

JUNE 2017



SOUTHDOWN



4 June

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Monday - Wednesday 10am –2pm

Newsletter

Please provide copy by
E-mail by 10th of previous month

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Mission Statement

The aim of Southdown Newsletter is to help develop the Christian faith through reporting about worship, people and activities of Southdown Methodist Church.

Weekday Activities

Pre-school - Julia Prince 07908121891	
Weekdays (except Wednesday) 9.10am – 12.10pm in halls	
Study Group Rev Gill Hulme 768347	
Alternate Wednesdays lounge 8pm	
Brownies and Guides	
Tuesday	
17 th Rainbows	5pm
14 th Brownies	6.15pm
Wednesday	
9 th Brownies	6.15pm
3 rd Guides	7.30pm
Thursday	
17 th Brownies	6.15pm
17 th Guides	7.30pm
Hall Bookings	
01582 769871	



Your intercessions are asked this month for our friends on p.9 of the church directory

Dear Friends,

‘In the last days’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.’ (Joel 2:28/ Acts 2:17)



At our service on 4 June we will celebrate ‘Pentecost’. It is often referred to as the birthday of the Christian church because this was the day that the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and those gathered for the feast of Pentecost.

So, imagine, then, that it’s festival time again in first century Jerusalem and this time they are all gathered for the feast of Pentecost, which celebrated the giving of the law, the Ten Commandments, and which occurred 50 days after the feast of the Passover. It also celebrated a time of ripening from spring to summer when the first fruits of the grain and grape ripen and are offered, in thanks, to God. It is therefore a celebration of the divine gifts both of the law and nature and so the time is ripe for yet another divine gift to be given – this time it is ‘The Holy Spirit.’

The disciples are not just together in the same room; they share the sense of being of one mind and one heart. These disciples - who have seen their leader crucified, and yet have been witnesses to his resurrection - are now quietly waiting for the promised ‘Comforter’, the gift that Jesus has told them will come to them after his death. They have been told *‘to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.’*

The prophet, Joel, has already prophesied the giving of the Spirit, many centuries before, as this great outpouring on all people when *the young will see visions and the old will dream dreams*. (I guess it depends which category you think you are in as to whether you see visions or dream dreams!) Although the distinction between dreams and visions seems to

be that we have dreams while we are asleep and visions while we are awake.

It is interesting that neither the old nor the young are left out -both are equally important. Both will be blest and the Spirit will draw all people together. The Spirit will also give gifts to all. It is never too late or too early to be filled with the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, everyone heard the message in his own language, which implies that the Spirit is poured out on '*all flesh*', and all nations hear the message.

When both the prophet Joel and apostle Peter in his sermon at Pentecost, say that *the old and young will dream dreams and see visions* these dreams and visions usually appear to be missional. They are about the spread of the kingdom of God until all people are reached. Peter has a vision to go to 'Cornelius' house' and thus carries gospel message to the gentiles. Paul has a vision in which he is blinded and sees Christ and he is converted and eventually carries the gospel into Europe

Peter's sermon in Acts 2 from verse 14, which quotes the prophesy of Joel, seems to have converted 3,000 people in one go. Pentecost is the start of a new chapter in history, a new age which we are still living in known as 'The Last Days' which will last until the second coming of Christ.

In Harpenden, some people over the years have had visions. Community Meeting Point was the result of a vision that Jean Lale had, to set up a group for those with mental health problems. Mercy Ships, which used to be based at YWAM Harpenden, was founded after a vision of some people who saw a white ship - it later became their first hospital ship, the *Anastasis*. So even in our own locality wonderful, inspired organisations have been set up through people's visions.

So I wonder, as we approach Pentecost again, what dreams and visions people in our congregation have which escape notice and go unrecognized. It would be nice to know if you have dreams and visions for our church and community which are unfulfilled. I know Gill has fulfilled dreams for our church during her ministry and I am sure, our new minister, Mmasape will come with visions and dreams as well.

As Outreach worker, I have also had a few dreams and visions which God has fulfilled over the years. I try to treat old and young alike and to realise the importance of both. Thus we have groups in the church which cater for older people like 'Tuesday at Three' and groups which cater for the young like the 'Teddy Bears' and Messy Church. The discussion group could include any age. The great part that is missing from our church is the older youth and the in-between ages of 40-60.

The ministers and I can only do a certain amount of work and are very grateful to the people who volunteer to help with the different groups. Anyone can start groups in the church, many have over the years, and most groups are still running in some form. You do not have to have any special qualification **only a vision** of extending God's kingdom. Perhaps in the next few years we will see evidence of the Holy Spirit coming to all the different ages through our church as we concentrate on the spread of the kingdom message to '*all flesh*.'

