

The Wey Forward

Issue 7, March to May 2018



A message from our Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Welcome to issue 7 of the Wey Forward Circuit magazine – which is full of articles and information about the life of the thirteen churches which make up the Wey Valley Methodist Circuit. This demonstrates that the church is the community of people and not the building. There is something for everyone here, so please enjoy reading!

In the span of this issue we will be travelling through Lent, to Easter and Pentecost. That is quite a journey.

Lent is a time for us to consider our own discipleship alongside the last days of the life of Jesus. In our worship and study groups we will be tackling the difficult themes of temptation, conflict and suffering. We will be thinking again about vulnerability and power and what it means to be a servant. None of these are easy subjects, but Lent demonstrates so clearly how relevant the Gospel is to every generation of humanity. This world is facing exactly these same issues at this very moment. In some of the churches objects will be placed around the Lenten cross week by week to help us to remember the stages in Jesus's journey. But however we mark these weeks of Lent, perhaps we can think about a situation in the world where the themes of each Sunday are very real and pray specifically for that place and those people.



When those Lenten crosses are transformed on Easter Day into living crosses of glorious flowers, I pray that we will all really enjoy celebrating. Let us remember how God has defeated even death itself. Let us live in the light of resurrection hope and let it inform all that we do. In the Methodist church we have empty crosses for a reason. There can be no resurrection without the crucifixion but our focus is on the hope of the risen Lord.

Pentecost is the festival that empowers every one of us to live as disciples of Christ. We are assured of the presence of God within us to help us to realise our potential, among us to enable us to exist in community, and inspiring us to cooperate with all that God is doing in the world.

May this be a time of challenge, celebration and re-energising for every one of us.

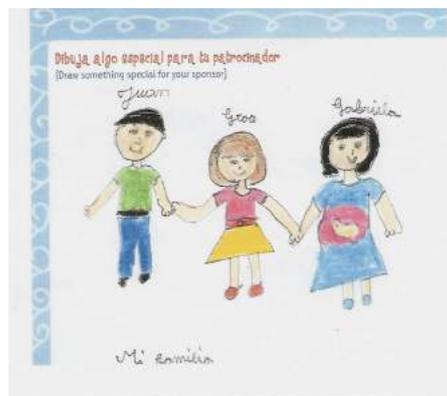
With all good wishes

Claire

News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

Our Charity Christmas Fair held on 25th November proved a popular event with Father Christmas in attendance and many charities displaying a variety of gifts and produce. Daphne's hand knitted 'stable' scenes, (two versions available), were in particular demand. A thought for next year?!



We are in regular contact with Grace, our eight year old sponsored child who lives in Ecuador. Her December letter to us told us of her new one month old sister Amy. She thanked us for our letters and asked us to pray for her family for God to take care of them and keep them far from danger.

In December the Bear Hugs day nursery held their annual Nativity play in the church and once again the children thrilled their parents and friends. Thanks go to Fiona and her helpers who make it all possible.

As part of our aim to 'Find new ways of presenting Jesus Christ to today's society' we held our second Cafe Style Evening Service on 21st January led by Canon Dr Steve Green.

It was well attended in spite of the weather. Steve's slide presentation theme, 'His Good News - Grace declares us innocent', provided much food for thought and interspersed with songs of joyful praise provided an evening of joyful praise and worship. Our next evening service will be on 8th April. Everyone is welcome and more details can be found on our website addlestonemethodist.org.uk



The church front window refurbishment takes place in the spring and God willing it may give us the opportunity to make better use of the first floor area.

Looking forward, our Church Anniversary on 6th May and Deacon Richard Goldstraw will be taking the service.

Fred Rowe

ECG - Equipping, Calling, Going

What is ECG all about?

Quite simply, ECG is about bringing our community together. Each year people of all ages join to share in a five-day celebration of fellowship, worship and teaching.

Although many of the speakers and delegates are from a Methodist background, not all guests are invited on the basis of their denomination. Instead, those who are felt to offer real insights into Christian teaching and who can help deliver what always proves to be an interesting, varied and family-friendly programme are included.

Each day, visitors to ECG can take part in morning Bible study, choose from different seminar streams and participate in lively discussions. The ever-popular fringe day and evening programme includes drama, music, comedy and film.

A range of specially designed activities ensures that younger visitors don't miss out either. Creche facilities are available for babies, while age-specific groups run by highly-skilled youth workers makes this an event for everyone.



This year's event will be in the Scarborough Spa Complex from Tuesday 3rd - Sunday 8th April.

Bookings can be made through the website www.ecgevent.org.uk

The main Bible teacher will be Rev Dr Elaine Heath, Dean of Duke University, leader of the Foundation for Missional Wisdom and author of books such as *'The Mystic Way of Evangelism'* and *'God unbound: Wisdom from Galatians for the Anxious Church'*. She is world renowned for her 21st century interpretation of the Methodist tradition and will be exploring Wesley's 5 means of grace in her bible studies.

There will be seminar streams and workshops on different topics including a stream on healthy church hosted by Rev Graham Horsley, Connexional Fresh Expressions Missioner, exploring themes of discipleship - what it means to be a Spirit-led church and engaging with the wider world with Kingdom values. Each session will involve sharing stories from a number of people doing exciting projects so that a practical pragmatic approach is taken, exploring real successes and the problems that have been overcome. There'll be opportunity to ask questions and share your stories too.

This is also one of the most significant gatherings in Britain of young leaders in the Methodist tradition. The youth programme led by a youth team is being developed and expanded and a full programme of children's activities will be led by Pulse Children's Ministries.

Byfleet

It is always refreshing to meet members from around the Circuit at our monthly Coffee Mornings and we hope you will continue to support us; they normally take place on the second Saturday of the month and we are open from 9.00am to 12.30pm. This quarter will include the celebration of our Church Anniversary on 3rd/4th March which will be marked by a Beetle Drive and hot supper on Saturday starting at 6.30pm; Jack Delbridge will return to our pulpit for the Sunday morning service which will precede our monthly Sunday lunch. In May, (18th), we welcome the return of the Wey Voices Choir for an evening of magic and then in half-term, (30th), we propose to have another Film Show with Afternoon Tea.

