

The Wey Forward

Issue 5, September—November 2017



A message from our Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the start of our second Connexional year as the Wey Valley Circuit.

I feel we are very fortunate to have this river with such a great name running through the length of our Circuit!

In the last year I feel that I have seen and heard every possible pun on the name of the river 'Wey'. Now I have said that, I am sure plenty more will be thought up!

When we walked the Wey on the Circuit walk in June we saw narrow boats called 'Wey to go' and 'This is the Wey'. As the day progressed, we kept assuring ourselves that this walk was 'downhill all the Wey'. In Cranleigh there is a hairdresser called the 'Wey Ahead'.

All these phrases are about travelling and moving on. The way is a path, a direction, a route.

Our circuit magazine's name 'Wey Forward' is visionary, (and I can say that because I was not the one who thought it up!). It gives a positive intentional impression. We are following a route into the future. And as we do that, we take with us all of our traditions and experiences from the past, we digest them and learn from them – the difficult parts as well as the good ones – and we travel on. There is always a sense of movement, of new things emerging, of older things changing and developing.



There are places where the Wey is very sleepy and almost still and others where it rushes over weirs with great ferocity. That variety is not a bad image for our Circuit either. We do need at times to stop and take stock, to make space to listen to God and to ensure that all voices are heard. At times we also need to move on so that our churches are seeking all the time to live out a relevant witness to God's love and forgiveness in their own communities. The world is changing rapidly. Churches need to change too, but not without taking care of all people and their thoughts and not without waiting on God. As a community of varied people, it is unsurprising that some want to move more quickly than others, on all sorts of issues.

So what is the Wey Forward? Is there one way forward or many? And who decides? One of Fred Pratt Green's hymns includes the words

"Though what's ahead is mystery,
and life itself is ours on lease.
each day the Spirit says to me:
Go forth in peace" (STF 709)

We cannot have answers to many of our questions but we can walk forward together in faith and hope, trusting that God's Spirit will guide and inspire us. Jesus told his disciples that he is the way and the truth and the life. He showed them that meant loving neighbours and enemies, picking up people who were downtrodden, welcoming everyone, and valuing the human being behind their condition, or their background, or their culture, or their lifestyle. Jesus, the way, is the model for our way.

With every good wish,

Claire

Downhill all the Wey

45,000 paces

20.2 miles

14 canal locks

13 churches

1 Birthday



Members of nine of the Wey Valley Circuit's thirteen churches joined the Circuit's first birthday celebration walk on a bright, sunny Saturday early in June. The Wey Navigation was constructed as far as Guildford about 350 years ago and even the four miles from Guildford on to Godalming have been used for 250 years. The tow path follows the water's edge for over 20 miles from Godalming to the point where the Wey flows into the Thames. The tow path begins at the car park of Godalming United Church and the Town Lock in Weybridge is a minute or two from Weybridge Methodist Church. The water flows within easy reach of most of the Circuit churches, with the disused Wey/Arun canal branching to Cranleigh and the Basingstoke Canal passing Sheerwater, Woking and Knaphill. Only West Horsley is left high and dry away from the river, with Walton placed firmly by the Thames.

Thirteen people left Godalming at 8.15am in the morning, with various church members joining and leaving the route during the day as they passed St Mary's, Stoughton, Mellow, Byfleet and Addlestone. About 30 gallons of tea, (thank you to Linda and her team), were demolished at Weybridge, when we arrived at 5.15pm, well ahead of schedule. Five of the group, including Superintendent Claire, walked the full distance.

Perfect weather, a tranquil setting, wonderful views, deer, kestrels, swans and cygnets, John Donne's house, canoes, a narrow boat called 'Epworth', iridescent blue butterflies, good company, another narrow boat called 'Wey ahead'. Thank you for coming: perhaps, next year, we will do it by boat.

John Potter



News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

We had a very nice evening of Jazz in June, so thanks to Phil and Pat who worked very hard to make it a great success.

The band was the Phil Brown Swingtet and this was their fourth year with us. If you look on our web site you can see them in action: www.addlestonemethodist.org.uk/news/phil-brown-swingtet.html

We had Addlestone Singers on 16th July at 2.30pm—a sort of a tea party for family and friends. Then on 21st the children who are leaving Bear Hugs Nursery to go to 'big school' entertained their families and church members. We enjoy having them.

Byfleet

The collage of photographs attest to the ingenuity and artistry of our flower arrangers and those from other churches within the Circuit and local community as we celebrated our Flower Festival. Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way; by just visiting our beautiful church you made it worthwhile.

The other notable event of the last quarter was an extraordinary wedding, bridging nationalities and bringing together different denominations, cultures and faiths. Not for this bride and groom a classic wedding! A three-piece band and singers replaced the organ, the aisle was candle-lit and strewn with rose petals, the bride entered to the lilting tones of a saxophone and, as the happy couple left after the marriage ceremony led by the Revd. Paul Hulme, they literally danced their way down the aisle encouraged by some 200 guests.

Byfleet continues to be the welcoming, hospitable church for which we are renowned. Coffee mornings, weekday and Sunday lunches, games afternoons and film shows all ensure that nobody has to be alone when everything closes down over the summer months.

