

THE LINK

January / February 2026



RUSTINGTON
METHODIST
CHURCH

Your church in the community

O Christ of the morning,
You who sang the stars into being,
Sing again into our hearts today.

As a new year unfolds,
we walk into the next verse of your story,
the next line of your song.

May the Spirit stir our memory,
reminding us who we are a
your people, your melody,
each life a note in your unfolding hymn.

Guide us in courage,
hold us in love,
send us with hope.

In the name of the One who goes before us,
beside us, and sings within us
Christ our companion,
Amen.

© Matthew Forsyth, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference 2025–26,
posted on the Methodist Church's website.

Loving God,
Fill us with your grace, so we can:
know the way and walk in it,
hear your word and respond to it,
see injustice and address it,
be attentive to pain and alleviate it,
seek transformation and bring it,
through your empowering Spirit.
Amen.

© Andrew Charlesworth, Chair of Wales Synod Cymru,
posted on the Methodist Church's website.

Dear Friends

I am writing this in the run up to Christmas, but by the time you read it we will all be settling into a new year. It is likely that New Year resolutions will have been enthusiastically made and possibly already broken, and world events will be just as concerning as they were a month ago. However, we must not be lulled into a false sense of security that infers it's 'business as usual'. I am painfully aware that this may be the most important Link letter that I have ever written, and I dearly wish that I did not feel compelled to share the words that follow.

I hear from my colleagues across the South East District of alarming events fostering racism in their communities and churches. The success of the far-right in provoking this distress should be of concern to us all. The campaign which claimed to be putting Christ back into Christmas was spearheaded by far-right campaigners and heavily financed from beyond these shores. As one Christian commentator put it, 'we do not control Jesus Christ and he is not ours to put anywhere.... his call to us is... to listen and follow.'

Whilst we might all wish for 'Christ' to become a more central part of the Christmas celebrated in Britain, others may hold different ideas from us of what this means. Surely it must hinge on what we understand of the personhood and values of the Christ we proclaim, and the life he calls us to follow. The question for us must be whether the Jesus we know is recognisable in what is being allegedly reclaimed.

We see again and again in Scripture that God is near to those experiencing lowliness; he loves the lost, the neglected, the unseemly, the excluded, the weak and broken, the hated. Alongside that we note that the biblical law tells God's people to treat the stranger in their land as one of their own, and the Biblical prophets rail against rulers who oppress the poor and mistreat people. So, how does that (and should that) inform our attitude to refugees and asylum seekers, the homeless and those experiencing poverty to name but a few groups who are persecuted by some in our society?

Each Christmas we hear again the message of the angel to the lowly shepherds out on the hillside. 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.' Good news for all people – not this group, that group or the other group, but for all.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist tradition, himself considered what it might mean to live in a Christian country. In his characteristically forthright way, he challenged his hearers:

“Where do the Christians live? Where is the country where everyone is filled with the Holy Spirit? Where they never let anyone go without anything but always give to everyone according to their need? Who are all filled with the love of God? Who are all merciful, humble, gentle and patient? Who never do anything against justice, mercy or truth but always do to others as they would have them do to them? How can we call anything a Christian country that doesn’t look like this? Let’s be honest: we’ve never seen a Christian country on earth.” (John Wesley, Scriptural Christianity, paraphrased by Revd Dr Mark Rowland)

I don’t see this as a political issue but one that is essential to the future of Christianity in this country. There are many examples in history where Christianity has lost its way for a period. We might consider the way in which slavery was condoned, apartheid supported or the cruelty of the workhouse – all things which now appal us. Things which we can hardly believe were actively endorsed by people who claimed to have a Christian faith.

Just after the Holocaust Martin Niemöller penned these lines, arguing against apathy—and for the moral connectedness of all people.

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

This may not be the cheery new year message that you expected to read here, or you may think that Christmas is past for another year and these words are irrelevant as we move into 2026, with another Christmas months away. However, I share them with you now because I believe that we need to resolve this year to set aside our usual complacency, and not sleep through the efforts of others to distort the Christian message for their own ends. We must be alert. We should not stand by and allow the wonderful message of the gospel of Jesus to be reinterpreted: in support of the rhetoric of the far-right (or any group for that matter), to marginalise any group of people, or to spread hate and division rather than love and compassion.

