

LINK

November / December 2025



Rustington Methodist Church Your church in the community

Remembrance

This fragile, passing beauty,
this autumn, red and gold,
a season's recollection:
love never will grow cold.
The seasons change and fracture,
the leaves of green turn brown,
as life seems tinged with sadness,
as petals flutter down.

This time of our remembrance that reaches back to pain, the chill of recollection can open wounds again; But this we must remember that human war and hate are matters of our choosing and not some random fate.

God let this time of grieving,
of memory and regret,
enable reparation,
in case we just forget.
Fill human hearts with courage,
frame human words with grace,
that love might flow among us,
make Earth a sacred place.

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Dear Friends

November always seems to involve a lot of remembering!

We begin the month by remembering those of our loved ones who are no longer with us. By the fifth we are encouraged to, as someone put it.....

Remember, remember the fifth of November Gunpowder, treason and plot, For I see no reason why gunpowder and treason should ever be forgot.

Although I'm not sure that the throwing of a life-sized effigy of Guy Fawkes on the bonfire is really something we would encourage, if we were to sit down and analyse the practice. Bonfire night is swiftly followed by Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, a time to remember those brave men and women who have given their all in war to protect our way of life.

For me, there are three family birthdays in November to remember too.

By the end of November some of you will have your Christmas cards all written and ready to go. I anticipate that you will be weeks ahead of me! Will you have forgotten someone and have to quickly put that right? My stepfather shocked and astounded me one Christmas, by declaring that he was only sending a card to anyone who sent him one, which seemed to me a very sad state of affairs. I hope you will give your greetings freely, however you do that, not dependent on having first received!!

Memories will come to the fore again as we replay the customs, personal and communal, that surround our celebrations of Christmas. Perhaps in your family gatherings there are games you always play. I was reminded of these rituals when we played Kim's Game at our summer Holiday at Home, and idly wondered how it got its name.

It turns out that the name is derived from Rudyard Kipling's novel *Kim*. In the novel the game is played as part of Kim's training to become a spy. Items placed on a tray are displayed for a period before being covered up. The challenge is to remember and name all the items on the tray. It was named Kim's Game in Sir Robert Baden-Powell's book, *Scouting Games*. Obviously, the game promotes the development of memory and

observation skills.

So, lots of occasions to exercise our memories, but what of our observation skills. In these weeks when we all seem to be frenetically busy trying to fit everything in let us take a moment to observe those around us, alert to those who are struggling with the season and all it entails.

We will remember strangers, friends or family members scarred by war. We will remember those who have died. Perhaps we look forward to 25th December. However, for some, Christmas is not the joy filled celebration that it is heralded to be: it can be the time when some people feel most down. For many in our own community this will be the first Christmas to be faced with the absence of a close friend or family member, whilst for others the excitement of a first Christmas with new family members is promised.

Let us watch over one another in love. As the apostle Paul wrote to the Romans, 'be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves...be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer, share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practise hospitality.' Rosewarie