Coffee Mornings (with a bring & buy stall) take place on the second Saturday of each month from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., catering for those who are using our premises, our own congregation, and we welcome friends from Byfleet and beyond. Come and join us on:

September 9th October 14th November 11th

As we write, **Advent Weekend, 2nd/3rd December**, may seem a long way off but we extend to all readers of this magazine, and their friends and neighbours, a warm welcome to join us and to contribute to our anticipation of the coming of our Lord at Christmas. The Church will be open all weekend, offering coffees, light lunches, and afternoon teas to enable you to wander around the church to inspect and admire the many nativity sets that will be on display. Indeed, do **you** or **your church** have appropriate items that you would be willing to lend to us for the weekend? The Saturday evening will be devoted to a Supper and Quiz. Are you brave enough to pit your church's knowledge against the rest of the Circuit? Why not bring a team from your Church? Full details will be circulated to individual churches a little nearer the time but meantime, please put the date in your diaries now! For more information or to offer a nativity set for display, please contact Margaret (01932 343489) or Margery (01932 340417) or e-mail to margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com

Margaret Watts

Byfleet

Flower Festival



20/21 May 2017



Appreciating Church taster sessions

Appreciating our own church can be a challenge for us in our local churches, as we are tempted to be discouraged by falling numbers, ageing members and a list of chores that seems never-ending. But the recent Taster Sessions facilitated by a team from the Discipleship and Ministries Learning Network (DMLN) proved that it is a challenge worth accepting.

The opening exercise for the 21 people from churches across the Circuit was to change the narrative of this pessimistic outlook: to see the good things that are happening in our churches and the opportunities that these good things herald.

For me, the most challenging exercise was to think about the sort of things I tell myself about my church. And as if it wasn't sobering enough to think about how I do think of my church, I was then challenged to think about how this might differ from the things I would tell others. Someone in the group shared that this was challenging because she isn't really comfortable to tell others about her church. It was more comfortable to think about what others in my church say about our church, but less so to consider what those outside the church altogether might say about our church. I found myself with much food for thought. And this was only one exercise!

The taster sessions were well-received by those who attended, although everything was not taken at face value, which resulted in good discussion.

Appreciating Church is based on Appreciative Inquiry – a process by which we approach a situation with a positive attitude to recognise and build on the good we have. This is not a process designed to make us take an unrealistically optimistic view of the future: rather it is designed to build on our foundational good practices and to encourage thinking about developing these. It is hoped that the Circuit offer of a team to work with churches in discerning their calling and affirming their ministry – using Appreciating Church – will be adopted.

If you want to know more about how you personally, or your church, can become involved, please contact me. Tel: 01483 890209 or margi.ireland@thearchipelago.co.uk

Margaret Ireland

Senior Circuit Steward



Cranleigh

We celebrated our Choir Anniversary, on July 2nd, as we have regularly done at this time for many years. The Service was led by our own minister, Claire, who chose appropriate hymns, Bible readings and poetry to illustrate three of Paul's Gifts of the Spirit: Love, Joy and Peace. The Choir, with two additional helpers, sang three anthems on these subjects, and of course, there were congregational hymns. Soon, the choir will have its summer break.

At the beginning of June, Claire planned an All-Age Service for our Church Anniversary, with Communion, but sadly our young people were otherwise committed, so we adults heard explanations about worship and particularly about Holy Communion – which were by no means wasted!

Later in July, on the 16th, Churches Together in Cranleigh (CTC) held a lunch-time picnic on Cranleigh Common. This is an innovation for us.

Further ahead, we have arranged the date of our Harvest Weekend: October 7th and 8th. Details are not yet finalised, but on Sunday evening (the 8th) we hope to join in a joint celebration, arranged by CTC, in the Baptist Church.

More plans are in the pipeline, as always, for even later events. After the large Remembrance Sunday Service on November 12th in Fountain Square, people tend to think about switching on Christmas lights and even singing carols! We have already planned a date for our Saturday afternoon Community Tea and Concert (December 16th), and the augmented choir will hope to repeat a similar programme in the splendid new hall at Elmbridge Village on Tuesday the 19th. It is hoped to have a party for the children on Sunday afternoon, December 10th. I have not even mentioned the various carol services, which have been rather harder to plan as Christmas Eve is a Sunday! The Village Carol Service will be on the previous Sunday, the 17th.

Finally, our Building Project is progressing well, and planning permission has been granted, but with certain conditions! Timing is still difficult to predict so we are waiting for decisions to be made so that the work may be started.

Glenda Sewell

This photo was taken at some gardens in Horsham which our flourishing Wednesday Group visited recently.

We are a ladies group but sometimes invite men and this was our summer outing.

The group meets fortnightly on Weds evenings and meetings start again on September 6th after the summer break.



Guildford St Mary's

This issue of the Circuit magazine coincides with the 4th Anniversary of Guildford Methodist Church's move to St. Mary's in the heart of Guildford town centre. From very different backgrounds, in the historic setting of St Mary's in Quarry Street we are building a Fresh Expression of church. At a recent meeting for the congregation it was notable that those present rejected references to "two congregations" but emphasised that St. Mary's worshippers now view themselves as one community.

