

A Valedictory Message on the imminent birth of the Wey Valley Circuit

As this is the last issue of Flight Path I have been asked if I would like to write a contribution to it as I was the first editor.

As this is the 42nd issue it means that we first published Flight Path in 2006. This is how it started:

Rev David Hinchliffe was still fairly new to the Circuit and I said to him one Sunday that it would be good to have a Circuit Newsletter through which news of the various Churches in the Circuit would become known to all Circuit members. My wife Dorothy and I had moved into the Circuit in September 1999, and we still didn't know much about the Churches other than Walton where our membership was. I told David that I was willing to act as editor and compiler of what came in for publication. It was David who came up with the name of the Newsletter, which is a very appropriate name for the area covered.

Now that the Woking and Walton-upon-Thames Circuit is about to join with the Guildford Circuit the name is no longer appropriate, and I do hope that a new Newsletter will be started for the Wey Valley Circuit to which we will belong from 1st September this year.

With best wishes to all as we celebrate this forthcoming birth, and may God bless all the Ministers and Members of the newly-formed Circuit as we work together in His Name.

Colin T Smith

.....so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen,



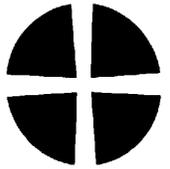
From the Editor

And so it is time to sign off from Flight Path after 14 editions (including this one). My thanks to all those who have contributed willingly during my editorship (and to those we have chased!

We look forward to the **'Wey Forward'** which is due to publish the first edition in September 2016.

Until a decision is reached on the format and editorship of the new magazine, please continue to submit items for publication to flight.path@hotmail.co.uk.

Deadline for items is 31/07



The Newsletter of the Woking and Walton-on-Thames Methodist Circuit

No. 42 June – August 2016

Dear Friends,

It falls to me as Acting Superintendent during Claire Potter's sabbatical to write the lead article for the final issue of Flight Path. And yes, it really is the last one – this will not be like the endless 'retirement tours' that Frank Sinatra undertook. Come September, we shall be part of the new Wey Valley Circuit. Both our Circuit Meeting and Guildford's agreed to this move. By the time you read this, District Synod will have nodded it through, and it will then be announced by John Hellyer, our District Chair, at Conference in the summer.

We need good endings. I hope that when we gather as a circuit for a farewell and thanksgiving circuit service on 17th July at 6:30 pm in Knaphill that we shall have much to celebrate. Please send your stories of what God has done in and through the Woking and Walton-on-Thames Circuit to Liz Swift or me.

But we shall also be marking new beginnings. After all, our faith affirms both the death and the resurrection of Jesus, so why should we not experience mini-deaths and mini-resurrections in our discipleship?

One of the new beginnings will be celebrated at that service on 17th July. For the service will have a dual purpose. As well as saying goodbye to our old circuit, we shall be recognising and commissioning Elizabeth Gurd as a fully accredited Local Preacher. And it is only right that we do so at her home church.

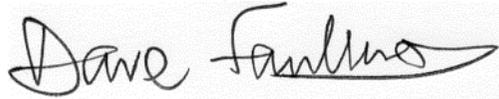
Similarly, as Flight Path and its Guildford equivalent, Orbit, are now about to 'die', so they will together be 'raised' as one new publication. To mark our new name as the Wey Valley Circuit, it will be called Wey Forward.

And I do hope and pray that our way from this point onwards will be forward. If Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, then how can those of us who call ourselves his disciples be forever in retreat? What God has done for us in Christ is indeed so astonishing that the only fitting worship response is truly to be 'lost in

wonder, love, and praise'. In a culture where we can no longer rely on people actively looking for a church, then we need to drop our timidity about our faith. But if we are the recipients of such good news, how can we be silent?

May we truly be setting out on the Wey Forward. May that magazine title not merely be words. May it express the truth of our on-going pilgrimage with Christ.

