

The Way Forward

Issue 3, March 2017



A message from our Superintendent

Dear Friends,

We live in interesting times. A new political landscape is developing in America which has an enormous impact across the world. Politics now seems to be done more often, not with earnest debate, but with tweets – instant short messages to convey dramatic opinions.

Perhaps then this year through Lent we need to consider communication. Lent is the time for us to remember the journey Jesus made towards the cross, and the implications that has for our own discipleship. Look at how Jesus communicated :

he walked alongside rather than standing separate in a holy place,
he used images that would have been familiar to his hearers (sheep, vineyards,
trees, unexplained illnesses),
he spoke in parables so that people had to work the implications out for themselves,
thus helping them to grow in faith,
he said things that were not expected.

Of course Jesus was operating in his own culture in his own period of history. Our world is very different. People have often wondered how Jesus would operate in the world of today – would he have been communicating through emails or tweets? would he had sent out universal messages straight to people's mobile phones or iPads? Would he have communicated more through the written rather than the spoken word?

Well we can only speculate. But I feel we have a lot to learn from the tangible-ness of Jesus's activity. He spat on the ground and made a paste to restore someone's sight. He touched lepers and people behaving strangely, and, after the resurrection, he ate fish and he invited Thomas to touch his wounded side. Modern communication is astonishing in its efficiency. Messages are travelling vast distances in split seconds. We now expect our gadgets not only to show us how to travel from A to B but also to direct us away from the traffic jams. We can communicate with lots of people in an instant – no matter which corner of the world they are in – and we can even see their faces while we do it. The use of all this technology has revolutionised the world and when you think of things like engineering or medical developments – it is wonderful.

And yet – I am concerned that our communication is becoming ever more intangible and distant. Our computers and phones and iPads are becoming barriers between us and the person we are communicating with. How can you walk alongside someone when you are only in touch through electronic means? How can you work with them to learn new things? How can you support and care and challenge other people if you are separated by microchips, electronics and satellites?

So – in this new world of 'politics by tweet', I hope we can continue to see the value of what we do in our church communities, where people are present with each other, walking alongside, hearing and responding to the word of God and allowing it to develop their lives. In this Lenten season, may we keep alive the hope of Easter – given to us by the God who came among us as a real human being, lived and died, but then defeated even death and promised us eternal life.

with all good wishes *Clair*

Circuit Mission Weekend 4/5 February 2017

Over the weekend of the 4/5 February our circuit was honoured to receive a visit from the President of Conference, Rev. Dr. Roger Walton and the Vice president, Mrs Rachel Lampard. They came to visit, meet people and to share their experiences of their visit to the refugees in Jordan, along with their hopes and aspirations for increased help and support for refugees both in those Countries who have opened their doors to refugees already and in those counties (the United Kingdom included) who have agreed to take action but have yet to put it into place.

The weekend commenced with a shared supper in the wonderful surroundings of Trinity Methodist Church, Woking. The members of Trinity had converted the worship area into a fabulous environment to seat over 150 circuit members. The organisation of the meal was co-ordinated by members of the Mission Group and all churches contributed generously to the consumables. Believe me, no one went hungry.

The evening began with the lighting of the Circuit Candle, which you will remember was lit for the first time at the inauguration service for the Wey Valley Service in September 2016.

On behalf of the circuit, Rev Dr Claire Potter welcomed Roger and Rachel to the Wey Valley Circuit and thanked them for fitting this visit into their hectic schedules.



After supper Roger and Rachel spoke movingly about their experiences in Jordan and alluded to the visits and support given to this area of Mission by Rev Claire Hargreaves in her work with 'All We Can'. They highlighted the challenges being faced by the aid organisations to treat all refugees fairly and equitably whilst trying to allow these people to retain their dignity and as much control over their own lives as is possible within the restrictions of the host country laws. Roger and Rachel spoke movingly about the hospitality shown to them by everyone they met whatever the living conditions they were having to deal with.

The refugees have very little, not only by our standards but in most cases by the standards of their previous lives. Most are living below the poverty line of the host country yet they offered generous hospitality to Roger & Rachel. Most spoke nostalgically about their homes and said how much they miss the little things such as familiar smells and even the taste of the local water. They worry about losing the memories of their home in the daily struggle to survive.

We heard stories of children who are traumatised; of women who have lost their husbands and are acting as single parents. But there is hope; the aid agencies are working on initiatives to help reduce loneliness, to share knowledge and skills, particularly amongst the young mothers, and with the relaxation of Jordanian rules which forbid refugees being able to work they are organising workshops to teach new skills and allow people the dignity of earning a living.

We watched a short film which highlighted the work being done with refugees by the Methodist Churches in Germany and Italy, which are both small churches within their respective countries. The important role these churches are playing, particularly around language skills which allows for better integration with the local community.

What can we do? At a circuit level, inspired by the work of Rev. Claire Hargreaves we have been helping with refugee communities in Jordan. For those who contributed to the Hairdressing initiative we have confirmation that the donations have arrived in Jordan and awaiting clearance from the authorities. We have assisted locally with funding basic supplies for Syrian refugees who have been homed in Woking.

Roger and Rachel challenged us to do six things:

1. Pray (resources are available from All We Can)
2. Learn as much about the current situation
3. Speak out—write to your Member of Parliament
4. Speak out—write to the Newspapers
5. Do stuff: fundraise or volunteer
6. Give

We give thanks for this opportunity for fellowship and friendship and pray that all those who attended left with reinvigorated resolve to work to the best of their ability to help with Mission initiatives both at home and overseas.

We take this opportunity to thank Woking for their hospitality; to thank the Mission Group for co-ordinating refreshments and managing the arrangements on the night and to all those who provided the food.

Linda Weedon - Circuit Steward

Some members at Merrow Methodist had shared in the Mission Supper on Saturday, and were delighted to extend with all the congregation, a warm welcome to Rachel at morning worship, in a service led by Rev John Hellyer, Chair of the South East District. Worship commenced with a rousing rendition of 'O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing'.