September will see the first anniversary of our Common Ground initiative and we will celebrate that with a special service on Sunday 17 September, probably late afternoon, to which all will be welcome. This year has been a mixture of feasibility study, trying to define our place and role, broadening the range of churches involved and actually doing things. For some activities, the "doing" is Common Ground itself organising the activity – for others we are helping to facilitate initiatives bubbling up from around the town's churches. One unexpected benefit is a sense of empowerment for some people in feeling they are better able to work closer with other churches on Common Ground initiatives than if they are seen to be just promoting a single church's initiative.

ChitChat, our weekly drop-in for international residents, continues to be very popular with referrals from a range of agencies, individuals such as language teachers and word of mouth. It welcomes around 30 guests and 15 volunteers each week. Indeed, it has even been requested that we launch an evening ChitChat but that will depend on expanding the pool of volunteers. We are delighted that a termly informal celebration of Holy Communion has seen a few guests attend in addition to volunteer hosts.

Opening St. Mary's offers us many pastoral opportunities – we ran a "PRAYING STATION" on Polling Day and nearly 70 people dropped in on a day when prayerful reflection was much needed. As the Rector put it, that feels like "more pastoral opportunities than I get in a year!"

We have just agreed to host an Arts Festival on Saturday 11 November showcasing the work of a number of Christian artists, most of whom should be attending to talk about their works.

We have lots of activities coming up — I do hope you will be able to join us for some of them.

Nigel Campion-Smith



GODALMING UNITED
CHURCH

Bridge Rd
Godalming GU7 3DU

SEED TIME & HARVEST: A FARMER'S STORY SAT OCT 14th 3pm-5pm

Autumn planting, crafts & cooking for all the family

Admission free Party tea Babies' play area

Donation of £2 per child welcome



A joyful start to Christmas

Carol Praise



**Saturday Dec 9th
7.00- 9.00 pm**

Horsley Methodist Church
(next to W. Horsley Village Hall)

**Come and sing your favourite carols.
With a break for refreshments and
mince pies, etc.**

Phone requests to 01483 282474

Godalming United Church

The summer has been busy with further 40th anniversary celebrations. Visiting ministers with past connections with the church have included Michael Hunt and Bryony Arnold (both former Junior Church members!). Sadly our preacher for the big Anniversary day on June 11th – Rev'd John Walker, who presided over the union of our two churches 40 years ago – was taken ill the night before. However, GUC rallied to the emergency – Senior Steward Alan Steele delivered a sermon on the Trinity, (for it was Trinity Sunday), Barbara Saunders gave an amusing family talk on assembling the flower festival, Gwen Wheatman led the prayers - and happily John Walker has made a good recovery.

The church looked stunning for the Anniversary Flower Festival - "Together with Flowers" – which brought in many visitors from the town and beyond to view over 30 exhibits. Look at a selection of photos at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/godhelm/sets/72157681932855083/> Many thanks to Wendy Weston and her team. A barbecue and entertainments followed the Sunday morning service, and a memorable weekend concluded with the Circuit Service in the evening.

The following weekend we welcomed younger visitors and their carers for our second "Messy Church" – based on the calling of the four fishermen and involving plenty of waterside fun with paddling pools doubling up as the Sea of Galilee.

Later in June in a special post-election Sunday service, Kate Sherlock – Baroness Parminter of Godalming, and member of our congregation - was "in conversation" with Paul Hulme. Kate is Lib-Dem deputy-leader in the House of Lords, and her background is in charities and social responsibility. Particular interests are the environment, animal welfare, literacy and the role of women. She also has a degree in Theology – so was well able discuss the impact of her beliefs on her politics!

We are well on the way to completing our Anniversary appeal to fund 40 cataract operations in the Gambia. The Gambian cataract specialist was trained up with the support of church members and runs cataract clinics in various localities throughout the country. Each procedure costs a mere £15 – what incredible value for the gift of sight!

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Whitechapel Appeal in July. Your much-needed items are essential to the continued existence of this Mission for the Homeless which is open from 6pm-11am 365 days a year, providing all who come – up to 300 a day – with the opportunity to shower, have a change of clothes and eat a nourishing breakfast.

Across the summer our downstairs facilities are undergoing a major extension/refurbishment. The River Room is being enlarged by 25%, with easy access to an improved patio, and the kitchen is being totally replaced. Sunday services will continue as normal during the works, but car parking will be restricted. This is a big and complex project which we hope will be completed by the second week in September.

Diary dates for the autumn are as follows:

Sunday October 8th 10:30 café-style Harvest celebration (family and parade service) with bring and share lunch in the church followed by entertainments, including hand bell-ringing
Tel 01483 421433

Saturday October 14th 3:00 Messy Church – "Seed Time and Harvest" Tel 014483 414778

Saturday November 4th 10:00-3:00 Church Away-Day at the Clockhouse, Milford.

"For the Future Take Us". Tel 01483 890209



The last months have seen a terrible toll taken on human life in this country. The Methodist Church has produced prayers on each occasion which are reproduced here.