Join us at Rustington Methodist Church this Christmas



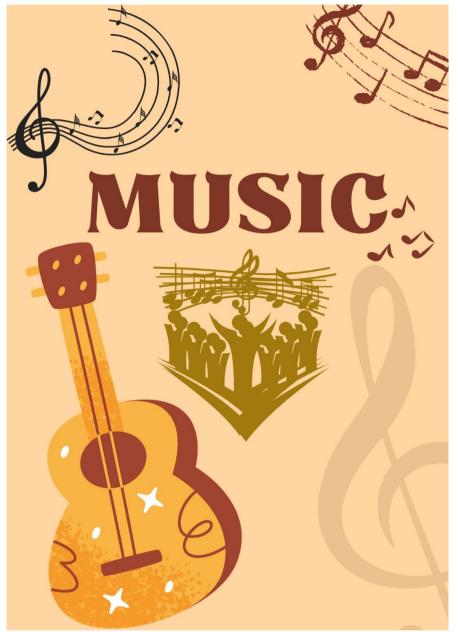
Coming Worship at RMC

during November and December 2025

Date & Month	Timings	Preacher or Theme	
November 2 nd	9.30 &	A Cook	
	10.45am	A Cook	
November 9 th	9.30am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	
	10.45am	service @War Memorial	
November 16 th	9.30 &	B Quint	
	10.45am	B Quint	
November 23 rd	9.30 &	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	НС
	10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	HC, SPD
November 30 th	10am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	Café
	5pm	Circuit Advent Carol Service	
December 7 th	9.30 &	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	НС
	10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	НС
December 14 th	9.30 &	M Thompson	Т
	10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	JC Nativity
December 21st	9.30 &	W Corney	
	10.45am	W Corney	
	6.30pm	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	Carol Service
December 24 th	5.30pm	Christingle Service	
	7.30pm	Come to the Table	НС
December 25 th	10am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	AAW
December 28 th	10.45am	M Lindo	
Jan 4 th , 2026	9.30 &	D Parr	
	10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke	AAW
Jan 11 th	9.30 &	9.30 & 10.45am	Cov
	10.45am	9.30 & 10.45am	Cov

For more information, please contact the Church Office

RM Church Choir/Band



We have had the first rehearsal for our newly formed Church Choir/Band and it was a particularly harmonious event. If you couldn't make the first rehearsal don't let that put you off you are still very welcome to come and give it a go. We are practicing Advent songs ready to lead the church's music on 30th November, which is the first Sunday in Advent. We offer regular opportunities for

people to share their musical gifts, however great or small they may be. The importance and joy of singing and making music is something that is to be celebrated; it is good for our own well-being and has a real potential to bless others, as we worship together on Sundays. Bands and Choirs are great fun for everyone, so whether you are an accomplished musician or very much a learner, your contribution will be welcomed. We encourage any of you who are interested to 'give it a go' don't just think about it, come and join in! Check your notice sheet for rehearsal dates.

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 the next 2 months:

November 6th Unwanted Mouths Maggie Line

November 20th A Trek Across The Sahara Neil Helyer

December 4th Friendship Singers and mince pies

December 18th Christmas Party, fun quiz, and raffle

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.



This Christmas why not come along to our special

Christmas Eve Communion service.

on Wednesday 24th December at 7.30.p.m.

This is a quiet time of worship and reflection when we come together at the Lord's table and celebrate his coming in the sharing of Bread and wine.

We will already have had our Nativity Service, celebrated with Carols and readings and lit Christingles as we look forward to the birth of Christ on Christmas Day.

If you would like to worship quietly away from all the business of preparing for Christmas, then why not try this service, you would receive a warm welcome.



Flower Rota

November & December 2025, & January 2026

	Date	Donated by	Arranged by
384	Nov 2 nd	H & J Gibbard	P Chapple
*	Nov 9 th	M Griffin	D Straw
	Nov 16 th	P Warren	P Chapple
40000	Nov 23 rd	A Bound	A Waters
200	Nov 30 th	S Puttick	M Cocker
	Dec 7 th	V Thrift	D Straw
	Dec 14 th	B & E Slatter	I Eleveld
	Dec 21st	M White	M Cocker/D Straw
	Jan 12 th	S Cooper	M Cocker
Щ	Jan 19 th	M Priest	D Straw
D	Jan 26 th	M Davis	A Waters
	Feb 2 nd	J & K Marshall	P Chapple

DONATING CHURCH FLOWERS 2026

In the next month I shall be organising the 2026 Flower Rota.

We are extremely grateful to all the people who give so generously to enable the church to have such lovely flowers each week.

On Mondays the flowers are taken to people on the prayer list with a note from the Church so they know they are remembered.

If you have donated for the flowers this past year but DO NOT wish to continue, please let either myself or Doreen S know as soon as possible.

If you would like to donate next year we would be delighted to know as there will be some spaces. If you wish to have a particular date in memory of someone or something, I will try to accommodate it.

We suggest a donation of at least £20 which covers the cost of the flowers for a pedestal and a small arrangement on the organ.

Margaret C

Contact: rustingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com

Harvest Collection 2025

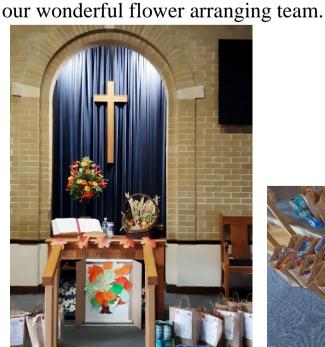


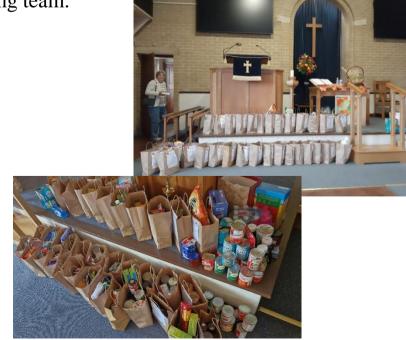
For our Harvest Festival Collection this year we collected for Turning Tides, as we did last year. It seemed particularly apt as for several weeks we had a very compassionate but sad homeless ex paratrooper in the village. He was extremely kind to one of our members when she fell in the road. He informed me that his ex-commanding officer was coming to take him back

to barracks where he would receive the help he needed to get back on his feet.