Rosemarie

Coming Sunday Worship at RMC

January and February 2026

Date & Month	Timings	Preacher	
January 4 th	9.30 & 10.45am	D Parr Revd Rosemarie Clarke	AAW
January 11 th	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke Revd Rosemarie Clarke	HC & Cov HC & Cov
January 18 th	9.30 & 10.45am	E Bates M-J Newman	
January 25 th	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd John Jennings A Cook	AAW
February 1 st	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke Revd Rosemarie Clarke	Café
February 8 th	9.30 & 10.45am	B Quint B Quint	
February 15 th	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke Revd Rosemarie Clarke	HC HC
February 22 nd	9.30 & 10.45am	Revd Rosemarie Clarke Revd Rosemarie Clarke	AAW

**If you would like more information,
please contact the Church Office**

rustingtonmethodistchurch@gmail.com

01903 776900

The 'Big Church Festival'



In late August, I got the opportunity to work at Big Church Festival, on the main stage, doing audio engineering. Big Church Festival is a Christian music festival that happens every year at Wiston House in the South Downs, which around 35,000 people attend. My family and I have been to it almost every year since it began in 2009, and it has become a really special place for me, and a great foundation in my walk with Jesus.

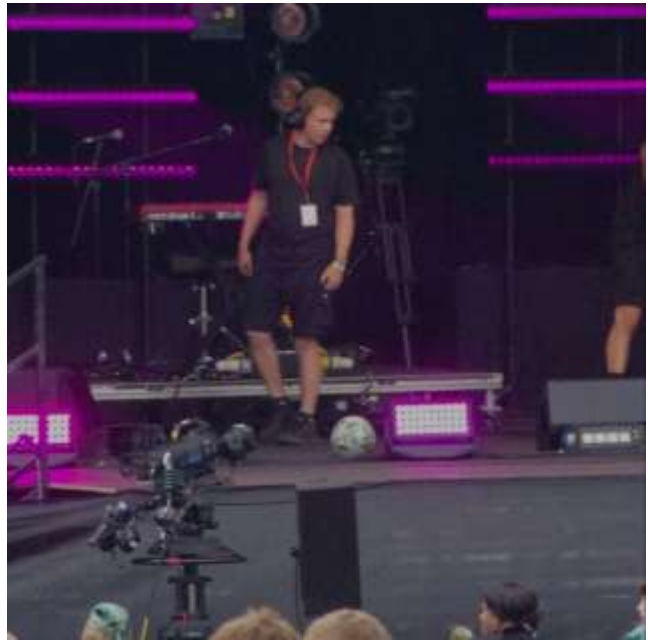
So when I got an email offering me a place to work there, on the main stage no less, I really couldn't turn it down. I had a lot of nerves going into it, especially because I only had a week between receiving the email and actually going!



What happened over the 5 days that I was there was so surreal. I got there a day before it all started. I got to see all of the setup, and got involved with helping the tech crew set up bits and bobs. I got shown my role, and where I was going to be based. I got given some microphones and other tech to be in charge of, and, most exciting of all, a headset for communications with the tech crew and the

content team! I also set up my tent in the volunteer camping section, where I slept for each of the 4 nights I was there.

A great benefit of being on the team was the free meals - a cooked breakfast every morning, and then a variety of amazing choices for lunch and dinner throughout the days. It was such good food! And, during meals, it was great to talk to different people who were also on the team.



During each of the three festival days, I was responsible for providing mics and sound for the acts and presenters in the changeovers between the sets on main stage. My station was side stage, so I had a front row seat for any sets I wanted to see! Other than that, I could relax backstage and prepare for the next changeover with the presenters and content team. Our dressing room was next to all the artists' dressing rooms, so I got to see and meet a lot of cool people, who are relatively famous in the Christian music world! I did also get to spend some time with my family during longer sets which was nice.

It was a tiring three days of action, but I enjoyed it all. It was a fantastic experience. To see how everything works behind the scenes was so interesting, and it was definitely an experience that I won't forget! All the people I met were so lovely, and there was a real sense of God's presence running through everything that happened, even through the chaos!