Watch our website for more details: www.byfleetmethodist.org.uk. And do come and join us!

Margaret Watts

A Warm Welcome

With thanks for answered prayer through successful matching, the circuit will welcome two new ministers on 1st September.

Rev Keith Beckingham joins us as Superintendent minister, with pastoral charge of Cranleigh and Guildford St Mary's. He will also serve as Methodist Chaplain to the University of Surrey. Keith is joined by his wife Hilary.

Rev Sydney Samuel Lake joins us to begin his probationary period with pastoral charge of Addlestone, Walton-on-Thames and Weybridge. He is joined by his wife Hawa, and their children Sydney and Grace.

Both ministers are appointed to the circuit for five years.

We thank everyone who has committed the churches and circuit to prayer as we have been in the stationing process, and ask that you continue to pray for the churches and circuit, and the ministers and their families as we all prepare for our shared onward journey of faith together. And we ask you to pray for those who are moving into other roles and pastoral charge as part of these changes within our circuit.

Margaret Ireland
Senior Steward

Cranleigh

Christmas does indeed seem a long time ago, and 'looking forward' is of course what the title of our publication implies! However, it seems to me that one or two past events are worthy of mention, particularly if at the time they were innovations! For example, on the afternoon of December 10th, there was a children's Christmas party, followed by a Christingle Service at 4pm, which was much appreciated by this All-Age congregation. Other Christmas events and services, advertised in the last 'Wey Forward', proceeded very successfully as in previous years. As usual, profits from our own church events, including the Gift Service, were sent to AFC. Members from all local churches, as in most years, organised a Christmas Day Lunch in the Parish Room for those who would otherwise have been alone on this most important family day. This proved very popular!

In common with churches world-wide, we celebrated the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and on Sunday, January 21st there was a United Service in the Roman Catholic Church in Cranleigh. A large congregation, despite the inclement weather, included members from all four denominations and a group of singers from the choirs. The Service was co-ordinated and led by Father David Osborne, and other clergy took part. Events of various kinds, especially featuring prayer, were arranged during this whole week, ending on January 25th.

This particular week, of course, reminds us of the desperate need of many oppressed, starving or displaced people, of all faiths or none, in this war-torn world, and these themes are emphasised in the material produced by the committee which helps us organise the united service and other events. The Sunni Muslim refugees from Syria, whom I mentioned in my last article, have arrived in Cranleigh and are settling in. They don't of course speak English, and are being helped by a local Arabic speaker. We are hoping they will come to our 'Friendly Voices' group, which meets in our church on Thursday afternoons to help any whose knowledge of English is limited. (So far, only Japanese from the Rikkyo School have been regular attenders!) However, the Syrian children who are attending Park Mead Primary School, have settled well and we hope soon to meet the adults.

Now we are looking ahead to Lent and Easter and plans are being made both at our own church and in the village (by Churches Together). Lent studies are being organised at the Parish Church, and we are invited to St John's Seminary in Wonersh for Vespers, as we have been in past years. The Lent Liturgy in our own church involves the setting up of various symbols illustrating the Lent story leading to the final joyful celebration of Easter Day. The spoken word is also used as are verses of a hymn, sung in sequence. Both adults and children take part. All churches will have services in Holy Week, and there will be a United Service in Stocklund Square on Good Friday.

Finally, we are still working to raise money for our building project, the cost of which seems to increase regularly and adjustments are still having to be made to original plans. Various fund-raising projects are still continuing and we hope the work is not delayed too much longer. Meanwhile the church, and attached rooms, are being used as usual, particularly by Blossom Nursery and a local dance school, who help boost funds and of course provide outreach.

Glenda Sewell



Over 80 people attended our Community Tea and Concert on 16th December.

Confirmation and Reception into Membership of the Methodist Church

Do you want to explore a little more about your faith and what it means to make a Christian commitment?

Are you considering becoming confirmed and received as a member of the Methodist Church at one of the churches in the Wey Valley Methodist Circuit?

Then why not come along to a series of informal meetings which will explore the whole idea of Christian commitment, living a Christian life and being a Methodist.

The meetings will include plenty of space to ask questions.

This is a time of exploration, so even if you are not sure whether you want to become a church member, come along to think it through. If you are already a member, you would be welcome to join these meetings as a form of refresher. If you have been confirmed in another denomination, but are now worshipping in a Methodist Church, and would like to know more, you are also welcome.

Services of confirmation and the reception of new members will be arranged with your ministers and held in your own churches during 2018.

The meetings are being held on the following days :

Tuesday 10 April 2018 7.30pm

Tuesday 17 April 2018 7.30pm

Tuesday 24 April 2018 7.30pm

Tuesday 8 May 2018 7.30pm

these will all be held in the Circuit Office at Merrow Methodist Church, Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford GU1 2SH and will be led by Rev. Claire Potter

It is important that everyone who is interested tries to attend all of these meetings

If you would like to find out more, or if you are planning to come, please contact

Claire Potter on telephone : 01483 575667

Godalming United Church

Our 40th Anniversary Year reached a joyful conclusion with a celebration candlelit dinner – in the church – at the beginning of December. As part of the Helping Hands project with Rodborough College Maureen Nye led a group of students in producing a delicious meal in our newly-refurbished kitchen, waiting at table, and providing musical entertainment between the courses. Every last detail was thought of, including

Helping Hands Christmas floral papercraft — (an idea for your Church in December?)

The flowers, (roughly poinsettia shaped), were initially cut out and then decorated with gold or silver ink by writing Christmas poems, verses of carols, or secular Christmas songs that held a personal significance for the children's experience of Christmas. *'The Lion Book of Christmas Poems'*, was a favourite resource for those wanting to join in but at a loss for words. As the enormity of the task became apparent, notices went out appealing for more helpers. Year 7s joined in writing, decorating and assembling the flowers. Help was conscripted for the writing from family members, friends and Church members in order to help the children reach their goal of 128 flowers. It was lovely to hear them working out the writing in order to place the layers of petals in the right positions, especially when the rest of the group recognized the script and burst into singing or recounted their Sunday School/family experiences. The effort and achievement when they finally set up the flowers in the church windows surrounded us with praise and Merry Christmas wishes for love and happiness. It is also clear that the encouragement offered by church members has enriched the children's experience of the Christmas message.



