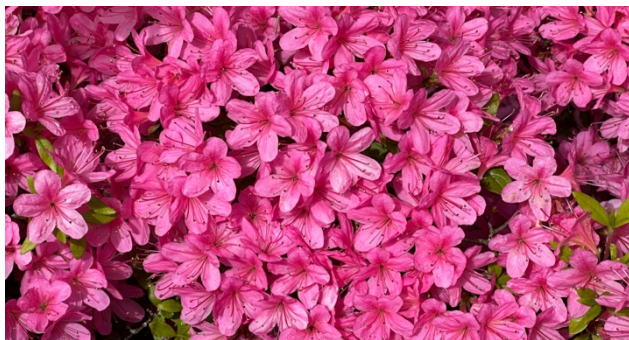
Our final destination was Gibraltar which so many cruises visit. We took a mini bus trip around the rock. We learnt why we had a mini bus when we went up the rock! We met the apes and admired the view from the top. There are 34 miles of tunnels dug by the British inside the rock. We visited the Lighthouse on the streets of Gibraltar which was built in 1841. It looks across the Atlantic and Mediterranean seas as they meet. The roads we travelled around the rock were tunnels in many places cut into the rock and very narrow, it was a very interesting experience. We arrived in Portsmouth two days later.

From Margaret Whitbourne

A visit to Wakehurst

Mum and I recently visited Wakehurst Place, we were delighted to see the Egyptian goslings doing well and getting big! The Japanese garden was looking absolutely stunning, with the big pink Azalea out. I hope you like the photos below.

From Lorna



Quiz!

This months Quiz is all about Sussex and has been sent in by Janet

1. In which East Sussex town is there a house shaped and coloured like a piece of cheese?
2. What traditionally sits at the centre of a Sussex pond pudding?
3. There are three main types of Windmill - Post and Tower are two. What is the third?
4. Name one of the two woods that are used in the manufacture of a Sussex Trug basket
5. In Old Sussex if you told a long and pointless story you were said to be beating the devil about what?
6. Who is the patron saint of Sussex
7. Which name is common to two rivers, one in East Sussex, the other in West Sussex?
8. Where in Sussex is the largest known Roman Residence north of the Alps?
9. Where will you find Britain's highest chalk cliffs?
10. What name is commonly given to the low pyramidal roofs which are a feature of Sussex country churches?



Girls Brigade



4th Burgess Hill Girls' Brigade – April 2026

We have continued with our weekly Wednesday sessions and badges have been gained by all sections as follows :-

Explorers: *Helpful People, The Christmas Story, Other Countries and The Story of Easter.*

Company Section: *World Need, Christmas Baking, Baby and Child Care and learning to play Belle Plates*

We entered the annual Allen West Competition by decorating plant pots and were fortunate in winning the shield for coming first.

Ellie Scott, Valerie Randell and Amorette Stone continue their support to me and the girls.

When our badge work time is over, we have a 'snacks break' and usually complete a colouring page appropriate to Bible story heard earlier and then it's time for games.

For our last evening together before the Easter holidays, we made egg nests as is our tradition which the girls took home to their families.

We will be holding our Awards Evening – date to be advised – where we will present the girls with their attendance and achievements badges earned throughout the year.

If the weather is fine, we hope to take the girls outside for activities after half-term

Thank you for the support that you give Girls' Brigade and for holding Leaders and girls in your prayers.

*Margaret Taylor, Captain
19 April 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

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

Ascension Day service

On Thursday 14th May there is an Ascension Day service.

12 noon at Haywards Heath Methodist church. Everyone is welcome.

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. Hastings, in All Saints Street
2. A lemon
3. Smock
4. Sweet chestnut or willow
5. A Gooseberry Bush
6. St Richard
7. Rother
8. Fishbourne
9. At Beachy Head, 537ft
10. Sussex caps

May 2026 Diary Service Dates

Sunday Morning Worship we welcome you to join us on

Sunday 3rd May – Sunday Worship from 10.30am led by Rev Will Fletcher

Sunday 10 May – Sunday Worship from 4.30pm led by Rev Will Fletcher

Sunday 17th May – Holy Communion from 10.30am led by Rev Will Fletcher

Sunday 24th May – Sunday Worship from 10.30am led by the Leadership Team

Sunday 31st May – Sunday Worship from 10.30am United Service led by Rev Will Fletcher

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 3rd May – led by Rev Andy Melvin

Sunday 10th May - led by Rev Barbara Evans – Routley

Sunday 17th May – led by Rev Will Fletcher

Sunday 24th May – led by Rev Barbara Evans – Routley

Sunday 31st May – led by Deacon Vicky Welsh

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.

Every 1st Tuesday in the month – midweek communion from 12.15pm all are welcome in the back hall at BHMC

We love to have your input items for the newsletter. Please send your items for inclusion in the June Newsletter to bhmcnewsletter@gmail.com before the deadline of Friday 29th May 2026