After it finished, I got told that the team would love me back next year, so I will definitely consider doing it again!



Flower Rota

January & February 2026

Date	Donated by	Arranged by
Jan 12 th	S Cooper	M Cocker
Jan 19 th	D Burcombe	D Straw
Jan 26 th	M Davis	I Eleveld
Feb 1 st	J & K Marshall	P Chapple
Feb 8 th	P Peck	D Straw
Feb 15 th	W Walton	I Eleveld
Feb 22 nd	M Barker	M Cocker
March 1 st	A Medler & K Harrison	M Cocker

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY MONEY MANAGEMENT COURSE

CAP Money Course at **Felpham Methodist Church**,
Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th February, 10am – 11.30am.

Now generally referred to as **CAP Money Coaching**, it is a free service designed to teach essential budgeting skills and a simple, effective money management system. Helping people get control of their finances, save, and prevent debt, and is run in partnership with local churches across the UK. **Free and Accessible**, all CAP services are completely free, funded by donations. You do not need to be a Christian to participate; the courses are inclusive and open to people of all faiths and backgrounds. **Practical Skills**, running over four sessions, it uses a simple, cash-based system to help participants build and balance a household budget, structure finances, find ways to save, and use credit wisely. **Expert Guidance**, sessions involving a mixture of videos featuring financial specialists, activities, and discussions, with support from trained CAP Money Coaches. **Ongoing Support** is important and participants gain unlimited access to a mobile-friendly budget worksheet and online budgeting tools.

Please contact John Evans (07840139247) if you wish to book a place on the free course, which will run in small groups (approx. 6-8 attendees)

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 over the next few months:

January 15th

Beetle Drive welcome back

February 5th

The Samaritans Gemma Peck

February 19th

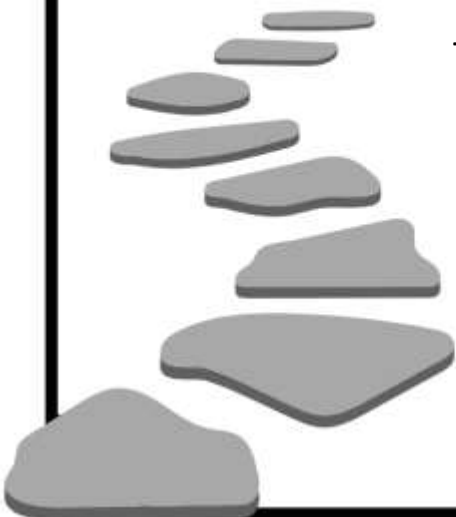
AGM and Silent Auction

(to begin our support for our 2026 charity)

Our charity this year is Chestnut Tree House

The children's hospice provides the best quality of life for children, young people and their families, and to offer practical, social and spiritual support throughout each child's life.

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





Family and Elderly Shoebox Appeal 2025

THANK YOU SO MUCH to EVERYONE

who contributed towards the Shoebox Appeal,
culminating in The Big Wrap in November 2025.

Here is a summary of this year's appeal in numbers...

152 boxes filled with goodies, wrapped with love

£1420 collected towards items and transport costs

10 weeks of collecting gifts in the vestibule

10 shopping trips to buy extra gifts,

including over 100 tubes of toothpaste!

8 Amazon orders for reading glasses, flannels,
spoons and much more

37 lovely people of all ages helped at The Big Wrap

12 lovely people helped to set up the night before

150 lavender bags handfilled

180 items beautifully handknitted

All contributing to a wonderful...

25,281 shoeboxes sent this year by LinktoHope to
show **love** and **care** to the poorest families in 4
countries.

Praise our gracious God for helping it all come together!



Christmas Holiday at Home



What a glorious day we all had, sharing time and food together.



There were lots of different crafts to have a go at, if you wanted to, or you could relax with a drink and have a chat with old friends and new, or while away some time doing a jigsaw.



**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**

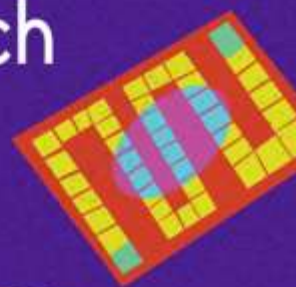


You're Invited
FREE ENTRY

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





**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, and 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 pop in on one of our sessions to see what we are doing.

