



Journeying with God

**Forming
Community**

**Celebrating
Faith**

**Deepening
Discipleship**

Gazette

March – April 2022

Please note the page ordering in this document is ordered for printing – note the page number at the bottom of each page to see it in order.

BRMC Membership of the Church Council and Managing Trustees

*As of General Church Meeting – 5th Sept 2021 and Church
Council 29th Sept 2021*

Role *marks roles appointed by GCM ~ marks roles appointed by the circuit	Name
Presbyters ~	Rev Dan Balsdon (Pastoral Charge)
	Rev Ian Suttie (Superintendent)
	Rev Bob Sneddon (Circuit presbyter)
Stewards*	Shirley Caunt (2000)
	Debbie Dean (2021)
	Sheila Harding (2011)
	Martin Laver (2010)
	Roger Saunders (2019)
Treasurer	Hazel Denman (2021)
Church Council Secretary	Anita Hayward (2019)
Pastoral Secretary	Anita Hayward (2018)
Property Steward	Tony Poland
Circuit Steward ~	Chris Monkton
Reps from GCM*	Rev Tony Brazier (2019)
	Lillian Knight (2007)
	Forbes Sutton (2021)
	Janet Tapping (2014)
	Colin Whitmill (2021)
	Rev John Wren (2017)



Bognor Regis
Methodist Church

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Dear friends,

As we continue to emerge from the restrictions of lockdown and into 'new normal' (whatever that really means for each of us!), I've been thrilled to see our fellowship and BRMC strengthening and deepening. The hubbub of conversation before worship and over coffee is just one of many indicators of our fellowship together growing and for that we can celebrate!

I am also excited that we continue to see new faces in our congregations on Sundays, at Well-Come Point and at other times of the week too. **If you are new to BRMC, a huge welcome to you!** I hope you will find yourselves appreciated and loved by the BRMC community. If you have any questions about what's happening here, please do ask a team member who'll gladly help you, or direct you to someone who can.

You may know the old maxim: 'Church is not the building, it's the people'. Our BRMC building has served as an asset for many years as a gathering place for worship, and a hub for mission and ministry. But it is God's people, earnestly listening for God's guiding and faithfully serving in mission and ministry that make us a church.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

Being 'church' is about being community.

A community that offers a hearty welcome to all.

A community that listens for God in worship and prayer.

A community where each person is enabled to belong.

A community where each person can participate as they are able.

A community that prays for us and holds us in troubled times.

A community that celebrates with us in our joys.

Thank you for all you are doing to be God's community at BRMC. May we continue to grow as community together as we continue along the adventure that is following Jesus.

In Christ, Rev Dan

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

Lord we lift our hearts to you. As the dawn breaks, may we share in every moment knowing that we are one with the risen Christ.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you. As the sunrises, may we remember to look for the beautiful colours of promise in your word.

Lord, we lift our prayers to you. As the dew air falls, may we breathe this morning in and know that you sustain us, keep us and work within us always.

And so, we lift our voices to you. We celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light! ***Amen***

(an Easter invocation from www.lords-prayer-words.com)

**EARN ALL YOU CAN,
SAVE ALL YOU CAN,
GIVE ALL YOU CAN**
(John Wesley)

Billy Graham, in the book *Day by Day with Billy Graham*, said:

You know that the hardest thing for you to give up is your money. It represents your time, your energy, your talents, your total personality converted into currency. We usually hold onto it tenaciously, yet it is uncertain in value and we cannot take it into the next world. The Scripture teaches that we are stewards for a little while of all we earn. If we misuse it, as did the man who buried his talent, it brings upon us the severest judgement of God.

The tithe is the Lord's. If you use it for yourself, you are robbing God. We are to take the tithe as a standard, but to go beyond the tithe is an indication of our gratefulness for God's gifts to us. In the midst of sorrow and trouble, this life has many blessings and enjoyments which have come from the hand of God. Even our capacity for love is a gift from God. We show our gratitude by giving back to Him a part of that which He has given us.

CJW

*****HAPPY EASTER – HE IS RISEN*****

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.
Because by your holy cross and the light of the resurrection
you have redeemed the world.**

Jesus Has Risen
Owen Alstott

Matthew 28:1–7

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

**Risen Lord, draw us to you.
Drive away our fears
with the good news of your resurrection,
and fill us with joy
as we tell others;
you live and reign, now and forever.**

Amen.

