



Hello February

*LET THE FLAMES OF
LOVE WARM YOU THIS
COLD FEBRUARY*

**Link Magazine for
Goring & Steyning
Methodist Churches**

Letter from the Manse



Dear friends,

Jesus has lots of different names or titles in the Bible: Immanuel, Prince of Peace, Son of David, the list goes on. The most common title Jesus is called is the Christ or the Messiah – the one promised to the Jewish people who was going to come and rescue his people. However, Jesus rarely called himself that; rather, he often called himself the ‘Son of Man’. I recently received an email asking if I might unpack this phrase so... here it goes!

The phrase ‘Son of Man’ is sometimes used in the Old Testament as a synonym for ‘man’. For example, when God speaks to the Prophet Ezekiel, he calls him ‘Son of Man’ emphasising Ezekiel’s humanity. However, in Daniel Chapter 7 the phrase ‘Son of Man’ seems to be used in a different way. Daniel is an Israelite prisoner of war having been taken from Israel to Babylon to work for the Babylonian empire under the Babylonian king. Whilst in Babylon, Daniel has a crazy dream which Daniel says himself ‘disturbed’ him (Daniel 7: 15). Amongst the talk of beasts, which represented historical earthly kingdoms (including Babylon) that were against God’s values, there is the imagery of a heavenly court. The court is gathered and God, described as the Ancient of Days, brings judgment against these evil kingdoms and in favour of his people. Daniel then records this:

‘There before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed’ (Daniel 7: 13-14).

So, in Daniel’s vision, this human ascends and has equality with God, people worship him and he has an everlasting kingdom. Now if we cast our minds back to when God gives the Israelites the Ten Commandments, the first commandment is ‘you shall have no other gods before me’ and the second instructs the Israelites not to worship ‘an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below’ (Exodus 20). The fact that this ‘one like a son of man’ is worshiped in the presence of the Ancient of Days shows he is God: he is fully human and fully God.

Around the same time as the book of Daniel, the book of 1 Enoch was written. 1 Enoch is not part of the Bible; however, the book of Jude does quote 1 Enoch and some suggest that Jesus draws on this writing. Therefore, although it is not scripture, it was clearly a significant piece of writing that shaped some of the thinking of Jesus’ contemporaries. Whilst in Daniel 7 there is only a brief mention of the Son of Man, there is a whole chapter devoted to the title in 1 Enoch.

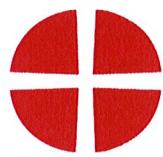
According to the 1 Enoch, the Son of Man was chosen by God to be the light of the nations, with God before the world is created, hidden by God until the right time and given authority by God. He is the one through whom God brings justice, a divine Judge and the one who exposes and defeats evil. So, when Jesus refers to himself as the Son of Man, he is claiming to be the one who will bring all of this about.

When Jesus was on trial and being condemned to death, he said, “From this moment on, you will see the Son of Man sitting at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds (Matthew 26:64). The way Jesus exposed and defeated evil is through the cross. Jesus viewed the cross as his throne where he let evil do its worst, and then he overcame it with his divine life and love.

The Son of Man is Jesus, God incarnate, who came to destroy evil through his death and resurrection and who invites us to partner with him in showing God’s divine life and love to the world.

God bless you,

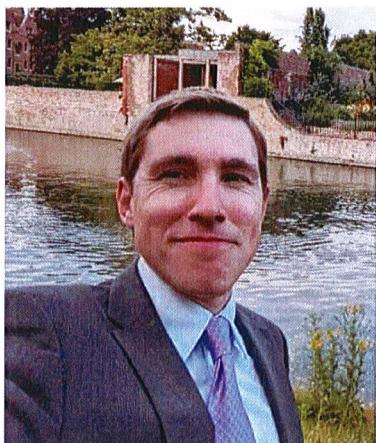
Steven



West Sussex (Coast and Downs) Methodist Circuit

Circuit Office, Goring Methodist Church, Bury Drive, Goring-by-Sea, BN12 4XB. Tel: 01903 242560

Appointment of Probationer Minister September 2026



We are delighted to announce that Liam Sheridan will join the Circuit in September as a Probationer Minister with pastoral care of Goring Methodist Church and of Trinity, Storrington Methodist Church. Liam, his wife Rachel and their three children will move to the Goring Manse in the summer. Liam has been training at the ecumenical Queen's Foundation in Birmingham.

The date of a formal welcome service will be shared in due course.

