

# THE LINK

September / October 2025



**Rustington  
Methodist Church**  
**Your church in the community**

Dear God,

At the threshold of a new Methodist Year, we pause to reflect. Thank you, that in all that we have been through, on the roads we have travelled to this moment, you have been with us.

Thank you too, that as we continue on our pilgrimage of faith, you promise to remain with us. We praise you for your love, your faithfulness and your empowering presence.

You call us as we travel onwards to love your world, and all that you've created, with your own transforming and liberating love.

Give us the humility to attend carefully to the communities we serve, and to the realities of their life.

Give us the wisdom to listen, to our neighbours and to you, as we discern and live out our mission together.

Give us the courage, to take action for the sake of the Kingdom when you call us to do so.

Give us your Holy Spirit, to fire us with your love, to direct our journeying, and to bring us to new life and witness.

Travel with us, generous God, into the great adventure of life as the Church of Jesus, as heralds of your Kingdom, and as those in whom others can come to know your great love for them and for all creation.

**Amen.**

Dear Friends

I write after a busy day traversing the narrow lanes of Cornwall in my quest to visit all the churches in the Celtic Quiet Places scheme, which number over 100. One of my Rustington Methodist friends asked before I came away if I was going 'fonting' which greatly amused me. So, a new word is born which I have happily adopted!!

I was indeed setting off to look at more baptismal fonts. Curiously, although I have now seen over eighty of them, even though many are similar I don't believe any have been identical to each other. Hard to estimate, let alone imagine, how many infants have been baptized over hundreds of years in these various vessels. Looking at baptismal fonts, in mainly ancient buildings, does set you thinking about the hopes and fears that surrounded those who were presented for baptism. Of course, in years past infant mortality was of necessity a greater matter of



concern than it generally is today.

Much 'belief' around infant baptism has been in the nature of superstition. I well remember a minister I worked with years ago pointing out at every baptism he conducted that, 'God will not love little Johnny any more on the way out than he did on the way in.' Yet, just as the birth of a child is filled with potential and anticipation of what might be, so should the first steps we make in matters of faith hold such

promise.

On the last church visit of the day I parked by the back of the church. As I got out of the car I glanced to the rear of the car and contemplated the sight before me. A public footpath sign and a warning notice for the route indicated. I wonder if this isn't a metaphor for our faltering steps to

follow Jesus. We know that we want to follow but all kinds of fears and uncertainties overwhelm us.

Some of our fears are legitimate, rather like the potential danger of a raging bull which might should deter us setting out on what should be a right of way. Other objections to following the way like 'the grass might be wet' could be overcome by proper preparation. Then there's the protest. 'I don't know where this path leads' which invites us to have more faith. Misplaced lack of confidence is an anxiety that many of us fall foul to.

So, how are you fulfilling the potential of your baptism, and can you discern those fears and that lack of confidence which can be overcome, so that together we may follow Christ's way more closely.

The prophet Isaiah conveyed God's message for the people then, and for us:

*Fear not for I am with you*

*Be not dismayed for I am your God*

*I will strengthen you, I will help you.*

*I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

*Isaiah 41: 10*

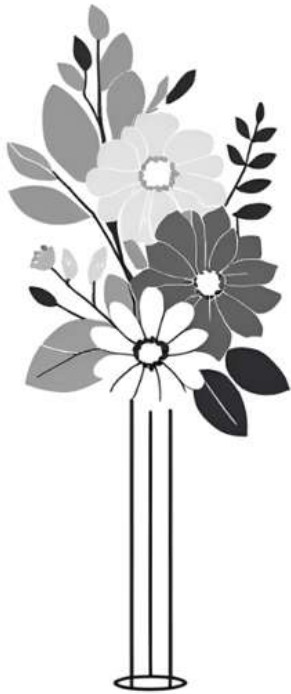
*Rosemarie*

**Sunday Worship at RMC**  
**during**  
**September, October and November 2025**

<b>Date &amp; Month</b>	<b>Timings</b>	<b>Preacher/Leader</b>	
September 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd Geoffrey Bell Revd Geoffrey Bell	
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke Revd Rosemarie Clarke	HC HC
September 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Parr Parr	
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke Revd Rosemarie Clarke	HF
October 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Carr Carr	
October 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	J. Barnes J. Barnes	
October 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke Revd Rosemarie Clarke	HC HC, PV
October 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Boyce Boyce	
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Cook Cook	
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Quint Quint	
November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke Revd Rosemarie Clarke	HC HC, SPD
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	Café

## Flower Rota

September and October 2025



Date	Donated by	Arranged by
Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	S Bingham	M Cocker
Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>	W Wood	I Eleveld
Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	L Coad	A Waters
Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	(Harvest)	
	B & S Richards	Team
Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	C Brown & R Niemantsverdriet	D Straw
Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	S Ingle	P Chapple
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	A Waters	A Waters
Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>	A Linter	M Cocker
Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>	H & J Gibbard	M Cocker

## Junior Church

Songs, crafts and stories from the Bible

For children aged 3 –16 years old

Arrive from 10.30am (term time only)



We also have a crèche for younger children



# LinktoHope Family and Elderly Appeal

Let's join the Shoebox Appeal again this year!