The younger members of the church family joined Rachel to look at her Vice Presidential cross, as she encouraged them to reflect on how what they wear helps them be ready for the tasks they are to carry out. The cross, she explained, was a constant reminder to her as she travelled the Connexion of what God (and the people called Methodist) require of her throughout this year. She also showed the children her wrist band, now worn by many Methodists, carrying the text from Micah, to 'do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly...', explaining that this too reminded her that we should all act fairly, showing God's love in the world, putting God first at all times, irrespective of who we are and what we are doing.

After the children left to continue their own worship, Rachel described her role as three-fold: leadership, public representation, and offering a ministry of invitation and encouragement, wherever she went. Recalling the text from Micah and its relevance at a time of major political turmoil in the UK and around the world, we thought specifically about the welcome offered to those forced to join others as they seek to find places of safety in which to live. Of the world population, one in every 113 is a displaced person, and one in every 4 children here in the UK, live in poverty. The issues faced by Judah in 700BC are as relevant to us now as they were then. Our God is the same God of justice, referred to in the OT covenant between God and his people. Just as John Wesley had a fierce heart for people in situations of poverty, so we should befriend and get to know those in our own communities: the poor and lonely, and newly arrived refugees. Referring to the beatitudes, Rachel invited us to recognize that wherever we are, we are in the right place here and now, and are required to do what we can, to make a difference! She helped us to see that we must accept the responsibility placed on each of us to journey with those in need, doing what is important in God's eyes, learning to walk humbly with God and with each other.

Before joining together as all of Christ's family to share the bread and wine, Rachel invited each of us to write a prayer for someone or somewhere in need. Recalling the words of Amos, she challenged us to respond to her question – 'do you know what I want? I want justice, oceans of justice', as we placed our prayers for wholeness on a 'river of love', cascading like an ever-flowing stream.

Young and old, regular worshipper and visitor felt welcomed and encouraged through this service, and all were glad that we had been part of Rachel's visit to our District. We did indeed 'go out with joy.. and clapped our hands' continuing our fellowship with John and Rachel, over a cup of coffee.

Jenny Jackson, February 5th 2017

Chinese Congregation



It was a privilege to welcome the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference plus our Superintendent Minister to our Chinese congregation on the Sunday afternoon. The Chinese Church use Trinity Methodist Church Premises. It was during Chinese New Year celebrations as the year of the Rooster was being ushered in. A time to look back over the previous year with thanksgiving and reflection, a time to thank God for present opportunities, and a time to trust him for the year ahead. It was a great joy to have Roger, Rachel and Claire address the congregation with a word of welcome and greeting.

The service, which was translated both ways, was followed by a traditional home-made Chinese meal, which was more like a banquet (!), for all guests. It was a very special time as the very hospitable Chinese helped members of the regular Trinity congregation get to know them better.

Trinity greatly appreciated the friendship and encouragement we received from the attendance of the President and Vice President, and will remember the weekend as a very special time of community spirit and Kingdom significance.

Paul Chesworth

No time to rest.....

Before they arrived at Trinity, Roger and Rachel had attended a gathering of Superintendent ministers and members of the Leadership teams from the six circuits of the Western Area of the South East district—which includes the Wey Valley Circuit. This gathering took place at North Camp Methodist Church .

Roger and Rachel spoke about the shape of leadership in the Methodist Church today. They challenged all members of the leadership teams to think about how to bridge and resolve the tensions which inevitably occur and used four key areas as illustrations and to initiate discussions (these had been identified in discussions at Conference in 2016)

1. Institution vs being a movement
2. Top down vs bottom up
3. Pioneering vs Fresh Expressions
4. Political and Cultural divisions.

After talking about these key areas the Leadership teams were asked to talk about how these challenges manifest themselves in out circuits and what steps have been taken, are being taken or could be taken to address and mitigate them.

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet Staff and stewards from other circuit and share thoughts and ideas, successes and challenges.

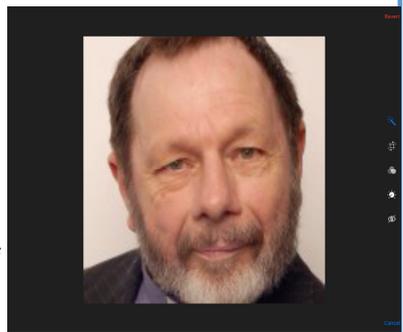
The Chaplaincy Team at the Royal Surrey provides spiritual, religious, pastoral and emotional care to all who request it; that is to all patients, relatives, carers, visitors and staff members at the hospital.

We offer the holistic 'spiritual care' that works alongside medical care to create healing and wellbeing. You do not have to be a 'churchgoer' to use our services, nor are we here to convert you. We believe that all are spiritual in the sense of having a universal 'human spirit', which some express through faith and religion and others do not. Chaplains are here to simply listen and perhaps help you reflect and find strength to cope with your present situation.

The hospital is served by a team of chaplains and volunteers from the Church of England, Free Churches and Roman Catholic Church. We have access to people from other faith groups who we can contact on your behalf. We visit the wards regularly and one of the chaplains is usually 'on call' for emergencies.

The hospital chapel, on level B, is an oasis of quiet which is well used by people of all faiths and none. Regular services of Holy Communion are held and communion can be taken to the bedside. There is the opportunity for people to light candles in the side chapel. Those of the Muslim Faith use the chapel for personal prayer and for Friday communal prayers.

Rev. Allan Taylor



News from West Horsley

After many months of to-ing and fro-ing of furniture from the chapel into the Wesley Room, we are delighted that we are now back worshipping in the chapel for the foreseeable future. The original problem of a pin-hole leak in the central heating pipes under the floor has been resolved, but it meant replacing all the pipework and radiators, removing and re-plastering a large section of the side wall, and some of the floor and then, finally repainting. We are extremely grateful to the Circuit for the grant that they gave us to help with the costs.

