



**Forming
Community**

**Celebrating
Faith**

**Deepening
Discipleship**

Priority 1: Restore and strengthen fellowship (social and spiritual) across the BRMC community

Dear friends,

At the church council a few weeks ago, we discussed and agreed a mission priority for the whole church as we emerge from lockdown, assess where we find ourselves and explore the future. That priority is to restore and strengthen fellowship across the BRMC community.

The exciting thing is that we are already well on the way to beginning to achieve that priority. Well-Come Point is up and running again and welcoming growing numbers of people each week, worship is seeing growing numbers of people and for those who have a mind for cards - whist is back too. And not only are they running, but all are seeing increasing numbers of people, old and new, which is wonderful! Praise God!

But fellowship is not really about numbers – it is about relationships – with God, and with each other. Relationships take time and effort, we don't get to know each other by being in the same room as each other – but by talking to each other, being interested in each other, encouraging one another. I encourage you all, as we seek to restore and strengthen this fellowship, to take opportunities to build relationships.

If you're an established member of the BRMC community, please welcome newer faces and get to know them. If you're new to us – welcome! - please take the opportunities available to you to get to know people here at BRMC like coming along to Well-Come Point.

As we look to the future, one of the ways community is strengthened is through encouraging and enabling each other to participate. Whether you feel like you've been at BRMC for an eternity, or think you're really new, there is space to get involved. Whether you're serving refreshments, helping with cleaning, or fixing a broken communion rail (thank you Forbes!) we want you to know this community is a place where you can use your God given gifts and skills for the continuing witness to God's grace and glory.

The coming months may well be uncertain ones, but I am confident that it is through our togetherness that we will continue to travel through this uncertainty with continued resilience and confidence in the faithfulness of God.

In Christ, Rev Dan

**Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.**

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

ADVENT FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Gather with Rev Dan for a short series reflecting on the season of Advent together.

Fridays in the church 10:15 – 11:15am
(arrive in the hall from 10am to get a cuppa)

26th Nov
3rd, 10th & 17th Dec



GOD BLESS YOU ALL THIS CHRISTMASTIME



THANK YOU to those of you who faithfully work on the Gazette with me to get it out to everyone:

- Those who regularly contribute articles
- Tony & Val Poland for producing the outer cover, printing & collating the gazette
- Our pastoral visitors who deliver to those unable to get to church

What a fantastic team!!! You are all amazing and I am so very grateful to each and everyone of you.

And to all our readers.....thank YOU all for reading and for your kind comments/feedback. I wish you all a happy, peaceful, healthy (*and much better than last year!!*) Christmas.

God's blessings, Debbie Dean xx

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

In September we held our first full church council since the pandemic began. Within our meeting we covered a number of matters including updating our list of roles, responsibilities and appointments in the church. As a result there have been many changes so we have put a full list on the board to the right of the door into the hall.

One significant appointment change is that we have a new treasurer and so we want to give a huge **thank you** to Tony Poland for his many years' service in this role. We now welcome Hazel Denman to this role and ask you to pray for her in this new role.

BRMC PASTORAL TEAM

At our service on 17th October we recommissioned our pastoral team. This serves as a good time to share with you what our pastoral team do and why it is such an important part of the life of the church.

Pastoral care is central to the life of Christian community. Christ calls us to care for each other, celebrating life's joys together and holding each other in times of difficulty.

The pastoral team, made up of our pastoral visitors, overseen by Rev Dan, are commissioned to pray regularly for those under their care, sharing in their joys, offering comfort in sorrow and support in times of need. In this ministry, pastoral visitors share the love and grace of God in their particular calling.

Of course that does not mean this calling is theirs alone – we are all called to share the grace and love of God – but pastoral visitors have what we might call a ‘particular’ calling.

At BRMC our pastoral visitors each have a group of members of the church for whom they take a direct responsibility in maintaining pastoral contact. As well as regularly praying for their group, they keep in contact and/or visit those in their group who are housebound, as well as being available for all in their group at any time they may be in need. Your pastoral visitor is your first port of call for prayer, for support, to celebrate the joys of life. When necessary, pastoral visitors will also contact Rev Dan for additional input or support.

If you don’t know who your visitor is, do ask Anita Hayward, our Pastoral Secretary. If you would like to explore becoming a member of the church and/or being in a pastoral group, do have a chat with Rev Dan.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2021

7.30-9.30PM

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From Janet Tapping.....

By the time you read this, Christmas will be fast approaching. Personally, I like to spread out my preparations – buying and wrapping gifts & writing cards – over many months.

I find I enjoy the lead-up events during December more if I am on top of things! Despite all that, it is not unusual for something to crop up at the last minute! Last Christmas my granddaughter asked for black & white knee length socks. I promptly ordered them, but when they arrived they were brown & cream. I then found myself knitting furiously on fine needles in the small hours for several nights, the week before Christmas.

