

Rev Dan Balsdon

Methodist Presbyteral Ordinand | West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Circuit

Serving Bognor Regis, Felpham and Westergate Methodist Churches

The **Methodist Church** 

Tel: 01243 823895 | E: dan.balsdon@methodist.org.uk | Blog: www.revdanbalsdon.com
28 Kyoto Court, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 2UL

Pandemic Pastoral Letter #13 | 31st January 2021

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13, NRSV

Dear «Forenames» «Surname»,

Over the last fortnight it has been a **joy** to be inundated with calls and emails from many of you telling me with joy and enthusiasm that you have had or about to have a vaccine. For those of you still waiting but fall into the first phase of the rollout, I have little doubt that in a mere matter of weeks, if not days, your call will come.

I, on the other hand, anticipate quite a long wait for mine– but **your joy gives me joy**. With each jab we inch closer to the end of this pandemic and a time when we can safely gather to worship, share fellowship together and serve our communities with freedom rather than restriction.

As we joyfully look to vaccines for hope of freedom here on earth, I am reminded of the truth and even greater joy we experience through our relationship with God. Vaccines are going to be liberating for us in 2021, but nothing compares to the liberating hope, joy and peace we find through God.

Through God our maker we discover we are loved and cherished for who we are and bring to the world something only we can bring. Through God we find hope that gives us strength today, tomorrow and for all eternity. Through God we experience the truth that we are never truly alone.

I pray you will know our hope-filled God filling you with joy and peace, and surrounding you with God's Spirit today, and every day.

In peace & hope,
Rev Dan



News & Updates

COVID Update

As you will all be aware through email or phone calls from our pastoral teams, after the announcement that our region would enter Tier 4 on Boxing day, our oversight teams took the decision to suspend face to face worship after Christmas and then review our position in the new year. Since then we entered national lockdown and with significant rises in cases in the area all 3 oversight teams agreed that the suspension would continue, and be reviewed when lockdown restrictions are reviewed and/or changed by government.

From recent announcements from government that their hope is to begin to explain route out of lockdown on 22nd February, I anticipate we will be able to begin to review our current position after that point.

My personal hope is that in some way, shape or form we will be able to resume face to face worship by Easter, but there are many uncertainties that mean any definitive planning at the moment is not possible.

I hope to be able to give a more detailed update and plan for the future in the March postal mailing.

Worshipping Together Booklets & Prayer Guide

The Worshipping Together booklet for February is enclosed, along with a prayer guide, with thanks to one of our lay workers, Debbie Dean, for her work in preparing this for us.

Gathering for Worship in February

Based on current outlook for the ongoing lockdown, we have currently anticipated that all acts of public worship will be via zoom and phone this month.

February	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th
Together 9am	Dan Balsdon	Dan Balsdon	Dan Balsdon	Dan Balsdon
Morning Worship 10:30am	Adam Cook	Dan Balsdon	Lynne James	Joyce Stroud

Ash Wednesday,

17th February

Rev Dan will lead worship for Ash Wednesday on zoom/phone, at 10:30am.

Posters / prayer cards

In this pack you will find a poster I encourage you to display on your door/window on Ash Wednesday to publicly declare the hope we find in Christ and truth that in both life and death Christ is hope to us.

All services will be held on our shared Together Channel

access details for phone and/or zoom below:

Join Via Telephone

the cost of the call will be equivalent to your standard rate as per your telephone bill.

1. Call **one** of the Dial in by phone numbers from a mobile or landline.

It shouldn't matter which number you call, occasionally one doesn't work, if this happens for you, hang up and try a different number.

📞 **0203 481 5237**

📞 **0203 481 5240**

📞 **0203 051 2874**

📞 **0203 901 7895**

📞 **0131 460 1196**

2. When asked enter the meeting ID. For **Together** this is **878 7997 8475** and press **#**

3. (optional) You will be offered opportunity to add a participant ID, you can skip this step by pressing **#**

4. When asked enter the meeting password. For **Together** this is **473352**

Telephone Controls when in a call.

Get the attention of the host by pressing * 9

Mute/Unmute by pressing * 6

Join Via Zoom (on desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone)

1. Visit <https://zoom.us/> and click 'Join a meeting' – or open the zoom app.

2. Enter the Meeting ID: **878 7997 8475** press enter/return

3. Enter the meeting Password: **473352** press enter/return

St David's Day Social

After their previous success, Abha Hanner and Joyce Stroud will be running another social event for us – this time on **Monday 1st March, 3pm-4pm.**

This will be hosted on zoom and phone – via the Together Channel (above) and include space for conversation and fellowship. All welcome.

Methodist Dial-in phone lines

Our Connexional dial-in phone lines which were set up at the start of the pandemic have been updated to now include a weekly pastoral message from the President and Vice President of conference.

Weekly pastoral message from the President/Vice President: 0808 281 2695

Weekly Prayer: 0808 281 2514

Fortnightly Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Note that all numbers are FREEPHONE numbers.



Lent with Luke – Lent Study Opportunities

Luke, the Doctor and writer, spends much of his gospel focusing on human life and relationships, and the wellbeing and flourishing of human life. In a time when we have spent almost a year living within restrictions of one sort or other, Luke's focus on our physical and spiritual flourishing and wellbeing serves to encourage and strengthen us as we journey through lent.

Each of the 5 sessions will run twice, a morning and an evening each week, led by a range of people, and all you will need is a Bible. Please dip in and out as you are able, or you could attend them all!

Sessions will be held on zoom/phone, via the Together Channel. Please contact us on bogfelwest@gmail.com for details.

Week	Session Dates	Passage
Week 1	Mon 22 nd Feb, 7:30pm Wed 24 th Feb, 10:30am	Luke 4:1-13 The Temptation of Jesus
Week 2	Mon 1 st March, 7:30pm Wed 3 rd March, 10:30am	Luke 11:1-13 Prayer
Week 3	Mon 8 th March, 7:30pm Wed 10 th March, 10:30am	Luke 13:1-9 The Transfiguration
Week 4	Mon 15 th March, 7:30pm Wed 17 th March, 10:30am	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Lost & Found
Week 5	Mon 22 nd March, 7:30pm Wed 24 th March, 10:30am	Luke 17:11-19 The Ten Lepers

In Remembrance

Over the last few weeks we have sadly lost a number of people from our congregations. Please pray for their families and friends as they grieve, and have or will hold funerals in circumstances they would not otherwise have chosen.

Bognor Regis

🕯 Doreen Baldwin 🕯

🕯 Doreen Bowley 🕯

🕯 Charles Anscombe 🕯

🕯 Gwendoline 'Sheila' Hull 🕯

Felpham

🕯 John Watson 🕯

🕯 Doris Gillett 🕯

🕯 Rob Pierce 🕯

Westergate

🕯 Joan Stoner 🕯

