***THE AVENUE***

**STANFORD AVENUE**

**METHODIST CHURCH,**

**BRIGHTON**

August - September 2021

**Minimum Donation 50p**

Text

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A Prayer of Encouragement This is the day you have made; we will rejoice and be glad in it! For You promise Your beloved rest between Your shoulders. You are ever so close to us, Father. We can do all things through You …for You are the source of our strength. Let all we do honour You, Father. As you encourage us, let us be an encouragement to those around us. Remind us when we falter and fail that You uphold us. Your merciful hand has purposed our lives, and we cannot outrun your love or free gift of salvation by Jesus’ sacrifice for us. Father, you weave our stories throughout ancient history and onto tomorrow. You number our days and surround us with Your love. When we are down, send Your Holy Spirit to remind us of Your loving kindness. There is much to fear and be frustrated about in this life on earth. There is grave injustice, oppression, and unfairness everywhere we look. Disastrous weather events and horrific acts of violence. We fear losing our lives and our loved ones, disease and disaster. You are our comforter through it all. In Your Word we are upheld, and, in Your arms, we throw our anxieties and find safety and protection. When the world seems to press into our lives harder than we can bear, we know we are never holding on alone. You remind us to be strong and courageous, to rely on You for strength, and not to fear. You promise to strengthen us and uphold us. Through every heartache and conflict, continue to broadcast the truth of Your word into our hearts. Encourage us, Father, always. Help us to navigate the tricky waters of relationships on this earth and hurdle the stumbling blocks the enemy lines our daily paths with. We know in this world we will have trouble, but we do not want to let it steal our joy! For You have overcome this world! Though it can be hard and discouraging, let us take heart in Your truth. Squash every distorted thought and lie with the encouraging words of Christ. “Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest!” ([*Matthew 11:28*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=mt+11:28)) King David stated, “The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall, I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” ([*Psalm 27:1*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=ps+27:1)) He, and so many other Biblical hallmarks have left their legacies of Your encouraging word despite their sins and shortcomings. Let us fall in their footsteps, Father, following You despite our imperfections. Adjust our expectations through Your perspective. Help us to keep getting up, keep following You, keep hoping, and holding onto the joy and peace Jesus died to give us. He is our ultimate source of encouragement.In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Martyn – The above was taken from Crosswalk.com

**THE AVENUE**

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**A Letter from our Minister**

Thank You Note

After coming back from sabbatical, I have much to share, which I am sure I will do over the coming months. One of the first things I have been asked to do upon returning to circuit ministry is to write this letter. So, I thought it the perfect opportunity to start with a thank you, as well as a thought on the way we all work.

So first, thank you. Sabbatical is a gift. A gift that the church, including individual congregations, give. It has been a gift of rest, rethinking, reinvigorating, and remembering why I felt a call to ordained ministry in the first place.

Before I started sabbatical the weight of lockdown had impacted my mental health. It had also impacted ministry in a way which, for me, made vision and enthusiasm difficult. I am sure we have all suffered in different and similar ways. So, sabbatical came at a good moment and further emphasised how much of a gift it is.

I have come back as enthusiastic as I was when I arrived in Brighton, possibly more so, and took sabbatical as an opportunity to change my working rhythm to help protect and nurture that enthusiasm.

There have been many more benefits, but I will not say anymore for now except to note the trap that we often fall into, which is the false economy of more work = better outcome.

To have three months of sabbatical, away from circuit ministry, might feel like a big sacrifice for churches. In some ways it genuinely is, and I do not underestimate this. In other ways it only seems this way because we might feel we are losing the minister for twelve weeks.

So, the question I ask is, which is better: to have a tired minister working all the time, or a rested one that goes missing every seven years!

I say this not to justify sabbatical, but as a way of asking a further question of myself and the rest of us too. Which is, when do we fall into the trap of doing more instead of resting? I know I have had bad weeks where I have worked on my day off, or at least worried my way through a day off, only to come back not at all rested, and so working in a way that’s not healthy or productive.