Westminster Bridge - March 2017

Loving Creator God,
In the midst of chaos and uncertainty, grant your peace.
To those injured and frightened by events in Westminster, grant your healing.
To the police, those who work in Parliament
and members of the public, grant your protection.
May those who are motivated by hate be transformed by love.
May those who care for a broken world be strengthened by love.
May we be guided by your Spirit as we try to find words of comfort
and be guided in our actions by the example of your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray.
Amen.

Manchester - May 2017

God of compassion and mercy,
amidst the pain and trauma of this day we turn to you,
for through Christ crucified we know that you have taken to heart the suffering of our people.
In fear and anxiety, strengthen us.
In despair and pain, comfort us.
In incomprehension and anger, reassure us that your love and life are stronger than the hatred and
violence which overshadows our city today.
Console those who carry a burden of loss, injury, or trauma and empower all who support them.
Strengthen all who seek to stand together in peace and unity.
We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

London Bridge and Borough Market - June 2017

Loving God,
Your Son, Jesus Christ, is the Prince of Peace.
We pray that his peace might bring comfort into the lives of those who mourn,
We remember those who have died and pray for the healing of those wounded.
We give thanks for all the emergency services, for their skill and courage.
We ask that witnesses and those traumatized by violence will find peace.
At this time of festivals we pray,
for Christians celebrating the birth of the church at Pentecost;
for our Jewish sisters and brothers who have celebrated their festival of Shavout;
for our Muslim sisters and brothers in this holy month of Ramadan;
for all people of faith and good will.
May your world know peace and may we have the courage to be peacemakers in our homes our
community and our world.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

May we continue to remember all those whose lives will never be the same again, and give thanks for the unity, love and determination that have emerged from the shattering of so many lives.

Grenfell Tower Fire - June 2017

Gracious God

We pray for those caught up in the fire at Grenfell Tower,
for casualties, for the wounded, for the missing and the traumatised.

We pray for the emergency services and for those who are responsible for co-ordinating the response to this major incident.

In despair bring hope

In injury bring healing

In fear bring comfort.

In our helplessness be our strength.

In your mercy hear our prayers.

In Christ's name.

Amen.

Finsbury Park Mosque - June 2017

Almighty, all merciful God,

Through Christ Jesus you have taught us to love one another, to love our neighbours as ourselves, and even to love our enemies.

In times of violence and fear, let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, so that we may not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good.

Help us to see each person in light of the love and grace you have shown us in Christ.

Send your spirit and renew the face of the earth; teach us to be compassionate towards the whole human family; strengthen the will of all those who fight for justice and for peace.

Put away the nightmares of terror and awaken us to the dawning of your new creation.

Establish among us a future where peace reigns, justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled with each other

Amen



**These prayers and reflections from church leaders
can be found at**

<http://www.methodist.org.uk/news-and-events/news-releases>

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

HARVEST WEEKEND

**Saturday 23rd September 2017
at 7.00 p.m.**

**“A Walk down Memory Lane”
with
David Rose**

Admission £5.00 to include supper



To book contact neil.champion@gsmc.org.uk
or Linda Macbeth Tel. 01483 532942

ADVENT WEEKEND

2nd / 3rd DECEMBER



BYFLEET METHODIST CHURCH
Rectory Lane, Byfleet KT14 7LL
will be open 9.30 a.m. – 6.00 p.m.

**Display of Nativity Sets
from all around the world**

SATURDAY:

**COFFEE MORNING
PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHES
AFTERNOON TEAS**

6.30 P.M. QUIZ EVENING with SUPPER

SUNDAY:

**10.30 a.m. MORNING WORSHIP with
HOLY COMMUNION**
Preacher: **The Rev. David Faulkner**

3.00 p.m. AFTERNOON TEAS

4.30 p.m. ADVENT SONGS OF PRAISE
Led by members of the congregation

Enquiries: 01932 343489; margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com

Knaphill

At the last Circuit Service held in Godalming in June it was lovely to see a member of our church Rob Gill recognised for his 40 years of service as a lay preacher. As a church we also recognised this and presented him with a book at the morning service, the picture shows Rob with his family.

We have run some very successful monthly coffee mornings over the last few months. It is lovely to see some of our regulars who are non-church members come every month and share fellowship with us over a cup of coffee. In May we ran a Coffee Morning, Plant Sale and film show for children. This was a new venture for us and we will be repeating it again on 22nd July, this time showing Disney's Moana!

Dates for Coffee Mornings: 10.00am – 12 noon

22nd July with film show

19th August

30th September

We are also starting a **Clothing and Bedding Bank** along the lines of the one run by Weybridge Church, with a great deal of help and advice from them. Our first opening will be on 21st October.

Our Christmas Bazaar will this year be on Saturday 25th November at 10.00am — 2.00pm.

Barbara Humphries



Merrow

Merrow is busy appreciating and visiting! Natalie Newton led an interesting training session for pastoral visitors who are now discussing with all members what they see as the strengths of our church and how each person can share his or her talents and passions so that as a church we can share the good news of God's love for all.