Pastoral Care of Steyning Methodist Church September 2026

From September 2026, Revd Dawn Carn will have pastoral care of Steyning Methodist Church. We are extremely grateful that Dawn is able to extend her pastoral care in this way and we will recognise this formally later in the year.

Our minister, Steven

In case you are wondering what is happening to Steven, our current minister, Steven, Alish, Ellenor, Harriet and Jonah, will be moving in August for Steven to take up the appointment of Superintendent Minister of the Burnley and Pendle Circuit. Do pray for Steven, and for Liam, along with their families, as they continue to serve in their current contexts for the next 6 months and as they prepare to move.

MEMORIAL CANDLE DAY



being remembered on heart shapes to hang on the prayer tree.

Any donations on the day went to St. Barnabus Hospice.

Pam Harrison

In the second week of January several people from Goring attended the Candle Memorial Day. This was held between 10am and 2pm, where people could come in sit quietly or talk to someone and light a candle for a loved one who is ill or has died. There was some soulful music playing in the background and also the opportunity to write names or prayers of those



CHRSTIANS AGAINST POVERTY MONEY MANAGEMENT COURSE

I have recently trained as a CAP Money Coach and will be running my first course on Saturdays 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th February from 10am – 11.30am at Felpham Methodist Church. Please circulate these details to your church members and to anyone you know who might benefit.

The **Christians Against Poverty (CAP) Money Course**, now generally referred to as **CAP Money Coaching**, is a free service designed to teach essential budgeting skills and a simple, effective money management system. It helps people get control of their finances, save, and prevent debt, and is run in partnership with local churches across the UK.

- **Free and Accessible:** All CAP services are completely free, funded by donations. You do not need to be a Christian to participate; the courses are inclusive and open to people of all faiths and backgrounds.
- **Practical Skills:** The course (typically running over three or four sessions) uses a simple, cash-based system to help participants build and balance a household budget, structure finances, find ways to save, and use credit wisely.
- **Expert Guidance:** Sessions involve a mixture of videos featuring financial specialists, activities, and discussions, with support from trained CAP Money Coaches.
- **Ongoing Support:** Participants gain unlimited access to a mobile-friendly budget worksheet and online budgeting tools.
- **Please contact John Evans if you wish to book a place on the free course which will ideally run with 6-8 attendees.**
- **johnevans8754@gmail.com** Mobile 07840139247.
- Thank you
John Evans

Goring Methodist Church

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We wanted to share with you some of the charities we have supported over the last couple of years. Some are local, some are national and some are international!

Charities supported 2024 & 2025

christian aid

Action for Children

Fund for Human Need
Registered Charity No: 208866

ALL WE CAN

Every person's potential fulfilled

Circuit Youth Project
West Sussex (Coast and Downs)

B

St Barnabas House

Air Ambulance
Kent Surrey Sussex

TURNING TIDES
ENDING LOCAL HOMELESSNESS

Worthing Soup Kitchen

Shout.
Street Homeless Outreach

ORCHID
FIGHTING MALE CANCER

OSCAR'S
Wish Foundation

GORING AND FERRING
FRIENDSHIP
CENTRE

KINDNESS STARTS
With you.

As well as others through our Tuesday Fellowship

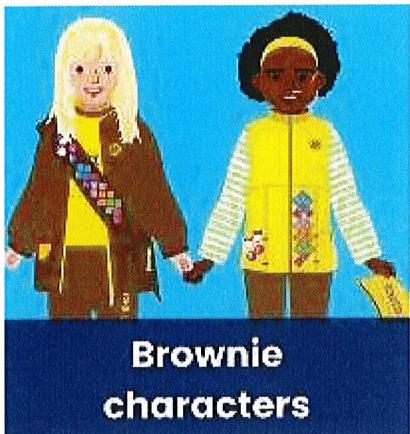
Goring Methodist Church

WHERE LOVE & FAITH UNITE

Bury Drive, Goring-by-Sea, BN12 4XB



SMILE



I once got kicked out the cub scouts for eating a brownie!

I have been charged with littering by dropping a banana skin but was released on a peel.



A valentine's joke for the ladies. If you are with a bloke who does not appreciate a good fruit joke, you ought to let that mango!





Goring Services:

Sunday 1st February 10am: Revd Billy Slatter

Sunday 8th February 10am: Pam Frost

Sunday 15th February 10am: Revd Steven Donnison – All Age Worship.