Your friend,



Dave Faulkner

DISTRICT SYNOD: APRIL 2016

The Spring Synod was a good mix of business and an opportunity to discuss issues which are of importance to each of us concerning our relationships with others. The important piece of business for us from Woking & Walton circuit was the full agreement by Synod to recommend to the Conference (in June) that the Guildford and Woking and Walton-on-Thames Circuit combine to form a new Circuit called the Wey Valley Circuit from 1st September 2016.

Synod commenced with worship which included the presentation and testimony of Ordinands. It was both a privilege and moving to hear the testimonies of two probationer presbyters and a deacon, all of whom will be ordained at this coming Conference. We are particularly supportive of Paul Tabraham, who was formerly at Trinity.

Other items of business concerned the presentation of the District accounts, a report from the District Safeguarding Officer and accepting written reports from other committees of the District. Two Superintendents in the District proposed a memorial be sent to the 2016 Conference asking for a review of the current stationing process for presbyters. After some debate over the wording, it was agreed by a large majority that the District asks Conference to explore ways of demonstrating the church's continuing commitment to itinerant ministry and to explore ways of reducing stationing pressure.

Two short presentations were given, one of which was by Revd Claire Hargreaves on behalf of All We Can about the plight of the Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Considerable time was given at Synod for discussion around issues of marriage and relationships. Within the Church, people have many views about human relationships and the nature and purpose of marriage. A major change to the law in 2014 enabled the introduction of same-sex civil marriage. Churches and other religious groups were given the legal option to opt-in to conduct weddings for same-sex partners.



Circuit Service

Sunday 11 September 2016

6.30pm (preceded by tea)



Preachers: Rev John Hellyer &

Rev Conrad Hicks

Venue: Trinity Methodist Church, Woking

Brewery Rd, GU21 4LH

A Big Thank you.

You will all be aware that the Woking & Walton-on-Thames Circuit is in the last three months of its incarnation. The Circuit Leadership Team, in conjunction with the Guildford Leadership team, are busy undertaking the final tasks which will position us to become The Wey Valley Circuit from 1 September 2016. So now seems an appropriate time to record thanks to our CLT.

It has been an exacting 12 months: the two curtailments amongst the staff occasioned a great deal of work and catapulted us into stationing. Whilst we are mindful of the time given to this process by the Circuit Invitations Committee members, the amount of meetings, paperwork and preparation required of the CLT long before the CIC or church members get involved has to be experienced to be believed. All this work is in addition to the normal day to day tasks involved in keeping a circuit (albeit a small one) running smoothly in accordance with Methodist Church guidelines. This last year there has been all the additional work involved in preparing for the Consultation sessions, attending and documenting said sessions and, following the favourable vote, working to ensure that all the pre requisite work is undertaken and completed to ready for the new circuit. The CLT has been extremely thankful that David Lander came on board to take over all matters pertaining to the Manses and George Hammond has picked up the baton with regards to Circuit property matters. It doesn't bear thinking of the muddle we might be in today if the team (remember it has only been comprised of three people) had had to deal with property on top of everything else.

On top of the day to day tasks there are the training sessions which the team are requested to attend to ensure that they are up to speed with Methodist Church policies and procedures plus being up to date with Safeguarding.

We take this opportunity to thank Liz Swift, who is standing down at the end of this connexional year after 6 years service (two as senior circuit steward), and to Carole Steele and Linda Weedon who will both have given four years apiece to the circuit. These two ladies have offered their services to the new circuit should that be the desire of the Circuit meeting.

Whilst we extend our grateful thanks to the current team, we are also mindful of all those who have given freely of their time and energy during the life of the Woking & Walton-on-Thames circuit. The circuit could not have managed without you all and we send you all our heartfelt thanks.

May we all go forward in hope, joy and with excitement as we nurture the building and growth of a new circuit in this part of Surrey and the opportunities this gives to us all for spreading the message of Christ by word and by example together for God's glory.