Maureen Nye

Our winter pantomime – Puss In Boots – was again a sell-out. It was specially written by local lad Josh Dixon, with parts to accommodate our various groups, ranging in age from 5 to “mature”, and making up a cast of approximately 50. Good traditional entertainment was peppered with local references and topical jokes – easily as good as a “professional” pantomime, and lots of fun for all. Thanks go, as ever, to Barbara Keene and her team. Profits have been donated to Challengers.

Looking ahead we'd love to see you at:

Lent Group Mondays Feb 12, 26, March 12, 26 Tel 01483 420459 or 01483 421342
7:30pm in the Chancel Room following this year's York Course “On the Third Day”

Messy Church Saturdays 3.00pm-5.00pm Tel 01483 414778
Feb 24 David meets Goliath, March 24 Easter activities & Egg Trail, April 21 Seed Time

Holy Week events

Sunday March 25 - Palm Sunday parade-and-family service

Thursday March 29 - Maundy Service Holy Communion 7:30pm

Friday March 30 - U3A Choirs Music for Easter led by Derek Wensley 7:30pm

We also welcome Rev Paul Hulme back from his Sabbatical during this special week.

Our Lent Appeal this year is in support of Christian Aid's work with the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Nancy Wilks



Luther
Five Hundred
1517-2017

Luther 500

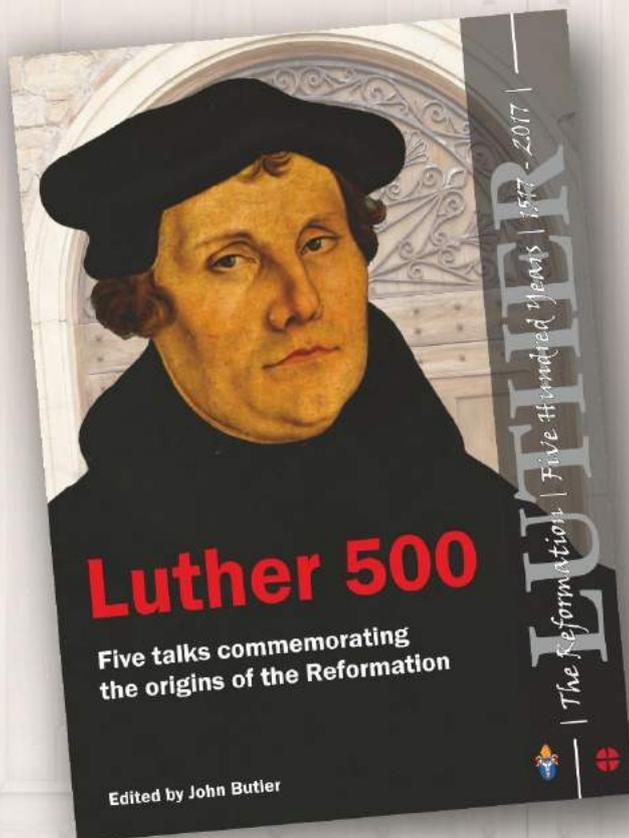
**Five talks to commemorate
the origins of the Reformation**

A book of the recent talks in Canterbury, that commemorated the 500 years of the Reformation, has been released.

It is available as a paperback or ebook.

The ebook can be downloaded at www.cekmetho.org.uk/news

The paperback is available to buy either on Amazon, or from John Butler and Harvey Richardson.



For more information, please contact Harvey or John on harvey.s.richardson@gmail.com - jrbutler75@gmail.com



Guildford St Mary's

The Road Home

2018 got underway at St Mary's appropriately with a full church for an inspiring Covenant Service, shared with friends from Common Ground, the Parish and beyond, with Allan Taylor as our preacher, which set the tone for an exciting year ahead as we further expand our outreach and other activities.

By the time this issue is published Lent will be underway and our series of lunchtime Reflections will have started. Each Thursday we'll have a 15 minute reflection followed by discussion over a bread and soup lunch. We'll be basing the series around the book *'The Road Home'* by Garth Hewitt, singer/songwriter, author and priest, who wrote words and music to go with a series of Gospel paintings by American artist Daniel Bonnell. Garth and Daniel have generously allowed us to make use of their material which will inspire an exhibition through Lent.

We'll be sharing a journey looking at various events in Christ's ministry, with the title coming from the Prodigal Son's journey on which our Maundy Thursday session will focus. We'll start with the Baptism of Christ which gave him a new beginning for his journey and ministry. Along the way we'll be reminded of fishermen casting their nets, Jesus breaking the rules in his encounter with the Samaritan woman and thinking of Christ calming a storm and showing the warmth of love in raising Lazarus.

Each session will be free-standing with a different speaker so even if you can just come once during the series we'd love to welcome you to St Mary's.

During Lent we'll be exhibiting artwork offering a chance to reflect on each of the events. In Holy Week we'll add to the mix a pathway mat (a bit like a labyrinth but straight!) encouraging us to walk along the path to the Cross, prompted to reflect on different aspects as we walk along. We plan to keep the church open from 11am to 3pm throughout Holy Week

Our experiments with Night Church in the Autumn were enthusiastically received so we're planning monthly Friday Night Vision throughout 2018 – an evening drop-in running to around 11pm for people to come and go as they please, make use of prompts for reflection, chat, pray or enjoy the quiet and refreshments. Details of the next few months' Night Vision are available in this issue. Again, we'd love to see visitors from around the Circuit calling in.