Our Carol Praise on December 3rd was a great success with many local people enjoying the opportunity to start the Christmas season. Do join us for our next Songs of Praise on Saturday 6th May at 7.00, which will be part of our Chapel Anniversary celebrations, when the chapel will be 141 years old.

Christmas celebrations went well with, almost, a full house on Christmas Day. We were able to send £150 to All We Can's Syria Appeal and £126.55 to the Number Five project for homeless men in Guildford.

Margaret Faulkner

Merrow News

This quarter, our news focusses on people.

We are sad to be bidding 'farewell' to Ken and Rosemary Mills, who have been very active members of Merrow for many years, and who are preparing to move nearer to family in Dorset. There will be a tribute to Rosemary and Ken in our church magazine soon, but they were well-known around the Circuit, and will be very much missed. They go to their new home with our thanks, best wishes and prayers for their future.

We have also missed our Minister, Rev. Asif Das, who underwent a cardiac procedure before Christmas and who has been making a slow but steady recovery. We continue to hold Asif and Martha in our prayers, and look forward to his return to full health and active work very soon.

In January 2017, we celebrated the platinum wedding anniversary (70 years!) of two of our members, Frank and Cynthia Winder. The wonderful witness of their marriage was marked by a special service on Saturday afternoon 21st January at Merrow Methodist Church (which was packed full!), followed by a celebration party which included all the family and many Merrow members and friends.

Finally, now that we are part of a bigger Circuit, Merrow has been pleased to welcome preachers from the former Woking & Walton Circuit; we thank God for the way in which our worship has been enriched as a result.

As we approach Lent and Easter, we look forward all the possibilities for new life that this season brings.

Joan Tabraham



**Join us at
the
Traidcraft
BIG BREW**

...and help change the future
for families in some of the
world's poorest communities

 **We're holding a Traidcraft Big Brew, please come, have fun & help us raise money!**

When: **Thursday 16 March 2017 10.30-12.30**

Where: **Merrow Methodist Church**

For more information contact: **Glenys Magill 01483 823587**



 **TRAIDCRAFT** traidcraft.org/bigbrew

Cranleigh.

We have had a busy time during the last months, with Christmas events and in January the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Our Community Tea, on December 10, was attended by about 80 guests, and was a great success, thanks are due to Jane O'Leary and her band of volunteers, helped by our own church members. Our augmented church choir performed their Christmas concert during the afternoon and raised about £80 for AFC. Over £140 was added to this when the concert was presented in the magnificent new hall at Elmbridge Village on December 20th. At the Gift Service (December 11th) and on Christmas Day, collections were also for AFC. Two carol services were held on December 18th: the morning one in our own church, conducted by our own minister, Claire, and in the evening we joined in the Village Carol Service in St Nicolas Parish Church.

In January, we joined the various events organised by the local committee of Churches Together, and struggled through the icy streets to attend early morning prayer meetings! On Sunday, January 22nd, the United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, was held in our church with a very large congregation. The Service was organised by our minister, Claire, with all local clergy participating. The preacher was a well-known Methodist minister, Rev. Harvey Richardson, and the subject matter was based on material published by Churches Together on the subject of 'Crossing the Barriers'.

Members of our Church Project Group, the Church Council and other interested members of the church have been meeting to discuss more proposals for modification to our building – particularly of course in relation to budgetary constraints, although there is hope that more grants may be obtainable and our own members may be able to raise more money in the ways that have been successful before. The western side of the building is particularly our concern, including kitchen and toilet facilities, as well as the needs of the nursery that currently uses our premises.

Other matters which continue to occupy us are to do with other sides of outreach – contact with possible future Syrian refugees, or maybe helping people who have come from other parts of Europe with little knowledge of English, and who perhaps feel isolated while children quickly adjust to this different environment in school. Adults may feel the effects of Brexit and be afraid of being sent back where they came from.

Other activities continue, though some have difficulties! There are almost always children in the Sunday Club, the prayer group meets every Tuesday morning, the choir sings an introit and an anthem every Sunday morning, a Bible Study Group meets fortnightly, but one group which flourishes more than most is the Wednesday Group which recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary, although it was originally called 'Young Wives'!

Glenda Sewell

Godalming United Church
 40th Anniversary Celebrations
Flower Festival
Together with Flowers

Celebrating the joining together of Methodist and United Reformed Churches in Godalming

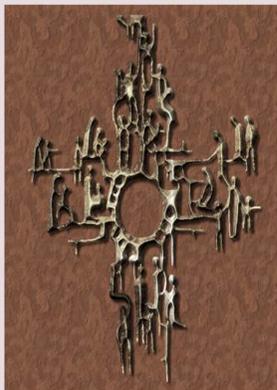
Saturday 10th June: 10.30 - 5.00 pm
Sunday 11th June: 12.00-4.00pm

Refreshment will be available both days

*Saturday 11th
 March*
at KMC
6.15pm
 Beetle Drive,
 Quizzes
 and supper
 Tickets from
 Lynda Shore



Practical Aspects of Christian Spirituality



St. Mary's
 Quarry Street
 Guildford
 09.30 – 12.30
 on
 Saturday 25 March

led by Sarah Hutton
 ~Spiritual Growth Facilitator

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

Please bring a notebook and coloured pens and pencils with you.

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

Songs of Praise



Saturday 6th May
West Horsley
Methodist Church

(next to W.H. Village Hall)

7.00p.m.

Come and sing a selection of favourite hymns.

Phone 01483 282474 to make requests.

GODALMING UNITED CHURCH – 2017 ANNIVERSARY YEAR

The New Year began in festive mode with a Celebration Lunch to mark the start of our 40th year as a “united” Church when Godalming’s United Reformed and Methodist Churches came together. The two congregations, near neighbours on either side of the Town Bridge over the Wey, had been moving ever closer for several years, and so the union was a natural development when it formally took place in 1977. (See our logo below – two churches and the river.) For lunch on 7th January we took over the former UR Church – now “Bel and the Dragon”, a fine restaurant – and were joined by many former members and friends for fellowship, reminiscences and an onward look to our future.