Following that, I confess I do find it a joy to give and receive. At my age I have everything I *need*, but it pleases me so much to receive a small gift that the giver has thought about and knows will bring me pleasure. For example, automatic lights for my balcony flower tubs, from Polly my granddaughter. So my late nights knitting were worth the trouble!

Card sending & gift giving clearly demonstrate loving & caring, something which has been difficult to convey throughout the pandemic. Hearing in the news of the continued high numbers of casualties indicates it is not over yet, but thankfully contact with each other is improving. I hope that by December it is much improved.

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As Christians, we celebrate the most wonderful gift ever. God sent His only son to heal, to guide us in our way of life, and to

teach us to love one another. I hope and pray that those people without faith, might pause for a moment when they receive a nativity scene card, and recognise and accept what we are really celebrating. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the outcome of the pandemic, the quieter time we suddenly had to think about our lives, resulted in many people, ideally all, appreciating God's boundless gifts to us.... nature, our children's smiles, a cuddle just when we need it, the list is endless. The most precious gifts are those which money cannot buy, I am sure you will agree.

May God continue to bless us all, in particular this Christmas, when we can at last show our love for one another more clearly.

"See how the shepherds,
Summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord."

JANET

The Church is not a cruise ship where a handful of people ***serve everyone else who*** is relaxing.

No, the Church is a mission ship where it's ***all hands on deck and everyone serves.***

I am pleased to report that at the 'winding up' meeting of the Tuesday Friendship Club the members voted to donate the surplus money in the club's account to the Bognor Regis Methodist Church. The amount donated was £281.15. My last act as Treasurer of BRMC is to say a big thank you to the Tuesday Friendship Club for their generosity.

Tony Poland

YOUR NEW TREASURER

When I looked at my records I was shocked to realise that I had been continually in post as Treasurer for 16 years. I took over from Doug Clark in 2005/6 and during my time I have been Treasurer to 4 Ministers. When I took over, the overall assets were approximately £9,000 and that was everything. Over this time, the Assessment has risen from £16,000 to £24,000 this year, the membership of the church has shrunk from approximately 120 to 55 and the giving by the membership of the church and the Gift Aid was about 80% of the assessment.

The shortfall, at the start of my first term was made up by 'Gift Day' donations but it was soon realised that more had to be done. This was when C.O.G's was formed. C.O.G's together with lettings (attracting more people to use our premises) covered the shortfall and produced a surplus.

Unfortunately, for several reasons we are almost back to when I started. I must stress that the church is not broke. We have assets but unfortunately there are strings attached to the investments.

In our current account there is, at the time of writing, approximately £4,000 and at the end of November we have our quarterly assessment to pay which is £6,011. In the meantime we have our giving but we also have expenses. Fortunately we do have £5,000 that in an emergency we can use to pay our bills. The Church Council has agreed that we can use this money if we have to.

I know that we are coming out of the pandemic and we are all experiencing higher costs in our day to day living but I do ask you, as the outgoing treasurer, if you can possibly increase your giving. If you can this would really help your new incoming Treasurer Hazel Denman.

I would like to thank you all for the help that you have given me during my tenure and I wish Hazel all the best.

TONY POLAND (PAST TREASURER)

GIFT AID UPDATING RECORDS

If you can gift aid your giving could you please take a form from the back of the church, fill it in and return it by posting it through the letter box in the Minister's Vestry door. Every pound that you donate means the church can claim 25p. In past years the gift aid has raised approximately £3,000/£4,000 per year for the church which was most welcome and contributed to cutting the shortfall between giving and assessment.

TONY POLAND (GIFT AID SECRETARY)

TUESDAY FRIENDSHIP CLUB

In order to officially close the above Club an AGM was held on 13th October 2021 with our minister Revd. Dan Balsdon as Presiding Chairman.

The President Lilian Knight said “we must not look upon this as an end of an era, but the beginning of a new gathering on Tuesday afternoon instead. This is the time for us to rebuild the confidence lost during the lockdown, a challenge, an opportunity not to be missed. It is there for the taking. We must organise a gathering that can carry on the success of this club, to stimulate others around us. The door has been left open - please do not shut it!”

Think about it, ask yourself could it be for me? With God’s guidance I know we shall make it in the end.

Lilian Knight



GREETINGS FOR CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

I pray you and your loved ones will find peace and joy and remain safe. May God richly bless you.

Tony Brazier

MEMORIES

While sorting through photographs of events in our church so many happy memories came flooding back. I think Tony starting the weekly whist club in the hall and the weekly computer classes in our house really started the ball rolling

At that time Sheila and I used to do coffee mornings on Thursday and Saturday (monthly). Greenways was holding classes in Health and Hygiene in the Kitchen and Barbara Thompson invited me to fill the last space in one of the classes. I think this is about the time that the idea of COG's was born. We remember some of our earliest members and supporters with love: Doreen, Lorna, Irene, Joyce, Geoff, Ron, Iris, George, Ray and Arthur.