Nigel Campion-Smith



the road home

A series of 15 minute

Reflections for Lent

followed by

a Bread and Soup Lunch

at

St Mary's, Quarry St, Guildford

every Thursday

15 February to 29 March

12.15 for 12.30

Thursday 15 Feb: For the Journey – Kathryn Twining
Thursday 22 Feb: He broke the rules - Anne Payne
Thursday 1 March: She gave all she had - Allan Taylor
Thursday 8 March: In the storms of life - Rosemary Lee
Thursday 15 March: Cast your net again - Karen Case-Green
Thursday 22 March: The warmth of love - Anne Cooper
Thursday 29 March: The Road Home - Andrew Wheeler

Do come along



GODALMING
UNITED
CHURCH
GU7 3DU

DAVID meets GOLIATH!

Crafts & games for all the family

Party Tea

Saturday Feb 24th 3-5pm

Admission free
Babies' play area

Donation of £2
per child welcome



EASTER SERVICES 2018

AT

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH



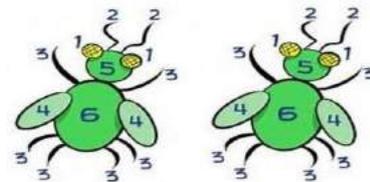
Palm Sunday 25 March at 10.30 am – All Age Worship

Maundy Thursday 29 March at 8.00 pm – Service of the Tenebrae

Good Friday 30 March at 2.00 pm – Good Friday – We accompany Jesus to the Cross.

Easter Sunday 1 April - at 9.30 am. Please note the earlier start time this year to celebrate that Christ is Risen.

The **Methodist Church**
Rectory Lane, Byfleet KT14 7LL



BEETLE DRIVE & HOT SUPPER

(Fish, sausages, chicken nuggets or
spring roll, all with chips)

SATURDAY 3RD MARCH at 6.30 pm

Tickets: £6.00

Booking essential. Sue: 01932 406654; Margaret 01932 343489
margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com

Car parking: on street, or Stream Close car park (opp the Church) or
at the Village Hall (round the corner)

Knaphill

Clothing Bank is starting slowly, we have a large number of clothes and are slowly being known in the area. We provide tea, coffee and refreshments and a listening ear if needed.

Future dates are:

17th February, 17th March, 21st April from 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Monthly Coffee Mornings are growing in popularity, we see regular faces and new ones each month, one lady last month said 'how lovely to come and have someone to chat to, I'll now go home and see no-one else over the weekend, but this has set me up!' We sell books, homemade cakes and preserves, second hand books and bric-a-brac. We also show a film for the children, free of charge.

Future dates are

24th February, 24th March, 28th April from 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Barbara Humphries

Practical Aspects of Spirituality



St. Mary's

Quarry Street
Guildford

09.30 – 12.30

on

Saturday

17 March

Andrew Wheeler

on

Different Types of Pilgrimages

This stand alone Saturday morning session is open to all who want to take their spiritual life deeper.

If you would like to attend please email Richard Fox at richard@purposefullives.com



Saturday February 24th - Hidden Treasure 3pm - 5pm
Easter Saturday March 31st - 3pm - 5pm

Tuesday May 29th and Wednesday 30th
The unforgiving servant 10am – 12noon



These meetings will take place in the Hall, Emmaus and Wesley rooms
Walton Methodist Church.
All families are welcome.

There will be lots of messy things to do, songs to sing, and games to play.
Do book the dates and come and join in.

If you can help in any way or want to know more do contact:
Jeannette 07773 639817, jeannettecurtis@gmail.com

Merrow

It was lovely to welcome back our families and friends to our Christmas worship and we were especially pleased to donate our Christmas offertory to *Embrace* and *All We Can*. Our Church Choir gets together for special occasions as we did at Christmas time and many of us intend to join up with other Circuit musicians in due course, to help provide music across the Circuit. We support many causes throughout the year, both local and national with donations going to the Number 5 Project, Mulberry House, our coffee morning donations to AFC, Traidcraft, Methodist Homes and so many more.

We started the New Year by pinning our 'Hopes and Dreams for 2018' onto our prayer tree. The prayer tree took the place of the Christmas tree for a while, but is now back in the foyer area where anyone entering the building can place a prayer on the tree. And then from time to time, those prayers are included in our intercessory prayers. We have been surprised at what has been expressed on those branches.

We are moving forward with our planning based on the comments made on the 'Appreciating Church' forms, and have already put in place plans for :

- A summer holiday programme to run for two days in August 2018 for those who are holidaying at home;
- A prayer group that includes prayers for our own church;
- Different styles of worship e.g. café style, and all age worship;
- A short course where we learn how to share our faith. This is still in the planning stage;
- New bible study groups and groups that will enable members to discuss major questions of faith and belief.

We are encouraged by all the new things that will be doing as a result of our "Appreciating Church" and it's a sure sign that God is with us all the way.

Joan Tabraham

"Service Search"

There is a new feature on the circuit website. As you know, we already publish a downloadable pdf on the website but the new feature displays the basic Plan information in a searchable format. Now you can search for services by Sunday, church, preacher or type - and combine these criteria, e.g. to find services of a certain type at a certain church. The results of these searches could, of course, all be found by scrutinising the published PDF or carefully examining a printed Plan - but querying a digital database is quicker and easier.

You can find the search function at <http://www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk/services.html>

The only thing you need to be aware of is that the online system does not accommodate special non Sunday services such as any on Good Friday, Christmas Day if it doesn't fall on a Sunday, but these are, of course, included in the pdf and paper copy.

If you have any queries about the new feature please let me know at the Circuit Office, on 07808 046451 or circuitoffice@veyvalleycircuit.org.uk

Sue Howson

The Sunday Service



You may have seen in a recent Methodist News e-newsletter that CTVC, a charitable arm of the Rank Trust is offering free live streaming of services for churches in the M25 area. The idea is that services can be accessed via the internet by those who can't physically get to the service. The services are shown online at www.thesundayservice.org and are kept for a week before being overwritten.

The Sunday Service enables churches to connect with their congregation by providing a web-based platform for streaming live church services. The platform features a web video player through which users can watch live or pre-recorded church services from their chosen parish, on a smart TV, tablet or computer. The intention is that by enabling churches to live-stream church services, services can be experienced and enjoyed by those who may not be able to attend church as regularly as they might like, such as the elderly or those with reduced mobility.