We have been through a period of mourning on the death of our well loved and respected member, Roy Fullelove, a trusted leader and treasurer who contributed so much to our church and circuit. People travelled from afar to pay tribute to Roy at the service of thanksgiving on 3rd May. We were delighted to welcome back the whole family in June to a joyous occasion when Roy and Brenda's little granddaughter, Paloma Ana Fullelove was baptised, on the special occasion of our Church Anniversary 11 June, with all age worship led by Rev Paul Tabraham. An enjoyable buffet supper, with light entertainment took place on the Saturday evening and we were delighted to welcome our new Matrix youth club leader and his family.

Toddlers at Tuesday club have enjoyed sunny afternoons in the garden and our guests at the ecumenical weekly lunch club continue to enjoy their meals and conversation. Attendance at the monthly Thursday coffee mornings has increased and we have been delighted to welcome folk from the local community who are starting to come regularly. Tom Wright's book, "Surprised by Scripture," is providing interesting discussions at house group.

Lyn McKay

MERROW METHODIST CHURCH



PLEASE COME AND HAVE
COFFEE AND CAKE
WITH US ON THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2017
AT 10.30 AM
IN AID OF METHODIST HOMES



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



**WORLD'S
BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING** **29 SEPT**

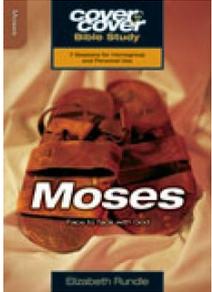
Join us on Friday 29 September from 10 - 12
For
Tea/Coffee, Cake Stall and Bring & Buy Stall
At
Walton Methodist Church, Terrace Rd,
Walton, KT12 2SR



Walton on Thames

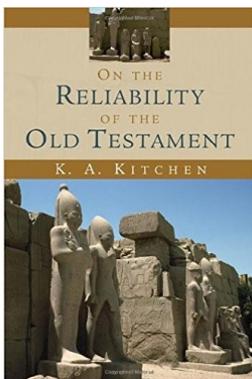
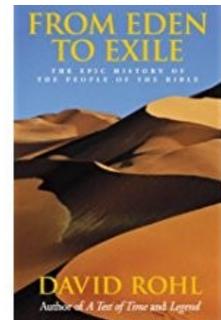
Walton Bible Study Group—The Exodus

Ancient Egypt in the time of Moses continues to be a popular topic for films and television documentaries. However, some of the ideas put forward ignore recent research and so are likely to generate many lively debates. I would like to share some of the insights gained during our studies of the Exodus, which we found very interesting and challenging.



We based our discussions around four publications: **“Moses Face to Face with God”** (2005) by the Methodist, Elizabeth Rundle, in the *Cover to Cover Bible Study* series; **“On the Reliability of the Old Testament”** (2003) by the Methodist Professor, Ken Kitchen, a leading authority on Egyptology; **“From Eden to Exile”** by David Rohl (2002), an expert on archaeology with some unusual ideas; and **“The Miracles of Exodus”** (2003) by Colin Humphreys, who uses his scientific expertise with great skill.

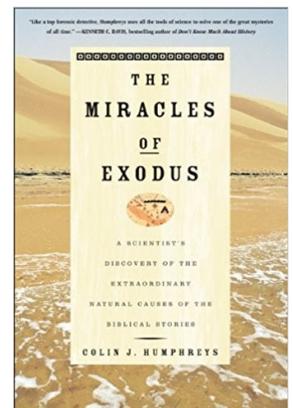
Rohl suggests that the death of the firstborn, the last of the ten plagues, was a cultural norm imposed by priests in the Middle East at that time, to avert even greater disasters, rather than a demand of the Hebrew God. Surprisingly, there is a wide agreement that the number of people leaving Egypt was between 20,000 and 30,000, not over one million, as is found in Bible translations and films. This is because the Hebrew word translated as *“thousand”* is identical to that for *“family, group or clan”*.



We noted that the Hebrews escaped from Egypt during the one month of the year when the desert blossomed, so their flocks could be fed as they headed for Mt Sinai, an erupting volcano in Midian, located in present day Saudi Arabia. They followed smoke by day and fire by night; part of the earliest detailed description of an erupting volcano. This area is full of distinctive Midianite pottery from the time of Moses, whereas none have been found in the Sinai Peninsula. A confirmation of this route is that there is only one place where crossing *“The Red Sea”* (Greek Septuagint), or *“The Sea of Reeds”* (Hebrew), is accurate in both translations - at the northern end of the Gulf of Aqaba where freshwater springs enable an

expanse of reeds to grow.

This shows us that God can encourage us to do things at the right time and that He can show His power through natural events. We expect to be changed as we study God’s word and have fellowship together. After completing a study of the first half of John’s gospel, we plan to return to the Old Testament in September with a look at King Solomon and the Jewish temple.



Colin Wright

The Ride & Stride

September 9th, 2017

Background

Most counties in England have an annual 'Ride & Stride', on the second Saturday in September, to raise money for church restoration and repair. The idea is that cyclists, (and walkers), are given a list of churches in their area. They map out their own route to visit churches by bike or on foot, and then get friends to sponsor them for a fixed amount per church visited.

The money that is collected is divided into two. Half the monies go to the church of the cyclist's choice (i.e. your church); the other half is retained by the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust for distribution to churches in need (that apply for a grant).

In the dozen years that the Bike Ride, (now Ride and Stride) has been running in Surrey we have raised over £250,000.