Sunday 22nd February 8.15am: Messy Breakfast

10am: Revd Andrew Reed

Sunday 1st March 10am: Pam Frost

Sunday 8th March 10am: Roy Firth

Sunday 15th March. Mothering Sunday 10am: Revd Steven Donnison – All Age Worship/ Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd March. Passion Sunday 8.15am: Messy Breakfast

10am: Richard Tanner

Sunday 29th March. Palm Sunday 10am: Revd John Jennings

Small Groups

In our weekly letter you have probably seen a mention of the church small groups. Have you ever wondered what they are about and whether you should attend one? Well you would be made most welcome.

As the name implies it is a small gathering of people on Monday or a Thursday morning in the church lounge from 10.30 till 12 noon. A cosy group of friendly individuals who meet regularly to watch a video, discuss and share their thought and feelings based on a pre-set theme. The current sessions explore what it means to be a disciple or apprentice of Jesus. It also involves tea and biscuits!

If a daytime meet is not convenient then please contact Mary and Stephen Smith who live in Goring Road who hold an evening session around 6.30pm for 7pm on Practicing The Way.

They are also running the Alpha Course on a Wednesday from 2pm for 2.30pm. For more information about the Wednesday Small Groups contact Mary on 07546212380.

We look forward to seeing you.



Dan Balsdon · [Follow](#)

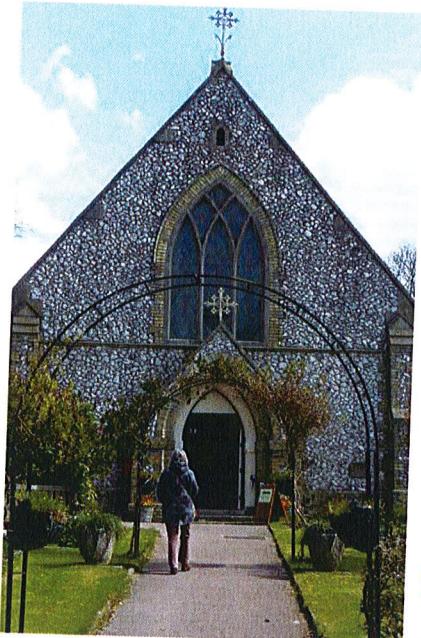
1d ·

A morning leading worship at [Goring Methodist Church](#) today in my role as Deputy District Chair.

A privilege to have the opportunity to visit congregations in the District, hear their stories, and see how God is at work across the south east District.

I also love their banners. To me there's so much life, vitality and vibrancy captured within them.





Steyning Services:

Sunday 1st February 10.30am: Revd Tongayi Matamba

Sunday 8th February 10.30am: Revd Steven Donnison – Holy Communion

Sunday 15th February 10.30am: Revd John Jennings

Sunday 22nd February 10.30am: Revd Steven Donnison – Relaxed service.

Sunday 1st March 10.30am: Adam Cook

Sunday 8th March 10.30am: Revd Steven Donnison-Holy Communion

**Sunday 15th March. Mothering Sunday 10.30am:
Shelagh Morgan**

Sunday 22nd March. Passion Sunday 10.30am:

Revd Steven Donnison – Relaxed service

**Sunday 29th March. Palm Sunday 10.30am:
Revd Andrew Reed**

Steyning Methodist Church
18 High Street
BN44 3GG



Flower Festival

“Shapely Forms”

Floral displays and Patchwork

Saturday 2nd and Monday 4th May
from 10am-4pm

Light lunches Refreshments Cake Stall

Sunday 3rd May, at 3pm
Songs of Praise - followed by tea



Action for Children

On Tuesday 9th December the Circuit Support Group collected for Action for Children at the Holmbush Centre, Shoreham.

During the day shoppers were entertained with musical items including singing carols by Lancing Methodist Church and music by a ukulele group. Later in the day the children from a local school came to sing their carols.

At our church we had collections at our Carols by Candlelight, Christmas Day Service and the Postbox for Christmas cards for our church friends. Together this raised £501.30.

Some of our members supported Action for Children's Secret Santa and £500.00 was given in this way.

We thank you all for your generous support for our Methodist Church charity.

Our Spring Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 7th March at 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon and we look forward to seeing you there.

Margaret Trueman



Coffee Morning
Saturday 7th March.
Goring Methodist Church
10.30am-12 noon.
**Bacon butties, cakes, jams,
marmalades, preserves.**
Craft stall.