The prerequisites are a good internet upload speed, an audio system in place and regular services. CTVC go along to the church, do the survey and installation. A small camera the size of a mobile phone is linked up to an existing computer from where the shots are controlled during the service. They set up several camera "shots" (e.g. lectern, font) and there is a default one that can be used if there is a safeguarding issue which just shows a corner of the church – a banner or something. The initiative does require a 'camera operator' at each service. Included is a Limited On-Line Music Licence which covers copyright for music and hymns performed in the church but not pre-recorded CDs or DVDs.

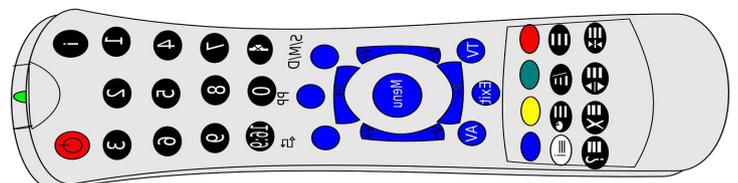
Automatic funding stopped with the New Year but those churches registering their interest after this time will be helped with an application for funding direct with the Rank Trust by CTVC

If you are interested in finding out more then the contact is Stuart Porter on 0207 940 8495 or stuart.porter@ctvc.co.uk He can advise over the phone on technical issues but is also happy to visit in person.

CTVC is a multi-award-winning independent production company producing content that raises important ethical and moral issues, from the perspective of all faiths and none. Broadcasting across all networks, both in the UK and internationally, our television, radio, education and online platforms aim is to get people thinking and talking.

Established in 1978 by Lord and Lady Rank, CTVC is a registered charity which receives a grant from the Rank Foundation; a grant-giving charitable trust whose mission is to improve the lives of young and disadvantaged people and their communities, across the UK.

The company ethos was sparked in the 1930s when, as a Sunday school teacher, J. Arthur Rank became frustrated by the limited teaching materials for children and decided to take matters into his own hands (a legacy we continue today through our subsidiary, TrueTube). He established the '*Religious Film Society*' to produce films for schools and churches. From there the of projects grew, and Lord Rank went on to purchase the Odeon Cinema chain and Elstree Studios, as well as set up the legendary Pinewood Film Studios. The Centre for Television and Communication, as it became known, saw the thriving operation move to newly built studios in a converted country house named 'Hillside'. Based in Bushey, North London, an early production, *Will the Real Jesus Christ Please Stand Up?* featured a fresh faced, young Hugh Grant!



**MERROW
Methodist Church**



**Coffee Morning
in aid of**

**PROSTATE
CANCER UK**

**Thursday 8th March 2018
10.30-12.30**



FAMILY EASTER ACTIVITIES: Easter Egg Trail
Easter Gardens Crafts & Games Party Tea

SATURDAY MARCH 24th 3:00 – 5:00

**GODALMING UNITED CHURCH
BRIDGE ROAD GU7 3DU**



*Admission free
Donation of
£2 per child welcome*

Babies' play area

Tel 01483 414778



The **Methodist Church** 
Rectory Lane, Byfleet



**FILM SHOW
and
AFTERNOON TEA**

**Wednesday 30th May 2018 at 2.00 pm
Byfleet Methodist Church**

Watch our website for further details:

www.byfleetmethodist.org.uk

**Admission is free but Donations in aid of the
'Roof Repair Fund' would be welcomed**

**MERROW
Methodist Church**



SERVICE OF THE

TENEBRAE

**Maundy Thursday
8.00 pm, 29th March 2018**

The Montgomery Trust

The Montgomery Trust was set up to promote lectures ‘in explanation and defence of the Christian religion with a view to removing difficulties widely felt in the way of faith and to demonstrate the reasonableness of theistic belief.’ It exists to bring the insights of renowned academic and scientific minds to anyone seeking to understand faith more deeply.

It was established thanks to a bequest from Sir Alexander Cecil Montgomery of Albury, Surrey, who lived from 1859 until 1939. He was passionate about communicating modern biblical scholarship, with an emphasis on Christian apologetics, to everyone.

His will stipulated that the Trust is:

“... for the purpose of promoting lectures in explanation and defence of the Christian Religion and with a view to removing difficulties widely felt in the way of faith in God and to demonstrate the reasonableness of theistic faith.”

The will of Sir Alexander Cecil Montgomery, 1937

In addition, he expressed a preference for the lecturers ‘being proficient in some branch of science or scholarship and preferably lay, with a gift for popular exposition’. There are now over 30 Montgomery Trust Lecturers, who each offer up to three lecture titles and themes to choose from.

Mr Michael Poole

Visiting Research Fellow in Science and Religion, King’s College, London

For fourteen years Michael taught Physics and some Religious Education at a London boy’s comprehensive school where he was Head of the Physics Department.

This was followed by three years preparing and broadcasting radio programmes on science and religion for overseas audiences.

He was appointed to the staff of King’s College in 1973 as Lecturer in Science Education (Physics). His research interests are in the interplay between science and religion, with special reference to an educational context.

Michael is the author of several books, most recently:

A User’s Guide to Science and Belief (Lion Hudson 2007)

The ‘New’ Atheism: Ten Arguments that don’t Hold Water? (Lion Hudson 2009)

He is also the author of some 90 papers and articles on issues of science and religion, their relevance for science teachers, religious education specialists and for a general readership.



Montgomery Trust Lecture Christianity and the New Atheism

by
Mr Michael Poole

Visiting Research Fellow in Science and Religion, King's College, London



**Come and listen to
Michael Poole put The 'New Atheism' under scrutiny**

The lecture is FREE but you will need a ticket

Ticket details available shortly

Refreshments will be served

Wednesday 9th May 2018, 7.45pm

Trinity Methodist Church

11 Brewery Lane, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4LJ

Walton on Thames

WALK AND TALK – Enjoying God’s creation

“See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land.” (Song of Songs 2; 11-12). In our Autumn Bible Study series, we noted that King Solomon enjoyed studying the environment, mentioning it in his proverbs and other writings. As you read this, Spring is beginning, with signs of new life all around us and many good walks to explore.