We will be collecting items in the church vestibule each week through September and October - please see the list of suggested gifts overleaf.

In October, we shall also have envelopes available for donations of money towards additional items and transport costs (£3 per box).

Looking forward to seeing your beautiful knitted/ crocheted hats, gloves and scarves, as well as all the other wonderful gifts you provide – thanks in eager anticipation!



## SHOPPING ITEMS OF THE WEEK

<b>Week beginning</b>	<b>Items required</b>
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo (400ml or smaller), safety razors
8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	soap and flannel, hairbrush, comb, nail clippers
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	small games – playing cards, dominoes, draughts
22 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	candles and holders, new mugs, wooden spoons
29 <sup>th</sup> Sept	work gloves, tape measure, screwdriver, new socks
6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	colouring pens, pencils or crayons, small colouring books (A5)
13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	notepads and pens, reading glasses, sensory items (lavender bags/stress balls)
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	small toys - cars, bouncy balls, tennis balls, skipping rope etc small soft toys (CE label)
27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	lady's fabric scarves, new make-up, hairbands, hot water bottle
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	solar-powered calculators, sewing kits
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	please watch the weekly notices for suggestions this week

**SAVE THE DATE: THE BIG WRAP - SAT 22<sup>ND</sup> NOV**

With love, thanks and prayer, Bec



## Kathleen and her association with our gardens

It was in Peter C's time, in around 2007, when Kathleen came along to offer for all sorts of roles, one of which was to do some gardening.

Over many years she has changed and improved the garden around the main grass area.



Hedges and dead shrubby areas have been grubbed out and the area under the trees on our boundary have been weeded and replanted with a variety of plants and shrubs over the years.



The borders have been tended with care and planted creating colourful displays.

Experiments with wild areas have been undertaken and everywhere has looked amazing and many birds and bees have appreciated her efforts, though she did not appreciate the efforts of the foxes digging in 'her' garden!!

The gardens are much used by people in the village who come along to sit in the gardens throughout the year, playing, picnicking or just having a lunch break in a restful environment.

She has had the help of others along the way, but the main energy and enthusiasm has come from Kathleen.

We do congratulate Kathleen on all her efforts over the years and thank her very much as she now decides the time has come for her to hang up her gardening gloves. **Thank you very much Kathleen.**

Kathleen had for many years entered our gardens in RHS competitions organised by the village winning several awards along the way.

In 2022 however, this item appeared in our autumn Link magazine.

**Congratulations to Kathleen T** and her team  
on their recent success in the South and South East in Bloom gardening  
competition where they achieved

**Level 5 – OUTSTANDING**

In the 'It's your Neighbourhood Award'

And the **GOLD AWARD** in the  
'Our Community Award'

**Also The Trustees Award**  
was given to **Kathleen**

for her outstanding work over the last 15 years in maintaining our church  
gardens to such a high standard.

This award is given annually, to just 1 person within the 6 counties in the  
South and South East District



**Kathleen receiving this  
prestigious award in  
2022**

**Our Church Gardens – moving forward - need your help!**

**Our Church Gardens – moving forward**

What an amazing friend Kathleen (of the hat!) has been to Rustington Methodist Church over many, many years and hopefully for years to come.

Sadly, she now feels that her gardening days are proving too much physically, but she will always be welcome to join us with advice.

This means that the main gardens outside the hall no longer have Kathleen's attention and we wondered if **YOU** could help?!

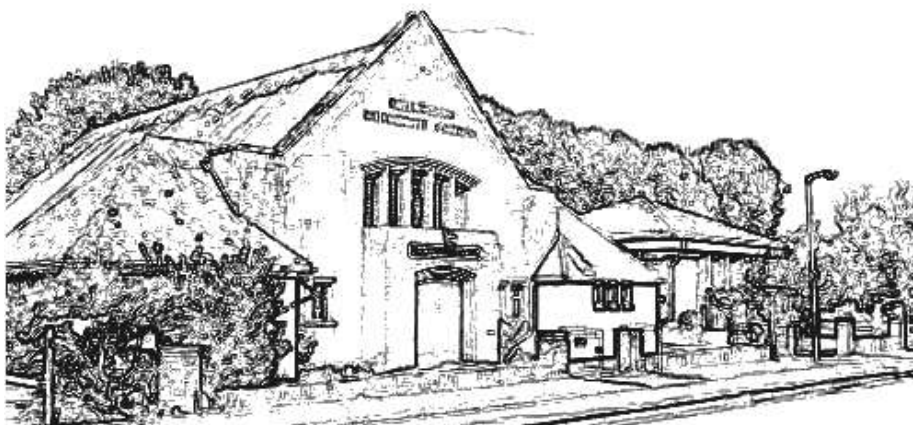
Would you be willing to 'adopt' a small part of a border or a raised bed – not as Kathleen did, but as a shared responsibility.