Goring Methodist Church

WHERE
LOVE  **FAITH**
UNITE

Bury Drive, Goring-by-Sea, BN12 4XB

SAVE THE DATE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, 6th March 2026 Theme: I will give you rest, come, prepared by the Christian women from Nigeria
Service at Goring United Reformed Church, Barrington Road, Goring by Sea
BN12 4EA (the church is just off Shaftesbury Avenue opposite the Leisure Centre)
10,30 am. All our Welcome

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(A WOMEN LED, GLOBAL, ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT)



PRESS RELEASE

"I will give you rest"

World Day of Prayer 2026 Nigeria

Our sisters in Nigeria invite us to join them for the World Day of Prayer on Friday 6 March 2026. The service they have prepared reflects on the theme, "I will give you rest."

The World Day of Prayer is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns, and prayers of women from around the globe. Each year, women from a different country craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

The preparation for this day is extensive. The writing country and theme are chosen years in advance, and the service then travels to the international committee in New York for translation and dissemination to national committees in over 120 participating countries. From there it is adapted and shared locally, culminating in gatherings at hundreds of churches every March.

This day is a powerful demonstration of global solidarity. It begins in Samoa and moves across the world in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. It truly is a worldwide day of prayer!

For further information and resources, including details of services in your area, please visit the World Day of Prayer website: wwdp.org.uk

19 Jan

Written By Dan Balsdon

Vacancy: District Treasurer

We have an exciting opening for a new District Treasurer, to begin from appointment by the Synod in April 2026.

Full details of the role are [available here](#), and you are invited to apply via the Expression of Interest Form on the [Volunteer Vacancies](#) page.

For an informal conversation about the role, you are also invited to contact the current post holder, [Pauline Newton](#).
Dan Balsdon

The Planets in February & March 2026

Mercury can be seen around 20th February setting an hour and a half after the Sun. Venus will be between Mercury and the horizon at this time, setting three quarters of an hour after the Sun. Note where the Sun sets, then note the position of Venus up to the left. A similar distance further on will be Mercury, then a similar distance on again will be Saturn. Mercury will be faint in the twilit sky. Binoculars will help but look only after the Sun has set.

On 1st March Mercury will pass close to Venus, Mercury is a little to the right of Venus and both will set approximately an hour after the Sun. Saturn will still be up and to the left of Venus. On 7th March Venus will pass Saturn, both setting an hour after the Sun.

Mars is not well placed for viewing, having recently been in conjunction with the Sun.

Jupiter can be seen throughout the evening and into the morning sky in the constellation of Gemini (the Twins). It sets around 5am in February and around 3am in March.

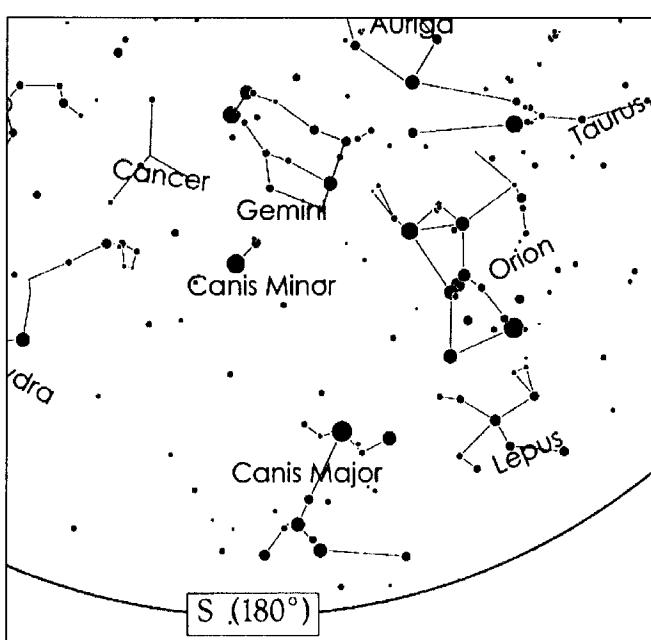
Saturn rises before sunset and can only be seen for a short time till it sets at around 8pm in February before sinking into the twilight in early March to be in conjunction with the Sun on 22nd March. It is in the constellation of Pisces (the fishes).

On 17th Feb there is an annular solar eclipse only visible from Antarctica. Watch out for this in the media and on the web as there may be some coverage.