Our Covenant Service the following day was shared by Paul Hulme with Rev John Goatley and Rev Norman Edsall – who celebrates his golden anniversary in the ministry this year. We are indeed fortunate to have John and Norman as ordained members of our congregation.

On 15th January we hosted Godalming’s annual Churches Together united service, marking the launch of the week of prayer for Christian Unity. Over 200 folk were comfortably accommodated (and a “first” was achieved in providing coffee for the multitude afterwards!). The theme, God’s forgiveness for our transgressions, was linked to the gospel reading on the Prodigal Son and the breaking-down of barriers.

Our charitable link with The Gambia continues. We had several anxious days during the political crisis in January and were thankful for the peaceful outcome. On January 21st a 40-foot container departed for Banjul with more much-needed educational supplies.

The first weekend in February was marked by our annual pantomime – this year “Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves”. It was again specially written to accommodate the cast of over 80 – scores of children, as well as adults only too happy to let their hair down! Another triumph for Barbara Keene and her team of helpers.

As our Fortieth Anniversary Year continues, do join us on:

Sat Mar 4 7:00 **Godalming Band Anniversary Concert** Tickets (£6 adults, £3 children) from 01483 355129 or frymaile@gmail.com – celebrating the joint anniversaries of the Church and Band (80 years). A selection of music chosen by the Band, the URC & Methodist churches and the Salvation Army (we are also “home” to the members of Godalming’s former Salvation Army corps) ... “Why should the devil have all the best tunes?!” **Book early – this will be a popular concert!**

Sat Apr 8 3:00–5:00 **Messy Church:** family Easter activities: Easter egg trail, Easter gardens, crafts, party tea

Fri Apr 14 evening **Music for Easter:** U3A choirs

And also for the return of some of our former ministers and members to lead morning service:

Sun Mar 19 10:30 Rev Anne Baldock

Sun Apr 2 10:30 Rev Paul Dean

Sun May 7 10:30 Rev Michael Hunt

Sun June 4 10:30 Rev Bryony Arnold

Nancy Wilks



Rushmoor Male Voice Choir

At **Cranleigh Methodist Church**

8th April 2017 @ 7.30pm

Raising Funds For 



GODALMING BAND ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

SAT MARCH 4th 7:00

United Church, Bridge Rd., Godalming GU7 3DU

Band 80 years

Godalming United Church 40 years

Tickets: 01483 355129 or frymaile@gmail.com £6 & £3

Guildford St Mary's

As I write during the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and read a frank article from Lord (Leslie) Griffiths in the Methodist Recorder bemoaning Methodism's slowness to engage ecumenically, I reflect on what a privilege it is to see a resurgence of ecumenical activity in Guildford and for Methodism to be at the very heart of it.

It is fantastic that around 30 churches support Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy and its work through volunteer Chaplains and Street Angels. The Chaplaincy focusses on Christian service. In parallel Common Ground, based at St Mary's, is gaining momentum with its complementary focus on Christian Mission, through a threefold emphasis on seeking ways of Telling the Gospel Afresh, Learning to Pray and offering Christian Pathways to Wisdom. Common Ground represents a great opportunity for Christians of all denominations to work together in Mission.

Over the Christmas period Common Ground participated in two initiatives -taking a unit in Guildford's Pop-up Village under the title Christmas Joy where we ministered to shoppers and, indeed, traders in the Village in the run-up to Christmas. On New Year's Eve we opened St. Mary's for much of the day so that people could come in to pray, let go of the rather challenging 2016 and prepare themselves for 2017. We had a mixture of prayer stations and half-hourly Reflections' over 50 people visited to take advantage of this and much appreciation was expressed. We are looking at how to translate those experiences into future outreach opportunities.

The scale of the opportunity is illustrated by the number of visitors who came to events in the run up to Christmas; approaching 1,000 people. Common Ground will be establishing its own website shortly but in the meantime key events will feature on the Guildford Methodist Church website, www.guildfordmethodist.org.

On a smaller scale, Tuesday Mix, a successor to our long-running Tuesday Fellowship has grown from small roots when we moved to St. Mary's. Tuesday Mix is a welcoming and thriving afternoon group offering fellowship not only to St. Mary's worshippers but to folk from other Circuit and Guildford churches and local residents. The group meets fortnightly, usually with an outside speaker, and all are welcome to come along. Help with transport for those attending is always welcomed.

We extend a warm welcome to all readers to our regular activities of Coffee and Cake (10.30 to 12.00, usually on the 4th Thursday of the month) and our series of Lent Reflections which will run from 2 March to 13 April on Thursday lunchtimes. The format remains the same with a 15 minute Reflection followed by discussion over a bread and soup lunch. This year we will be looking at the great "I am" sayings of Christ. See the advertisement in this issue. Just before that series starts, we'll launch Lent with an interdenominational evening service on Ash Wednesday.

Come and see what we're up to at Surrey's oldest church.

1st Birthday Party!
WEY VALLEY CIRCUIT CELEBRATION
Saturday 3rd June 2017

An entertainment for all the Circuit.

There is a plan to celebrate the first year of the new Wey Valley Methodist Circuit with an entertainment that offers something for everyone to enjoy. Ideas have included a canal side walk from Godalming to Walton, an afternoon tea dance or an evening of music and drama presented by the churches for the churches.

To begin with, it would be good if one person from each church could join a planning group which would gather and develop ideas. I hope that you will talk among yourselves and respond with names and ideas to my email address which is:

Johnpotter169@btinternet.com

June is not that far away and rehearsal time is limited. I look forward to hearing from you and would be grateful if you could respond as soon as possible and certainly by the end of March

(Just in case you are in doubt ,may I introduce myself as John Potter, husband of Claire)

15 minute Lent Reflections
followed by a Bread & Soup Lunch
at
St. Mary's Church, Quarry Street
Guildford
Thursdays - from
2 March to 13 April - 12.15 for 12.30
Looking forward to seeing you there

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 14th June 2017 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!