We have a team of people who currently maintain the car park gardens who would be willing to give any advice you may need.

We do have a shed with a selection of tools which you can use and bins for your 'gleanings'.

There are funds available for costs but what is more important to us is the offer of your time.

**If you would like to take on a small area of the gardens, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to speak with Pam P, Bob S or Ann W and find out more!**



## **The Prayer Course – Lord, teach us to pray**

Following my article on prayer earlier this year, a small group of us have been meeting together and studying this course. It is a free resource provided by the 24-7 Prayer team and follows the same format for each of its eight sessions – with a video to watch where Pete Grieg discusses an aspect of prayer with a friend, followed by some questions to consider as a small group and an opportunity to put into practise some of the prayer ideas. The course is based around The Lord's Prayer with topics linking into a different aspect each week. We have thought about:

Why we pray – Lord teach us to pray

Adoration – Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name

Petition – Give us this day our daily bread

Intercession – Your kingdom come

Unanswered Prayer – Your will be done

Contemplation – On earth as it is in heaven

Listening – Give us this day our daily bread (in another sense)

Spiritual Warfare – Deliver us from evil

We have found it interesting and thought provoking, helpful and very often challenging. The intimacy of our small group has enabled us to share honestly, including areas where we struggle, and it's been wonderful to learn that we are not alone and others have the same struggles too! We all feel very thankful to have had the opportunity to meet and ponder these things together and have decided to keep meeting, perhaps doing the follow-on course in the autumn.

If you would like to find out more about the course, would like to think about looking at it yourself in a small group or have any other thoughts about prayer that you would like to share, please do get in touch.

With love and blessings, Bec



## Christian Aid in Our Area This Year

A big thank you to all those who:

Put money into the red CA envelopes,

Helped collect in the Street,

Came and shared in a 'Souper' Lunch,

All those who helped with the organisation of the week.

Our results show that working together with other churches we  
can **make a difference!**

### Christian Aid Accounts 31.06.24 - 01.07. 25

	£	£	
<b>Disaster Appeals</b>			
Gaza and Myanma	1,175.00		
Donation	45.00		
<b>Christian Aid Week</b>			
Church Collections	3,062.87		
Street Collections	392.13		
Lunch	170.00		
CAW Total	3,625.00		
Total Remitted to CA		4,755.00	
Total Monies received		4,800.00	
Balance carried forward			45.00

Accounts Audited by K. Carr 12.06.25

A fuller copy of the account can be obtained from Chris Clarke

# 🎵 Friendship Singers 🎵

Our thanks to everyone who attended our Summer Concert.

It certainly was a fun occasion, we enjoyed ourselves and so did the audience! And.... donations received after the concert amounted to a magnificent £520.20p for the kitchen project.

**Our Christmas concert will be held in the church on Wednesday, 3 December 2025 at 2.30 pm, so make a note in your diaries now!**

If you are interested in joining our women's choir or you know someone who might be interested, please get in touch with me,

Margaret White, email: [margaretdwhite@gmail.com](mailto:margaretdwhite@gmail.com)

We meet on Wednesdays at St Andrew's Church, Holmes Lane,  
7.30 – 9.30 pm. New term begins on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

## **I'm hosting this Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Where:

**4 Greenwood Drive, Angmering, BN16 4N**

On:

**21st September, from 2pm**

I hope to beat last year's donation which was £367

**Everyone is welcome!**



Angela L

**MACMILLAN**  
CANCER SUPPORT



**EACH FIRST FRIDAY  
OF THE MONTH  
COME AND  
Sing!**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

Meet in the Church Coffee Lounge at  
2.30pm for about an hour.

If you enjoy singing, or listening to hymns  
and worship songs, then come along.