Following wide consultation, the Methodist Conference in 2014 agreed that more time was needed for careful reflection before deciding whether to look again at our understanding of marriage. Same-sex marriage is not the only consideration. There are wider issues in relation to human relationships in the modern world which may or may not lead the church to reconsider our definition of marriage. The Conference in 2014 urged the Methodist people to engage with each other honestly, prayerfully and graciously in a process of deep reflection and discernment about matters relating to marriage and human relationships. Throughout the District there have been opportunities for conversations and during April this Circuit offered such an evening. At Synod conversations continued and feedback from all these conversations will be sent to the Connexional Team to enable them to discern the way forward for the Methodist Church. If you missed the meeting at Trinity and would like to know about this issue visit the Methodist Church website, www.methodist.org.uk/talking of marriage and relationships.

Up until recently, the definition of marriage within our church has been the same as the legal definition of marriage. With the passing of legislation to allow and recognise same sex marriage, this definition is no longer the same. In the light of this, the Connexion asked all churches to consider whether our definition of marriage needs to be re-visited, and - if so - to what conclusion.

Throughout the South East District, forums were held at which this question was discussed - in our Circuit we were invited to join with those from the Woking and Walton-on-Thames Circuit at an evening hosted at Woking Trinity in April. Feedback from this, and other meetings in the District, was fed back to the District Synod meeting. The Synod representatives spent some time considering the question, and its implications, and will forward the feedback from these - together with the feedback from the various circuit meetings - to Connexion for consideration in progressing the issue.

Some points coming out of the presentation include:

* The current Methodist Church's definition of marriage was formulated in 1992, when attitudes within our society were different. Today, same sex relationships are far more common, and affect the lives of many more families. This personal experience has an impact on attitudes.

* The Methodist Church must continue to explore how to respond to the needs of the changing world, but the Church must respond within its beliefs rather than conform to popular/secular beliefs and customs.

* There will be challenges to the church's missional and pastoral work whether the definition of marriage changes, or not; and by whether the Church is willing to engage in a conversation around this issue, or not.

We ask for your prayers for all those who are involved in progressing this issue, and for all those who have participated in the forums, and for those struggling with the issues this raises for them.

Within the Church, people have many views about human relationships and the nature and purpose of marriage. A major change to the law in 2014 enabled the introduction of same-sex civil marriage. Churches and other religious groups were given the legal option to opt-in to conduct weddings for same-sex partners. Following wide consultation, the Methodist Conference in 2014 agreed that more time was needed for careful reflection before deciding whether to look again at our understanding of marriage. Same-sex marriage is not the only consideration. There are wider issues in relation to human relationships in the modern world which may or may not lead the church to reconsider our definition of marriage. The Conference in 2014 urged the Methodist people to engage with each other honestly, prayerfully and graciously in a process of deep reflection and discernment about matters relating to marriage and human relationships.

CLT 23 April 2016.

The **Methodist Church**
Guildford Circuit
Woking & Walton-on-Thames Circuit

Circuit Service

Sunday 22 May 2016 - 6.30pm

Preacher: Rev Conrad Hicks



Venue: Mellow Methodist Church
Bushy Hill Drive, Mellow, GU1 2SH

The Wey Forward

By now you will have read the most recent bulletin from the Circuit Leadership Team published just after Easter, which updated all the churches in both the Woking & Walton-on-Thames and Guildford Circuits about the progress towards formation of the Wey Valley Circuit in September 2016. Before that happens, there will be some events to close down the business of our existing circuits, and give thanks for the faithful service of those who have led us over the many years of our existence. Your current Circuit Leaders are working hard to ensure that by the time Claire returns from sabbatical in July, and Conference has met and hopefully ratified the votes of the two Circuit Meetings and recent District Synod, we are on track to create the Wey Valley Circuit as a legal entity from September 1st. Part of this will include holding a (shadow) Wey Valley Circuit Meeting in July (chaired by our Superintendent Claire) to appoint all the new Circuit Officers (e.g. Circuit Stewards, Treasurer, Circuit Meeting Secretary, and representatives to the new Circuit meeting), and also agree the new Constitution and Mission statement, to underpin how we work together and also confirm our very reason for being.