We have had wonderful musical afternoons, lots of 'dressing up' (be warned the photographs do exist)! Michael Wooldridge provided some wonderful musical backgrounds for us.

Thank you all for some wonderful memories which not only helped the church finances but made lasting friendships which have really helped (especially during lockdown).

VAL POLAND

Quotation from Bill Bullard (Mindful Christianity)

"Opinion is really the lowest form of human knowledge. It requires no accountability, no understanding. The highest form of knowledge is empathy, for it requires us to suspend our egos and live in another's world."

****MILK BOTTLE LIDS COLLECTION ****

I'm sure you'll remember reading in our last gazette, that the gentleman who emptied the vast bin full of bottle tops (over at Westergate Methodist Church) and took them to the drop off place in Chichester, has passed away. The collection was in aid of Chestnut Tree House, the children's hospice at Arundel. In the past, the bottle tops were taken to Chichester, and onto a factory that makes garden furniture. Then a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the furniture was given to the hospice.

It seems such a shame that we can't keep up this good work, supporting the work of Chestnut Tree House, and of course the essential work of recycling. Perhaps we can take up the baton at BRMC? What we would need is a large bin somewhere (maybe in the hall?) where we could all bring our milk bottle tops. But more importantly, we would need a driver (or 2?) to volunteer to take the bottle tops to Chichester when the bin is full....maybe 3 times a year?

If anyone feels able to volunteer to do this, please speak to Janet or Debbie. It would be great if we could do our part both for a local charity and the environment.

The place to take the bottle tops is :
St Paul's Church
Churchside
Chichester PO19 6FT

It is only red, green & blue milk bottle tops as others have adifferent chemical content.

A CHRISTMAS EDITION TREAT FOR YOU!!

You may have heard Colin Whitmill talking about 'The case of the missing speaker' and how he was planning to give a talk to us. His platform was to be the Tuesday Friendship Club, which sadly has had to end. It seemed such a shame that we would never get to hear Colin's talk, so I thought we would print it over the next few issues of our Gazette. We hope you enjoy it!

THE CASE OF THE MISSING SPEAKER

by KAYELEIGH GOODWORTH

Kayeleigh is an antipodean writer whose articles include climate change, and financial matters as well as fictional endeavours such as :-

- The Melbourne Cup Murder Mystery
- The Wagga Wagga to Woomera problem
- The Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race debacle

The Case of the Missing Speaker

by Kayleigh Goodworth

Let me introduce myself. My name is Don Garfield Watson M.D. I've recently returned from a tour of duty with a medical section of Her Majesty's armed forces in Afghanistan.

My army career, such as it was, came to a rather abrupt end when I was wounded in the lower regions

...of the Afghan mountains south of Her Majesty's Indian Empire.

During my necessary convalescence, I had just written my assessment of the curse of gold in the civil war of our former American colonies when a tremendous hub bub occasioned outside the tent in which I had been placed to recover out of the heat of the day.

It appeared that some kind of body had been unearthed during renovations of the local Chief's palace, although such a description of an organised heap of rubble stretched the imaginative qualities of the English language.

My professional interest, aroused by the panic based screams coming from the local inhabitants employed at a penny an hour to dig where directed, caused me to venture forth through the dust of the day to where the cadaver had been located.

A hideous sight greeted my presence.

What a kilted Afghan was doing puffing into and squashing an old Scottish musical bag in regular rhythm was beyond my understanding. The catatonic noise could have heralded some local custom, the knowledge of which I was unaware. All I could hear was squeaking and screaming in a language which I had yet to master. However, I was invited to inspect the discovery in order to ascertain its provenance.

To cut a very long story short, it was the bones of a long deceased two headed pygmy elephant, the one with the shortened trunks and four tusks, two at the front and two at the back.

Perhaps it was this incident which was to propel me into the realms of criminal investigation and mysteries, which the official authorities could not solve.

By the time I had recovered sufficiently from my wounds, I was discharged from the Army and ventured to London. I was determined to enter the profession for which I had been trained.

I needed some accommodation for myself and to set up a private medical practice. The Army had kindly rented me a small flat in Bickenhall Mansions, a property owned by the local Calethumpian church, off the Marylebone Road south of Baker Street. For some reason it didn't quite appeal. I suppose it was because, being on my own, I lacked stimulating discussion and intellectual challenges.

One day, not soon after I had settled in Bickenhall Mansions, I saw an advertisement in the *London Medical Chronicle* offering for sale an established medical practice in lower Baker Street – apply H Crippen. I arranged to meet the owner of the practice, hear about its prospects and potential and meet those already involved.