**Rustington Methodist Church**

**COFFEE & GAMES  
MORNING**



**DON'T SIT AT HOME ALONE**

**COME AND JOIN US FOR A DRINK  
AND CHAT - ALL AGES WELCOME**

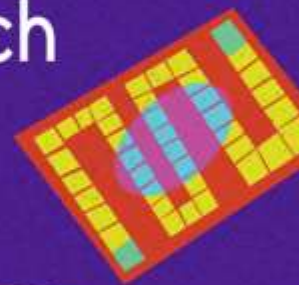
**BOARD GAMES OPTIONAL**

**EVERY THURSDAY  
10.30 - 12.30**

**Drinks, Biscuits, Games  
and Friends**

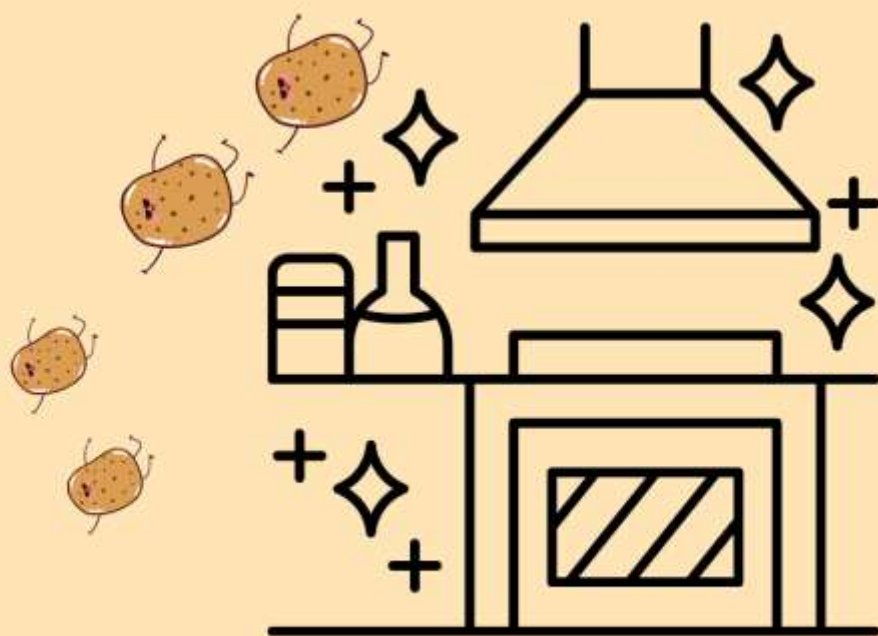


**You're Invited  
FREE ENTRY**





Tickets  
available from  
the office,  
(needed for  
catering and  
allergens)



# Celebratory Meal

Come and celebrate the opening of our new Kitchen on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October after the 10.45 service. We will be having Jacket Potatoes with a variety of fillings followed by a selection of desserts & coffee

Donations of desserts  
gratefully received





### **Mondays**

- 9.30-3.30 **Rascals Pre-School Playgroup - During Term Time Only**  
 Contact Tracey Hubbard 07546 584314
- 10.30-11.00 **Topical Bible Based Discussion Group**  
 followed by refreshments – Meets fortnightly  
 Contact Anne B 01903 771537

### **Tuesdays**

- 9.30-3.30 **Rascals Pre School Playgroup - During Term Time Only**  
 Contact Tracey Hubbard

### **Wednesdays**

- 9.50-11.30 **Mod Mums - During Term Time Only**  
 Parents' group with crèches for babies and toddlers  
 Contact via Facebook, search 'Modmums'

### **Thursdays**

- 9.30-12.30 **Rascals Pre School Playgroup - During Term Time Only**  
 Contact Tracey Hubbard
- 10.30-12.30 **Coffee and Games** in the coffee lounge for EVERYONE  
 Contact Brigette Alexander C/o Church Office
- 2.15 **Stepping Stones - 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month,**  
*arrive in the Hall from 2.00 pm*  
 Contact Wendy Warrington 07526 433755
- 4<sup>th</sup> Welcome back social bingo
- 18<sup>th</sup> The Life Stories Behind My WWII Fiction Gill Thompson
- 1.30 **Stitchers Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month,**  
*Meet in the Lounge to enjoy needlecraft and chat*  
 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Contact Elizabeth Slatter 01903 776707

### **Fridays**

- 9.30-12.30 **Rascals Pre School Playgroup - During Term Time Only**  
 Contact Tracey Hubbard
- 2.30-3.30 **Come and Sing – 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, in the Coffee Lounge**  
 5<sup>th</sup> Contact Lindsey Tilbrook 01903 724393

### **Sundays**

- 9.30 & 10.45 **Church Services** – more details on page *Worship at RMC*
- 10.30 **Junior Church** – during term time only

But the days grow short when you reach September.