The bigger question, which then follows, is if sabbatical is so good, and it is, then why is sabbatical not built into the life of those in the church who are not ordained, or why are these better working practices not included beyond the walls of the church?

As I write, this is a big question, but one that I think should be answered by ministers, congregations, national churches, and the working world beyond the church.

To get us started I end with a quote that was brought to me recently. It reminds us that there is no one so important that if they left or rest from a position for a time that the world would fall apart – “the graveyard is full of people who had the title indispensable”.

*Martyn – Thanks Dan & welcome back.*

**LIFE AS A REDCOAT.**

**Part 3**

Having spent a season at Skegness I then went to BOGNOR. It was very different, for a start Radio Butlin was much better than Skegness. The consul was much easier to operate. The day started with the Early Morning Call to wake everyone for breakfast.

Then lots of announcements; record requests played on outside speakers; music to be played into Ballrooms etc.

The most exciting thing to me was going to the auditions for the “Redcoat Shows”. At Skegness we were only allowed to be in group numbers as the entertainments managers wife was the soloist which upset me as she wasn’t a Redcoat.

At Bognor it was different, and anyone could “have a go”. Auditions were held in the Children’s Theatre. We were informed the next day of the results. The entertainments manager held two of the “boys”

who were to do two songs each and then he looked at me and said – “Wynn, couple of numbers” I said “on my own”, “Yes” he replied. We had a couple of days to rehearse before we performed the show, which we did 3 times in one evening as the professionals were in the Theatre every night except Thursdays when we took over.

**NEXT TIME – CURTAIN UP.**

*Martyn - Thanks Wynn they certainly kept you busy.*

**A.F.C HOME COLLECTING BOXES**

**(AUGUST DONATION)**

As was mentioned in the Church notices a few weeks ago HSBC Bank in Ditchling Road has closed so I shall not be taking cash from boxes. I would be grateful if all supporters could make a donation in lieu of box amounts by cheque, made out to A.F.C. and send to me at 25, Solway Avenue BN1 8UJ.

Last year A.F.C. helped 604,855 children, young people and families. It works hard to make sure every child can have a safe and happy childhood. More than four million children in the UK live in poverty. It protects and supports them giving them the tools to thrive, striving to ensure they have the best start in life.

These projects are especially notable – THE EMERGENCY FUND – this enables A.F.C. to act quickly to stop a setback becoming a crisis. It thinks big but works locally. The Blues Programme is school based aimed at 13 – 19-year-olds affected by depression and anxiety. Over six weeks they get talking about emotions and learn self-care techniques. There’s also space to reflect on ways to keep these going after the programme has ended.

Family Partners.

Neglect is one of the most common forms of child abuse in the UK. Yet research shows it often isn’t intentional. The twenty-two-week intensive support programme tackles this. It reduces neglect by helping parents to overcome difficulties, acting early to encourage families to turn things around.

Please continue to support the invaluable work of the A.F.C. (Action for Children).

I have been the representative for many decades and would welcome a volunteer to take over the role. You could do as much or as little as you have time or inclinations. Perhaps working with me at first to learn the routine.

Many thanks to all loyal supporters. Margaret.

*Martyn – Thanks Margaret for all the work you have done & continue to do.*

**INTERESTING FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW.**

Hot water will turn into ice faster than cold water.

"I Am" is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

|  |
| --- |
| Coca-Cola was originally green.  The most common name in the world is Mohammed.  When the moon is directly overhead, you will weigh slightly less.  The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows.  The sentence, "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every  letter in the English language.  The strongest muscle in the body is the tongue.  There are only two words in the English language that have all five vowels in  order: "abstemious" and "facetious."  The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with. |
| It is impossible to lick your elbow. |  |
| The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue  twister in the English language. |  |

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history.  
Spades - King David  
Clubs - Alexander the Great,  
Hearts - Charlemagne  
Diamonds - Julius Caesar.