Jenny Cope

Get in the new Church Directory!

The Church Office would like to produce a new Church Directory for this September ready for your new Minister. The Directory will include all those who are church members and friends of the Church and will be available as a printed booklet. Details to be included are First Names, Surnames, Partners/Spouses and Children's names, Address, Telephone number and Email addresses. Due to the data protection act, it has to be an opt-in process. Therefore we will be writing to all church members and friends in due course. Please look out for this letter asking for the information and please return it to the Church Office. Of course you can also email the Church Office with your contact details, deadline for amendments to be included will be Monday 24 July at the latest:

southdownchurch@btconnect.com

Thank you for your help in producing this very useful resource.

Jenny Frith, Church Office [Tel. 01582 769871]





We recently enjoyed an interesting and encouraging AGM meeting at the church at which a good percentage of the church sat down to enjoy soup (thank you Graham!) together and to discuss the work of the church and community.

We thanked **Evelyn Chapman** who has been a worship steward over the past year. Her help in this role has been invaluable but we understood that, because of health issues and other commitments, she needed to stand down. **Alan Hyde**, who has recently been received as a member, has volunteered to fill this role as a worship steward and **Adrian Harper** offered to help with technical projection and sound at services and also at weddings. Thanks to them both.

The other stewards, **Vivienne Kendall**, **Kevin Sharp** and **Josh Birch** agreed to stand and **Lynda Woods** and **Mary Hoare** will be the trustees responsible for property maintenance. **Margaret North** continues to organize the door stewards and **Margaret Williams** will co-ordinate with Sunday worship with preachers. Thanks were also registered to **David North** and **Sue Walker** who regularly play the church organ.

We are very fortunate to be worshipping in a church where everyone can play their part and use their different gifts. We will have two more Local Arrangement Services during the summer months. A Local Arrangement Service is one which is led by members of the church instead of a local preacher. One is on 25 June with another on 30 July. If you feel you would like to help at one of these services either by reading, or saying prayers or in some other way please contact David North or Vivienne.

We were very pleased to see **Adrian** back at church, feeling so much better. **Elsie Cooksley** is now back at Willow Court after spending a couple of weeks at hospital. We send our love and prayers to **Marion** and **Rob Thompson** as Rob has been unwell. **Edith Holden** has also spent some time in hospital but she is now home and taking time to recover.

We send our love also to **Ruth Akehurst** as she recovers from an operation.

We have had to say goodbye to **Aileen Hurst** who is moving to Elmside at Hitchin. Her flat is opposite to Cliff and Margaret Woof, so hopefully they will be great company for each other. Aileen has been a member of our church for about ten years. Please pray for all our friends above and others who we may not be aware of who have problems at this time.

It is coming up to holiday time when, during the next few months many of us will be able to take holidays or trips out. For some this is difficult and hopefully they will enjoy rest and refreshment in other ways. There is still room on the boat trip at Windsor, on Tuesday 4 July, which will involve very little walking. Also the tickets for Luton Male Voice choir on the evening of Saturday 22 July are available from me.

Jenny



Many of us have probably subscribed to a 'Book of the Month' Club in the past, whereby we received a selection of choices to suit our tastes.

Nowadays, I frequent the library, of which I am an avid user – on the grounds that if you don't use it, you lose it!

And the same might be said for the Bible! Apparently it's one of the most-sold books (although, now, possibly overtaken by H.Potter?). However, it's probably also one of the least-read in many households. And I am ashamed and hesitate to mention that the Bible is not my preferred reading, given the temptations of other genres (if one might call the Bible 'a genre' - it being a composite of many kinds of genre!). Although, attending the Wednesday discussion group is an encouragement.

If you look though the plan for June you will see that all readings are from the letter of James. This is in line with a request from the circuit that we study James as the 'book of the month'. So, if you've never read James, now is a chance to catch up – and join the book club! (*Ed*)

Best Sunday for Ages

MHA Sunday 11 June

*The theme of worship for 2017 is **Befriending Age** which looks at ways in which we can help one another to support older members of our church and society as well as learn from them how best to plan our own ageing journey.*



'Befriending Age' looks not simply at the work of MHA over nearly 75 years, but looks at the place of older people in society and at our own experience of ageing – we're all doing it!