*****DATES FOR YOUR DIARY *****
IN MARCH & APRIL

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Wed 2 nd March	10.30am	Ash Wednesday Service	Church
Wed 2 nd March	7.30pm	Church Council	Hall
Fri 4 th March	10.30am	World Day of Prayer Service	Church
Sun 6 th March	3.00pm	Churches Together Prayer Walk	Hothampton Car Park
Wed 9 th March	10.30am	Lent Group	Church
Mon 14 th March	12 noon	BRMC Finance & Property Committee mtg	Church
Wed 16 th March	10.30am	Lent Group	Church
Wed 23 rd March	10.30am	Lent Group	Church
Wed 30 th March	10.30am	Lent Group	Church
TBC in March	TBC	BRMC Pastoral Committee Mtg	Church
Sun 3 rd April	3.00pm	Churches Together Prayer Walk	Hothampton Car Park
Wed 6 th April	10.30am	Lent Group	Church
Thurs 14 th April	6.30pm?	Maundy Thursday Holy Communion & Foot washing	Church

LENT

LENT WITH THE SPIRIT

BRMC Lent Preaching Series

Lent is a season of the church year where, as Christians, we are encouraged to reflect on our own spirituality and discipleship and challenged to go deeper in our relationship with God. As a church we're excited to bring you news of a preaching series through Lent to help us go deeper in our relationship with God. The series will take us on a journey exploring the ministry and activity of the Holy Spirit in us and around us.

Lent 1	6 th March	Purpose of the Holy Spirit	Liz Bates
Lent 2	13 th March	Function of the Holy Spirit	Rev Tony Trevithick
Lent 3	20 th March	Power of the Holy Spirit <i>+ Holy Communion</i>	Rev Dan
Lent 4	27 th March	Praying in the Spirit <i>+ Mothering Sunday</i>	Rev Tony Brazier
Lent 5	3 rd April	Healing with the Holy Spirit <i>+ prayers for healing & wholeness</i> <i>+ Holy Communion</i>	Rev Dan & Rev Tony

A NEW CHURCH FELLOWSHIP GROUP IS EMERGING.....

Human history has shown that when people meet in smaller groups, life becomes much more successful. In my xxx years as a Christian, my life and faith has been so much better when I have been able to meet other christians in small groups. The obverse is also true; when groups have not been around my faith has struggled.

After Easter I am hoping to offer a third such group. We will meet and talk about the Bible, and in doing so we can talk of our own experiences of God. Between us, we'll find encouragement in our faith, and life in general perks up! I can give you all the big reasons for such groups but not right now. If you can join in, you will discover other benefits too. Our elders might remember the Methodist Class Groups. Many argue that our church decline began when our Class Groups wained.

Where we meet will be up to the numbers, and *when* we meet will be up to the very first meeting to decide. I want with all my heart to commend you to join a group; you will not be disappointed. At the back of our church there are some forms to complete to show your interest, and so that I can keep you informed of our plans. Please return your form to any of our stewards directly to me. My contact details are available in church and please feel free to contact me directly if you wish. I hope to hear from you soon. **God bless. Tony B.**

That being said, does it really matter? Much of it is subjective and symptomatic of a 'taste' culture – we know what we like and we like what we know. In the words of the Chorister's Prayer (Royal School of Church Music) 'grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives.' Surely that's what really matters.

DUNCAN HANNAH

From the opening credits of
CALL THE MIDWIFE
6th February 2022

“Whether we pray or do not pray
each new day commences with an act of faith
because we turn our faces to a future
we have yet to meet
always believing that what will be, must be:
that we will not break no matter what we give,
or lose, or must receive.....
our yesterdays never return.
We must keep looking forward trusting, letting go,
saying:
‘This is the day the lord has made
we will rejoice and be glad in it’....
even when it hurts.”

'LENT WITH THE SPIRIT' DISCUSSION GROUP

As well as services, we'll be running a weekly Lent/discussion group exploring the previous Sunday's theme. Rev Tony Brazier will be hosting this for 5 Wednesdays on:

Wednesday 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th March, *and*
Wednesday 6th April

In Church at 10.00am (for coffee) for a 10.30 start.

LENT PRAYER GROUP

On Fridays through lent, between 9:30am and 9:50am, Dan is aiming to be in the church for a short time of morning prayer. Anyone is welcome to join him.