All this work will 'come together' at our official Circuit Launch – a Circuit Service of recognition and commitment marking a new beginning at Trinity Methodist Church, Woking on September 11th at 6.30pm to which **YOU** are invited. But we are asking you to be actively involved in the planning and this needs thinking about before September!!

To mark the coming together of 13 churches as a new circuit, some of whom might even be unsure where the different parts are geographically located, each church will be asked to bring a symbol representing something special about their local community. (In a different setting when a similar model was used, a church in Twickenham brought a rugby ball to reflect their local community!). So now is the time to be creative and to start thinking about what your church can bring. At the service, all the gifts will be dedicated, and then distributed, so each church takes back a symbol representing something significant to another part of the circuit, as a focus of our unity across the new circuit.

Please book the date in your diary now and if you have a thought about what item could best represent your church, please let your church stewards know – they will be very pleased to hear lots of suggestions so get thinking!

The service will be led by Revds. John Hellyer (District Chair) and Conrad Hicks, (District Vice Chair with responsibility for our area) and other members of the new circuit will take part. All the new Circuit Officers and ministers who will by then have been appointed to serve the circuit will be formally recognised and commissioned as part of the service and the worship will be preceded by tea in good Methodist tradition.

Jenny Jackson

JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S EVENING

A concert by **THE PHIL BROWN SWINGTET**

*(traditional through swing [Bix to Basie], big-band, old
pops. – and back!)*

on **Wednesday 8th June 2016 at 8 p.m.**



at

Addlestone Methodist Church

Station Road, **ADDLESTONE** (nr. Weybridge),
Surrey, **KT15 2AR**

*(between Tesco's and the town traffic lights, opposite
Leighton's optician's -
parking in Garfield Road, behind the shops opposite
church)*

Tickets: £10.00

(Limit of ~100 due to space constraints)

For tickets, please **TELEPHONE: 01932 848431 OR
881598,**

or E-MAIL phil.pat2530@btinternet.co

KEEP MUSIC LIVE!



FUNDRAISING TEA PARTY



Sunday 12th June 2016 - 3pm to 5pm

Warren Farm House, Warren Road, Guildford, GU1 2HF. Vineyard tours available!

In aid of All We Can's Syria Appeal

Please RSVP: aerolo@aol.com / 01483536638

Registered charity number 291691 <http://www.allwecan.org.uk/current-appeals/syria-appeal>

Refugees in Jordan—They still need your help

We were sitting in sweltering heat outside the prefabricated unit in Za'atari Camp, Jordan that was home to a family of 7 Syrian refugees. There is no running water, electricity is limited to a few hours each day, the communal sanitation blocks are too cold to use in winter. Still, at least there are no bombs here. Instead they live behind barbed wire fences with access controlled by the military, dependent on handouts for even their most basic needs. Um Abdhu 's husband was a baker with his own business in Derra, Syria when they were forced to flee their home after it was destroyed in the war. Now he cannot work as refugees in Jordan are not permitted legally to take employment.

Over 1.4m refugees have been welcomed into Jordan since the beginning of the Syrian conflict. Only 20% of these are housed in camps like Za'atari; they receive basic medical care, some education and a little food. But some families like Um Abdhu's, have been in Za'atari for nearly 3 years and they are slowly losing hope. The war still goes on, and their dreams of returning home are fading.

The majority of refugees live in the Jordanian community, often in poor housing conditions where they fall into debt and struggle to survive. After all this time, any savings they had are gone and so some work illegally, risking deportation if discovered and exploitation by employers. The World Food Programme has withdrawn its food vouchers from refugees living in the community as it has currently run out of funds.

In the midst of all this, All We Can's partners through Act Alliance are doing everything they can to help refugees rebuild their lives and enable them to stay with dignity and purpose in the Middle East where they have relatives and cultural roots. I have seen the difference that the programmes run by All We Can's partners are making to the lives of these refugees – through vocational training, medical help, cash donations to families in extreme need, providing psychological support to traumatised people and above all, a little hope.