Perspectives and expectations change – 'old' looks different from different places. The reality of an ageing society confronts us with good news and bad news, although generally the media prefers telling us the bad news - bed blocking, pensions crisis and social care funding crisis to name but a few. (MHA web pages)

Aging is not simply an inevitable experience to be endured, but an opportunity to reassess our lives, and to get on with the process of 'being old'. It does come as a shock to realise that one is 'old' in the eyes of others – but I always believe that 'old' is 15 years older than me at any given time. Think positive!

Coming to terms with aging is: accepting our interdependence, becoming comfortable with being dependent, and 'doing', not simply opting for 'being' - giving back what we have received. It does not mean stopping doing new things or having new experiences.

I am sure that you will agree with me that Southdown Methodist Church fully embraces our older members and friends. And we especially thank Jenny and Gill for their work in this area of our witness. We can also remember our friends, Cliff and Margaret Woof and, now, Aileen, who are living in MHA accommodation in Hitchin. Also, thanks go to all who supported Jenny in her 'purple for Lent' dress in aid of MHA. (Ed)

There will be envelopes in the church on 11 June should you wish to make a donation for MHA.

We're still Thinking Positively!

Modern day thinking has re-defined ideas of age. I am reliably informed that 50 is the new 30, and hopefully, 70 is the new 50! Fashions in clothing and opportunities for older people to engage in various activities, like say the U3A and 'silver' activities, help to make aging a less-stressful period of life – providing, of course, one is reasonably healthy.

Organisations like MHA offer opportunities for many to continue fairly active lives, for the able-bodied and the less able. The saying, *'There's life in the old dog yet'* aptly describes the attitudes and achievements of older people. Even if one is old they still have enough energy to do things.

A couple of comments following a recent visit to two of MHA's care homes: In one, there was a sense of sadness that their oldest resident had died – aged 108! In the other there was a delightful humorous and slightly raunchy conversation between three of the residents going on after a memorial service. One lady seemed unclear as to how old she was, although she knew she was born in January 1927, the second lady was proud of the fact that she was 99 and then the gentleman on the end said he was born in 1919 – to which the first lady responded – *'Oh yes, after the men came back from the war!'*

An article in the newspaper in May reported on an RAF veteran who celebrated his 70th birthday by doing a wing-walk for charity, and raised £1600 for the Alzheimer's Society in so doing. Wow! But then, why should we be surprised? He has dementia and he said, *'People think if you have dementia that you just want to sit down and give up, but I want to show people that it just isn't true.'*

A guide to positive thinking: Start the day with positive affirmation; Focus on the good things however small; Find humour in bad situations; Turn failures into lessons; Focus on the present.



The Man from Aldersgate

A one-man play based on the life of John Wesley

Compiled from Wesley's own journals will be presented at
High Street on Saturday 24 June at 6.30pm

The solo actor BJ Johnston has a BA(Fine Arts) with a Minor in Dance. He has performed several thousand one-man shows utilising mime, magic, music, stories and dance. He also has connections with YWAM John Wesley's simple message of Grace encourages people to love and serve God and resist the temptation to conform to the destructive ways of their culture. Through his influence, he probably did more than any other figure in British history to avert the same type of bloody revolution experienced in France.



Through the play, we experience the life and times of this remarkable man who rode over 250,000 miles on horseback to help bring the Christian message of renewal to the English speaking world. His untiring zeal for God helped bring about prison reform, child labour laws, orphanages, medical care facilities and shelters for battered women.

Tickets: £10 adult £7 under18

includes buffet supper

Buy online at www.highstreet.church

Proceeds are going to

'OrphansKnowMore' and 'Azalea'.

These are two locally-run charities.



Orphans Know More (OKM) is one of the ministries of **YWAM**.

OKM believe that the best way to tackle the international orphan crisis is to care for children in families. *"Placing children in families gives them the right to be children again. They no longer have to live with the stigma of being an orphan, but become a child again as a part of a family."*

Azalea began in January 2007 when a few local people got together to think about how they could engage and serve the women working on the streets in Luton.



Leprosy – this is where our money goes

Did you see an old Indian lady lying at the top of Southdown church steps a few weeks ago? No, of course you didn't – but, in a sense, *Parvati* was indeed there! She lives in a rural area of the state of West Bengal, and she was dumped by her family outside a temple, left there either to die or to become someone else's problem.

Parvati became *our* problem because someone picked her up, found her a wheelchair, and took her to Perulia hospital. (She cannot walk due to the terrible disabilities acquired through living with leprosy over more than 50 years.) The hospital is the nearest one run by the Leprosy Mission (TLM) and the one chosen as the major recipient of the money raised by this year's TLM appeal, to which we at Southdown gave more than £500.