MAUNDAY THURSDAY

14TH APRIL 6.30PM

**A service of Holy Communion & foot washing
led by Rev Tony Brazier**

All are welcome to take part in this service, where we will celebrate Holy Communion and then have the opportunity to have our feet washed, or if that feels uncomfortable, our hands.

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet : John 13

⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Greetings from Janet Tapping

Some 20 years ago I was given a very interesting reference book – *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable*. I find I look up something and see a reference to another thing and a list of examples, look up those etc., and often an hour has gone by before I know it. It is really worth having on your book shelf....providing your shelf is a strong one!



Easter for Christians worldwide, is a time of mixed emotions. The sadness of the last supper when Jesus knew the agony that his human side was about to endure. Not least the desertion and denial of his closest friends on earth. Then we have Easter Saturday when so many were confused and disappointed, thinking all was lost and forgetting his assurances that He would never leave them. The joy of Easter day, His triumph over death, which still moves our hearts and renews our hope today. I hope you agree, it was not just a story, but an amazing happening.

In my reference book, I learned that the name Easter was given to the Christian Paschal Festival, in old English 'eastre'.

Easter cannot be before 21st march or later than 25th April. It is actually calculated each year according to the moon's cycle, thus it is celebrated on the same Sunday worldwide.

Mendelssohn later composed a piece called 'Festgesang', in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Gutenberg printing press. He included a tune which was promptly swiped and set to Wesley's words in a far from sombre manner!

Then we have tunes which have been appropriated from the folk tradition and from the world of popular music. Many folk tunes were collected and arranged for hymnody by Ralph Vaughan Williams, who traversed rural areas seeking out old locals. These would then obligingly sing a couple of local choruses in exchange for a pint of the local 'best', whilst Vaughan William wrote down their efforts for later use.

'The Skye Boat Song' is a prime example of how a familiar folk melody has been recycled for worship purposes ('Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind'). However, sometimes the originals are so strongly etched in our cultural consciousness that their reworking doesn't quite seem to sit well – the moving words of 'By a Monument of Marble' for Remembrance services aren't, in my opinion, particularly well served by the lightweight pop tune 'Scarlet Ribbons'. How many amongst us mentally check 'Danny Boy' when we sing the Londonderry Air for 'I Cannot Tell Why He Whom Angels Worship'? Can Eric Coates' Dambusters March ever be fully disconnected from the black and white images of Lancaster bombers and wartime derring-do when we sing 'God is our Strength and our Refuge'?

Notes From the Organist's Bench

I have previously written about 'St Denio', the hymn tune which serves 'Immortal, Invisible, God only wise' and how it began life as a secular Welsh ballad. Appropriating the secular is nothing new in the Christian tradition, a prime example being the grafting of Christian festivals such as Easter and Christmas onto the dates of existing pagan celebrations.

Singing The Faith itself contains several works from the Western Classical tradition adapted for hymnody. These include Beethoven (9th Symphony), Mozart (The Magic Flute), Holst (Jupiter from The Planets Suite), Sibelius (Finlandia), Dvorak (9th Symphony) and Handel (Judas Maccabeus).

Bach's oratorio 'St Matthew Passion' includes the famous Passion Chorale. This appears in some hymnals as 'O Sacred Head Sore Wounded', with Bach's fine treatment making the deeply searing words even more meaningful. The tune itself though, was originally a popular ballad, expressing the writer's sorrow at leaving behind some distinctly secular pleasures as he moved on from his current abode ('O Innsbruck, I must leave thee!'). Quite a different sentiment altogether!

When Charles Wesley wrote the words for 'Hark, The Herald Angels Sing', he apparently expressed a wish that it should be sung to a 'fairly sombre tune'.

Lastly, it was formerly a common belief that the sun dances on Easter day. Sir John Suckling 1646 referring to a happy bride, wrote:

**“But oh! she dances such a way
No sun upon an Easter-day
Is half so fine a sight.”**

How lovely, that is how we should all feel on Easter day. May Jesus’ resurrection inspire us all to believe in bright hopes for the future, in God’s hands.

JANET TAPPING

Ash Wednesday Service

Bognor Regis Methodist Church

Wednesday 2nd March

10:30am



Find us on Facebook @BognorRegisMethodist
www.bognorregismethodist.org.uk

More information from Rev Dan Balsdon
01243 823895 | dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk

STORM DAMAGE

We have some serious damage to the roof in places and we have already had it inspected in preparation for repairing it. If the estimate for repairs is less than £10,000 the insurance will pay without further ado and I'm hoping that will be the case.