At Walton between 10 and 15 of us go for a short walk every month for some gentle exercise, to enjoy the beautiful countryside and finish with lunch together. In January it was our 53rd walk, although four of these were cancelled due to bad weather. Here are some we can recommend.



Last April we went to Sheeples, West Horsley, especially to see Cowslip Meadow. Visits to Hampton Court, Bushy Park and along the rivers Thames, Mole and Wey are popular. The water features, Woodland Gardens and deer in Bushy Park are worth a visit together with the abundance of Spring flowers, especially daffodils, in The Orchard at Hampton Court.

We have visited Windsor Great Park six times. This included our longest walk of 4.5 miles around Virginia Water where some of the scenes were shot for the Harry Potter films. We have been to the

Saville Gardens, Valley Gardens and enjoyed the wonderful views of Windsor Castle near “The Village”. The Valley Gardens have many exotic plants, an “overflow” from the nearby Saville Gardens. For about two or three weeks in May the flowering shrubs are really outstanding in the Valley Gardens, the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park and the Woodland Gardens in Bushey Park.

There are several leaflets available at the top of Box Hill with suggested walks. In June last year we saw an amazing number of Marbled White butterflies on the chalk hill-sides and identified some of the very rare native English wild box trees. This wood is excellent for carving and was used to make aircraft propellers in the 1940s.

Bookham Common is worth a visit, especially in July when in good weather you can expect to see a colourful display of White Admirals, Silver Washed Fritillaries and Red Admiral butterflies along the northern rides. If you are very fortunate you might see an elusive, high flying, Purple Emperor. Along the Lower Hallows path, north of the small ponds, there is a bird hide and heronry where in the next few months you might see young herons being fed in their nests high up in the oak trees.

So, in the next few months we are looking forward to Spring and Summer walks, to share fellowship together and enjoy some beautiful parts of Surrey!

Colin Wright



GUILDFORD'S NIGHTSHELTER FOR HOMELESS MEN AND
WOMEN
(Charity Reg. no.: 1015474).

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH

JOIN US FOR COFFEE & CAKE ON

Thursday 12th April 2018
AT 10.30 AM



IN AID OF GUILDFORD NUMBER 5 PROJECT

Financial donations and gifts, including cans and packet food,
and cleaning materials for the Project will be welcome.

Songs of Praise



Saturday April 14th
Horsley
Methodist Church

(next to W.H. Village Hall)

7.00p.m.

Celebrating the Chapel Anniversary.
Come and sing a selection of favourite hymns.
Phone 01483 282474 to make requests.

West Horsley

We are very pleased to have our minister, Claire, back from her recent sabbatical. We have been well looked after by Allan Taylor, but have missed Claire. She will be telling our next House Group about her sabbatical experiences.

During Advent we participated in our local village initiative to provide goods for local foodbanks. The idea was that instead of using an Advent calendar to receive gifts of chocolate etc. we would give items that are needed by others less well off - "Reverse Advent". The amount of goods collected by the local churches and shops needed an army of volunteers to sort. The period ended with Carol Singing at the station as the commuters came home.

This year it will be our responsibility to lead the annual Good Friday service on the green in front of the East Horsley shops. Churches Together in Horsley & Ockham have been organising this event for a number of years and it seems to be growing in popularity. Please pray for fine weather as there are too many of us to shelter under the gazebo!

Our Carol Praise evening in December was well attended and we were pleased to welcome some people from around the Circuit. If you enjoyed that one, or missed it, why not join us on Saturday 14th April, at 7.00pm for our Anniversary Songs of Praise.

Any requests should be made to 01483 282474.

Margaret Faulkner

Weybridge

As this goes to press Weybridge has yet to hold the spring Church Council meeting so we currently have nothing in the diary except for the regular annual events including the Churches Together in Weybridge Good Friday Walk of Witness. We hope to have more to report next time.

We are however excited to report on the amazing response to the 'Reverse Advent' initiative which we ran in December 2017. Weybridge has a monthly newsletter which is unsophisticated – mainly due to the majority circulation by email – but which lends itself to easy display on our notice board. People actually read it!!

On 17 December, at our Carol Service, as we were placing our Reverse Advent gifts under the Christmas tree, a stranger arrived with several boxes of groceries to contribute; he had read about it on the notice board whilst waiting for his daughter to finish a dance class. Similarly, the previous day, whilst the Bedding & Clothes bank was taking place, a family arrived to deliver 6 carrier bags of groceries – also for the Reverse Advent. The mum had also seen about it on our notice board. Apart from the excitement of finding out that people who use the premises do read the information, these extra gifts enabled us to take a car full (quite literally, as even the passenger had goods around her feet and on her knee) to the Food Bank Depot. They were delighted to receive such a huge boost to their supplies five days before Christmas. God moves in his mysterious way.

Members of the congregation were delighted to meet Sydney Samuel Lake, the probationer who will be looking after Weybridge (and Addlestone & Walton) from September 2018 when he visited with his family in January. It was a joy to meet Sydney, his wife Hawa and children Sydney and Grace. We pray that God will bless him and his new congregations as we go forward in faith to do God's work in our churches and communities.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as are free to join us on Sunday 18 March 2018 when our good friend, (and former local preacher in the circuit), David Ingoldby will lead our Café Church.

Linda Weedon

CURTAINS UP!