Or contact Elizabeth Slatter

Email: bobelizabethslatter@gmail.com

Phone: 07954 371148

The upcoming dates are:

January 8th & 22nd

February 12th & 26th

March 12th & 26th



**The Church Christmas tree
decorated with stars we made.**



Linus Project UK



It is the mission of Project Linus UK to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children, who are sick, disabled, disadvantaged or distressed and those who may be fostered or in the adoption process by donating gifts of NEW, HOMEMADE, WASHABLE quilts and blankets, lovingly made by UK volunteer knitters and quilters.

Project Linus was started in America in 1995 and the organisation began in the UK in March 2000 as a result of a Birmingham quilter's desire to help children in need. There are now a large network of volunteers across the UK who donate their time and skills to create beautiful blankets and quilts.

At a recent Quilters Regional Day 42 quilts were handed in for this project from around Sussex, Surrey and Kent



**The 'Stitchers' Group at Rustington make quilts for the Linus Project.
Some of the 8 quilts we delivered on that day are pictured above.**



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**

Meets fortnightly followed by refreshments

Contact Ann W c/o Church Office

Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays

9.50-11.30 **Mod Mums - During Term Time Only**

Parents' group with crèches for those 0-5years

Contact via Facebook, search 'Modmums'

Thursdays

9.30-12.30 **Rascals Pre-School Playgroup - During Term Time Only**

10.30-12.30 **Coffee and Games - Weekly**

Meet in the coffee lounge. For EVERYONE

Contact Brigitte Alexander c/o Church Office

2.30 **Stepping Stones - 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month,**
Meet in the Church Hall from 2.00 pm

Contact Wendy Warrington 07526 433755
15th Beetle Drive welcome back.

1.30-4.00 **Stitchers Group - 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month,**
Meet in the Church Lounge to enjoy needlecraft and chat

8th & 22nd Contact Elizabeth Slatter 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,**

Meet in the Church Lounge

Contact Lindsey Tilbrook 01903 724393

Sundays

9.30 & 10.45 **Church Services – more details on the page *Worship at RMC***

10.30 **Junior Church – During Term Time Only**

What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on
what you bring to the new year. Vern McLellan



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Contact Brigitte Alexander c/o Church Office

2.30 **Stepping Stones - 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month,**
Meet in the Church Hall from 2.00 pm
Contact Wendy Warrington 07526 4337515
5th The Samaritans with Gemma Peck
19th AGM and silent auction to start of our 2026 charity.

1.30-4.00 **Stitchers Group - 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month,**
Meet in the Church Lounge to enjoy needlecraft and chat
12th & 26th Contact Elizabeth Slatter 01903 776707

Fridays

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2.30-3.30 **Come & Sing - 1st Friday of the month**
Meet in the Church Lounge
Contact Lindsey Tilbrook 01903 724393

Sundays

9.30 & 10.45 **Church Services – more details on the page, *Worship at RMC***

10.30 **Junior Church – During Term Time Only**

February is merely as long as is needed to pass the time until March
Dr. J.R. Stockton