Maxwell Anderson



# October



## Mondays

- 9.30-3.30 **Rascals Pre-School Playgroup** - During Term Time Only  
Contact Tracey Hubbard 07546 584314
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Contact Anne B 01903 771537

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*arrive in the Hall from 2.00 pm*  
Contact Wendy Warrington 07526 433755
- 2<sup>nd</sup> **To Recycle or not to Recycle** Julie Silverson  
(husbands/partners welcome)
- 16<sup>th</sup> **My Dancing Life.** (tbc) Snow Wood
- 1.30 **Stitchers Group** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the Month,  
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9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Contact Elizabeth Slatter 01903 776707

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## Sundays +

- 9.30 & 10.45 **Church Services** – more details on Page Worship at RMC
- 10.30 **Junior Church** – during term time only

What's a pumpkin's favourite Western?  
The Gourd. The Bad. and The Ugly

# Bake and Buy!

SEPTEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>

Following the 10.45am service  
in the Coffee Lounge

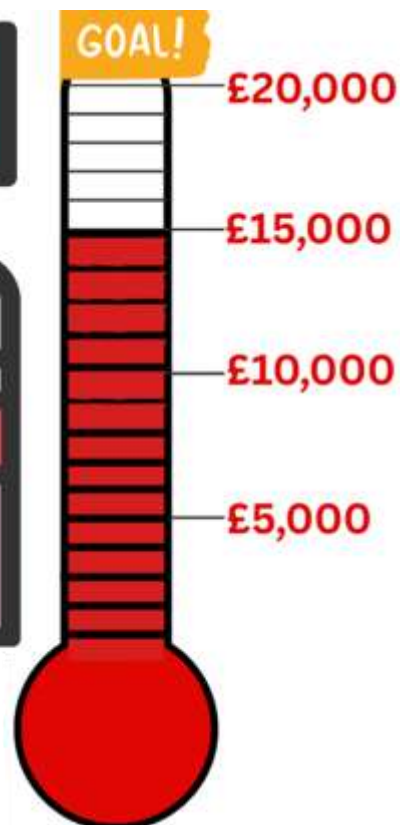
CAKE  
SALE



*Raising Funds  
for the  
Kitchen  
Renovation*

 RUSTINGTON  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
**Kitchen  
Project**

Nearly there,  
but not quite yet!



Join with the Circuit at Rustington Methodist Church!

# Circuit Quiet Day *with Nicodemus*

Led by Reverend Bob Sneddon

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

at

**Rustington Methodist Church**



**West Sussex  
(Coast and Downs)  
Methodist Circuit**

**10am Meet  
Together**

**10.30am - 4pm**

Bring your own Lunch  
Drinks will be  
provided

To book your place, please contact  
[Rustingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:Rustingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com)  
**01903 776 900**

Join with the Circuit at Goring Methodist Church!

# *Dwell* Worship Night

A relaxed time of  
worship to  
dwell in the  
presence of God

**5pm**

**7<sup>th</sup> September**

**5<sup>th</sup> October**

**2<sup>nd</sup> November**

**West Sussex  
(Coast and Downs)  
Methodist Circuit**



**Worship - Refreshment - Connection**

**Dwell at Goring Methodist Church, BN12 4XB**



# MOD MUMS

## PARENTS & CARERS

**A baby group with a difference,  
and everyone is welcome!**

**Making friends & having  
a break, with our safe  
baby & toddler crèches**

**FIRST WEEK  
IS FREE!**

**For parents, carers  
& grandparents  
of 0-4 year olds**

**Our safe, friendly, inclusive  
group has a drink (whilst it's  
hot!), a laugh & chat and  
occasionally an activity.  
Your child will be cared for  
in the next room by DBS  
checked, regular trusted  
volunteers**


**TERM TIME  
WEDNESDAYS  
9.50am- 11.30am**

**Rustington Methodist  
Church Hall, Claigmar  
Road, Rustington, BN16  
2NL**

**£2.50 per week  
or £2 with membership  
(£2.50 per 12 week term)**

### **Don't forget your travel coffee cup!**

**Mod Mum is run by a committee who have safe  
guarding training. Our volunteers are DBS checked by RMC. Check out  
our About section on Facebook for more info!**

 **@modmums**





# HARVEST FOOD APPEAL 2025

A TIME FOR GIVING AND SHARING

## DONATIONS WISHLIST

**Urgent - stocks are so low**

### Drinks

coffee, squash, bottled water, small/large cartons of juice,  
sugar, carton milk

### Basics

baked beans, spaghetti hoops, pot noodles, mug-shots, pasta-n-sauce,  
microwave rice, tomato & brown sauce, cereal, snack bars,  
instant porridge pots, tinned meat & veggie meals, pasta sauce, tinned  
tomatoes,

### Sandwich fillers

tinned ham, corned beef, tuna, sardines, mackerel, peanut butter, marmite

### Sweet & savoury

snack bars, biscuits, sweets, crisps, rice pudding, custard, fruit

*Also toiletries such as combination shampoo & conditioner; toothpaste,  
tooth brushes, roll-on deodorants*

**Your gifts go straight to people experiencing homelessness to nourish &  
support their health, wellbeing, dignity and happiness - Thank You!**

**WE HAVE AN AMAZON WISHLIST TOO FOR OTHER ITEMS WHICH  
WILL HELP IMPROVE EVERYDAY LIVING ! SCAN HERE**



### HOW CAN YOU DONATE?

**Please bring your donations to  
Rustington Methodist Church  
on or before our Harvest Services  
on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September**



**TURNINGTIDES**  
ENDING LOCAL HOMELESSNESS  
REGISTERED CHARITY No: 1027832

[www.turning-tides.org.uk/donate-goods](http://www.turning-tides.org.uk/donate-goods)



# 11:02

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August we looked at Luke 11: 1-13, in our morning worship, where Jesus teaches the disciples to pray with the words which are so familiar to us...