Brown paper bags were given out to all who wished to donate, with a list of the much needed items requested by Turning Tides. We had a massive response of full to bursting bags which were brought into church and lined up on the staging, filling the church.

On the morning of the service the church looked stunning with all the bags overflowing with donations and the stand, windows, pelmet and vestibule so beautifully decorated with flowers, berries, fruit, vegetables, autumn leaves and a few mice! All this expertly done by







Bob and Elizabeth filled their car, double layered, with boxes and bags to take to Turning Tides in Worthing. They got there safely, but had to be very careful how they opened the car doors!! As you can see from the photo the car was very full and the helpers were delighted with the goods, see the smiles.

"We were blown away by the collection that your brought in today!

It really was amazing and all those bags!" Email quote from Turning Tides.





Shoebox Appeal 2025

Huge thanks to everyone for your generosity so far!

We are continuing to collect items for the boxes - we are still short of flannels, toothpaste, safety razors, colouring pencils and small colouring books

We are also still accepting donations towards buying extras and the transportation cost of £3 per box, just ask in the church office for an envelope.

And please come along to one of my favourite days of the year...

THE BIG WRAP!

On Sat 22nd November, from 9.30am, RMC Church Hall.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to join us filling and wrapping the boxes whilst sharing refreshments and fun together.

Can't make it but would like to help?

You could join The Big Wrap set-up on Fri 21st November from 7pm. Just let me know you are coming!

With love and prayers, Bec



Meet on 2nd and 4th Thursdays from 1.30 – 4pm

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

We support each other in what we do, teasing out ideas and discussing problems. We 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 pop in on one of our sessions to see what we are doing or contact Elizabeth Slatter.

Email: bobelizabethslatter@gmail.com

Phone: 07954 371148

In November some of us will be attending a Patchwork Day in Chichester and taking quite a number of quilts we have made for children who are sick or in the care system.

We will also be preparing a Christmas window and additional decorations for the church tree.

The upcoming dates are:

November 13th & 27th

December 11th

January 8th & 22nd









Mondays 9.30-3.30 Rascals Pre-School Playgroup - During Term Time Only Contact Tracey Hubbard 07546 584314 10.30-11.30 Topical Bible based discussion group. followed by refreshments – Meets fortnightly. Church Office Contact **Tuesdays** 9.30-3.30 Rascals Pre School Playgroup - During Term Time Only Wednesdays 9.50- 11.30 Mod Mums - During Term Time Only Mums' group with crèches for babies and toddlers via Facebook, search 'Modmums' Contact **Thursdays** 9.30-12.30 Rascals Pre School Playgroup - During Term Time Only 10.30-12.30 Coffee and Games in the coffee lounge for EVERYONE Brigette Alexander C/o Church Office Contact **Stepping Stones -** 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month, 2.30 arrive in the Hall from 2.00 pm. Wendy Warrington Contact 07526 433755 6^{th} Maggie Line **Unwanted Mouths** Neil Helver 20^{th} A Trek Across The Sahara **Stitchers Group** – 2nd & 4th Thursday of the Month, 1.30-4 Meet in the Lounge to enjoy needlecraft and chat. 13th & 27th Elizabeth Slatter Contact 01903 776707 **Fridays** 9.30-12.30 Rascals Pre School Playgroup - During Term Time Only 2.30-3.30 Come & Sing 1st Friday of the month Lindsey Tilbrook 01903 724393 Contact **Sundays**

Some of my best friends are pumpkins.

Junior Church – during term time only

Church Services – more details on Page Worship at RMC

9.30 & 10.45

10.30



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December: a month of cold air and warm hearts. Unknown

Junior Church – during term time only

10.30







Why not join us with the Circuit in Worship?



Renovation of the Hall Kitchen

Well, we made it in time for Rascals to come back from the summer break!