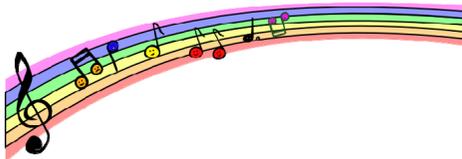
The **Methodist** Church 



**COFFEE MORNING &
PLANT SALE**

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017
9am - 1pm

Byfleet Methodist Church
Rectory Lane, Byfleet KT14 7LL



**Byfleet Methodist Church
welcome you to their**

**CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS**

Afternoon Tea at 3.00 p.m.

Celebration Songs of Praise Concert
at 4.30 p.m.

SUNDAY 5TH MARCH 2017

The Concert will be a mixture of Music, Poetry and Dance

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



FLOWER FESTIVAL

20TH - 21ST MAY

Including an exhibition by Byfleet Art Group, music, refreshments available throughout the weekend with a ploughman's lunch available on the Saturday

I have recently seen a wonderful DVD which has been produced by the first Anna Chaplain, Debbie Thrower, who works in Alton. We are buying a copy for the Circuit.

This is what Anna Chaplaincy is all about :

First and foremost an Anna Chaplain is someone who will listen. An Anna Chaplain is sent out by their congregation to work with people of strong, little or no faith at all. Their task is to promote the spiritual welfare of men and women. Many different kinds of people are involved in pastoral visiting, taking a care home service and offering a listening ear. What is distinctive about Anna Chaplaincy is that it is ecumenical, community based and it takes a narrative approach to helping people navigate the choppy waters of older age. Anna Chaplains are sent out with the authority, credibility and affirmation of the churches in whose name they visit. The community nature of this form of chaplaincy is what makes it so key to expanding ministry among older people. Debbie Thrower, the UK's first Anna Chaplain says: It's like planting a flag in the middle of town and saying 'older people matter'.

Anna Chaplaincy offers hope to those in later life. It is a gracious gift from local churches to promote the spiritual well-being of older people. It affirms those in later life, helping them to celebrate the gift of life, while not underestimating the difficulties associated with growing older.

See <http://www.thegiftofyears.org.uk/anna-chaplaincy-older-people> for more information about Anna Chaplaincy or talk to the Rev. Allan Taylor.

This DVD offers a very careful training resource for anyone who meets people who are suffering from dementia. It gives sensible, practical advice and I believe it will be an ideal resource for a meeting of pastoral visitors, many of whom encounter people with dementia frequently. I have only bought the one copy for our circuit, so please let me know if your church would like to borrow it and when, so that I can coordinate its use.

Claire Potter

URGENT HELP REQUIRED

Can you spare between one and a half and two hours a month, or more, to deliver nourishing meals to the housebound in and around Bramley?

Rowleys Centre for the Community are now producing meals for delivery in Cranleigh and the surrounding villages. After the end of January there are no drivers to deliver meals to Bramley, Blackheath and Shamley Green.

Mileage is paid and every assistance will be given when you start. If you can help, or would like more information, please ring Tina on 01483 277155.

THANK YOU

Many thanks
Jackie Avery
Secretary,
Board of Trustees, Rowleys Centre for the Community



Woking Choral Society
120th Anniversary Season

Spring Concert
Haydn The Creation

On Saturday 1st April at 7.30 pm Woking Choral Society has a change from its usual venue to perform in Guildford Cathedral, under the direction of its conductor Ben Palmer.

The choir's performance, which will be accompanied by acclaimed London ensemble the Orchestra of St Paul's, features outstanding vocal soloists:

Felicity Hayward *soprano*

Tom Raskin *tenor*

Nicholas Mogg *bass*

Haydn was inspired to compose The Creation following his visit to Britain where he heard the oratorios of Handel being performed. The Creation depicts the creation of the world as described in the book of Genesis. The work is structured in three parts. In parts I and II, depicting the creation, the soloists represent the archangels. In part III, the bass and soprano represent Adam and Eve.

Tickets cost £22 and £16 , with students in full time education and children £5. Book online at www.guildford-cathedral.org/events/boxoffice or by phone 01483 547881
Website : www.wokingchoral.org.uk

Twitter: @WokingChoral

Remember that the Circuit has a website which is the 'window' to the outside world. Please remember to use it (and provide information to keep it updated).

www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk



**GODALMING UNITED
CHURCH**

Bridge Rd
Godalming
GU7 3DU

www.guc.org.uk

SATURDAY APRIL 8th 3:00 – 5:00

Come and celebrate!

Family activities: Easter egg trail

Easter gardens Crafts & games Party tea

Admission free donation of £2 per child suggested



Methodist Chaplaincy to the University of Surrey

For many years the Guildford Circuit has provided a part-time chaplain to the University of Surrey. I am one of a team of 9 chaplains. The Anglican chaplain is the coordinating chaplain and he and the Catholic chaplain are full-time. The rest of us (Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Hindu, Greek Orthodox, and me) are part-time. In addition, a Humanist chaplain is soon to be appointed.

The chaplaincy has a flat at the base of one of the accommodation blocks close to the heart of the campus. There is also the Quiet Centre, which is difficult to find and difficult to access. Neither building has been properly maintained for a number of years because there was a major plan to build a new multi-faith centre. However because of insufficient funds and changed priorities, the University has, after a long time, decided that this project will not now happen and the funding has been returned to the donors. The Quiet Centre is now to be upgraded and repaired, with improved access and signage. That should happen during this year. It is likely that the work of the chaplaincy will then be centred at the Quiet Centre. We are hopeful that more people will find it.

Very few Methodist students are referred to University chaplains these days. I have started a Facebook page 'Methodists at Surrey University' where, along with other things, I post the times I will be around if anyone wants to come and talk. I usually spend an hour in the chaplaincy for that purpose and a few staff and students have popped in from time to time – with a wide variety of needs and issues. But the rest of the time, I am out and about visiting. I have been focussing on the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. I sat in on one of the Guildford School of Arts administrative meetings where they were trying out ice creams for the theatre and it was only right for me to help them out! That was a rare lighter moment. I have discovered that staff are under huge pressure most of the time, due to restructuring, cuts and the constant pressure for the University to rise in league tables.

