***THE AVENUE***

**STANFORD AVENUE**

**METHODIST CHURCH,**

**BRIGHTON**

April – May 2022

**Minimum Donation 50p**

**THE AVENUE**

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**A Letter from our Minister**

Unfortunately Dan has not been able to do his usual letter due to him having Covid when he would normally be writing his thoughts.

We wish him well and a speedy recovery.

I have asked him for next time to be extra long to make up for it.

**PRAYER FOR ANY DAY.**

Compassionate God, we are sorry when we fail to see ourselves and others in the light of your love. Transform our inner hostility into hospitality so that we may be ready to welcome you in friend and stranger. Help us to remember that you call all people to eat at your table, and that being chosen by you does not imply exclusion of others, but that your love extends to every human being, and your arms are always open. Amen.

Ruth Flatman, Aberystwyth

**PRAYER FOR GRIEF.**

Lord, you know those who are hurting right now. We know you care because you are our Heavenly Father. God, I thank you for giving us comfort when we hurt. Help us remember we are not alone as we grieve. Help us cling to You when we feel despair and we miss those we have lost. Father, show us how to take refuge in You when our hearts are shattered. We know you understand. So we lift up each person reading this right now. Comfort them. We pray this in Your Son’s precious and Holy name. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

(by [Anne Peterson](https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/christmas-and-advent/scriptures-for-surviving-the-holidays-while-grieving.html))

**MADGE’S MELTING MOMENT**

A shop bought cake was a rare thing in our house, but these “biscuits” were a favourite of all of us especially if we helped make them. I have the recipe for Mums melting moments on a small piece of card and still make them occasionally.

Ingredients.

4 oz Flour

4 oz Marge

3 oz Sugar

1 Tea Cup Porridge (approximately 3½oz)

1 Teaspoon Golden Syrup

3 Teaspoons Boiling Water

Few Drop of Vanilla Essence

Method.

Cream fat and sugar, add syrup, boiling water and vanilla essence

Stir in flour and oats and mix well

Roll into balls

Place on lined baking sheets

Decorate with pieces of glace cherry if liked

Bake at Gas mark 3 (160c) for 15 – 20 Mins.

Or ice when cooled if liked.

*Martyn – Thanks Lis, I can personally recommend these.*

**ACTION FOR CHILDREN NEWS and EVENTS**

Action For Children. Good News! Funds raised:

Text, company name

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Christmas Carol Concert December 2021 £330. Brighton Male Voice Choir Concert February 2022 £330.February 2022 Boxes and Donations including, Tombola (which raised £55.30 at the concert) £236.46.

Total £896.46. Amazing!!!

A big thankyou to the Male Voice Choir and for all your generous donations. A big thankyou too for all who helped make the Male Voice Choir concert such a great success including the wonderful refreshments with delicious cakes!

How does your money help??

Fall out of Ukraine conflict is the effect on cost of living and changes to universal credit. AFC are reaching out to help children who are facing poverty in the UK.

(AFC) one mother, Natalia’s story

“*I’m still using a food bank to make sure Chloe has enough to eat, I often go without to make sure she has enough food and I regularly eat cereal for a main evening meal”*

Your donations will go towards providing food for children like Chloe.

A cause close to my heart is the effect of domestic abuse on children, one of my roles as a nursing sister was to sit on the safeguarding committee for children and young people at Brighton and Sussex University Hospital Trust. It was being recognised that children living in a situation of domestic abuse were also victims and if people presented at the hospital as victims of domestic abuse it was vital that they were asked about any children who may live with them, so that they too received help.

AFC has been campaigning with other charities to change the law to recognise the needs of children in this terrible situation. Through this amazing campaigning the Domestic Abuse Act was changed last April and recognises that children are victims of domestic abuse not just witnesses. This change will help children to get the support they need.

Carols’ story (AFC)

*“Carol was in an abusive relationship for over a decade. In 2019 she escaped her partner after her daughter told a teacher that she thought “daddy was going to kill mummy”. Despite doing whatever she could to protect her children, the trauma badly affected them. We reached out to support Carol and her family “*AFC

All your pennies make a difference, Sylvia Lord is a firm supporter of AFC and here she is with her retro AFC box which is over 60years old!

A person holding a cat

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

If anyone would like a collection box, please let me know it’s a good way to get rid of all those pennies and give to such a good cause

God Bless, Gaynor Paul mobile 07733488959.