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those that trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

The focus was on verse 2, 'When you pray, say...' not think about it but 'say'. We considered the value of audibly speaking out our prayers...  
...and to follow the pattern of the Lord's Prayer as we...

Say, who he is  
Say, his mission will be achieved  
Say, feed me each day  
Say, my sins are forgiven  
Say, my life is in your hands  
Say, there is victory

We are pretty good about praying for the world, or for individuals who have health challenges etc but we were challenged to renew our commitment to prayer. In particular to pray positively for the life and growth of our church, we were particularly invited to make 11.02 each morning (or night, if you are still awake) a special time for such prayers. So when phone alarms start buzzing at 11.02 you now know why!

# AN AFTERNOON OF *Rhymes* & *Flowers*

On June 18<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed a relaxing afternoon presented by the Flower Ladies. 5 ladies each chose a poem and produced a flower arrangement to compliment the poem. A commentary was given about the history behind the poem or the poet.

The poems were, *The Owl and the Pussy Cat* by Edward Lear which Doreen S chose; *The Table and the Chair* also by Edward Lear which Pam P chose; *Ring-a-Ring o' Roses* chosen by Margaret C; *Round and Round the Garden* chosen by Ann W; *Mary Mary Quite Contrary* chosen by Pam C.

We also enjoyed a cup of tea and delicious cakes served by Chris C, Karen H and Amanda.

We raised £185 towards the new kitchen.



Thank you to all those who helped to make this event successful, as well as all those who supported it by attending!



# Stepping Stones Ladies Club



An afternoon group for ladies of any age who like hearing about a variety of interesting subjects, with speakers and occasional “do it yourself” sessions.

Members pay £2 an afternoon, or you can be a visitor, twice only for £3.

We finish the meeting with refreshments which are extra special for *special* occasions!

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 2.30pm (arrive from 2pm) in the Hall.

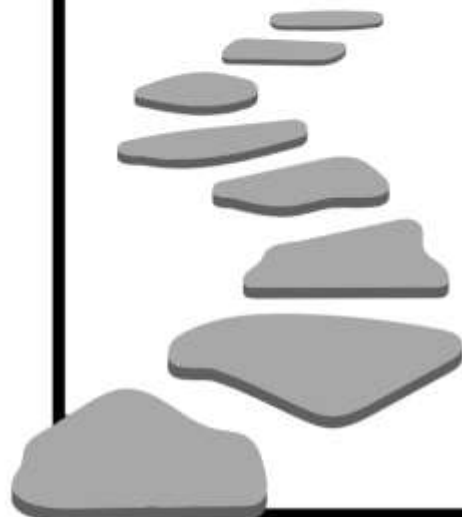
Our programme for **June** and **July**

September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Back Social	
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	The Life Stories Behind My WWII Fiction	Gill Thompson
October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	To Recycle Or Not To Recycle (Husbands/Partners welcome)	Julie Silverson
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	My Dancing Life	Snow Wood
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Unwanted Mouths	Maggie Line
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	A Trek Across The Sahara	Neil Helyer

**Our Charity this year is ‘4Sight’**

4Sight is a local charity who support and advise blind and partially sighted people across West Sussex, enabling them to live life without limits. All money raised from auctions, raffles and bring and buy table sales will go to 4Sight.

**If you require more information,  
please call Wendy: 07526 433755.**





**Meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays  
from 1.30 – 4pm**

We love to create things using all types of needles and materials, be it fabric, wool, cotton. Knitting, crochet, embroidery and patchwork are our main interests.

We support each other in what we do, teasing out ideas and problems and love to show what we have achieved. Along with the cups of tea there is lots of chat and laughter.

If you are interested in needlecrafts in any form and want to know more about our group, pop in on one of our sessions to see what we are doing.

Or contact Elizabeth Slatter.

Email: [bobelizabethslatter@gmail.com](mailto:bobelizabethslatter@gmail.com)

Phone : 07954 371 148

**The upcoming dates are:**

September      11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

October          9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>





# Bangers & Mash

## Held on Saturday July 5th

Seven of us decided to get together to try and raise some money towards the renovation of the Kitchen.