The umbrella organisation is the **Surrey Churches Preservation Trust**, with trustees from most Christian denominations.

The Trustees give out grants twice a year to deserving applications.

A full list of churches welcoming the walkers and riders can be found at:

<http://www.surreychurchespreservationtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/C2-Churches-welcoming-participants-2017.pdf>

Walton Methodist Church will be open from 10 am to 4pm, so that cyclists can visit our church.

If you want to cycle on the day, do collect a donation form from me as soon as possible.

There will also be a heritage day at the river a short walk from the church.

Jeannette Curtis



Weybridge



Thanks to the skill for our resident flower lady, Carol Smith, Weybridge was able to contribute to the Flower Festivals at Byfleet and Godalming during the summer months. Flowers are such a wonderful example of God's greatness and it is good to have the opportunity to focus purely on these wonders. How many of us actually notice the flowers on a Sunday morning or indeed thank those who provide and arrange them?

Flower display for the Godalming Flower Festival.

**'All things bright and Beautiful'
submitted to the Byfleet Flower Festival**



The Clothes and Bedding Bank continues to grow. It is held in the church hall on the 3rd Saturday of the month although there has been an increase in demand for ad-hoc appointments. The team are looking forward to helping other churches as they commence similar initiatives. In addition we are on the list to supply victims of the Grenfell Tower inferno should a shortfall of requirements be identified once the mass of donations has been sorted and assessed.

The Weybridge Old Folks Club is facing a major change as the Weybridge Hall closes in August 2017. The old folk have met there for 43 years and the change of venue will be of enormous significance. Our church volunteers are helping to manage this change which is challenging to the folk, particularly to the 10 nonagenarians who have been attending for nearly 30 years.

Weybridge continues to host a monthly coffee morning on the 2nd Saturday of the month on the Addlestone Methodist church premises. This allows Weybridge to take advantage of Addlestone's prime position on the high street but also assists AMC's aim of having the church open every Saturday without calling on the AMC member's every week.

The au pair support group has started. As with all new initiatives it has started small but the need is there and we pray that news will spread and allow this group to become a real support to the lonely young women so far from home and family.

Linda Weedon

Trinity, Woking

CONQUERING SNOWDON

At the instigation of David Jones a group from Trinity have for some months been enjoying weekly walks around the Woking area and the Surrey Hills. At the beginning of this year David proffered a more significant challenge – the ascent of Mount Snowdon. Needless to say the first and greatest task was to agree a date that suited most people and in the event we fixed on May 24th – not I hasten to add because it was Wesley Day, that was just a happy coincidence! In the event seven of us did the climb, four from Trinity (David Jones, Sue Waddell, Jean Normington and me) plus three friends. We travelled up to Snowdonia on the Tuesday with accommodation in Beddgelert and returned home on the Thursday.

The day of the climb dawned misty, dull and dank and thus it remained for most of the climb. But when we reached the summit the sky cleared and we enjoyed some fabulous views over Snowdonia which continued all the way down. The descent taxed some of us (me at least!) rather more than the climb but we all made it back safely. For those who know their Snowdon we went up via the Rydd Ddu path (taking about 3 hours) and came down the Snowdon Ranger route (3.5 hours).



We were led very capably by David Jones and must also thank Paul Chesworth who drove some of us there and back and joined us for two happy evenings together. We can all look back on a truly great adventure. Moreover we were able to raise money through sponsorship towards the Trinity 2020 fund about which I wrote in the previous issue of Wey Forward. From Trinity members, friends and family we raised just short of £2,000.00 including Gift Aid. A worthy reward for our efforts!

David Lander

TREASURE & TRASH

As part of our 2020 building fund raising, Trinity Woking held a “Treasure & Trash” sale in May and what an experience this was! We used our main worship area for the sale and set our stalls in a large circle in the middle of the area. Each table was filled with almost every item you can imagine. There was a queue of folk waiting to get in long before our set opening hour, and bribes were offered to “let us in early” from one or two who regularly go around this sort of sale to pick up things for car boot sales. Needless to say our stalwart door guardian refused such offers. We have raised about £600 from the sale with more to come from items that are being placed on eBay and Gumtree.



You can see from the photo the dedicated team at the end of their shift – the Church having been made ready for Sunday worship.

Some words of advice if you are thinking of doing this kind of thing - be a bit selective in what you accept and do advertise it well in advance.

Jean Normington

KOREAN PRAYER MISSION TO WALTON

Readers may like to know about the major six-day Christian prayer mission to Walton which started on 27th June at the invitation of “Walton Churches Together”. There was sustained prayer for all eight Churches in the town, their respective leaders and for the town itself. It was part of a nationwide prayer mission to many towns and cities undertaken by about 300 Koreans, many coming all the way from South Korea.

Two or three services were held on consecutive days in five churches in Walton, each service lasting for about two hours. The leaders of each church requested prayers for specific concerns of church life and outreach, each topic being prayed over for about 15 minutes, followed by worship songs in a repeated cycle. The teaching on prayer was very useful, reminding us of the need for intercessions to be specific, with an adequate amount of time given in prayer whilst seeking the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. We are very grateful to the energetic Korean team who spent so much time praying for us and the community.