**MEDITATION & MUSIC.**

Meditation & Music meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Room after Luncheon Club @ 14-30 pm until 16-30 pm. There is a different subject each time with poems and music. Everyone is welcome.

If you need more information, please call Sylvia Lord.

The next one on 20th April is about Journeys relating to the Emmaus Road.

Thanks to Geoff Harrington for supplying the music.

Best wishes Sylvia Lord.

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

We continue to pray for June Lawson, Nadine & Gary Pugh, Ann Collins, John Pollard (Vic & Margaret’s Son), Vic who has been unwell recently, Sylvia & Ray Smith, Debbie Johnson, Jean Griffin, Doug Butler, Liz Wakeling & Amy Codling (Leaders of Scouts & Girls’ Brigade), Phil Codling, Maureen Knell, Sheila Whyte, Syd Beck, Jean & Geoff Starks, Gill & Shirley Challen and Margaret Trengenza.

As always, please let me know if you want me to remove any names, add to them or update us with news of any of the above.

We of course continue to pray for our Circuit staff as they minister to us – namely – Revd’s Andy Lowe, Deborah Cornish, Dan Woodhouse, Heather Leake Date, Major Connie Croly, Sue Harrington, and all our Lay Workers and Local Preachers.

**LIFE AS A REDCOAT.**

Part 6

Monday evening we held our secret meeting – NO Parents allowed of course. First thing was to tell them what teams they were in, always making sure any potential trouble makers would be leaders and deputies, which always worked in the 4 years I was at Westward Ho Holiday Camp. I reminded them that all points awarded would go up on the board but that they could lose points too.

Secondly, I taught them the Secret Sign I would make so that wherever they were, whatever they were doing they would immediately be quiet. I would change it every day – it always worked. Some of the parents wanted to know how I controlled them but of course it was secret. The second year I was there a family which also returned for another year said their son still wouldn’t tell them.

Then I told them of all the Competitions they could take part in i.e., Painting, Drawing (students at an Art College in Bideford judged them for me), Treasure Hunt where there were lots of hidden things throughout the Camp. Filling identical match boxes with as many things as possible, just one of each and nothing alive or dead. I used to let a few parents into the club to help count and they had to hold their right hand and say, “I promise, never, ever, to tell the secrets of the Budgie Club to anyone.” I vividly remember asking one Dad what his job was, and he said he was a Chief Constable.

We had Bingo, lots of fun and games in the club. Miss Junior Westward Ho and Mr Tarzan for the boys. The Donkey Derby, swimming and running Races.

Every Tuesday morning we had HUNT THE SPY going all round Camp shouting “We want the Spy.” The spy being my friend Mike, my ex-Redcoat friend. We always caught him by the Swimming Pool, and I would ask the children what we should do with him and nearly every week someone would shout “Kill Him.” We then made him ”Walk the Plank” ( the springboard) and I always end up being thrown in first.

Wednesday’s, we held auditions for the Children’s show when lots of children would come and sing, dance, tell jokes etc.

The last thing we did at the Secret meeting was learn our song. “If you’re happy and you know it shout, “I am.” When they were collected by their parents I used to ask if they’d heard anything, and they’d always say “NO.”

My favourite day was Friday when we would have Fancy Dress – Children’s Show – Prize giving and a party. It was a lovely end to their holiday.

In my last year there I came all the way home to take my Mun and her sister back to Westward for the last 2 weeks of the season. That was rather special as Mum had never seen what I did. Oh yes, I was in 3 Bluecoat shows a week. I remember in one show I said she was there and then I sang “Mother of Mine” to her but couldn’t look at her as she was in tears.

It was all quite an adventure that I loved, and still I’m asked to tell “My life as a Recoat and Bluecoat.”

Wynn

*Martyn – This is the final episode supplied by Wynn. It is very obvious that you enjoyed your role over all those years at Butlins & a very big thank you for sharing your experiences.*

**FUNDRAISING UPDATE.**

March has been a busy month for raising funds for the Church. The Quiz on 5th March with Robert as Quiz Master made a profit of £407. The 4pm start worked well, so we will do it again. Look out for the next one.

The Spring Craft Fair on 26th March was a lovely sunny day. The final total is £756.17. A big thanks to everyone who took part in the quiz and supported the Fair.

The St Georges Day event on 23rd April is a meal with entertainment. Karen and John Patching will be cooking a 2 Course meal of sausage and mash and peas with apple crumble and custard for dessert. The evening starts at 6-00 pm and costs £10-00 per person. If you want to come and join in the fun see Jeni, Amy, or Lis at Church or call Lis on 07730 0773891 to reserve your place.