We would like to thank everyone who assisted in any way. The team was Bob (planning, co-ordinating and assembly) and Elizabeth Slatter (decorating and assisting), Derek White (carpentry and assembly), Dave Ackroyd (plumbing and equipment advice), Farley Saunders (fitting our work surfaces, splash backs and wall cupboards as well as giving lots of useful tips and ideas).

We also appreciate the contribution made by Sergeants Carpets who came at exactly the right time and levelled the slope and floor and fitted the vinyl flooring, and last but by no means least, Damian our electrician who came in as and when needed to rewire the kitchen and fit appropriate sockets etc.

The cost to date of the kitchen is £19,488 which is below the initial estimate. The fundraising to date is £15,670 which means that we have a shortfall of just £3,768.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the fundraising by organizing events, attending events and buying cakes etc.

We have created a new kitchen which we hope will fulfil the needs of everyone who uses that end of the building, but at the same time we have learned to work and play together.



Our kitchen space off the Hall was long overdue a refurbishment to make it fit for purpose.

After being striped back and having the entrance to the hall levelled, the rebuild could begin.







After a lot of hidden work on the walls, ceiling and floor, the pipework and electrics were put into place and the units were built.



After many, many hours of work from various people, the kitchen was ready to go! We have also added a moveable Island to help with both storage and side space.



This summer a number of us went to the Big Church Festival. This was a fantastic event which is attended by around 30,000 Christians from around the country and the world. There were things to do for all ages including art and craft, rock climbing, football, circus rides, kids' activities, and worship. Many styles of

worship were available to experience, such as contemplative, spoken word, modern, rap, afrobeat, gospel, R+B, country and more!

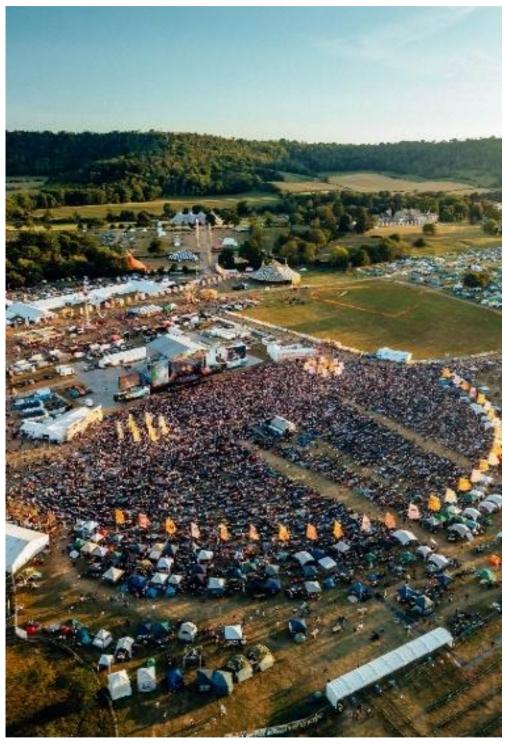
The main stage was the place to be to see artists and bands. Performing artists were Phil



Wickham, Brandon Lake, Pat Barrett, LZ7, Philippa Hanna, Josh Baldwin, YolanDa Brown, Still Shadey, Tim and the Glory Boys, Israel Houghton and many others, all praising God with their music and encouraging with their message.



It is amazing to see so many Christians worshipping God together in one place.



The event is made possible by the help of nearly 1000 volunteers, one of them this year was Ben. You will hear more about this soon...

Simon





Holiday at Home

This August saw the third annual RMC Summer Holiday at Home taking place. It was set up to give those who would find it very difficult to go away on holiday a few days of fun, food and fellowship. It is a community event and is open to adults. It starts at 10.00am with coffee and biscuits and runs until approx. 3.30pm. The days include various craft activities in the mornings



followed by a cooked lunch then an afternoon of entertainment cakes and tea. We have a loose theme; this year it was the 'Celtic Nations' and one guest even turned up in a kilt (well done Dorothy)!

We made shortbread, cards, Celtic Crosses, Keyrings, table flower decorations and more. On Tuesday, for the first time, we had Celtic team games which included, welly wanging, tossing the caber and haggis throwing, there was a lot of laughter and the most wonderful team spirit. We also welcomed The Elderly

Brothers who came to entertain us with hits from the sixties.