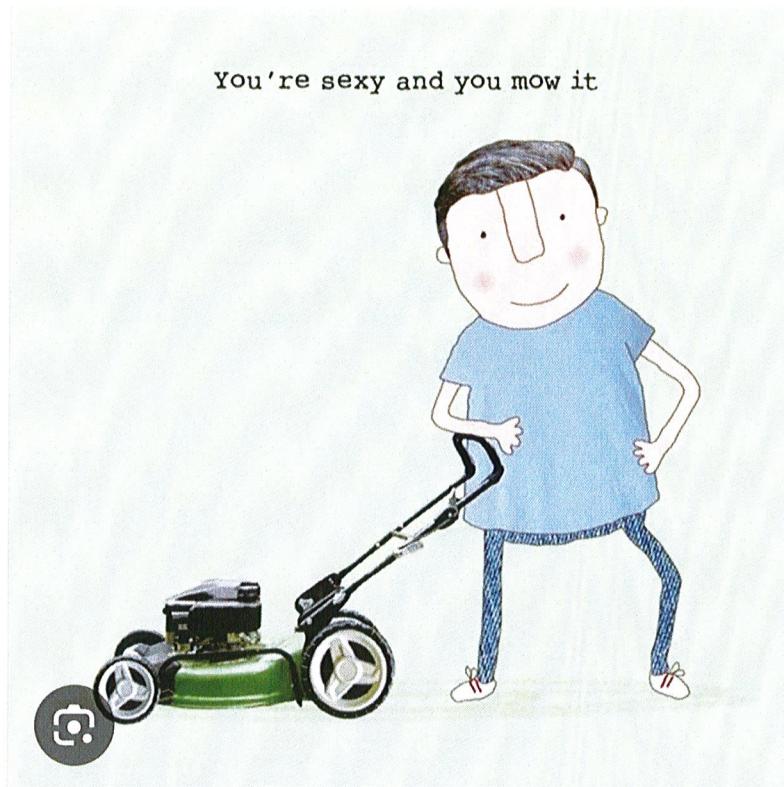
The spring equinox is on 20th March. The constellations of the Pleiades (Seven Sisters), Taurus (the Bull) and Orion (the Hunter) are still on display. Following them are the constellations of Gemini (the Twins) and Leo (the Lion).

Full Moon is on the 1st Feb and 3rd Mar and new Moon is on the 17th Feb and 19th Mar.

Here is an illustration of the night sky, looking south at 10pm around the beginning of February. Linda Croft



Volunteers needed at Goring MC



**We need people to join the grass cutting
rota to keep the lawns in good order.
The more people on the rota then the
less often you have to do it. Help
spread the work. Please contact Bob
Crossley for further information.**

Job Advert: Children and Families Worker

Job Title: Children and Families Worker.

Location: Offington Park Methodist Church (OPMC), Worthing, West Sussex.

Hours: 20 hours per week, flexible working - including Sundays and occasional evenings.

Salary: £15,750 per annum, depending on experience.

Contract: Initial 3-year fixed term.

About the Role:

OPMC is a warm, welcoming and inclusive Methodist community in the heart of Broadwater, Worthing. We are seeking an enthusiastic and dedicated **Children and Families Worker** to help us grow and deepen our ministry with children and families in the church and local community.

This exciting role offers an opportunity to creatively shape our work with children and families, building relationships, supporting spiritual development, and engaging with our wider mission.

Key Responsibilities:

- Lead and develop activities for children and families, including Sunday groups, midweek outreach, and special events.
- Build relationships with families in the church and wider community, creating welcoming spaces for them to explore faith.
- Work collaboratively with church volunteers, ministers, and circuit staff to support family ministry.
- Help recruit, train, and support volunteers involved in children's ministry.

About You:

We're looking for someone who:

- Has a passion for working with children and families and sharing the Christian faith in accessible and engaging ways.
- Is creative, organised, and a good communicator.
- Can work both independently and as part of a team.
- Has experience (paid or voluntary) in children's work, ideally in a church or faith-based setting.
- A professing and practicing Christian (as per the Equality Act 2010).
- Understands or is willing to learn about Methodist ethos and values.
- Will become a member of OPMC (desirable not essential).

We Offer:

- Supportive oversight from the Minister and Church Council.
- Opportunities for learning, training, and reflective supervision.
- A role where your gifts can make a real difference in peoples' lives.

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check. We are committed to safeguarding and expect all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

How to Apply:

For a Job Description or informal conversation, please contact:

✉ pamfrost23@gmail.com

Closing date: 5pm on 15th February 2026.

Interviews: Possibly w/c 26th February 2026 but to be confirmed.