**BRIGHTON SANDWICH RECIPE**

8oz Self Raising Flour

4oz Castor Sugar

4 oz Butter

1 Egg Well Beaten

2 Tablespoons Apricot Jam

1 oz Almond Blanched & Split

1. Grease an 8” cake tin and line with grease proof paper or use an 8” flan ring placed on a baking sheet.
2. Put flour, Sugar in a bowl and rub in butter.
3. Add beaten egg and bind together, Divide mixture in half.
4. Roll out one half of mixture and fit it into tin or flan ring. Spread jam in centre.
5. Roll out second half of mixture and place on top. Cover with split almonds
6. Bake in centre of oven Gas 4 for 15 mins then reduce heat to Gas 3 for 20mins. Allow to cool.

**9th Brighton Girls Brigade**

**An Attitude of Gratitude**.

We have been fortunate to have managed to stay in touch with most of our girls throughout the pandemic either via Zoom or Face to Face at the Church when permitted with lots of new ways of doing activities and games to stay “COVID” safe. We have continued to do badgework throughout and THANKFULNESS was the subject for returning this Spring. We were very aware through conversations with the girls and their parents that COVID has affected them all in different ways, but it was amazing how many things they were thankful for. Of course mobile phones and computers were high on the list but so was family, friends, education, hospitals and charities. Cuddles, smells, sleep, music and nature were also there. The girls made thank you cards, mostly for their teachers and we watched short films of what others were thankful for.

So what is an “Attitude of Gratitude”? It’s basically saying thank you and showing appreciation for every part of our lives. Even in these difficult times there is a lot to be thankful for. So let’s all have that attitude of gratitude even for those simple things.

1 Thessalonians 5:8

Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**Girls Brigade Poems**

Each year we facilitate a competition within the District. Mostly this has been some form of craft and the last few years asking the girls to recycle/re-use items for their creations. All competitions were cancelled but after discussion we asked for limericks/ditties or short poems about their thoughts of the last year. We entered several, although they did not win we thought you may enjoy some of their efforts.

There was a young girl called Clare

Who tried to care for her hair

She got in a muddle because she jumped in a puddle

Oh no! but the hairdresser wasn’t even there.

(Casey)

They all got in a cuddle

But forgot about their bubbles

Go to the beach and meet in the summer heat

Let’s take a rest and no more tests.

(Isabelle)

Everything was in a muddle

Telling everyone Sorry we can’t cuddle

Staying away 6 feet

Sad we can’t meet

Overwhelmed by Zoom

Pots & pans going boom

To thank the NHS

(Eva)

It was in March when corona decided to start

This was trouble we could not cuddle

We could only huddle in our at home bubble

We had to have tests, it was not the best

We couldn’t meet even in the heat

We had to stay six feet

I want to see my friends

Will it ever end.

We had to wear masks even in class

Work from home all alone

I want to play but corona says not today

(Caitlin)

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

We continue to pray for June & Bob Lawson,

Joan Dengate, Nadine & Gary Pugh, Ann Collins,

John Pollard (Vic & Margaret’s Son), Sylvia & Ray Smith, Debbie, Jean Griffin, Abbi,

Liz Wakeling & Amy Codling (Leaders of Scouts & Girls’ Brigade), Phil Codling, Maureen Knell, Sheila Whyte, Syd Beck, Jean & Geoff Starks and Gill & Shirley Challen.

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.

**Contributions Needed.**

I have only received contributions for the magazine from the usual two of three people. This is your Church magazine, and it would be really nice to have more people making the effort to put something in. It could be about Hobby, Craft, Special Holiday, Puzzles etc. So please come on and let me have something or it may not be possible to produce them into the future.