I frequently go to the midweek lunchtime recital which is given by music students and is part of the performance elements of their courses. I have begun to get to know others there. Then there are wonderful encounters such as a drama teacher I met in a queue who poured out her moral dilemmas over some of the material she was required to teach. That led to me attending two of her classes which were fascinating. I've also met one of the managers of learning support – again through a chance encounter and that has led to several conversations about her work and her plans for the future. Various members of Guildford churches work at the University and I have met with some of these and heard about their work and interests, and how their faith relates to their working life.

There have also been events: such as the grand celebrations of the University's 50th anniversary, which involved a robed procession up Guildford High Street to a ceremony at Holy Trinity Church with speeches by University and Civic dignitaries. At the other end of the spectrum was an event to mark Black History Month with the Students Union – a rather haphazard, but nonetheless moving, memorial event with songs, poems, and candles floating in the fountains.

The University has a Faith Forum as part of the Equalities and Diversity team which brings together staff, chaplains and students from some of the faith societies to consider how faith and belief is supported on campus. They also planned events for Inter-faith week. The Prevent strategy is another area where chaplaincy has a clear role. This is the Government's scheme to prevent radicalisation. Some chaplains around the country are uncomfortable with this, feeling that it could promote prejudice and limit genuine research and free speech.

This year I attended the Chaplains in Higher Education Liaison Group (CHELG) annual 3-day convention. It was very helpful to learn from the experiences of others. One of the speakers highlighted the constant market pressure on Universities. I have seen this frequently. The focus is on rising through the league tables, being at the cutting edge of technological developments, and producing students who will have a great economic impact. This speaker helped us to consider another purpose of universities: producing well-rounded, honest, reliable, moral human beings who can enrich communities. Although at Surrey, there is a great deal of attention on the welfare of students, the market forces do undoubtedly speak loudest. This is where chaplaincy can have a huge impact – in helping with that other, less-definable purpose.

The chaplaincy at Brunel University has developed a 'rabbit café'. The chaplain brings her rabbits in and for a day each week, anyone can drop in, have a coffee and stroke a rabbit! It sounds strange, but it has really worked. Other places have board game evenings, or bring in Lego. The idea is to provide something unthreatening and fun to do in a safe and friendly environment. People do not have to talk, but if they want to, chaplains are there to listen. I would like to try something like this. I am not experienced in caring for rabbits - but Lego feels more possible! So if anyone in the Circuit has any Lego hidden away in their attic that they would like to donate to the chaplaincy, please could you get in touch with me? I'll let you know how it goes. This would enable me to meet more students, and perhaps enable them to discover the relevance of the chaplaincy for them.

University chaplaincy, then, cannot be defined either by numbers or outputs. So much is about encounters and then seeing where they lead. It is about having time to listen and walk alongside people in pressurised environments, taking an interest, being with them as they face dilemmas or ask questions. It is a privilege to be part of this huge, bustling, constantly moving community, where God's kingdom can be found.

Claire Potter



**Coffee
&
Cake
at
St Mary's**

**Take a break from your shopping
and meet up with friends**

Thursday 27 April:

~ featuring the work of Footsteps

Thursday 25 May:

**featuring The Therapy Garden -
Normandy
(including a plant stall)**

10.30 – 12 noon



Everyone welcome

Methodist Women in Britain
South-East District Day



“Following the Butterfly”

Speaker: Mrs Rachel Collins
2011–2016 MWiB Helen Kim Memorial Scholar

at **Tonbridge Methodist Church**
Higham Lane, Tonbridge, TN10 4JT
<http://tonbridgethodistchurch.org>

Saturday 18 March 2017
10.30am (for 11.00 start) to 3.30pm

Bring a packed lunch – drinks provided
£3.00 minimum day charge covers refreshments
and contribution to expenses

Collection in support of CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young)

Local contact: Daphne Arden 01732 355620
roi.daff@gmail.com

A message from the Editor

Welcome to the third edition of the Wey Forward . Another bumper edition which reflects on the very successful Mission weekend and looks at the various events for the Lent and Easter seasons.

Thanks to all those who have contributed; I couldn't produce this without your editorials. Send in whatever you wish the rest of the circuit churches to be aware of in the life of your church but do remember that this is the *Wey Forward!*

I extend my thanks to Margaret and Linda for their assistance with this edition.

The deadline for Issue 4 is Tuesday 2 May 2017

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

ED (aka Allen Weedon)

N.B. If you would like any of the posters included in this edition for your notice boards please email the above address

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 2017.

The meetings are being held on the following days :

Wednesday 26 April 2017 7.30pm

Wednesday 3 May 2017 7.30pm

Wednesday 17 May 2017 7.30pm

Wednesday 31 May 2017 7.30pm

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



A Night of Eastern Promise

*DRAMA FROM THE EAST AND MUSIC FROM THE
MUSICALS*

Thursday 9th March - 7:45pm

Friday 10th March - 7:45pm

Saturday 11th March - 7:15pm

Walton Methodist
Church Hall
Terrace Road
Walton-On-Thames

Tickets £12 (to include a 'High Tea')

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



THE MUSEUM OF METHODISM – AN INVITATION!

Roughly once a fortnight you'll find me at Guildford Station, preparing for another trip to London and City Road, via Waterloo and Old Street. About 18 months ago I became a 'heritage steward' at John Wesley's Chapel and the Museum of Methodism in City Road – roughly halfway between Old Street and Moorfields on the Northern Line. It's a wonderful place to visit, and if you haven't already, I'd be delighted to show you around.

The Museum has three basic components.