THE ALARM SYSTEM

We are having the trip switch boards inspected and we will have to wait and see what is recommended it might be that the we have to have new locks and a better way of signing in and out of the building.

I do apologise to Pastor Marcio who has unfortunately been really affected by the lack of heat etc etc and to the Whist club who were also without heat again this week despite my going down and switching the heat on mid morning.

ANAGRAMS OF OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

Burns me	Chair haze	Eds jug
Evil is cut	Hail mac	Hurt
I jam here	On gloom of sons	Our needy Tom
Rich clones	See sign	Select as ices
threes	Tom anneals it	Used ox

Answers on page 23

And if this is a story of what God is like
We can look for that grace
In a climate school strike
Or a coffee co-operative or an extraordinary gift
Or the strangers we see on the bus, in a lift,
On the street, at the market – you know, we can be
The great transformation we're longing to see.

'what was dead is alive,
What was lost is found'
By God's radical grace the story can turn around.

by Rev Ellis Matthews

Based on **THE PRODIGAL SON – Luke 15 : 11-32**

A PRAYER FOR EASTER SUNDAY

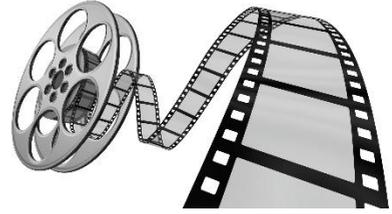
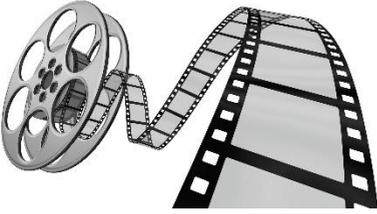
Lord God, you loved this world so much that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, *every* day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray Lord. Amen

Rachel Marie Stone

From playboy to pigsty, from penthouse to poo
And he's hungry and scrawny and destitute too
And he craves the pigs' pod
And he envies the slaves
And he rues the bad moves
And bad choices he's made
And he thinks of his father
And laments his grave sin
And he comes to himself and he gasps "I give in.....
I will go to my father and fall at his knees"
And I'll say "I have sinned against you,
Father, please
Take me into your household
And I'll be a hired hand
And I'll wait at your table
And I'll work on your land....."

But a hand puts paid to his pre-prepared speech
It's his father's, it's trembling
And slowly he reaches
Across the divide, lifts his son to his feet
With a tear in his eye – and his heart skips a beat
When I think of the look in the prodigal's face
An improbable story of radical grace.

'What was dead is alive
What was lost is found'
A story radically turns right around.



FILM CLUB

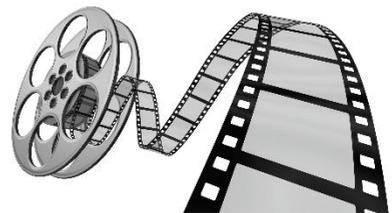
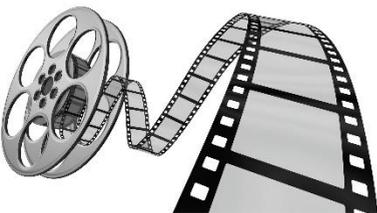
Just a thought.....

We have been given some wonderful films and just wondered if anyone would be interested in a film club?

We are going to experiment with the equipment we have in the hall. Maybe a cup of tea and a couple of biscuits, the company of friends and a film would be very inviting on an afternoon.

Please come and let us know if you're interested.

TONYPOLAND



**Final instalment of The Case of the Missing Speaker by
Kayeleigh Goodworth, contributed by Colin Whitmill**

WARNING: Do not read if of a nervous disposition!!!

It was then I asked Butler to go back into town and seek Police assistance as well as notifying Lady Gertrude that her next speaker was missing. Two Police constables, Stan Hardy and Oliver Laurel, searched the building as best they could as well as the grounds.

“They intend to drain the lake, but they need more buckets.” As she said this, she sobbed, her delicate shoulders moving in time with her emotions, and continuing said “ it was then I decided to call upon your help, Mr Gnomes. If anyone can find my uncle”, “and my missing speaker”, Lady Gertrude interjected, “ you surely can.”