Life in rural India can be incredibly hard: across the country nearly 25% of people live below the official poverty line, housing and sanitation are very basic, and many millions of people do not have enough to eat. Life becomes incredibly harder, however, when a person suffers from leprosy – and there are so many people with the disease that there is nothing shocking about seeing yet one more of them.

Of course, there are hospitals in India that have the skills and facilities to diagnose leprosy and treat sufferers from the disease, but India is a large, largely rural country, the hospitals are comparatively few and far apart from each other, and most of them charge fees that most ordinary people cannot afford. The specialist leprosy facilities at Perulia are provided at no cost, however, which means that, on most days, up to 300 people are queuing at its outpatients' department (OPD), seeking diagnosis and treatment.

The OPD is woefully under-resourced, however: people queue for hours in the fierce heat of the Indian sun; the doctors work in cramped conditions with little privacy; and the toilet and washing facilities are totally inadequate. This is why TLM has committed to raising the funds to



build a completely new facility, and this is our opportunity to be partners in the project.



But let's have another look at *Parvati*. At *Perulia* she received love and kindness instead of rejection, she was given body cream and new clothes, and her terrible open wounds and ulcers have been cleaned and bandaged. Most wonderful of all, she's been restored to her family – but TLM

continues to monitor her progress and dress her wounds on her regular visits to the hospital.

Thank you once again, therefore – on behalf of TLM and all the people with whom they work – for whatever contribution you were able to make, and for whatever you can give in the future.

Ken Holmes

Making a difference

Dear Aunty,
Our school organized a party for Christmas before starting our mid-year examinations. We exchanged gifts and had different kinds of juice, cakes and sweets.

I hope this year will be most successful year and I'm looking forward to it, hearing from you and writing to you as soon as possible.

Thank you and God bless you Fatima

Our commitment to support Fatima is £216 each year and, thanks to your donations for refreshment, we have been able to send this sum to Embrace the Middle East.

As well as receiving acknowledgement of our donation Margaret North (Aunty) received the above letter from Fatima.

(Embrace the Middle East is committed to continuing its mission to support Christian social projects in Israel and Palestine, Egypt and Lebanon.)



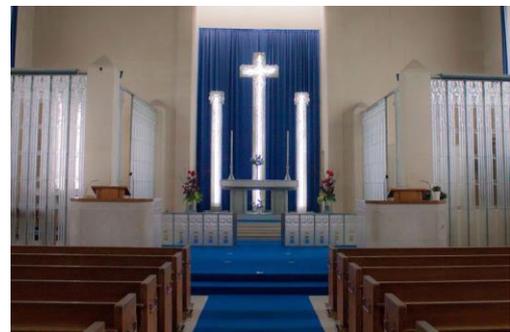
Lighting the Way to Worship

Last month I visited Jersey, and found the ruggedness and beauty of the coastline strangely exhilarating. Among the various ‘touristy’ visits I made, was to St Matthew’s Church, near St Helier.

This church started life in the 1840’s as a modest chapel of ease, built in Millbrook at the foot of Mont Felard to spare parishioners the long uphill trek to the ancient Parish Church of St Lawrence. But then, in the 1930s, a generous gift put the village on the tourist map.

Millbrook resident Florence Boot decided to honour her late husband Jesse, the owner of Boots the Chemist, by rebuilding the church in his memory. She engaged the talents of René Lalique, the foremost glassmaker of the age, to decorate the entire church with his finest work. No similar Lalique commission survives anywhere else in the world.

In September 1934, St Matthew’s became the ‘Glass Church’. In effect, every expected item to be found in a church was made of glass – from the two frosted glass angels set in the double doors to the centerpiece - a shining, towering cross over three metres high



which soars over the glass altar. It is flanked by twin illuminated pillars and framed by four glass screens that shimmer like a wall of ice. The font, forged in pure glass, is autographed by Lalique himself. In the Lady Chapel, four immense crystalline angels, illuminated as if by heavenly fire, survey the worshippers. The iconic Jersey lily, a motif of purity, adorns everything. Lalique’s work provides an exquisitely pure canvas to magnify the power of light.

Today St Matthew’s remains a work of art, a unique monument to the talents of René Lalique and one of Jersey’s hidden treasures. Yet, above all, the magnificent glass cross, altar and angels are signposts – pointing the way to the power and majesty of the true and living God. Every Sunday the church family gathers in this sanctuary to worship the pearl beyond price, Jesus Christ.