First, there's **Wesley's Chapel** – which functions as a 'working' Methodist Church. Thirty years ago the membership had declined and the place seemed ready for closure, but happily, the picture has changed dramatically. If you turn up at 11.00 am for the Sunday morning service you'll find the church almost full, with a wonderfully welcoming, diverse congregation. I've known the present minister, Rev. Lord Leslie Griffiths, for nearly fifty years and, since I generally steward on a Thursday, have the opportunity of hearing him preach at the lunchtime service (open to anyone), which is held every week at 12.45 pm followed by tea and sandwiches.

Wesley's Chapel dates from the 1770s, when the Methodist movement was well established and showing signs that it might not always be a 'ginger group' within the Church of England. Inevitably there have been many changes – plaques added, the gallery given a rake, pews installed, and the original three-decker pulpit lowered!

There are stories about all these things and as stewards we try to tailor our commentary to the people who are in front of us. Some are as Methodist as John Wesley and know a great deal about our history and traditions; others may have simply come in off the street because it's cold outside! Since we try, like our founder, to be 'friends to all and enemies of none', we make everyone welcome and some have travelled a very long way. Recently I chatted with a couple from the Carolinas (U.S.A.), two ladies from Bulgaria, a young Brazilian, a group from Korea and a family from Ghana. This doesn't surprise me as we have over 15,000 visitors each year from all over the world.

Beneath the church is the **Museum of Methodism** itself, which has recently been completely refurbished and modernised and is very impressive. You can begin by taking the weight off your feet and watching a short video which introduces visitors to the museum and to Methodism itself. Apart from the exhibits, we have a shop which sells everything from books and mementos to replica teapots!

My favourite part of the Museum of Methodism is **John Wesley's House**, which never fails to fascinate visitors of every age. We have material for school parties, and illustrated guides in a range of foreign languages. Some of the furniture and fittings (e.g. the beds and some of the chairs) in the house are 'contemporary but not original' and have been donated by kind benefactors over the years. Others – such as John and Charles' writing desks and cabinets, John's kneeler, the books, clothes, and the famous 'electrical machine', are all original items. Perhaps the most moving place to visit is the little prayer

room where Wesley used to begin and end each day in prayer and Bible reading.

A maximum of twelve visitors can go around the house at any one time (some of the floorboards are original, and the rooms are rather small) but there is always something which catches an individual's attention or interest, and it's very moving to be able to bring out the personal side of our Methodist story. And I haven't mentioned John Wesley's tomb outside, or the Foundry Chapel (which contains the original pews, Charles Wesley's organ and is still used for Holy Communion each Wednesday) or the toilets downstairs, which are among the oldest 'gents' in London and still in full working order – and use!

We are all volunteers and receive only a modest contribution towards travelling expenses, but have a small discount in the shop and as much tea or coffee as we can consume! About three times a year the stewards meet together with our curator (Christian Dettlaff, a kind and very able administrator who worked previously at the V&A Museum in Kensington) and discuss how to improve our service to the public.

Do come and visit us. You'll probably need about an hour and a half to cover all three main areas of museum, chapel and house, but you can equally well pop in for twenty minutes to look at one aspect. Admission is free! And – if you have the time and inclination – you might even consider becoming a heritage steward yourself. Have a chat with me if you're interested. You can visit the web site at: www.wesleyschapel.org.uk

Barrie Tabraham

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**Trinity Woking.**



**A Social Evening will be held at Trinity Woking  
on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-9pm  
in aid of The Garden Fund.**

**There is to be an illustrated talk by Mike Tozer about  
his sailing adventure from**

**Fiji to Tahiti as a buddy with the Jubilee Sailing Trust,  
followed by Pizza and Salads  
followed by a Quiz led by Ian Duncan.**

**Cost £10.(half price for children)**

**To help with catering, please contact Administrator at  
Trinity.**



## Update on refugee support

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, Trinity Methodist Church hosted a presentation and update on my latest visit to All We Can refugee projects in Jordan. There was a great response from the Circuit to the appeal for donations for the hairdressing project at Talbiah Refugee Camp, Amman, Jordan. At the time of writing, we know that the parcel has arrived and is in the process of being cleared through Jordanian customs. Thank you everyone who gave items and money towards this and for your continuing interest in this vital work.



All We Can has now extended its humanitarian relief to refugees who



have fled to Lebanon. The charity is working with partner Medair to provide shelter to refugees in the Bekaa Valley.

Read Fatuma's story at [www.allwecan.org.uk](http://www.allwecan.org.uk).

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is urgent. All We Can has found a local partner who can deliver aid but has to raise a minimum of £10,000 to be able to start the aid programme. I am preparing a report for the Circuit Leadership Team which might help the Circuit to consider if it could sponsor all or part of this.

Locally we are in contact with Woking Borough Council and recently explored the possibility of offering a property as a home to refugees. Ultimately the property was found to be not suitable for the needs of the families, but other ways of helping are possible. Weybridge Methodist Church recently raised enough money to equip a kitchen for one of the families coming into the borough. There are opportunities for volunteering – for example, teaching English, befriending, taking refugees to appointments. Let me know if you are interested in any of these.

The community in Cranleigh are preparing for welcoming refugees, and have received training for this purpose, an initiative pioneered by Revd Claire Potter.

Walton Methodist Church will be hosting the walkers from Refugee Tales in the summer as they walk to raise awareness of the situations of asylum seekers and refugees in the UK.

Please do let me know of any events or fundraising activities for refugees that are taking place in your churches. Jessica and I will be travelling to Jordan again in May and hope to see the hairdressing project at work in Talbiah!

*Claire Hargreaves*

[aerolo@aol.com](mailto:aerolo@aol.com)  
01483536638

# Make a difference to the night-life of Guildford!



## ***Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy is RECRUITING NOW for volunteers to:***

**Join our Friday or Saturday Street Angel teams, one night a month**

**Guildford Street Angels** are now in their ninth year and our streets are noticeably calmer now than they were then! Street Angels really have made a big difference!