A massif thank you, from all who attended and me to the wonderfully talented volunteer helpers – here's looking at next



years' summer holiday!

Also we are organizing our one-day Christmas Event which we will be announcing the date of soon, please register your interest to avoid disappointment **Précis of Minutes of the Church Council Meeting** of Monday 6th October 2025. Rustington Methodist Church, chaired by Rev Rosemarie Clarke

Nine of the members of the Church Council were in attendance Apologies were received from eleven.

3	Member- ship of meeting	Resignations were received from Paula as Church Council Secretary and Ken as church representative
5	Minutes of previous meeting	With one amendment the minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by Rev Rosemarie.
6	Matters arising	At the last meeting it was noted that Bognor Regis Church planned to come out of their building. Their last service will be on 26 th October. They have asked the Circuit to take responsibility for the building from 1 st November.
8	Safeguard ing	The Safeguarding Report has been updated with slight amendments. The policy was agreed and signed. A review was made of our adherence to the
		policy and areas for improvement were identified.
9	Pastoral	The Annual Pastoral Meeting was held in September. At 1st November 2024 the membership stood at 130 During the year 12 have ceased to meet 12 members have died 4 people have requested a transfer 4 people were added to
		membership Membership at 6 th October 2025 106

10	Finance report	New pastoral visitors required. One new name was brought to the meeting for approval subject to safer recruiting. This was agreed. Since the last meeting Sue Spurgin, Helen Arscott and John Huntley had died and were remembered with a short silence and prayer. Hall Kitchen Refurbishment. The final cost to the end of the year for the kitchen was £19,488. The original budget at the beginning of the project was £20,390. Generous fundraising and donations - shortfall £3,768.
		Accounts for the year September 2024 to August 2025 were presented to the meeting. Shortfall of £1,492 on normal activity for this period. Overall shortfall for the year was £26,730 owing to the many and varied property related activities, including renewal of the Audio-Visual system, refurbishment of the hall kitchen, new boiler etc. Reserves Policy was presented and explained.
		Ruby Baker Legacy Agreed to contribute to expenses of young people associated with the church who attended 3 Generate and the Big Church Festival.
11	Property	Annual Property Return. Risk Assessment, Fire Risk and Access Audits have been reviewed and updated as necessary. Annual return questions completed. Gardening Pam is leading a team who are working very well sorting out the gardens.

Update Hall Kitchen

Some items to be completed but the mobile island is almost completed. Donations of a toaster and microwave need to be PAT tested before use.

Catering & Kitchen Management

Agreed that we should follow the publication Safer Food, Better Business more closely.

Users of the kitchen should be signing each time they use it, on an official form. The Food Agency form to be adapted to provide for Morning, Afternoon and Evening Sessions and be applied to both kitchens.

As Elizabeth is involved with the Letting of the premises she offered to speak to groups who use the kitchen.

Hospitality on a Sunday

We are pleased that we are now using the 'Real' coffee machine each week, which is dispensing Fair Trade Coffee – Fair Trade decaff coffee is also available.

It was agreed that some form of official labeling should be used when products are decanted into other containers.

12 Children and Young People

Karen Scrivens is taking the lead in this work.
Additional leaders to work on a rota basis very welcome and much needed. She and Rev Rosemarie have looked at the next Plan and with a mix of Junior Church and All Age Worship there

		are just 2 weeks over Christmas with no specific provision for children. Thanks were expressed to Karen. There were no reports from Rascals or Mod Mums.
12	Churches Together Stewards	Brigette has been busy visiting people in hospital, nursing homes and in their own homes. Flower distribution Many weeks in a month Brigette finds herself delivering the flowers. Offers of assistance welcome. Coffee and Games going well with variety of visitors Junior Church Brigette is helping out from time to time Harvest Festival collection for Turning Tides successful Church Band/Choir Rehearsing Wednesday afternoon twice a month with the aim to lead the church in worship hymns and songs. First outing 30th November. Christmas Holiday at Home Summer 3 day event went well. Good outreach which attracts people from outside the congregation. Will take place on 5th December. Celebration Meal 19th October c 50 people booked in. Christmas Fayre on 29th November Meet again in October. We have no church representatives at present. Chris Clarke still
		attends as Christian Aid Rep. One service each week in August at 10am went well Some issues with the AV system - suggested that