You may have been wondering about the Flowerpot Sculptures? We have been researching and experimenting to see if this is possible and have booked a date in the Church diary.

There will be an exhibition of locally produced sculptures all using flower pots on Saturday 24th September and Sunday 25th September which is also the date of our Harvest Festival.

The week 20th – 26th September is recycling week which is to show people “we” need to recycle more of the right things more often. So a great event to involve the Community in. Flower pots often end up in landfill but if you have spare ones, please put in the box in the Fellowship Room

The Fashion Show on Friday 14th October is for the ladies. So put it in your diaries. It will definitely be an evening not to be missed.

Your fundraising team, Karen, Amy, Jeni, Mags Liz, Pete and Lis.

*Martyn – Thanks to the Team for everything you are doing.*

A new item starting in this issue will be Who Am I? This is statements about a person attached to the Church, be it a member of adherent. Your job is to try & guess who it is. The answers will be posted at the end of the Magazine. As it is the first one, I have included two people.

**WHO AM I?**

My Father was a Miner.

My Mother was born in Wales

I was born in Brighton

I have 2 Sisters & 1 Brother

I have 5 Great Grandchildren

My earliest memory is travelling on a train from Brighton to Shoreham with my Grandfather

I first came to Stanford Avenue Methodist Church when I was 15 & invited to join the Youth Club by a school friend.

If I could meet anyone famous, I would like to meet the Queen.

My hobbies are Knitting & Photography.

I was a Sales Manager for an International Brand.

**WHO AM I?**

I was born in South London.

I like Cricket & lots of other Sports.

I was the youngest of 4 children.

My hobbies are I collect Cigarette Cards & Riding my bike.

I moved to Brighton in 1958.

I have completed the Mighty South Coast walk for the Martlets (Blisters & All)

I do not like heights

I was married in 1980.

My favourite meat is Lamb.

I have driven a Formula 1 car & was nearly sick.

**CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED.**

Please, please, please send me your items for the Church Magazine. Especially as Wynn had finished her item on being a Red/Bluecoat. If I do not receive items, it may not be worth producing. I’m sure that some of you have some very interesting stories or items that others would be interested in.

Please send them to the [stanfordmethodist@btconnect.com](about:blank) or drop them through the Church letterbox.

**MURMURATION ARTS**

At the end of last year Murmuration Arts found a new home in Room 4 at the side of the Hall as our office. Marion and her producers have been working hard creating three new pieces of work as part of the Rites of Passage Exhibition at Crawley Museum, which will be opening on 31 March and running until 27th May 2022.

VV Film

A Visual Vernacular film inspired by interviews carried out in Crawley by [Martin Glover](https://www.facebook.com/digitspaceproject/) in British Sign Language.

Choreographed and performed by [Zoe McWhinney](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=rm&ogbl#search/in%3Asent+lucy+thor+reg+polly+vv/lLtBPZwBKLsgMnBlcnXcKcQcBsXcvdpNTHvjdhqTkScpnckvwgbDbnkbCDwdWNvtHvNqnvjx?projector=1)

A LULLABY FOR LEONARDSLEE

A large illuminated crescent moon where audience members are invited to sit down and hear a unique piece of music, written with local parents in creative writing workshops led by [Mercedes Kemp](https://wildworks.org.uk/2021/04/at-a-time-like-no-other/), composed by Julie Macara with arrangement of vocal harmonies written by Vicky Abbott.

LULLED TO SLEEP

A sound installation designed by [Thor McIntyre-Burnie](https://www.aswarm.com/) of local parents wishing you sweet dreams.

**KEY DATES.**

31st March: Private View at Crawley Museum (volunteers invited)

1st April - 27th May: Exhibition open to the public. 10.30am - 4pm, Thursday - Sunday.

Admission is free and you are all invited to attend

Murmuration continues to deliver weekly outdoor fires for mothers with babies and young children in the gardens at The Brighthelm Centre. If you are interested in learning more about our work, please see [www.murmurationarts.co.uk](http://www.murmurationarts.co.uk) or have a chat with Marion Duggan or Matthew Black.

**LAST DAY for JUNE – JULY 2022 magazine contributions will be FRIDAY 27th MAY.**

You will be able to send contributions via E-Mail: [stanfordmethodist@btconnect.com](about:blank), or, by post to Stanford Avenue Church with ‘For Magazine’ on the front of the envelope.