(From: *History of St Matthews*. Ed)

When the rains came!

Do you remember 17 May last month - the day I'm writing this? That was the day when it rained!

After more than six weeks, we in the S.E actually had an appreciable amount of rain. The water butts filled up, the river Lea, here in Wheathampstead, ran high – so much so that the blocked drains flooded the roadside! And all the gardeners and allotment-holders were walking around with smiles on their faces. Conversely, in Canada, I am reliably informed, it has rained virtually non-stop, at least on the west coast, and people are fed up.



Water – the lack of it or too much of it – is a vital consideration for life for all aspects of our planet – although if one is subject to too much then under certain circumstances there are serious consequences.

In James 3: 11 we read, ‘No spring pours out sweet water and bitter water from the same opening.’ This is said in connection to speech and the power of the tongue - where James is referring to the sad fact that words of thanksgiving and kindness and words of cursing and hatred can emanate from the same tongue.

But, going back to the watery theme, James’ reference to ‘bitter water’ reminds me of the work of those charities which are helping to improve the health of people through the digging and installation of wells for ‘sweet water’. Charities like *WaterAid* tackle this crisis from all angles, working with local partners to deliver clean water and toilets to promote good hygiene.

Not only is Jesus Christ ‘The Light of the World’ (as highlighted on the previous page), he is also offers us the water of life - ‘The living water’. ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the Scriptures said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ (John 7: 37-39). By this Christ spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive at Pentecost.

Inventors and Inventions Trivia

Shortly, viewers of 'Tomorrow's World' will be asked which of seven suggestions is Britain's greatest gift to the world. The seven inventions are concrete, antibiotics, mobile phone, jet engine, steam engine and TV. But in a wider world, can you answer the questions on inventors and inventions?



1. Who invented the diesel engine?

Robert Diesel Rudolf Diesel Richard Diesel Rheinheart Diesel

2. In what year was the ball bearing patented? 1794 1800 1823 1899

3. Which group invented and developed the early Internet?

USSR Harvard University The U.S. Government CBI

4. Who discovered the X-ray?

Alexander Fleming Wilhelm Roentgen Henri Becquerel Pierre Curie

5. In which century were the first rockets launched? 13th 15th 17th 19th

6. When was the deep freezer invented? 1876 1900 1910 1927

7. In which decade did television become widely available around the world? 1920s 1930s 1940s 1950s

8. For whom were high heeled shoes invented?

Cleopatra Queen Elizabeth King Louis XIV King Charles

9. Which device did Galileo invent?

Barometer Pendulum clock Microscope Thermometer.

10. Which statesman, politician, scholar, inventor, and one of the early presidents of USA invented the swivel chair?

George Washington Alexander Hamilton John Adams Thomas Jefferson

11. When was the pacemaker invented 1952 1958 1962 1967

12 What toy did George Lerner create for Hasbro Company in 1952?

Talking doll Mr Potato Head Hula Hoop Action Man

June		
5	Holy Communion Rev Gill Hulme	10.30am
12	Roy Swanston	10.30am
19	Geoffrey Farrar	10.30am
26	Mothering Sunday Jenny Cope	10.30am
Messy Church Jenny Cope 768087		
June		
Friday 3rd in halls 3.30pm – 5.30pm		
Tuesday at Three Jenny Cope		
Meeting in the church 3 – 4pm		
Diary for June		
6	tba	
13	Mary Hoare	
20	Italian Riviera	
27	tba	
Discussion Group - Gill Hulme		
Wednesdays in the lounge 8pm Book of the Month study - JAMES June 14, 28		

More quotes on Positive Thinking

I believe if you keep your faith, you keep your trust, you keep the right attitude, if you're grateful, you'll see God open up new doors.

Joel Osteen

Live life to the fullest, and focus on the positive. *Matt Cameron*

Keep on believing in yourself and turn it into something positive.

Leah LaBelle

You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind. *Joyce Meyer*

Your smile will give you a positive countenance that will make people feel comfortable around you.

Les Brown

In order to carry a positive action we must develop here a positive vision. *Dalai Lama*

Trivia Answers

1. Rudolf Diesel
2. 1794
3. USGovt.
4. Wilhelm Roentgen
5. 13th (The Chinese made rockets by filling bamboo tubes with gunpowder, probably in the 13th century. When they lit the gunpowder, the gas from the explosion sent the rocket into the air.)
6. 1876
7. 1950s
8. King Louis XIV
9. Thermometer
10. Thomas Jefferson
11. 1952
12. Mr Potato Head