Dr Crippen was a slightly built man, one could say shy and introverted, and he introduced me to his practice assistant, his wife. In contrast to her husband, she was a strongly built woman - domineering I would guess - but then I only met her the once.

The sale of the practice, at a reasonable price, went through quickly as Dr Crippen was going abroad to seek a new challenge. One strange request he made. He asked if I had a pick and shovel he could borrow. Of course I didn't, but as he lived in Camden Town, I was sure he had neighbours who could oblige.

The practice was in a respectable part of Baker Street, but the 3 rooms of my new medical venture needed some refurbishment which I keenly tackled. The place had to look good and give confidence to those seeking medical assistance and/or advice. After having acquired the services of Marie Montague-Fitzwilliam as practice nurse, I was ready for a stream of patients, a situation which was not to arise immediately.

However, we didn't have long to wait for the first patient. He was a tall man and an obvious smoker as his garments reeked of the foul weed, tobacco. Of course, I cannot tell anyone the reason for his visit, on account of patient confidentiality. His was the first guinea I earned, *that* I can divulge.

upon a notice in a respectable looking two storey dwelling. It read 'Room to Let, Full Board available- apply within.'

I knocked on the door. A woman about 5ft 6 ins tall, or short, depending upon one's own dimensions, opened the door. I doffed my hat and said that I was enquiring about the vacancy advertised. I accepted her kind invitation to enter the premises and we sat down in her lounge to make each other aware of our backgrounds. She kindly said that I was the type of lodger she was hoping to attract.

My future landlady was Myrtle Budson, a widow of about early to mid fifties. She explained the set up. I would have my own room, she would provide all meals, but I would have to share the lounge with her other lodger, Shylock Gnomes. Her explanation of his idiosyncrasies was to prove accurate. Apparently he had a marvellous astute ability to discern a person's surroundings, place in life and problems just by looking at them.

The proximity of my medical practice and the attractive rate of board which Mrs Budson offered were just what I was seeking.

Mrs Budson led me up the stairs to meet my future lodging companion. My eyes came upon, through thick throat itching smoke, a tall man puffing at an S shaped pipe protruding from his course face.

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"Ah, Mrs Budson," he cheerfully said, "this must be a future fellow lodger in your homely and comfortable abode." I had

no qualms about getting to know and share lodgings with this fellow. After all I had spent time with Bunga Din and scary burpers.

“Ah” he said looking in my direction, “don't tell me about yourself. Let me tell you. You've recently served in Her Majesty's armed forces as a medical practitioner and have now acquired a nearby medical practice.”

If the chappie expected me to be astounded by his observational and deducement powers, he was in a for a disappointment. After all, at the time I had not enough money for a new suit and was wearing my army uniform. I had however bought a new medical bag, from the top of which protruded entrails of a recently purchased stethoscope. But how did he know that I had just acquired a medical practice

“My dear Watson,” he said removing the smoke generator from his mouth, “the obvious doesn't escape me, but your first patient was my brother Pycroft who described you more than adequately, and you haven't had many patients because you can yet to afford to buy a suit.

Dear reader, I should explain I had other garments which blended together, but not such as could be described as a suit.

To be continued.....

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A message from *DAY BY DAY with BILLY GRAHAM*

God's star promised peace to the whole world, if man would believe and trust.

Too often man's synthetic stars bring fear and anxiety. Our gadget-filled paradise, suspended in a hell of international insecurity, certainly does not offer us the happiness of which the last century dreamed.

But there is still a star in the sky. There is still a song in the air. And Jesus Christ is alive. He is with us, a living Presence, to conquer despair, to impart hope, to forgive sins, and take away our loneliness and reconcile us to God

SEEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

BEST STORY OF THE DAY!

South Dallas Middle School started a 'Breakfast with Dads' programme, but many dads were unable to make it and many students didn't have a father figure.

So the school posted a request on Facebook asking for 50 'volunteer' fathers.....600 fathers from all backgrounds showed up!!!

God is in *EVERYTHING*!!!!

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PREACHING ROTA

NOVEMBER

DATE	PREACHER	10.30am
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7 th	Mr David Booth	Morning Worship
14 th	Rev Dan Balsdon	Remembrance Sunday & Holy Communion
21 st	Mrs Liz Bates	Morning Worship
28 th	Mrs Lynne James	Morning Worship

DECEMBER

DATE	PREACHER	10.30am
5 th	To be confirmed	Morning Worship
12 th	Rev Dan Balsdon	Holy Communion
19 th	Worship Leaders	Carol Service
25 th	Rev Dan Balsdon	10.00am Christmas Day Worship
26 th	Rev Dan Balsdon	No service at BRMC : Joint worship with 3 Churches at Westergate

When you want different for yourself, you have to start moving different. Old keys do not open new doors.

-Unknown -