**ANSWERS TO WHO AM I.**

The first one was Sylvia Lord & the second one was the Editor Martyn Coblenz.

Look out for the next one in the June/July issue.

**PAUSE FOR THOUGHT**

As I write this on a lovely sunny day sitting in my armchair looking out of the window, it’s so quiet and peaceful. I’m preparing to go and speak at a meeting this afternoon. As it’s Mother’s Day this coming Sunday I plan to look at Mary and her son Jesus, from his Birth to his Ascension.

Now I’m back home reflecting on the meeting. Before I spoke, we had a time of prayerful silence occasionally broken by someone praying. In the silence, despite being near a main road with lots of traffic, we could hear birds singing just outside. It was a wonderful, uplifting time, and I still feel that peace now I came down to earth as I prepare to watch the news.

So, half an hour later and I have seen terrible scenes of suffering and death from UKRAINE So many people of all ages being killed and injured. Then I looked at my paper to read about many people offering sanctuary to people fleeing from the horror, opening their homes to total strangers. Also there are articles about many exhausted NHS workers who have to force themselves to keep going. Another piece on the backlog of patients waiting for operations and treatment delayed by Covid. How do we deal with this? Obviously, we pray for these totals strangers. But we need to find time to “Switch Off” to relax.

Recently I discovered UNWIND with I.T.V. It’s a daily escape designed to calm the mind and encourage relaxation and reflection. It lasts about 20 mins. Scenes of Countryside, Sea, Rivers, Towns. There is music, which I mute. Problem is it’s on in the early hours, so I record it to watch whenever I feel the need. I recommend it.

In the last magazine I quoted from the hymn “What a Friend We have in Jesus” but not the first verse. I write that now.

What a friend we have in Jesus

All or sins and griefs to bear

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer

O what peace we often forfeit

O what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry

Everything to god in prayer!

So, we continue on our journey praying for each other and for those in need wherever they may be.

May God Bless us all.

Wynn

*Martyn – Thanks Wynn again with your thoughts.*

**COME 4 COFFEE**

From the start of the first lockdown we were unable to open the church on Thursdays, both in the morning for folk to drop in for coffee and in the afternoons for Craft’N’Chat.

The latter has resumed recently on a fortnightly basis, and we have been pleased to welcome those who have joined us.

Now that the COVID restrictions have eased and we are able to make our own choices regarding the precautions we take, and following the neighbourly success of the Spring Fair, Connie and Ann C have decided it is time to restart COME 4 COFFEE on Thursday mornings after Easter.

So starting from THURSDAY 21st APRIL the Fellowship Room will be open from 10 TILL 12 and anyone who cares to drop in for tea, coffee, a chat - or quiet time in the church - will be assured of a warm welcome. We have also decided to trial including Craft’N’Chat in the mornings for the time being. Please note there will be just 1 more afternoon Craft’N’Chat on Thursday 14 April from 2 to 4 as usual before that

We look forward to welcoming you and our neighbourhood friends once again on Thursday mornings when you can drop in and COME 4 COFFEE. Put the word around, drop in even for a few minutes, bring the paper! A game like Scrabble! Something you are working on! Or just yourself

Connie and Ann

*Martyn – Here’s to a successful start of this new venture.*

**Dates for your Diary @ Stanford Avenue.**

3rd April – Sunday Morning Worship & Baptism – Dan Woodhouse

10th April - Sunday Morning Worship – Mr Geoff Harrington

13th April – Communion Service in the Fellowship Room

14th April – Maundy Thursday Service @ Hove

15th April – Good Friday Service @ Patcham – Dan Woodhouse

17th April-Sunday Morning Worship–Dan Woodhouse/Connie Croly

21st April – Come 4 Coffee – 10 to 12 -Fellowship Room

23rd April – St Georges Day Meal – 6.00p.m. - Hall

24th April - Sunday Morning Worship – Major Connie Croly

28th April – Come 4 Coffee – 10 to 12- Fellowship Room

1st May – Circuit Together Service – Hove Methodist Church

8th May - Sunday Morning Worship – Dan Woodhouse

15th May – Church Anniversary – Rev Dan Woodhouse

22nd May - Sunday Morning Worship – Major Connie Croly

29th May - Sunday Morning Worship – Mr Ken Smith

24th/25th Sep – Harvest Festival & Flower Pot Sculptures Exhibition.

14th October – Fashion Show - Hall

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