We shared all of the planning and the buying and making, then "encouraged" several friends to join us, to make the day run smoothly. Most of us were novices where food preparing was concerned, but thankfully others knew how to organise the rest!



Sausage and mash, peas & baked beans, gravy, apple crumble & custard, jelly and ice-cream were soon consumed by sixty people (+helpers), sitting in the coffee lounge or front of the church itself, and we ended up giving £616.05 towards the kitchen renovation.

We enjoyed it all, even peeling the potatoes!



**Thank you all  
for supporting the venture!**



**Précis of Minutes of the Church Council Meeting** of Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>  
July 2025 Rustington Methodist Church, chaired by Rev Rosemarie Clarke

Thirteen of the members of the Church Council were in attendance.

Apologies were received from five.

5	Minutes	Of previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record then signed by Rev Rosemarie.
6	Matters arising	<p>Our Welcome</p> <p>At the last meeting of the Church Council we accepted the gift of a coffee machine. We are aware that this is not being used every week. There are things being put in place to make it the same height at the work surfaces. Many of the congregation are appreciating the quality of the coffee, however instant coffee is available should that be preferred.</p>
7	A.O.B.	None
9	Pastoral	<p>We record our thanks to all the pastoral visitors and to Brigitte who is now doing more pastoral visiting. We give thanks for the work that two members have done, as they step down from the role of pastoral visitors.</p> <p>We also note that two members have moved away and two have ceased to be members. Enquiries of those who might wish to become members will be made in the Autumn. Two people have already indicated a desire to do so.</p> <p>Enid Brindley, Ted Hood, Colin Fraser, Kathleen Tullett, Anne Elwood and Margaret Busbridge who had died since our last meeting were remembered with a short silence and prayer.</p>
10	Finance Report	<b>9 month accounts</b> Bob explained that there was a shortfall of £2,700 for this period. Looking forward

this is likely to remain unless giving by the congregation increases. It was noted that some of our members are very generous, and we are aware that others, who might like to give more, are unable to do so. There was some discussion about how to resolve this problem. Suggested that perhaps letters could go out to everyone – this to be taken to Property and Finance in September. Conversation about charging for coffee on a Sunday, rather than requesting donations, was firmly rejected as it is part of our hospitality.

**Church Donations** to Methodist and other organisations were agreed.

**Budget** for year Sept 2025 – August 2026 was approved

**Independent Examiner.** Neat Accounting Ltd appointed.

#### **PROJECTS:**

**The Audio Visual and PA upgraded system** has cost £16,637. Grants received of £5,500 from Circuit and £1,000 from District. The shortfall has been drawn down from reserves as previously agreed.

#### **Hall Kitchen Refurbishment.**

***The fundraising*** has gone well. The total of fundraising from Gift Day and Gift Aid, and special events has now reached £12,000.

It was agreed that £3,000 received following the deaths of three people be put towards the Kitchen Fund, which makes a total to date of £15,000.



		<p><b><i>The anticipated total cost</i></b> for the kitchen will be in the region of £16,500. This excludes the glossing of doors etc. Fundraising still needed £1,500.</p> <p>Special thanks were expressed to Bob and Elizabeth, Dave and Derek for their practical work on the kitchen and to Damian our Electrician who has been very generous with his time.</p> <p>It was noted that the special fundraising events had brought different people from the church and community together, as the LYCIG events had last year. All these events have had a great family atmosphere, but the fact that recent events had been organised by different people had been very beneficial. The desire for more social events was noted.</p> <p><b>Lay Workers.</b> Methodist recommend increase of 3.06% for coming year. Agreed.</p> <p><b>Brigette</b> has approached us about reducing her hours by dropping a day. Agreed that Bob and Rosemarie liaise with her to outline a new job description and determine the work she will no longer do. Agreed that it must be emphasised to the congregation that she is not an administrator.</p>
11	Property	<p>All the outstanding items from the Quinquennial inspection had been completed. There is a great team of gardeners working to keep things tidy. Kathleen has decided to step down from gardening.</p>

