

# BRMC NEWSLETTER

## OCTOBER 2022



**Bognor Regis**  
**Methodist Church**

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**THE METHODIST SUMMER FELLOWSHIP** takes place bi-annually at The Hayes Conference Centre at Swanwick in Derbyshire. A friendly welcome awaits allcomers and many strong friendships have been formed there between Methodists of all ages from across the country.

This summer the theme was 'God's vision - Living out hope in a time of fear' and four of us from Bognor Regis enjoyed the mix of scripture, debate, inspiration and activities, all of which began with participation in an evening of 'divine drumming' with eclectic rhythms set to biblical passages. Each morning started with optional early prayers in various settings within the grounds and buildings, followed by a hearty breakfast and gathering for daily keynote talks by Jo Cox-Darling based on biblical passages and secular evidence of how we have dealt with issues of fear and hope throughout the ages. Discussion groups gave everyone the opportunity to contribute to our understanding of how this affects our lives today, and the strength we can draw from scripture. Other speakers included Onjali Rauf, a children's author eager to encourage our communication with children, especially the reassurance that comes from a Christian message of hope within a complex world. Fun afternoons included craft, dancing, table tennis, snooker and other sports activities, and/or, the option of a long walk in local countryside. Evenings, if you had any energy left, included games in the bar and friendly banter. This whole experience, a source of true fellowship in the spirit of Christian love.

In the end we were left to consider 'Exhaustion is not a gift of the Spirit' – what are the things in your life that are getting in the way of you noticing hope, beauty, grace or love? So, what one thing do you need to do differently? **HAZEL DENMAN**

**OCTOBER DIARY DATES**

Day	Date	Event	Time
Mon	3 <sup>rd</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup>	Whist Club	2.00-4.00
Wed	5 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	Wed Church Fellowship	10.00-12.00 noon
Thurs	6 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs Church Fellowship	2.30-4.30

**BRMC WORSHIP IN OCTOBER**

DATE	PREACHER	10.30am
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev Dan Balsdon	Holy Communion Pastoral Visitors
9 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Janet Tanner	Morning Worship
16 <sup>th</sup>	Mr David Booth	Morning Worship
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mr Adam Cook	Morning Worship
30 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Anthony Trevithick	Morning Worship
<b>30<sup>th</sup> 3.00pm</b>	<b>Rev Dan Balsdon</b>	<b>Thanksgiving 3.00pm</b>

**REJOICE**

Christians are to rejoice. To do that, you need only to think of the great things God has done for you. Then we are told not to be anxious, but in our prayers to make our requests known to God. In your biggest problems, you have One that you can go to; and before Him you can pour out your heart with the assurance that He will not leave you without an answer to that great problem. Then we are to fill our minds with those things that are good.

They are mentioned in the Scriptures as being things that are honourable, just, pure, lovely, of good report, and of virtue. It is upon these things that we are to think. Live positively, not negatively. Once you learn that secret, God will have given you the victory. ***Taken from Day by Day with Billy Graham***

## WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

### **2<sup>nd</sup> October - God has dealt to each one a measure of faith : Rom 12:3**

Jesus had some strong words to say about the Disciples' lack of faith: "You unbelieving and perverse generation," 17:17. The Disciples hadn't been able to heal a boy with a demon, so Jesus took over. We don't know why the Disciples lacked faith. They'd seen what Jesus could do & He'd given them the authority to do the same, but they still struggled. How easy it is to lose faith, but Jesus said "...if you have faith as small as a mustard seed.....nothing will be impossible for you." ***Even if we only have one ounce of faith left, we have all we need to get started!***

### **9<sup>th</sup> October – For we walk by faith, not by sight : Cor 5:7**

Jesus said 'I've told you all this so that if you trust me, you will be unshakeable and deeply at peace.....But take heart! I've conquered the world'. (John 16:33). Life gives us problems that test us and stretch our faith. When Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego refused to worship the king's idols, they were told to bow or be burned. They said 'God...is able to deliver us.....we will not serve thy gods'. (Dan 3 17-18). Facing Goliath, David refused the king's armour. Instead he went 'with the name of the Lord' (1 Sam 17:39). Chances are we won't find ourselves facing fire or giants, although some days it might feel like it. ***But when we're under attack, we pray and claim God's power, walk by faith & go 'in the name of the Lord'.***

### **16<sup>th</sup> October - I am writing to you, dear children – Matt 18:15**

John says 'I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of His Name'. When we're born again, we know that our sins are forgiven and we're on the right footing with God. But there's a lot more to learn. The Greek word for children refers to toddlers. Until toddlers walk, they can trip and fall & need help to get up, and be reassured they're loved and everything is ok.

In spiritual childhood, we need to trust in Jesus' work on the cross & we will gain the status of a fully accepted and redeemed child of God. If we forget that, the devil will make us doubt our salvation every time we fall. But when we sin, it doesn't change our status before God.

If we make a mistake on a computer or calculator, we press clear and the mistake is deleted. That's what the blood of Jesus does! ***His grace continues & when grace flows, growth follows.***

**23<sup>rd</sup> October – You shall conquer then and utterly destroy them  
- Deuteronomy 7:2**

If we want to change a habit, we need to take on new behaviours, thoughts & a willingness to do battle with old ways of thinking. A long standing habit doesn't give up without a fight! We need strength from God to see it through. When God's people entered the Promised Land, he told them to 'utterly destroy' their enemies; otherwise their enemies would eventually destroy them. So when God tells us to wage war on our old habits, it's time to tap into the freedom Jesus bought for us on the cross. ***We can pray 'Lord show me the root of this problem and how to deal with it' and he definitely will. It's time to take our old ways to Jesus.***

**30<sup>th</sup> October – We all need healing : Mark 1**

The way Mark tells the beginning of Jesus' ministry, it starts with a bang, he gathers disciples and commences to cast out demons and heal people! The impression we get is of someone who may be a huge public figure, but who still has time for people. The mother-in-law of Simon (Peter) is ill; Jesus 'came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them' (v31). There is a quiet pastoral care in what he does. ***All of us need healing in some way and Christ still comes to us today.***

Dear readers,

Since taking on the role of Senior Steward at Bognor Regis Methodist Church, it has become clear that 'I must let some of my other jobs go', as this new role takes a lot of my time. So I'm afraid I will be giving up being Editor of this Newsletter. So far I have been unable to find a replacement Editor, so I will continue up to & including January 2023, then I will stop. If nobody is found, I'm afraid this publication will end. Thank you all for your support over the past 8 years. **All God's blessings, Debbie Dean x**