There does not seem to be an end in sight to the critical situation in Syria which is causing so many people to become refugees. These are ordinary people uprooted from their lives in the most violent way and they need our help. There is so much more that could be done with more funding. Thank you to everyone who has already supported All We Can's Syria appeal. Every little gift really does help those in desperate need.

Claire Hargreaves

April 2016

Around the Circuit

Addlestone

Addlestone are waiting with excitement for some AstroTurf! Yes really! Tesco have given a grant which will enable the lawn area adjacent to the hall, which has been badly affected by the heavy rains and the use of the nursery, to be replaced. With the addition of a sun canopy this will become a fabulous area for the nursery children to play and for the congregation to sit in comfort and enjoy their grounds. If you are in the town you can be sure of a cup of coffee every Thursday and Saturday morning from 10.00am.

In June, Addlestone host the annual Jazz Concert. This fabulous evening is well worth attending (see poster page 8). There are still ticket available, contact Daphne on 01932 881598

After hosting a Christmas nativity play in the church for the early years nursery, the first time many of the children (and parents) had ever been in a church, the church folk are looking forward to hosting an end of term concert for the nursery—also in the church. Once again the church will serve refreshments afterwards and build on the young relationships started at Christmas.

Byfleet

The Byfleet church continue to build links in the village. You can be sure of coffee and cake on the second Saturday morning of the month. Other upcoming activities:

MAY

Tues 3rd 2.15 p.m. Tuesday Fellowship – *'Friends in Harmony Choir'*

Tues 10th 2.15 p.m. Tuesday Fellowship – *'Members' First Childhood Memory'* inc. Bring & Buy

Sat 14th 9.00 - 12.30 p.m. Coffee Morning + Bring & Buy Sale in support of Christian Aid

Tues 17th 2.15 p.m. Tuesday Fellowship – *'Celebration of the Queen's birthday'*

Tues 24th 2.15 p.m. Tuesday Fellowship – Members: *'Which Teacher influenced you the most?'*

JUNE

Tues 7th 2.15 p.m. Tuesday Fellowship – Rev Chris Bishop: *'Chaplaincy at Send Prison'*

Sat 11th 9.30-12.30 p.m. Coffee Morning/ Bring & Buy Sale for church funds

Tues 14th 2.15 p.m. Tuesday Fellowship – Lesley Cook: *'Be Still and Know'*, inc. Bring & Buy

Tues 21st 2.15 p.m. Tuesday Fellowship – *Annual General Meeting*

Thurs 23rd tba Outing to *The Life of Christ: Wintershall Estate*, Guildford; tickets available.

Tues 28th 2.15 p.m. Tuesday Fellowship – Rev Claire Hargreaves: *'Visit to Jordan'*

JULY

Tues 5th 2.15 p.m. Tuesday Fellowship – Members: *'Was your marriage proposal traditional?'*

Sat 9th 9.00–12.30 p.m. Coffee morning/Bring & Buy sale in aid of Action for Children

Sat 16th Byfleet Parish Day – Byfleet Methodist Church to run a book stall

Due to the Ride London event on 31 July the church will be hosting a Local Arrangement service.

Knaphill

Saturday 11 June Community Flower Festival 9—6

Sunday 12 June 10.00a, Anniversary Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving, led by Rev Dave Faulkner

Community Flower Festival 11.30 —3.30

4pm, *Songs of Praise Service*, led by Rev Dave Faulkner

Saturday 25 June

Children's Party: Family Coffee Morning Celebration - games and quizzes for children up to Year 6

Saturday 24 – Sunday 25 September

Harvest weekend, to include Harvest Supper (more details to follow)

7:30pm, Saturday 15 October

Dave Bilbrough Concert (more details to follow)

Weybridge

Weybridge continue to host the Bedding and Clothes bank on a monthly basis. Members of the congregation help out at the Weybridge Old Folks club, also on a monthly basis.

There will be a Café Church Service on 19 June (see page 10).

The church will be closed on Sunday 31 July due to the Ride London Event.