12	Children and Young People	<p><b>Children and Young People</b> – Current Junior Church leaders, Paula and Gemma do not wish to continue in this role. Their work has been much appreciated.</p> <p>Rosemarie has approached two people, one was interested but would not be able to commit to every week. The Church Council was asked to speak to anyone who may be able to do something of this work and report to Rosemarie or Karen.</p>
13	Reports	<p><b>Lay Worker</b></p> <p><i>Holiday at Home</i> will run next week.</p> <p><i>Coffee and Games</i> on Thursday Mornings attracts variable numbers and different people each week. Brigitte is enjoying all the visiting she is able to do. The office much appreciates having an Administrator.</p> <p><b>Stewards:</b> Just one service through August at 10am.</p> <p><b>Churches Together</b> –The seminar on Artificial Intelligence on 8<sup>th</sup> June was well attended.</p>
14	Mission Plan	Review due in November. Noted that many proposed actions had already been achieved.
15	Appointments	The list of appointments was updated.
16	Circuit update	<p><b>Circuit Staffing</b></p> <p>At the beginning of July the circuit were looking to appoint 4 people through the stationing process. The shortage of ministers means that we would be most unlikely to get that many. Much has changed...</p> <p>Rev Andrew Reed, a retired minister will now have pastoral care of Chichester to Aug 2027.</p> <p>Rev Dawn Carn has been approached about delaying her retirement for a year to Aug 2027.</p> <p>Offington Park have decided to seek a Lay Pioneer Missioner rather than a deacon.</p>

		<p>Consequently, the circuit will be seeking one minister through the stationing process to have pastoral charge of Goring, Steyning and Storrington and co-ordinate Circuit Youth Work. However, these stationing challenges will resurface next year.</p> <p>Rev Owen Carney – probationer presbyter is to join the circuit in September, serving Lancing, Shoreham and Southwick</p> <p>Rev Conrad Hicks becomes the District Chair from Sept.</p> <p><b>Bognor Regis:</b> Major works are needed to the premises and they do not have the funds to do this.</p> <p><b>Tarring Road.</b> Circuit are looking for a new tenant. It is therefore rather challenging looking at the funding going forward.</p>
17	Diary dates	<p><b>Harvest Festival</b> Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September</p> <p><b>Memorial Service</b> Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 3.30pm</p> <p><b>Shoe Boxes</b> Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</p> <p><b>Christmas:</b> 14<sup>th</sup> Church Family Celebration</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> Carol Service 6.30.p.m.</p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> Christingle Service 5.30.p.m.</p> <p>Christmas Communion 7.30.p.m.</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day 9.30 (30 minute)</p> <p>The Christmas Communion Service was discussed as only 7 people attended last year. It was decided to increase publicity and review in 2026.</p>
19	Date	Next Church Council 6 <sup>th</sup> October at 7.30
20		The meeting closed with The Grace

## Thoughts on our Quiz – 23 July 2025



When it was known that I would undertake a Quiz for our church friends, to be in aid of the kitchen refurbishment, the first person who spoke to me about it said, “I hope it’s not going to be too hard”.



Well, that got me thinking, how would I know, because what’s hard for some is easy for others. However, I decided to create a quiz with not the usual subject rounds. One has to consider the ages of people attending too. So, I decided that some questions would be really easy, with one or two difficult ones thrown in. It seemed to work.

I decided a music round would be fun and I asked Simon to do this for me – theme tunes from TV programmes – starting from Z cars and ending with Strictly Come Dancing, oh yes, with Bagpuss from children’s programmes somewhere in the middle. It did go down well, too, and was a distraction from listening to my voice.



Nine teams took part, with a maximum number of 6 per team although I noticed this may have been stretched a bit in some cases! A joker could be produced once so that any team who thought they might excel in a round could play the joker and receive double points.

Delicious cakes and desserts were kindly provided by some team members at half time and they were really appreciated.



The final scoring was extremely close so it would seem I must have pitched the questions at the right level. The Quiz raised just over £400, so it was really worth doing and comments to me afterwards were it was a good evening with everyone sharing in the fun.

Thanks to everyone who helped me, Brigitte for advertising, the brilliant cake and pudding makers, Simon for his expertise in recording and presenting the music and Derek, my husband, for keeping score. And I saw Rosemarie, Elizabeth and Brigitte valiantly washing up at the end.....

**Margaret**

## **Bark in the Park**

My dog Coco and I (Corrie) will be taking part in Bark in the Park on Saturday 6 December. This is in aid of Turning Tides, who provide a range of homeless support services in West Sussex, covering Adur and Worthing, Littlehampton, Horsham District and Mid Sussex. They accommodate over 200 homeless people in more than 20 properties across the county.

I have had to make a donation to Turning Tides in order to register but my dog Coco has to raise money through sponsorship!

If you feel you could and would like to sponsor my dog, please speak to me in church. Or you can also donate via enthuse at:

<https://turningtides.enthuse.com/pf/cornelia-brown>

Coco is pre-sleeping in readiness. He will be fourteen when he undertakes this challenge and probably needs to nap a lot beforehand!





# THE LINK

Contributions for the next issue of Ther Link  
to reach the Church Office by 12 noon

**on Monday 13th October 2025**

Email your contributions to:

[rustingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:rustingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com)

It is requested that items for THE LINK  
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YOUR CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY



**RUSTINGTON  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

KNOW GOD'S LOVE, GROW IN GOD'S LOVE, SHOW GOD'S LOVE TO ALL

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