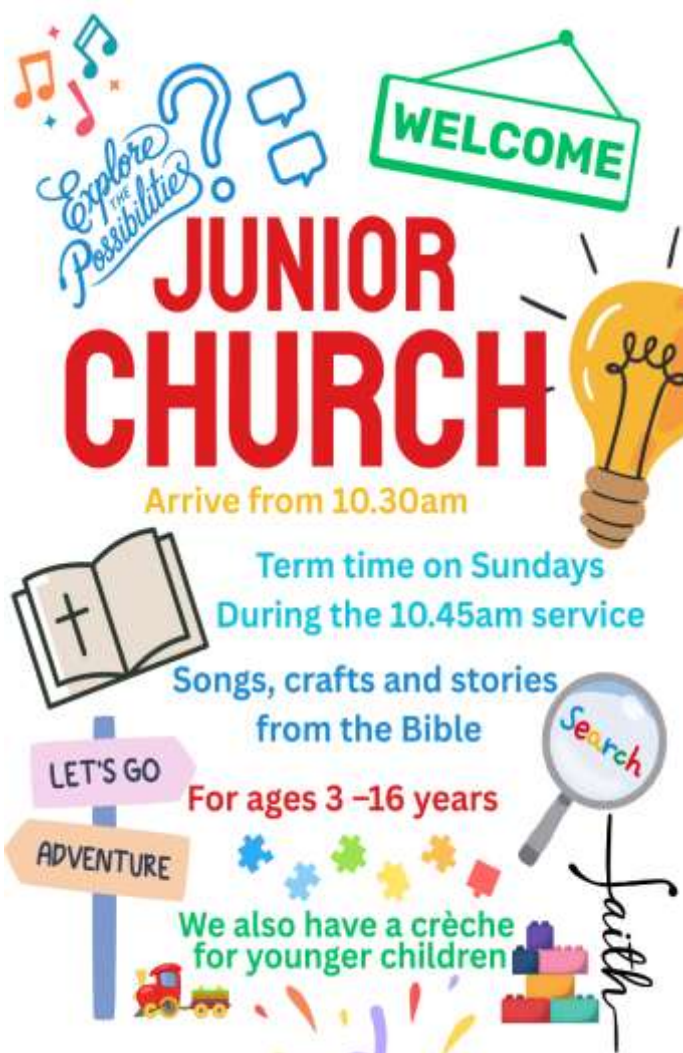
Christingles



Several of the Junior Church children came in on the morning of Christmas Eve to help make the Christingles ready for the service.



An orange has a red ribbon around the middle of it and then a candle, and sweets/fruit are inserted into the top. The orange represents the world, the red ribbon Jesus's blood/love, and the four sticks with fruit/sweets represent the fruits of creation/fruits of the spirit, and the candle is Jesus's light bringing hope to the world.



Explore the Possibilities

JUNIOR CHURCH

Arrive from 10.30am

Term time on Sundays
During the 10.45am service

Songs, crafts and stories
from the Bible

For ages 3 -16 years

We also have a crèche
for younger children

LET'S GO
ADVENTURE

Search

faith



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

Call us: 07546584314
Email us: rascalsplaygroup@gmail.com

Rascals
PRE SCHOOL PLAYGROUP
RUSTINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

OUR OPENING HOURS:
Monday & Tuesday 9.30am - 3.30pm
Thursday & Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm

**ESTABLISHED
SINCE 1989**

**HIGH QUALITY
FUNDED
CHILDCARE**

for 3 and 4 year olds and
eligible 2 year olds

Professional team of
staff, all fully qualified
in paediatric first aid
and Safeguarding

Ofsted
Good
Provider

Manager: Tracey Hubbard

For more information visit our website www.rascalsplaygroup.co.uk
Or visit our facebook page [Rascals Pre School Playgroup](#)

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

 @modmums



Charities Monthly Market

A regular tabletop sale on the 1st
Saturday of every month in 2026

Where: Rustington Methodist Church
Hall, Claigmar Road,
Rustington, BN16 2NL

When: 3rd January 2026

Time: 10.00am - 12.00 noon



Sale of new and pre-loved goods, books,
jigsaws, etc. Refreshments available.
Come along and grab a bargain!

Our January Market is sponsored by:
RUSTINGTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Contact:

Email r.maule@faredivide.org.uk

Call Ros Maule on 07933 255845



All market dates for 2026:

3rd January / 7th February / 7th March / 4th April / 2nd May / 6th June / 4th July / 1st August /
5th September / 3rd October / 7th November / 5th December

New Year Lunch Party



Some satisfied diners having shared a wonderful lunch cooked by Brigette, supported by a great team of helpers.



There was a great deal of head scratching over the quizzes which were placed on the tables. Suffice to say Rosemarie will not be allowed to provide the quizzes again!!!

Renewing the Covenant 2026, and the minority report

‘Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the laws my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.’ (Joshua 1: 1-7)

These were the instructions given by God to Joshua as he led the Israelites into the Promised Land. This story really begins in the account narrated in Numbers 13 and 14, of the 12 spies who went on a *reccy* to suss out this land which the Lord had promised to them. A land flowing with milk and honey it might have been, but ten of the twelve were fearful of the fortified cities and the power of the people who they described as ‘like giants’. The minority report of Joshua and Caleb acknowledged all that the other ten had said but their confidence in God being stronger than any situation or group of people meant that rather than retreat they were ready to go ahead into the land promised to them.

