



**Bognor Regis
Methodist Church**

Journeying with God

**Forming
Community**

**Celebrating
Faith**

**Deepening
Discipleship**

GAZETTE



**OCTOBER &
NOVEMBER 2020**



**Forming
Community**

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Welcome! After a few months without, our Church Gazette returns. Just as many other things are different at the moment, the gazette is a bit different too. For now we'll be combining the weekly notice sheets and Gazette in a bi-monthly edition.

With much less gathered activity able to happen at the moment, there are less dates and events to advertise, but the benefit is that we now have more space for you to share. Debbie would love to have contributions from you. Is there a bible passage or verse from a hymn that has been encouraging you – tell us what and why! Where or how have you been encountering God recently? Share your stories and encourage us!

Over the coming weeks and months I will continue to work with trustees and our delegated oversight committee (Martin Laver, Hazel Denman & Tony Poland) to review activities based on what is allowable under Government guidance and law, maximising safety and what is practically viable for us as a community. Please get in touch with us if you have questions or concerns. *In Peace & Hope,*

Rev Dan | 01243 823895 | dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk

Forming Community

Growing Together & Reaching out to Others

THE 2020 PANDEMIC

In his 2003 book “ A short history of nearly everything”, Bill Bryson covered matters such as climate change and pandemics. Our recent pandemic has predecessors and the following extracts from Bill Bryson's work indicates that we should not have been surprised. Our one regret perhaps may have been that we were around when the following one occurred.

Bill Bryson wrote

" The swine flue epidemic of 1918 arose as a normal non - lethal flu, but somehow it mutated into something more severe.

No one knows the global toll, as records in the third world were often poor, but it was not less than twenty million and probably more like fifty million.

No-one can rule out the possibility that the great swine flue epidemic might once again rear its head.

Our lifestyles invite epidemics. Air travel makes it possible to spread infectious agents across the planet with amazing ease. An ebola virus could begin the day in, say, Benin and finish it in New York or Hamburg or Nairobi , or all three.

In 1990, a Nigerian living in Chicago was exposed to Lassa fever on a visit to his homeland, but didn't develop symptoms until he had returned to the United States. He died in a Chicago hospital without diagnosis and without anyone taking precautions in treating him,unaware that he had one of the most lethal and infectious diseases on the planet. Miraculously, no-one else was infected.

We may not be so lucky next time.”

We weren't.

The book “ *A short history of nearly everything*” by Bill Bryson was lying around with other books in the church hall [prior to its takeover by the Food Bank] waiting for people to make a small donation for church work to acquire knowledge or fiction. I am so glad I browsed around. I can't remember whether I made a donation, or not, but don't tell Val Poland.

CJW

B. FOR WHERE ARE YOU HEADING?

In a little book published in 1986, *What's the point?* Norman Warren asked the question is there life after death?

He wrote we can see ourselves as a body, a mind and a spirit or soul. Our body gets old and one day will die. It will have done the job it was meant to do for our life here. When we die, or rather when our body dies, our spirit lives on because it can never die or be killed.

What happens next ? To this we have to go to the only one with the answer. Jesus went through the experience of death and came back alive and He alone can speak with authority on life after death. He tells of two eternal worlds – heaven and hell.

Hell is where God has withdrawn his presence and therefore all light and love. Jesus describes it as a place of darkness, weeping and torment. Hell is eternal life imprisonment with no possible remission. God sends no one to hell. People go of their own choice by ignoring or rejecting Jesus as the one hope of freedom and eternal life.

Jesus describes heaven as the true home of all God's people. The Christian does not belong here on earth. We are journeying through this short, passing life to our true home that Jesus is preparing. Heaven is shown as a place of perfect love and happiness, of lasting peace and complete satisfaction - so lovely and wonderful that we cannot even begin to understand it. There will be no more sin, no death, no evil, no violence or hatred, no grief or partings, no more pain and suffering.

If you love Jesus, you need never be afraid of death. For when your body dies, as some day it will, the real you will go to be with Jesus. It will be like falling asleep and then waking up. The first person you will see will be Jesus welcoming you home at last. **[See John 3 v 16]**

CJW

Celebrating Faith

Worshipping God & Celebrating Difference

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Guidance on how we are maintaining a covid-secure environment for worship is available online (<https://bognorregismethodist.org.uk/>) and has been posted or emailed to all contacts we have. Please contact Rev Dan if you haven't received this and would like a copy posting to you.

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Deepening Discipleship

Discovering God & Making a Difference in God's World

BOGNOR REGIS FOODBANK

We continue in partnership with The Foodbank, which is still operating out of our Church Hall, as together we support our community by offering food parcels to those in need. ***Please avoid parking in the Church car park on Friday's before 1:30pm.***

Shore Community (The Baptist Church, in Victoria Drive) is the drop off point for any food donations, which can be taken there on Wednesdays from 9.30am-1.00pm, *but not BRMC please*. Alternatively, Morrisons have a place for Foodbank donations, as do Tesco & Sainsbury in Shripney Road.

HOUSE GROUPS & AND CHURCH GROUPS

As we all remember, on Monday 23rd March, our country was put into lockdown and our lives ground to a halt, with our Church closing and all our house groups, fellowship groups and community groups stopping, and all our pastoral visiting too. It was a shock to us as our lives changed overnight.

It has been a long haul, but we are beginning to embrace our 'new normal' and we are now meeting at the back of the Church for our Church Fellowship Group and Anita's House Group. At the moment these are the only 2 groups meeting, and we meet safely, with masks on, socially distanced from each other, and with the Church doors open to enable good airflow.

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP GROUP

We meet fortnightly on a Thursday at 2.30pm. We will enter the Church wearing a mask and wear it throughout the meeting, use the hand gel supplied and bring a drink if one is needed. We will sit in a socially distanced circle at the back of the Church with the doors open. At the moment, we are studying Acts:

8 th October	Acts 4:32-5:42.
22 nd October	Acts 6
5 th November	Acts 7:1-8:3
19 th November	Acts 8:4-40

Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions please ring Anita : 826425 or Debbie : 870807 and feel free to just come and see if it's for you!

DEBBIE DEAN

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BOGNOR REGIS METHODIST CHURCH

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Church Website	Bognorregismethodist.org.uk
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All information was correct at the time of print, but is subject to change as we continue to adhere to national and local guidance as we continue through the pandemic.

If you are unsure about anything, please contact your Pastoral Visitor, a Church Officer or Rev. Dan.