Job Advert: Church Pioneer

Location: Offington Park Methodist Church (OPMC), Worthing, West Sussex.

Hours: Full-time, 40 hours, flexible including Sundays and occasional evenings.

Salary: Up to £31,600 per annum, depending on experience.

Contract: 3 year Fixed-term.

Responsible to: Minister.

About the Role:

OPMC, a warm, welcoming and inclusive Methodist community in the heart of Broadwater, Worthing, is seeking to appoint a **Pioneer** — a creative, prayerful, and community-minded leader who will help us share the good news of Jesus Christ in fresh and relevant ways. This is an exciting opportunity to join a church committed to mission, growth, and renewal. The successful candidate will explore new forms of Christian community and nurture discipleship among people who may never have connected with church before.

Key Responsibilities:

- Build relationships with people and groups in the wider community.
- Discern local needs and develop creative responses to them.
- Establish and nurture new Christian communities and assist with their integration to OPMC.
- Work alongside existing congregations to encourage a pioneering, outward-looking culture.
- Equip and mentor volunteers to engage in mission and discipleship.
- Collaborate with ecumenical and community partners to serve the local area.

About You:

We are looking for someone who:

- Has a deep and growing faith in Jesus Christ and is a professing and practicing Christian (see Equality Act 2010).
- Feels called to pioneering and mission beyond traditional church walls.
- Is creative, adaptable, and able to start new initiatives from the ground up.
- Is an excellent communicator and team player.
- Can inspire and encourage others to share in God's mission.
- Becomes a member of OPMC (desirable not essential).

Experience of fresh expressions, community development, or evangelism would be an advantage, as would familiarity with Methodist structures and ethos.

We Offer:

- Supportive oversight from the Minister and Church Council.
- Opportunities for learning, training, and reflective supervision.
- A prayerful and encouraging network of colleagues.

This post is subject to an enhanced DBS check. We are committed to safeguarding and expect all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

How to Apply:

For a Job Description or informal conversation, please contact:

 Pamfrost23@gmail.com

Closing date: 5pm on 15th February 2026.

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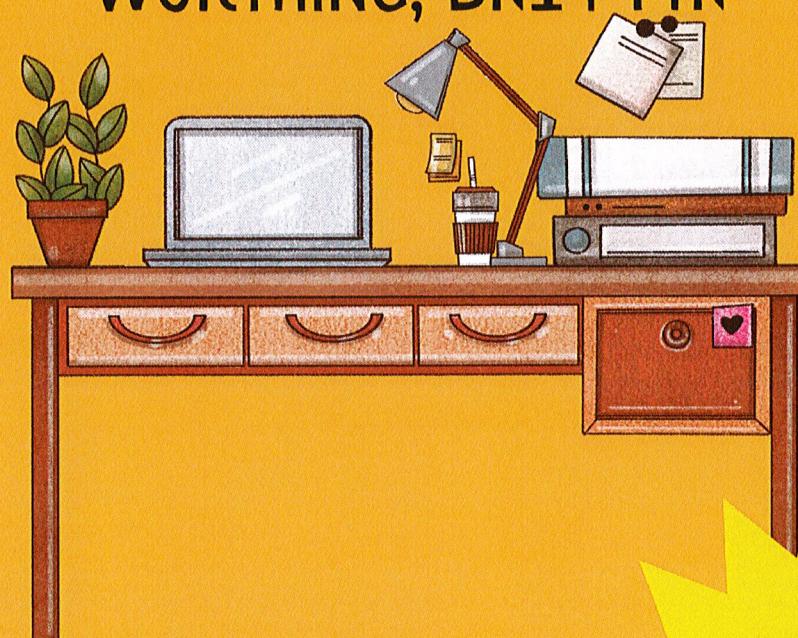


WE ARE HIRING!

OFFINGTON PARK
METHODIST CHURCH

Church Administrator

OFFINGTON PARK METHODIST CHURCH,
WORTHING, BN14 7TN



For further information,
Job Description or
application form
please call 01903 205722
or email us at
offingtonparkchurch@gmail.com

HOURS
Tuesday to
Friday
9-12

Closing date: Friday 6 February 2026

Interviews will be held week commencing 9 February 2026



Please note the deadline for the April edition of 'Link' is Friday the 20th March. Please hand or email all copy to Jeremy at goringmethodist@gmail.com

Please submit anything you think might be of interest. It is YOUR magazine, so any suggestions for inclusion would be welcome.