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

Remember we do not have anyone producing the weekly notices provided by Alan MacKenzie, so it is important that we get as much information out to everyone as possible

*Martyn.*

**LAST DAY for OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2021 magazine contributions will be MONDAY 2Oth SEPTEMBER.**

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.

**PAUSE FOR THOUGHT**

Once again, I need to thank those who have sent cards to me, assuring me of their prayers. They really do lift my spirits.

Just to update you, as you read this I’ll be going through a course of Radiotherapy, then it will be a case of taking tablets for some time. In October I see the Oncologist to renew my treatment.

I’ve met so many people who are being treated for cancer, and we all agree how caring and helpful everyone is at the Breast Cancer Centre in Preston Road and the hospitals.

I’ve been able to witness to many people about my faith, and some have shared their faith with me. We never know do we how or when we can talk of Jesus!

My nephew Dean and his wife Ruth picked me up from Haywards Heath Hospital and took me to stay with them for a few nights. Ruth was so caring and even managed to change my dressings. When I came home my neighbour Pauline and Graham made sure I was ok. Shopping for me and getting me to various appointments. How people who have no one cope I dread to think.

In one card I received there was a small card with the following words on.

“ONE DAY AT A TIME”

In another, “HANG IN THERE”

“THINGS DON’T ALWAYS TURN OUT THE WAY YOU WANT THEM TO BUT IF YOU CAN KEEP ON GOING THE SUN WILL SOON BREAK THROUGH”

“THERE’S ALWAYS HOPE AROUND THE CORNER IF YOU CAN HANG ON IN THERE TIGHT AND I WILL BE THERE FOR YOU TO HELP THINGS TURN OUT RIGHT”

Paul wrote in Romans 15:13

I PRAY FOR YOU, THAT GOD WHO GIVES YOU HOPE WILL KEEP YOU HAPPY AND FULL OF PEACE AS YOU BELIVE IN HIM.

So, we go on with our Lord leading the way.

May God Bless us all.

Love Wynn.

*Martyn – Wynn you certainly are a beacon for others.*

**FUNDRAISING UPDATE.**

Who remembers where they were on Saturday 14th March 2020? That was the last event we were able to hold at the Church – a great evening trying to solve the Murder Mystery and eating a meal together. Since then we have had quizzes via Zoom, a virtual Christmas Fair and donated items being sold via Ebay etc. We are very aware that not everyone is able to join in with everything, but we are grateful for your support. Life has changed a lot and although the restrictions have been lifted your safety is uppermost as we plan for future events. The committee met via Zoom on 2nd August and lots of ides were discussed and how they could be held safely. So these are our planned events so far.

25th Sep 10-00 – 11-30 outside the Hall entrance if wet (9th October) **Book & Bric a Brac sale**. There will be no refreshments & no entrance fee.

22nd October @ 7-30 pm Quiz Night via Zoom by Pete. This is just a fun quiz with no prize but to make it a fund raiser please make a donation. Anyone interested please email [liscoblenz@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:liscoblenz@yahoo.co.uk) or call Lis n 07730773891. Apologies to anyone not on the internet.

27th November 11-00 – 3-00 pm Christmas & Craft Fair. Some local crafters will be invited to have a table but offers of stalls & help would be great. Call Lis on 07730773891.

Events would be subject to any restrictions imposed by the Local or Central Government, but we would request masks are worn indoors and a one-way system implemented.

We would love to hear of any ideas for future events.

*Martyn – Thanks Karen, Amy, Liz, Pete, Mags, Jeni & Lis.*

**Services & Dates for your Diary**

8th August - Connie Croly @ 10-30 am

9th August - Church Council Meeting 19-30 pm

15th August - Geoff Harrington @ 10-30 am

29th August - Communion Rev Dan Woodhouse @ 10-30 am

25th September – Book & Bric a Brac Sale

22nd October – Quiz Night via Zoom

27th November – Christmas & Craft Fair

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Create in me a pure heart



Psalm 51:10