 The Methodist Church in Walton



A Summer Time Concert
with
Treble Clef Ladies Choir

Musical director – Tim Woodford
Accompanist – Hannah Stanley

Soloist - Aidan Carroll

Monday 13 June 2016 at 7.45 for 8.00 pm

Admission free

Retiring collection for Action for Children

Refreshments

Meanwhile in the front garden, the planted pots were refreshed and had ribbons tied on representing the death and resurrection of Christ. It is still amazing to us that so many passers-by stop, look at the pots and clearly think about the message.

As part of our year celebrating 50 years worshipping in the current building, we hosted a great Songs of Praise on Sunday evening, 17th April. This was led by Revd Tony Miles of Methodist Central Hall Westminster. It was well attended and we had a great time singing our favourite hymns and songs, old and new, and learning a bit about what they mean to people.

We are already looking forward to the weekend of 18th/19th June when we will conclude our year of celebration. We are planning a Silent Auction on the Saturday evening with entertainment and supper. The emphasis is on fun and fellowship, and oh...starting to raise funds for future work on the building! The idea is that we all consider our own gifts, talents and skills and devise a way that we could use them for the benefit of others. Perhaps a couple of hours gardening, or a guitar lesson or an evening meal or trip out to the coast or countryside; these will be advertised and everyone is encouraged to make a written bid for the particular service they would enjoy. All of the bids will be gathered and opened during the evening and the winner announced and the money that they bid, collected. So we need lots of imaginative 'service providers' and bidders! There will also be entertainment throughout the evening and a Bring and Share supper. All friends, new and old will be welcome.

Finally we look forward to worshipping with the Revd John Hellyer on the Sunday morning. That service will be followed by lunch.

Leadership Team
April 2016

Walton

The Walton friendship group are holding their annual concert to raise funds for Action for Children. (see poster on page 13). All are welcome to this pleasant musical interlude. On 31 July, the church will be closed for morning worship because the Ride London event will pass right outside the church door. As ever members of the congregation who can fight their way through the road closures will be out cheering the Action for Children team of riders. Walton are hosting a 'Pudding and Praise' worship in the evening. (see poster on page 17).

Advance notice that there will be a coffee morning plus Bring & Buy for MacMillan Cancer on Friday 30 September.

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH



One of the events of the 150th anniversary celebrations was a splendid concert by the Almac Bisley Brass Band. It was a fantastic evening (if rather chilly) and for those of us who were not in the know, it was a nice surprise to see Roger Stickland of

the Trinity congregation sat half hidden behind a tuba, contributing to the evenings entertainment. It is probably the only time in my life that I will hear the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from Handel's Messiah followed by 'All that Jazz' from A Chorus Line! A cunning move, as it made the concert even more memorable to those who attended.....Ed



Over the weekend of 11/12 June Knaphill are hosting a Community Flower Festival. It may well be that your church is contributing a display as we have asked local and circuit churches, schools, tradespeople and community groups to participate. All are welcome between 9—6 on Saturday 11 June or 11.30—3.30 on Sunday 12 June.

We will conclude the weekend with a service of Songs of Praise on Sunday 12 at 4.00pm led by Rev David Faulkner.

All are very welcome to join us at any time over the weekend.

 **The Methodist Church in Weybridge**

Café Church

A Global Church Differences in Worship



Sunday 19th June 2016, 6.15 for 6.30pm

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

For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body 1 Corinthians 12, v 13

St Michael's Sheerwater

Once again St Michaels was heavily involved with the 'Hope' weekend at the beginning of May. Grateful thanks are extended to all those around the circuit who helped in any way.

The situation concerning St Michael's and All Saints, Woodham continues to need your prayers, please remember them.

Trinity Methodist Church, Woking

Looking both ways at Trinity

Looking back, we have been having a very busy time at Trinity, particularly over the season of Lent and then Easter.

Throughout Lent, we had a large wooden cross in the church and each week added a symbol representing the suffering Jesus went through on our behalf leading up to the first Easter. These included a bowl and towel, a purple robe and a crown of thorns. On Easter day, all of the symbols were removed and the cross was covered in flowers by the congregation, reminding us that Christ has Risen!