8th & 9th March 2018

at 7.45pm

10th March 2018 at 7.15pm



'Clara's on the Curtains'

By Arthur Lovegrove

And Music to entertain

Walton Methodist
Church Hall
Terrace Road
Walton-On-Thames

Tickets £12 (includes refreshments)

*Speak to any cast member or visit our page
on waltonmethodist.com to get tickets!*

NIGHT VISION

Friday nights @ St Mary's

www.commongroundguildford.org

Put into diary:
 Feb 16th
 Mar 16th
 April 20th
 May 25th
 → 7:30-11 pm

NIGHT VISION
COME IN

Drop in nights at St Mary's, Quarry St. for

- Warm welcome to all
- Space, stillness, peace
- Coffee & nibbles
- Candles & reflections
- Selfie & photo opps

"See things differently"

 Common Ground Guildford
 100-101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500

GODALMING CHORAL SOCIETY

50 years CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Mendelssohn St Paul

Sunday 8th April at 7.30pm

The Great Hall, Charterhouse, Godalming GU7 2DX

Conductor: Sam Hayes

Mendelssohn

Tickets
 £15, students £8

Record Corner, Pound Lane, Godalming
 Online: www.godalmingchoral.org.uk
 Guildford Tourist Information Centre
 155 High Street, Guildford. Tel: 01483 444334
 Box Office: 07 505 203468 or at the door
 Registered Charity No: 254890

making music

Byfleet Methodist Church
 Rectory Lane KT14 7LL
 presents...



**WEY VOICES
 IN CONCERT**

Friday 18 May 2018
 7.30pm

Tickets £7 to include interval refreshment
 available from Cynthia: 01932 406060
 cyniel@ntlworld.com, or on the door

 GODALMING UNITED CHURCH
 BRIDGE ROAD
 GU7 3DU

SEED TIME
 Spring planting, crafts & games for all the family. Party Tea.

SATURDAY APRIL 21st 3-5pm

Admission Free Babies' play area
 Donation of £2 per child welcome



Trinity, Woking

Jill Willis writes about an innovative way of telling the Christmas story. Is this something your church could replicate?

It was harder than I thought to write the Christmas story in 25 episodes and there is a little artistic licence, as I tried to make it relevant to today and make people want to come back and read the next episode! The planting is supposed to match the day's story so all dark foliage when Joseph is devastated, red for Herod's anger etc. I think I know the stock of all the local garden centres by heart! We are trying to say there is more to Christmas than shopping and presents and we use the garden to witness but in a non threatening way.



Lots of people talk to us when we are gardening and we are trying to be more visible in the community. Now people expect it, we have to keep it up!



I put out one pot each evening on my way home from work about 8pm so it's there first thing in the morning. We keep them out of sight and number 1 starts on the west side of the church and they work their way round and get nearer to the stable, until 24 and 25 are either side of the stable. Christmas Eve after the midnight service I reveal the baby (have already put the doll in the crib and decorated earlier but covered up) and the 25th Christmas tree. It takes over my life a bit but the garden team decided we should make the garden look Christmassy and it grew from there. I have seen people read a bit, realise what it is and go back and start at number 1. People come and take photos. One little girl came every day with her Mum to see the baby in the manger.

One of our members who was ill and couldn't get to church followed it on the website.

Jill Willis

Surrey Faith Links

The *Surrey Faith Links* Project took off in November 2009. The Project endeavours to engage faith communities with the wider community and the third sector at large.

They are very keen to touch base with all faith organisations and individuals across the County. One of their aims is to produce a valuable database which represents all the faith organisations across Surrey.

They send out information to faith organisations that may be of interest from a variety of sources, ranging from public bodies, interfaith groups, and individual faith communities. For example, they send out information about faith events that are taking place, grants which faith communities can benefit from, and Surrey County Council workshops in which opinions help shape future decisions for the County.

They produce a monthly newsletter which is a good source of information about what is going on in the county, but could also be used to let people know what is happening across our Circuit.

Previous examples can be found on their website at

<http://surreyfaithlinks.org.uk/news-and-events/newsletters/>

It is free to sign up to their newsletters and all you have to do is

contact Kauser Akhtar, Faith Links Advisor on

Kauser.Akhtar@cofeguildford.org.uk or 01483 790334.



MERROW METHODIST CHURCH

OUTLET



Please join us on a Monday at 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm.
It's mostly a ladies group, but we don't mind the occasional male visitor if the topic appeals to you!

March 12 – “Riding for the Disabled” – a speaker will give us the history of the organisation and its aims.

April 9 – “Victim Support” - we welcome a speaker who will enlighten us on this varied and necessary work.

May 14 – Guildford in the “50’s and 60’s” – an illustrated talk.

June 11 – AGM and fun! Review what’s happened in 2017- 18 and plan for 2018-19.

Words

Music

Stillness

A time for reflection

St. Mary's Church
Quarry St, Guildford

12.00 – 13.00 on Mondays

5 March

9 April

14 May

Coffee will be served from 11.45

Further details from: anna_jeffery@btinternet.com

Jordan Refugee Update

I travelled to Jordan while on sabbatical in October and visited 4 refugee projects delivered by All We Can's local partners. The situation for Syrian refugees is hard; but still I remain inspired by their hope and determination to make new lives and a future for themselves and their families.

The money that you give really does make a difference. While at a women's workshop at Talbiah Refugee Camp in East Amman, the lady in the photo below, (holding my granddaughter Leila), said, 'Tell the people in the UK that many of the women in Talbiah are widowed or on their own in women-headed households, responsible for bringing up their families and also many orphans in the camp. The workshops help empower them to become independent and earn some income. **Without the help the NGOs give them, they would not be able to support their families.**' (from my notes written on the day).

This was a real testimony of the positive help you can make by donating to All We Can. Workshops at Talbiah include hairdressing and beauty. Your gifts to this project equipped a room and trained a trainer.

If you would like to hear more about the refugees helped by All We Can, please invite me to your church or come to Walton on Thames' **Syrian Supper on Saturday 21st July at 6pm** (tickets available soon). My contact details are Reverend Claire Hargreaves 01483 536638 aerolo@aol.com

Claire Hargreaves





Delicious puddings and great Praise

If you like a good pudding come and taste some

Want to be uplifted by great praise songs

FEBRUARY 25TH 6.00 PM PUDDING AND PRAISE

The theme for this month is

“God’s Word” let’s have a fresh look at it.