Colin Wright

Worship Across The Circuit

It was good to see such a large congregation at Godalming United Church to support the twelve Local Preachers receiving long service awards. The service was led by Rev Allan Taylor; Rev Barrie Tabraham preached on hymn 564, O Thou who camest from above, and Rev Peter Hills presided at Communion. The church was resplendent with flowers for this special occasion.



In the photo are Robert Gill, Colin Wright, Sandra Wright, Janet Gardham, Jean Shepherd, Graham Pearcey, Rabson Ziso

It was agreed at the Circuit worship group that training for those willing to lead prayers of intercession should take place next quarter. Information is still being gathered on music opportunities and expertise across the circuit and we hope that some of the church projectionists will be able to get together soon. If you play an instrument and would be willing to play occasionally in another church, please let Philip Beastall know, as he is coordinating information on circuit music.

New ideas for worship were discussed. Alternative worship continues at Merrow, one Sunday evening a month, and several churches are enjoying café style worship. Two Local Preachers shared worship at Trinity in June and the possibility of a preaching series was discussed at the recent Local Preachers' meeting. Please continue your helpful feedback to preachers following services.

Several of our preachers and worship leaders will be attending the Districts Study Day led by Rev Dr Philip Luscombe, at Trinity on Saturday 15 July, on the theme of "Living and worshipping honestly in God's World."

Lyn McKay
Circuit Worship Group

Brexit : the impact and consequences

Conference at Methodist Central Hall Westminster 24th June

This day conference aimed to inform, inspire and empower all to speak with Christian attitudes and spiritual insight into the situation surrounding negotiations of the UK on leaving EU membership (Brexit).

Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Chaplain to the Queen and the Houses of Parliament, reminded us of the words of the late Jo Cox MP – we have far more in common than the things that divide us – asking that differing views over Brexit should be aired and listened to with respect for each other's points of view.

Lord Griffiths, Superintendent Minister of Wesley's Chapel and a member of the House of Lords on the Labour benches, spoke of the complexities of the Brexit decision, highlighting the need to decide what kind of country we wanted to live in, an outward looking, inclusive nation or an inward facing society.

Denis McShane, former Labour MP and UK minister for Europe, lamented the lack of power and influence the UK would have in Europe once we had given up "our seat at the table".

Tom Brake, Liberal Democrat MP, said his party opposed Brexit and had three priorities; to keep the UK in the single market and customs union to help trade and business continue, to keep co-operation with in the security services, and to safeguard EU citizens' rights, all of which were up for negotiation. He regretted that Brexit was taking focus away from national issues such as education, NHS and the elderly.

Other speakers spoke about the legal implications of Brexit, the impact on aid budgets, (sterling has fallen, reducing the effectiveness of financial aid), the fear of a refugee crisis in Europe which influenced the Brexit vote, the resultant spike in hate crime, hate speech and the rise of far right ideas, the likely difficulty for cross-European educational opportunities for young people, and the legal status of immigrants.

I was invited to speak about the plight of refugees fleeing Syria and coming to Europe, how the churches can help to meet their needs and also try to raise awareness that refugees are not threatening to overwhelm our way of life but are families and people with the same concerns, aims and aspirations as we have.

We were asked to think about how, as individual Christians and as churches, we could help others to work through the issues thrown up by Brexit in a reasonable, peaceful and harmonious way, emphasising the love and compassion shown by Jesus to those in need. Lord Griffiths pointed out that Brexit has thrown down a philosophical challenge to the UK to work out its place and attitude in the world. In determining this, the church needs to find its voice and make sure it is in the debate.

Claire Hargreaves

July 2nd 2017



24-26 NOV 2017

3GENERATE

METHODIST CHURCH CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY



3Generate is a chance for children and young people to speak out to the Church about the issues that affect them and to empower them to be Agents of Change in their home churches and communities.

WHEN 24-26 NOV 2017

WHERE PONTINS, SOUTHPORT

WHO FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 8 - 23

BOOKINGS FROM MON 24 APRIL

NEW BIGGER VENUE

The Methodist Church 

3GENERATE

24-26 NOV 2017 METHODIST CHURCH CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY

PACKED WITH CONVERSATIONS, DEBATES, INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, GAMES, MUSIC, SPORT, CRAFTS AND CHALLENGES. WOVEN THROUGH THE WHOLE EVENT ARE CREATIVE AND DIFFERENT STYLES OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER.

FOR THE FIRST TIME YOUTH LEADERS AND CHILDREN WORKERS ARE INVITED TO ACCOMPANY AND CARE FOR THEIR GROUP AT THE EVENT. WE ARE ALSO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUALS, WHO DO NOT BELONG TO A GROUP TO ATTEND WITH OTHERS FROM THEIR DISTRICT.

Find out more about 3Generate, watch videos, get involved & booking info at:

3Generate.org.uk

The Methodist Church 




Promising to be the biggest 3Generate yet, bookings have now opened for this year's children and youth assembly of the Methodist Church, taking place at a new, bigger, venue, with up to 1,000 young people and leaders expected to attend.

Following massive growth and growing demand for places in recent years, this year's event will run from 24-26 November at Pontins, Southport, for children and young people aged 8-23.