“You can, you can, I know” Marybella hysterically cried as she slumped back into her chair. From a medical viewpoint, I wanted to attend to her condition, but, using the well known Finch method of a couple of slaps around the face may have been misinterpreted. “I'll do my best,” Domes replied, “ but I must have a free hand to search everywhere in the building, the grounds and anywhere and to question any person. “You can, you can” Marybella cried, “You can, you can”!

Gnomes asked “should we seek lodgings in town or have you spare accommodation for my friend, Watson and I?” “Yes” she replied. “Mrs Bodwin the cleaner will show you to your rooms and then, perhaps after luncheon you might like to talk with the staff.

ONWARD TO CALVARY

Climbing the steps to Calvary
Slowly I climb
One, two, three
I tread so slowly
Hesitating now and then
As up those steps
To Calvary I ascend
There on the hill
Three crosses now I see
And I know the man on the middle one
He is hung there for me.
And I can't help but wonder
Now how can it be
That His eyes still shine forth
His love for me.
Now I'm kneeling before Him
As the tears fill my eyes
Crying Master forgive me
For being so blind
Then all of a sudden
I feel such peace within
Because I know that Jesus
Took all my sin.
Yes, He died for me
So that I might live
Glory Hallelujah
Now Jesus lives in me
Yes, He lives in me.

By Jenny Sargeant

From her poetry book
'Reflections of Life'

There's Mrs Bodwin, the cleaner, Clarissa the cook, Butler the gardener, and Crumble the maintenance man who lives with his wife at the lodge at the front gate." I asked "will Lady Gertrude be joining us?" "No" her ladyship answered. "I have appointments in the town, but from tomorrow I shall be available whenever you wish and I am sure Crumble will drive you anywhere". I wondered - who's running this show?

In the magnificent dining salon with its two suits of armour and a bountiful display of flags, the cook Clarissa served a cold luncheon, on plates of course, on a long dining table immaculately arranged. The food consisted of pickled shallots, radishes, cold ham pie, cold hard boiled eggs, a mixture of hot mashed potatoes and carrots, home-made chutney, some cheese and a bowl of some green vegetable matter. Whatever the repasts would be, I was given the impression that the surroundings magnified their qualities.

Small talk about the weather, local gossip, the cost of maintaining the mansion, the difficulty of finding fresh pheasant for the weekends, all endeavoured to smother any potential discussion as to where Uncle Sefus was. But the problem had to be addressed.

After luncheon, Gnomes and I took a stroll around the mansion before re-entering it and interviewing members of staff. The last one to be seen was Crumble the maintenance man. He showed us into Uncle Rufus' laboratory on the top floor. To one side was a door, locked. Crumble said "you can't go in there". "Why not?" Gnomes asked.

Crumble explained. "That's where the master keeps the gorilla he is trying to tame. He is a ferocious beast, the gorilla that is, and likely to attack, maim or kill anyone he doesn't like".

But suddenly, Crumble sobbed uncontrollably, and crumbled to the floor as if he had had some physical attack. I immediately knelt down to see what was wrong. "Everything is all right, Dr Watson," Crumble cried "But I must tell someone." "What is it?" Gnomes asked.

Crumble beckoned us to kneel beside him as he whispered". You never know who's listening, so I shall say this only once. The master isn't missing. He's only hiding". An incredulous Gnomes in a loud voice said "what?" Crumble raised himself up and in a much louder voice said "the master isn't missing. He's only hiding. He is hidden in the loft at my lodge." "What's he doing there? "Gnomes enquired. Crumble answered "he's only hiding". "Why?" I asked.

" It's like this" Crumble explained. Lady Gertrude was selling tickets for the talk and to ensure that there would be no financial loss for the event, took out an insurance policy to cover the non appearance of the speaker. Lady Gertrude wanted 150 people there to hear the master and watch slides on the epidiascope machine which I was to operate. By charging £2 a ticket, including a cup of tea, there would be a nice profit split two ways between the Godalming Girls' Friendly Society and Master Sefus with something thrown in for me.

OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Day	Activity	AM	PM
Monday	Whist Club		2.00-4.00
Tuesday	-	-	-
Wednesday	*Wednesday Fellowship: Bible Study	10.30-12.00	
Thursday	*Thursday Fellowship: Bible Study		2.30-4.30
Friday	Well-Come Point: Coffee morning & space to chat	10.00-12.00	
Saturday	The Assembly of God, New Church (Brazilian Church)		7.00
Sunday	Morning Worship	10.30	

***New Church Fellowship in the planning - See page 31**

Answers to the Anagrams on page 10

Exodus	Lamentations	Esther
Ecclesiastes	Genesis	Chronicles
Deuteronomy	Song of Solomon	Jeremiah
Ruth	Malachi	Leviticus
Judges	Zechariah	Numbers

PREACHING ROTA

MARCH

DATE	PREACHER	10.30am
6 th	Mrs Liz Bates	Morning Worship Lent 1
13 th	Rev Anthony Trevithick	Morning Worship Lent 2
20 th	Rev Dan Balsdon	Holy Communion Lent 3
27 th	Rev Tony Brazier	Morning Worship Mothering Sunday

APRIL

DATE	PREACHER	10.30am
3 rd	Rev Dan Balsdon & Rev Tony Brazier	Holy Communion Passion Sunday
10 th	Mr Bob Boyce	Palm Sunday
17 th	Mr David Booth	Easter Sunday
24 th	Rev John Scrivens	Morning Worship

Unfortunately tickets weren't going very well – no, they weren't selling at all after the initial rush of 8 tickets. This was because performing the same night is a touring foreign company, the French Follies from Dieppe. Rumour has it that there are some salacious scenes in their presentation. Their show is a sell out”.

“Disgusting” exclaimed Gnomes.

“Butler and Mrs Bodwin are going to see the Follies to report on any untoward display these foreigners may show and complain if necessary.”

“Quite right,” Gnomes commented.

Crumble continued. “It was essential that master Stefus disappeared and not show up for the talk. Lady Gertrude would then claim on the insurance and everyone would be happy. But of course the master had to disappear and investigations seriously made in order that the plan would work.”

Gnomes said “this is highly irregular and dishonest” “Who are the insurers? “

“Bagwash, Bagwash and de Bruin,” Crumble replied. “ Oh that's all right then,” Gnomes commented. “ A bigger bunch of crooks there never was. In any case if they make a loss they can always add a farthing to each policy and recover money.”

I protested. "Gnomes, that still is dishonest and a crime "

"Be that it is, it will teach the people of Godalming not to enjoy potential performances of bad taste "

"Now, Gnomes mused, "how do we find Uncle Stefus after his non appearance and a suitable time for him to be discovered.

"I have it," Gnomes whispered. "Watson despite your Caletumpian principles, we'll need your help. Crumble, after I have interviewed all the staff, I want you to take Watson and me to the station by carriage after I have told Miss Dear that some clues have emerged a

nd that we'll be back, hopefully with uncle Stefus in a couple of weeks. That will give time for his supposed public address not to occur, for an insurance claim to be submitted and for uncle to be found and reunited with his devoted niece."

"Crumble," he said, "on the way to the station, I also want you to stop at your lodge where Watson and I will alight to be acquainted with your wife. During this time, Watson and uncle Stefus will swap clothes and you, Crumble, will take me and my companion uncle Stefus, posing as Watson, to the station and on to London - if your wife approves." "I'm sure she will," Crumble said. Looking at me he said "You'll like her cooking."

"After two weeks, "Gnomes continued, "I shall have located uncle Stefus who will have suffered a bout of amnesia.

We shall then return here and deposit uncle Stefus into his loving niece's arms via another bout of swapping clothes with Watson.”

“What an ingenious plan”, I thought. “It's masterly.”

It wasn't until two months later, and a regular monotonous diet of squirrel pie, pigeon soup and rabbit meat sandwiches that I had doubts as to the efficacy of the masterly plan.

Indeed, knowing the machinations of Army intelligence from their secret activities in Afghanistan, I wondered if I were merely a pawn in some mysterious affair and, as my later chronicles, *The Lost Naval Treaty* and the *Saucy Scandal in Billingshurst*, will reveal, thus it was to prove.

So I made a bold decision. This tale will not be called the case of the missing speaker, but more properly the case of the duped doctor.

We thank Colin Whitmill for sharing **The Case of the Missing Speaker by Kayeleigh Goodworth** with us over the last 3 editions of the Gazette. As you know, we sadly had to close the Tuesday Friendship Club last October and that would have been the platform from which Colin would have shared this story with us. Thanks to Colin that we didn't have to miss out!