However, it was not the minority report that won the day as a result of which the children of God wandered in the desert for another 39 years and none of that generation, other than Caleb and Joshua lived to enter the Promised Land.

What happened was really just a matter of perspective...same facts different conclusion but what far reaching effect the resulting actions were to have.

A covenant is serious binding agreement between two or more parties. It goes beyond an ordinary contract because it carries a sense of commitment, loyalty and moral responsibility, not just legal obligation. In Christian theology, a covenant is a sacred binding agreement initiated by God that establishes a relationship with his people. It is God's covenant with the Israelites which is the background to the promise in Joshua.

If the spies came to vastly different conclusions the church has been doing the same ever since.

Does our view of the world view cause us to be cast down when we hear the news, feeling it's all out of control and there is no hope? Or with they eyes of faith do we think, 'terrible though this is God is still the Sovereign Lord of all and will one day bring all things under his hand'?

Does our view of the church make us depressed by the continual numerical decline, or do we with all its faults and failings still believe the church can be different?

Does our personal view lead us to be fearful, weary, spiritually drifting, clinging to old hurts, resisting God or can we face our own inadequacies and be courageous in God?

Being courageous in God means we can face ourselves, trust in God's promises, and find the strength to obey and renew the Covenant. In renewing the Covenant we are simply saying, Lord, I am yours – whatever the future holds whether easy or hard, whether the church grows or shrinks, whether the world becomes calmer or more chaotic, whether my circumstances are joyful or painful I belong to you, use me as you will.

Shall we listen to the majority report – the voice of fear, decline and despair or sign up to the minority report- the voice of faith, promise and obedience? As the people entered the Promised Land, Joshua's message to them was this: *'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.'* (Joshua 3: 5) As we renew our Covenant with God this year let us keep that promise in mind.

Rosemarie

Junior Church Nativity



What a delight it was to watch our Junior Church children perform the Christmas story this year during our Nativity service.



Many thanks to all who helped make this happen, those out front and those behind the scenes.



The Friendship Singers



Thank you to everyone who came to our Christmas Concert on 2 December. We enjoyed the afternoon singing, with you joining in carols too, and we were able to give £338.47 (donated as a result of the concert) to St Barnabas House, our chosen charity. We have two main concerts a year, in the summer and at Christmas. There is no admission charge, with donations invited for our chosen charity.

I thought I'd give a little background of our choir, as some of you will not be familiar with it. We were founded in the 1970's as one of the activities provided by Mod Mums Coffee Club, as it was known then, when we sang together for fun in the home of one of the members. Later, most of us, who had continued to sing in the choir, realised that perhaps the term "Mod Mums' Choir" didn't fit for us any more so we took a vote on a name and agreed on The Friendship Singers. This is an excellent name because our choir is all about friendship, to each other, the church and the wider community. (Two of the original members are still in the choir!)

We continued with a goodly number of singers and were asked to sing at various events, church concerts, nursing homes etc, including the Parish Council's Christmas Concert each year.

Then, Covid hit! We had over 18 months without singing together and when we tentatively returned, our numbers had dropped drastically with members deciding to retire from singing for one reason or another. Should we continue? We were determined to try as we enjoyed singing (so good for one's health as promoted by Gareth Malone!) and placed advertisements for new members.

Our first "return" concert was December 2022 to support the people of Ukraine at Christmas which included Christmas carols for the audience to sing as it had not been possible for some time. Since then we have gradually built up numbers so that the choir is viable again and our aim is to enjoy singing and support charities.

Since that concert in 2022 we have supported Turning Tides Homeless Project, Safe in Sussex (supporting people experiencing domestic abuse), The Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice, The Community Fridge, our own Church kitchen project and of course St Barnabas.

We are very fortunate to have Ann Waters as our pianist and recently Sarah Easton has taken over as Conductor as our previous conductor, Terry Warren, retired due to ill health. Sarah has brought a new vitality to the choir and I've asked Sarah to write a few words.....

