



Hove Methodist Church

## Hove Methodist Church

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Minister: Rev Andy Lowe

### Sunday 28 July

**10.30 Sunday Service** with Paul Richards

Flowers are given by the Pessu family

Steward: Charlotte Gravestock

Readers: Louise McIntosh

Music: Janet Bowles

AV: Ian Draper

Coffee: Jackie & Lou

HMC Photo Album (Updated weekly): <https://albumizr.com/a/VcW4>



### Sunday 4 August

**10.30 Sunday Service** with Revs Andy Lowe & Sue Jacobs

Flowers are given by the Pessu family

Steward: Maggie Symes

Readers: Heather & Trevor Coldridge

Music: Janet Bowles & Paul Richards

AV: Mark Gregory

Coffee: Lai Pang

HMC Photo Album (Updated weekly): <https://albumizr.com/a/VcW4>

### Prayer

*O Love most powerful grant us your strength. O Love most sweet let us taste your goodness. O Love most faithful let us rejoice in your presence. O Love most victorious persevere with us to the last; for Jesu's sake.*

*Amen.*

*Gertrude of Helfta (1256-c.1302)*

HMC Mission: To share the love of God, as revealed by Christ,  
through the Holy Spirit

## **Week: 29 July - 4 August 2024**

**Mon 29** Guild @ Scotties

**Tues 30** 12.00 No Lunch Club (Summer break)

**Weds 31** 10.30 History of Christianity in the Narthex  
2.30 Drop-in session at Georgies

**Thurs 1** 10.30 Midweek Communion  
12.30 No Lunch Club (Summer break)

**Fri 2** 10 - 11.30 Chatty Café  
1.30 No Polka Tots (Summer break)

**Sun 4** Sue's Leaving Service with Revs Andy Lowe & Sue Jacobs



## **Week: 5 August - 11 August 2024**

**Mon 5** Guild @ Scotties

**Tues 6** 12.00 No Lunch Club (Summer break)

**Weds 7** 10.30 History of Christianity in the Narthex  
2.30 Drop-in session at Georgies

**Thurs 8** 10.30 Midweek Communion  
12.30 No Lunch Club (Summer break)

**Fri 9** 10 - 11.30 Chatty Café  
1.30 No Polka Tots (Summer break)

**Sun 11** Local Arrangement with Charlotte Gravestock & Co.  
6.30 Thinking Aloud Online with Rev Andy Lowe

### **The Jacob's Farewell Event**

Please mark the 4th of August in your diaries. We would outline all the activities planned for the day but that would be letting the 'cat out of the bag'!

For now please be sure to bring along man-size tissues and we will provide the mop and bucket in the event of a 'Tear-nami'. There's also been some mention of lunch.

**HMC Office**



## Food & Friendship - Last Lunch

What a fabulous last day of the lunch club on Tuesday! Amidst all the delightful food on offer, there was the usual joy and good cheer. We also had a few birthdays including those of our lovely organisers and culinary genius Rachel and Caroline!

Special thanks to Kathryn Stanley for amazing jigsaw donations to the raffle; to our lovely drivers Paul, Mike, Phil, Daail and Jim, to Fareshare Sussex and Surrey and UK Harvest, Lidl Hove and Sainsburys Portland Road for food donations; to our amazing funders and donors who keep us going with large and small grants and contributions every year; to Hove Methodist Church for hosting us; to all our lovely and supportive guests and of course to all our wonderful volunteers who make it happen every week.

We are having a summer break and will be back on 10th September for more Food and Friendship. May the sun shine wherever you are!

**Caroline Henderson**



## Action for Children weekend

Action for Children weekend at Stanford Avenue has so far raised £550! So thank you to all who made cakes, jams bought craft work and bric a brac. And big thanks to all who came and bought things or donated. It was a happy community occasion and so fantastic to see all coming together. Thanks so much for the amazing support! Some of us sped over to Hove to the street party and I had a really yummy burger. I could have eaten two! On Sunday Geoff took our service and as usual it was so meaningful. Thank you, Geoff, as ever for your support and input. We watched the AFC videos which were insightful and demonstrated the fantastic work of AFC. This year's focus was justice for families, and considering the change of government, it was appropriate to reflect on lifting children out of poverty and the governments support to stop childhood poverty. Our musical interlude was the Isley Brothers Harvest for The World, with visuals and words. Thanks to Rob for managing all the IT, projector and screen. Thanks to the congregation who were very patient whilst my granddaughters sped round the church during the service! God bless everyone. Much love!

**Gaynor Paul**

## Home front Blessings

Our no longer 'student minister' Sue came recently to bless our (re)newed home amidst the shambles of the half-finished decorating and the fallen down ceiling. She had been before, just as the builders finished. At that time the downstairs was still sensible and the upstairs was bare, now the upstairs is almost finished and the downstairs is chaos. She approached us in church the other Sunday and asked "can I come and bless your new home before I leave". We agreed gladly saying that she was very welcome to come and see our chaos. She replied "I find praying through the chaos is the best way to approach such a problem". She came with the Methodist Service Book and I was mildly surprised that someone who is obviously so good at extemporary prayer would bring the service book. This led us into a discussion about the relative merits of extemporaneous versus formalised prayer. But the upshot was that in this situations using the service book was probably a good idea because we were sharing the same words which had been used by millions of other Methodists over the years, a thought which I had not considered before. The chat then moved on to our interconnectedness across the church commonality, of our services as a whole, because we are a Connexion, and this was another little lightbulb moment. However, one of the phrases in Order of Service for the Blessing of a Home is - 'Lord bless this house and Moya and Peter who make it their home. Defend it with your heavenly grace, and create within its walls a place of warmth, love and safety. Lord in your Mercy Hear our Prayer'

I found those words very moving. Because that is what we all strive to achieve in our homes and what is missing in so many homes in our own country and around the world. The news that a mother and two daughters had been shot with crossbow in their own home, that the people living in Gaza City have been 'advised' yet again to move from the remains of their homes to a safer zone to avoid the worst of the fighting and at the same time the reports of the missile attack on the Okhamatdyt children's hospital in Kyiv. Not places of warmth, love and safety.

Sue also read to us the passage from Ecclesiastes, as the GNB has it - Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. A time for peace and a time for war. Not an easy thought for Christian consideration. But that is part of life. We struggle to think sensibly about the wars in Gaza, or Ukraine or Sudan and cannot see past the intransigence of the protagonists. But viewed from the standpoint expounded by the writer of Ecclesiastes God knows how this will all work out in the end. And to that thought we need to cling. That thought stirred a memory from my childhood - Will your anchor hold in the storms of life, When the clouds unfold their wings of strife? When the strong tides lift and the cables strain, Will your anchor drift, or firm remain?  
Refrain: We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure while the billows roll, Fastened to the Rock which cannot move, Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.

Not a hymn that we sing very often any more but an appropriate ideal when we are struggling to come to terms with the mayhem and murder we see all around us on the news. It was good to see Sue and for our home to be blessed and hopefully for it to be a place of warmth, love and safety.

**Peter Farley**