Street Angels are out on the town centre streets between 10.30 pm and 4.00 am. Their values are selflessness and being non-judgmental, integrity, honesty, professionalism, collaboration and excellence. They try to show the love of God through practical care and support to all who are out and about at night in Guildford.

*If you would like an application form or require further information about this exciting volunteering opportunity, please contact the Coordinator, Fiona Ford at [guildfordstreetangels@gmail.com](mailto:guildfordstreetangels@gmail.com) or tel. 07717 876853 – applications currently being accepted, until 31st March.*

## A Walk into Christmas

What an inspired way to bring the Christmas story to life! The labyrinth created in the church at Trinity on 22<sup>nd</sup> December was the inspiration of Anna Koslowska. It took us from creation (*in the beginning was the Word...and the Word was God*), through the prophecy of Isaiah (*the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light*) to the familiar narratives of Advent and the Nativity as told in the Gospels. Seven tableaux were presented, each one illustrating a different stage in the journey and culminating in the manger scene.

As 'walkers' arrived in the Narthex they were greeted by one of the narrators who proceeded to lead them through the labyrinth telling the story scene by scene. In the first scene we saw Mary with the baby in her arms surrounded by candles, representing the prophecy of Isaiah told 700 years before the birth of Jesus. In the next two scenes we saw the visitations of the angel, first to Mary and then to Joseph. Then we followed Mary and Joseph along the road to Bethlehem where their repeated attempts to find accommodation were thwarted until the innkeeper directed them to the stable. In scene five we stood with the shepherds in the field and watched as their customary nightly routine was transformed by the unearthly appearance of the angel, causing them first mute terror, then wonder and finally the realisation that they must make their way to Bethlehem. Next we joined the magi observing the stars and studying their charts, determining where and when the new king was to be born. Finally we arrived in Bethlehem where Mary and Joseph sat in the stable with the new-born Jesus. We joined the shepherds as they worshipped and glorified God, and the magi as they knelt in reverence and offered their gifts.



At the end there was an opportunity for reflection, and hopefully the experience of some new insights from this imaginative and different way of studying the Christmas story.

Over the afternoon and evening sessions over 50 people took the journey and more than 25 actors took the parts in the tableaux. No mean feat: it required four Marys, three Josephs, six wise men, three angels and so on! Thanks must go not only to them but to everyone else who enabled the event to happen: to Simon & Iris Che and our friends in the Chinese congregation who organised refreshments and took part in the

journey, to Trevor Ledger and a doughty band of helpers who constructed the set (and dismantled it the following morning), and most of all to Anna for taking the initiative to bring the event into being. Where did she get the idea from we all asked? This is what she said:

*"I was thinking about the Nativity story and how it is seen as just that – a story. I thought that so many times we overcomplicate it and twist it from what it originally says in the Bible. I wanted to do an event that was interesting, but something that was honest and something that comes straight from the Bible, straight from God.*

*Reading the Gospels I could see that the birth of Jesus was a journey, especially for Mary and Joseph. It was a journey of their faith, something I think we should learn from and something we should experience; not just watch from a distance, but really experience what Mary and Joseph might be thinking and feeling at the time. So I thought we could do something where the audience moves around and quite literally goes with Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the wise men on their journeys. And that's where the idea of a labyrinth came in."*

*Anna Koslowska and David Lander*



### **Connexional Heritage Days I**

In the planning of our successful exhibition to celebrate 150years of Methodism at Knaphill, we received invaluable help from the Methodist Heritage Team. We greatly appreciated their guidance in making the exhibition multi-dimensional and interactive.

Shortly after we were asked by the new Heritage Officer from the Heritage team to run a workshop at both of the two Regional Heritage and Archive Networking Days in York and Salisbury, to share our experiences (planning, research, different approaches...how each church has a story to tell). As well as our own workshops we attended others over a wide range of related topics (archiving, useful websites, church artefacts) which showed the amount of interesting heritage and social history we have in the Methodist Church, the need to preserve it and in some instances how little importance we sometimes give to it.

The Methodist Heritage Team is very keen for us to open our churches to the local public and see it as important part of mission in our community. For people interested in archiving and heritage we would recommend that you look out for information on and attend next years heritage event.

For further information contact Owen Roberts, Methodist Heritage Officer [robert-so@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:robert-so@methodistchurch.org.uk) Liz & Mike Funning Knaphill

# Diary Dates

| Date                                 | Time     | Event                                                            | Venue               |
|--------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 02/09/16/23/30<br>March & 5/12 April | 12.15    | Lent Reflections and frugal lunch                                | Guildford St Marys  |
| 4 March                              | 7.00pm   | Band Concert                                                     | Godalming           |
| 5 March                              | 3.00 pm  | Afternoon tea, followed by Praise Concert for Church Anniversary | Byfleet             |
| 9/10/11 March                        | 7.45pm   | A Night of Eastern Promise drama & Music                         | Walton              |
| 11 March                             | 6.15 pm  | Beetle Drive                                                     | Byfleet             |
| 16 March                             | 10.30 am | Coffee Morning for Tradecraft                                    | Merrow              |
| 25 March                             | 9—12.30  | Practical aspects of Christianity                                | Guildford St Mary's |
| 30 March                             | 7.45 pm  | Circuit Meeting                                                  | Woking              |
| 8 April                              | 9—1      | Coffee morning and Plant Sale                                    | Byfleet             |
| 8 April                              | 3—5      | Easter Egg hunt                                                  | Godalming           |
| 8 April                              | 7.30pm   | Male Voice Choir concert                                         | Cranleigh           |
| 6 May                                | 7.00pm   | Songs of Praise                                                  | West Horsley        |
| 20/21 May                            | 10.00    | Flower Festival                                                  | Byfleet             |
| <b>ADVANCE DATES</b>                 |          |                                                                  |                     |
| 3 June                               | TBA      | Circuit 1st Birthday celebration                                 | TBA                 |
| 10/11 June                           | 10.00    | Flower Festival                                                  | Godalming           |
| 14 June                              | 8.00pm   | Jazz Concert                                                     | Addlestone          |