Come and have some delicious puddings at 6.00 pm and then settle down to some great praise at 6.30 pm

WALTON METHODIST CHURCH

Terrace Road
KT12 2SR

Telephone

01932 429184

<http://www.waltonmethodist.com>

Sunday February 25th 2018

Puddings and Praise Sunday April 22nd 2018 Walton Methodist Church



6pm for puddings and drinks
6.30pm for Praise.

Is God Calling you?
What is your vocation?



 The Methodist Church in Weybridge

Café Church

Sunday 18th March 2018, 6.15 for 6.30pm

With Mr David Ingoldby

“How God Leads”



Join us for coffee, tea and cake and a time of fellowship with God and with each other



Coffee & Cake at St Mary's

Take a break from your shopping & meet up with friends

Thursday 26 April Thursday 24 May

Each month showcases a different charity

10.30 am - 12 noon

Everyone welcome



Publicity, Marketing and Communications

What can good publicity, marketing and communications help us with? Here are just a few ideas.

- To reach potential new church members.
- To build new bridges and links into the local community.
- To improve contact with existing users of our premises.
- To raise the visibility of our churches in terms of premises, community service and contemporary worship that it might be seen as integral to the community.
- To welcome community participation, as well as financial contributions, to activities to benefit the wider society and world.

An initial meeting was held on 8th November to discuss how we can all help each other to get our messages across. The idea is to set up a small resources group who will be able to help and advise on a whole host of issues such as writing press releases, websites, posters, newsletters.



So if you are interested in getting involved please call Sue at the Circuit Office on 07808 046451.

A Message From The Editor

I hope you have found the latest edition of 'The Wey Forward' both interesting and useful. Thank-you to everyone who contributed to the articles. As always, it has been a real pleasure to receive and read each item as I put the newsletter together.

If you would find a large print version of the magazine useful then please let me know and I can arrange that for you.

We would like the focus of the magazine to be a forward looking one. So as you plan your events to bear in mind that the rest of the circuit would love to know about it.

The deadline for Issue 8 is 23 April 2018

**Please send you items (and photos) to
weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk**

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sue Howson

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 2018			
1st March	12.15pm for 12.30pm	The Road Home—Reflections for Lent	St Mary's, Guildford
3rd March	6.30pm	Beetle Drive and Hot Supper.	Byfleet
8th March	10.30am	Coffee morning in aid of Prostate Cancer	Merrow
8th March	12.15pm for 12.30pm	The Road Home—Reflections for Lent	St Mary's, Guildford
10th March	9am—12.30pm	Coffee morning and bring and buy stall	Byfleet
12th March	7.30pm	Outlet Group—'Riding for the disabled'	Merrow
12th March	7.30pm	Lent Group	Godalming
15th March	12.15pm for 12.30pm	The Road Home—Reflections for Lent	St Mary's, Guildford
16th March	7.30pm to 11pm	Night Vision—Friday drop in night	St Mary's, Guildford
17th March	9.30am—12.30pm	Practical Aspects of Spirituality	St Mary's, Guildford
17th March	2pm—4pm	Clothing Bank—refreshments served	Knaphill
18th March	6.30pm	Café Church—How God Leads	Weybridge
22nd March	12.15pm for 12.30pm	The Road Home—Reflections for Lent	St Mary's, Guildford
24th March	10am –12 noon	Coffee morning with free film show for children	Knaphill
24th March	3pm—5pm	Messy Church—Easter activities and Egg Trail	Godalming
25th March	10.30am	Palm Sunday—a Special Service with All Age Worship	Merrow
25th March	10.30am	Palm Sunday parade and family service	Godalming
26th March	7.30pm	Lent Group	Godalming
29th March	12.15pm for 12.30pm	The Road Home—Reflections for Lent	St Mary's, Guildford
29th March	8.00pm	Service of the Tenebrae	Merrow
29th March	7.30pm	Maundy Service Holy Communion	Godalming
30th March	2.00pm	Good Friday service	Merrow
30th March	7.30pm	U3A Choirs Music for Easter led by Derek Wensley	Godalming
31st March	3pm—5pm	Messy Church—Hidden Treasure	Walton
April 2018			
8th April	6.30pm	Café Style Church	Addlestone
10th—16th April	10am—4pm (Tues 2pm)	Journeying through Holy week with Common Ground	St Mary's, Guildford
12th April	10.30am	Coffee morning in aid of the Number 5 Project	Merrow
14th April	7pm	Anniversary Songs of Praise	West Horsley
14th April	9am—12.30pm	Coffee morning and bring and buy stall	Byfleet
20th April	7.30pm to 11pm	Night Vision—Friday drop in night	St Mary's, Guildford
21st April	2pm—4pm	Clothing Bank—refreshments served	Knaphill
21st April	3pm—5pm	Messy Church— Seed Time	Godalming
22nd April	6pm	Pudding and Praise	Walton
26th April	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
28th April	10am –12 noon	Coffee morning with free film show for children	Knaphill
May 2018			
6th May	10.30am	Church Anniversary	Addlestone
9th May	7.45pm	Montgomery Trust Lecture — by Mr Michael Poole	Trinity, Woking
10th May	10.30am	Coffee morning in aid of Christian Aid	Merrow
12th May	9.30am—12.30pm	Coffee morning and bring and buy stall	Byfleet
18th May	7.30pm	Wey Voices Choir Concert. Tickets £7	Byfleet
24th May	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
25th May	7.30pm to 11pm	Night Vision—Friday drop in night	St Mary's, Guildford
29th & 30th May	10am—12 noon	Messy Church—The unforgiving servant	Walton
30th May	2pm	Film show and Afternoon Tea	Byfleet
3rd June	6.30pm	Circuit Service	Merrow
10th June	10.30am	63rd Church Anniversary	Merrow
21st July	6.00pm	Syrian Evening— open to all	Walton



Circuit Service

Led by Local Preachers the service will be exploring the idea that

**God may be calling us
to be a worship leader or preacher**

The music group *Breeze* will lead our music and Local Preacher Frances Roberts will be presented with her 25 year long service preacher award



All welcome

Refreshments will be served after the service

Sunday 3rd June 2018 6.30pm

**Merrow Methodist Church
Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, GU1 2SH**