"I joined the Friendship Singers 3 years ago as an alto, with minimal experience of conducting a community band - but I can count to 4 and wave my arms! I am very honoured to be the current conductor and hope to build on the focus of friendship through singing."

We would welcome new members so if you are interested please be in touch and if you have a knowledge of music that would be a bonus!

Margaret W

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

**St Joseph's Catholic Church,
Station Road, Rustington, at 10.30 am.**

The World Day of Prayer is a women-led, global, ecumenical movement. The annual service creates a great wave of prayer which encircles the globe, beginning in Samoa and ending, 146 countries later, in American Samoa, all praying this year with and for the people of Nigeria.

The theme of the day is "I will give you rest, come" and has been prepared by Christian Women from Nigeria. The service shares the stories of four Nigerian women who inspire us to work towards a world without injustice, insecurity, marginalisation, religious persecution, poverty and despair. They share their faith and trust in God, our Burden Bearer, receiving and bringing rest to the world.

The service this year will be held at
St Joseph's Catholic Church, Station
Road, Rustington, at 10.30 am.

These WDP services have been
celebrated for decades by our local
churches and are joyful, uplifting
events of solidarity and hope.

All are welcome



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION

24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 233242

Nigeria 2026

Precis of Minutes of the Church Council Meeting

Held, Monday 1st December 2025 at 7:30pm

At, Rustington Methodist Church, Chaired by Revd Rosemarie Clarke

12 members of the Council were present and apologies were received from seven.

3	Membership	Marian C tendered her resignation to the Council 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.
8	Safeguarding	Necessary DBS checks and training needs were reviewed
9	Pastoral	Sally Sampey has died – meeting stood to remember her.
10	Finance report	Hall Kitchen Refurbishment. The shortfall of £3,768 has been reduced by around £300 following the Christmas Fayre Accounts for the year September 2024 to August 2025 were agreed Lay Workers Consequential increases to rates of pay were agreed following the Government increase to the Living Wage. Concern was expressed by Bob about the income on a day to day basis for running the church.
11	Property	Annual Property Return has been completed. Simon has indicated that his availability to assist Bob with maintenance work on the premises.
12	Children and Young People	Karen S is leading this work, she has assistants but would like another leader. Discussion followed about the number of vacancies across all aspects of the church's life.
12	Lay Worker	Brigitte reported on the work she has been engaged in.
	Churches Together	Sheila K was appointed as RMC representative to Churches Together. Service for Christian Unity on 25 th January 2026 at St Joseph's RC Church.
	Stitchers	Elizabeth was delighted to report that since September the numbers had increased and the atmosphere is buzzing with everyone working and chatting!

13	Mission Plan	To be reviewed in Spring meeting.
15	Circuit update	<p>Welcome for Rev Andrew Reed who will be serving Chichester as a Supernumerary Minister took place on 30th November. Circuit has applied for a Probationer to serve Goring and Storrington with a co-ordinating role for Youth in the Circuit. If unsuccessful, we would go into General Stationing and that Presbyter would have also have in addition, responsibility for Steyning.</p> <p>Bognor Regis Church has closed. Most of the members have transferred to Felpham. It has been decided to sell the building.</p> <p>Tarring Road Chapel The nursery who had been there for many years has moved out and a lease is being negotiated with a new nursery.</p> <p>Finances of the circuit are challenged as there is no rent coming in from Tarring Road, no assessment from Bognor Regis and the Chichester Manse has not as yet been able to be rented out. All of this may impact on the Assessment.</p>
16	Diary dates	Were agreed for Christmas and New year
17	AOB Worship	<p>A discussion took place about worship, centring on a recent Café style worship. More people than had been anticipated had attended, the atmosphere was very good, the new singing group were much appreciated. There were several things to be learned: need more space between the table. Suggested that we also have 9.30 services alongside 10.45 café style to offer an alternative with people sitting around the tables at 9.30 service too, to save furniture moving between services. Serving of coffee was challenging, options include help yourself refreshments, or serving between the two services so both congregations could meet.</p> <p>Comments re Audio Visual in the church which will be forwarded to Simon to investigate.</p> <p>PA in the hall is not very good, Bob to investigate.</p>
18	Future meetings	Church Council Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.30pm



THE
LINK

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

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