		we acquire a more Singing the Faith hymn books in case of further issues. Harvest Festival services on 28 th September. Good service and lots of filled bags came in which were taken to Turning Tides on 30 th Sept and very well received. New Stewards – we are aware that many of the stewards have served for quite some time We do need to find more stewards.
13	Mission	Plan to be reviewed in December meeting.
14	Appoint ments	Updated List of appointments.
15	Circuit update	The Circuit has completed a profile to apply for a minister to have pastoral charge of Goring, Steyning and Storrington and a co-ordinating role for Youth Work across the circuit, when Steven Donnison moves to another circuit in September 2026. However, the Chair of District invited the circuit to also submit a profile for a probationer minister. So, a further profile has been submitted, amending the role to serve Goring and Storrington and co-ordinate Youth Work across the circuit. Should a probationer minister be appointed the Rev Dawn Carn would take pastoral charge of Steyning.
16	Diary dates	Sunday 19 th October Communion and recognition of Pastoral Visitors to be followed by <i>Celebration Lunch</i> in the hall to celebrate the newly refurbished kitchen Sunday 2 nd Nov Memorial Service 3.30pm Sunday 23 rd Nov Shoe Boxes dedication Saturday 29 th Nov Christmas Fayre CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR EVENTS/SERVICES

		30 th November Cir 5pm.	cuit Advent Carol Service here
		7 th December	Communion Services
		14 th December	Nativity at 10.45am.
		21 st December	Carol Service 6.30.pm.
		24th December	Christingle Service
		5.30.pm.	
		Christma	as Communion Service
		7.30.pm.	
		25 th December	Christmas Day Service
		9.30.am.	
		9.30.am. 28 th December	10.45 one service only
			10.45 one service only AAW and New Year Party
		28 th December	,
		28 th December 4th January	,
17	AOB	28 th December 4 th January Lunch 11 th January None, although Elizis no longer a Mond	AAW and New Year Party
17	AOB	28 th December 4 th January Lunch 11 th January None, although Elizis no longer a Mondonly person undertaproperty.	AAW and New Year Party Covenant at both services. abeth did mention that there day Team so Bob is now the





MOD MUMS

Wednesdays (term time only) 9.50am-11.30am Come try
our group, first
week is free.

Friendship, support and hot drinks, whilst the kids play next door with our DBS creche volunteers

Because even adults need play dates!

Whatever family looks like for you, everyone is welcome

Everyone is welcome! Mums, dads, nans, grandads, carers etc

Rustington Methodist Church, Claigmar Road

(f) @ modmums

Bark in the Park



My dog Coco and I (Corrie Brown) 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!



Circuit Quiet Day November 8th 2025

Spending time with Nicodemus

If you have never been to a quiet day you may wonder what it is all about...

A Quiet Day offers time to be away from the demands of your usual daily life; to stop, reflect, and be refreshed. It will offer time and space to explore your spiritual life and deepen your relationship with God through silence, reflection and prayer.

You can plan a quiet day for yourself — block the diary, read a book, go for a walk... or join a group day. Group days, such as ours in November, are themed, with a leader (Revd Bob Sneddon in this case) giving short reflections enclosed by time and space for you to pause, reflect, pray and to use any resources that are provided to aid your time of stillness.

Our day on November 8th, at Rustington Methodist Church, will start at 10.00 a.m. with refreshments and introductions. During the rest of the day there will be three reflective talks – focussing on Nicodemus who is mentioned in John's gospel - each followed by time and space for you to use as you wish. There will be a break for lunch. The three Bible passages are,

John 2:23-3:22 John 7:45-52 John 19:38-42

Towards the end of our time together we will share in a service of Holy Communion. We will draw to a close by 4.00 p.m.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Bob via Rustington Church Office,

rustingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com or 01903 776900

Thank you for your interest Revd Bob Sneddon







Co-ordinator & Editor: The Church Office

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

on Monday 8th December 2025

Please email your contributions to: rustingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com

It is requested that items for THE LINK

be produced using **size 16 font**Any pictures or images used must have the appropriate copyright permissions.

DEADLINES - THE LINK is produced to very tight deadlines.

Submitting your contribution on time or earlier

can make the editorial job easier.

Donations towards the cost of THE LINK are welcomed.



YOUR CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY



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

Minister

Reverend Rosemarie E.G. Clarke

Mobile: 07736 713 247

Church Office: 01903 776900

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RUSTINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

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Registered Charity Number: 11343