This inspiring and fun weekend for children and young people across the Church encourages reflection, conversation and speaking out on the issues that are of concern to them and their faith.

If anyone books to go, please let Sue Howson know in the circuit office circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk – because we may be able to put people in touch with others from neighbouring circuits so that they can meet up before going and share transport.

Please note, if financing is difficult, there is support available.

West Horsley

This is the first year within living memory that we have not been able to have a House-to-House collection for AFC. However it is still one of our church charities and is supported by our Thursday Coffee Mornings and our “Bring and Buy” table. So far this Connexional year we have raised over £600. We will be celebrating the work of AFC on Sunday 9th July when we will welcome back our former minister Rev Darlene McCarley.

Our Songs of Praise evening in May was a great occasion despite fewer numbers, as the date clashed with a concert at the Parish Church in East Horsley. We were very pleased to welcome the people who came from Claire’s other church at Walton. Is it too early to suggest you put Saturday 9th December in your diaries, when we will be holding our Carol Praise at 7.00pm. We will be delighted to welcome people from around the Circuit.

We joined the other churches in Ockham and Horsley for a Unity service in May, this time of year seemed to suit the worshippers better than January. The theme was “Reconciliation – the Love of Christ compels us” and shoe boxes with prejudices on were converted into a cross. We are doing all we can to encourage the working together with the other churches and currently supply the Chairman for our Churches Together. But we like to keep our presence known and are planning to have a stand at the West Horsley Fete on 9th September, which will be held this year at West Horsley Place (now owned by Bamber Gascoigne and the home of Grange Park Opera).



Margaret Faulkner

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 articles. I have found it 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.

The magazine gives you the opportunity to showcase the work of your church across the Circuit so please keep that at the back of your mind in the coming months. Is there something going on in your church you would like to share?

We are going to try and publish the next edition in line with the quarterly preaching plan for December—February so

the deadline for Issue 6 is **Wednesday 1 November 2017**

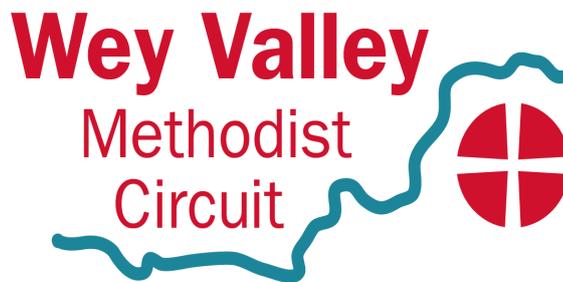
**Please send you items (and photos) to
weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk**

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sue Howson

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
September 2017			
Sun 3 Sept	6.30pm	Circuit Service—Releasing gifts for the growing of God's Kingdom	Knaphill
Weds 6 Sept	Evening	Wednesday Group—back after summer break	Cranleigh
Sat 9 Sept	9am—12.30pm	Coffee Morning	Byfleet
Sat 9 Sept	All day (Walton 10.00am-4.00pm)	Ride and Stride	Across Surrey
Sat 9 Sept	Morning	Coffee Morning	Addlestone
Thurs 14 Sept	10.30am	Coffee Morning in aid of Methodist Homes	Merrow
Sun 17 Sept		Common Ground Special Service	Guildford
Sat 23 Sept	7.00pm	'A Walk Down Memory Lane' by David Rose	Stoughton
Sun 24 Sept	10.30am	Harvest Festival— with the theme 'Grow Your Own'	Merrow
Fri 29 Sept	10.00am—12noon	MacMillan Coffee Morning	Walton
Sat 30 Sept	10.00am—12noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
October 2017			
Sun 8 Oct	10.30am	Café style Harvest celebration	Godalming
Thurs 12 Oct	10.30am	Coffee morning in aid of the Bible Society	Merrow
Sat 14 Oct	3.00pm 5.00pm	Messy Church—Seed Time and Harvest	Godalming
Sat 14 Oct	Morning	Coffee Morning	Addlestone
Sat 14 Oct	9.00—12.30pm	Coffee Morning	Byfleet
Sun 15 Oct	10.30am	Sunday Worship with a Bible Society theme	Merrow
Sat 21 Oct	tbc	Opening of Clothing & Bedding Bank	Knaphill
November 2017			
Sat 4 Nov	10.00am—3.00pm	Church Away Day at the Clockhouse, Milford	Godalming
Thurs 9 Nov	10.30am	Coffee Morning in aid of the Encephalitis Society	Merrow
Sat 11 Nov	9.00am—12.30pm	Coffee Morning	Byfleet
Sat 11 Nov		Arts Festival featuring a number of Christian artists	St Mary's, Guildford
Sat 11 Nov	Morning	Coffee Morning	Addlestone
Sat 18 Nov	7.00pm	Quiz Night	Merrow
Sat 25 Nov	10.00am—2.00pm	Christmas Bazaar	Knaphill
Sun 26 Nov	10.30am	Shoe Box Sunday	Merrow
December 2017			
Sat 2/Sun 3 Dec	9.30am—6.00pm	Nativity Sets from around the World with coffee morning, lunches, teas	Byfleet
Sat 2 Dec	6.30pm	Quiz Evening and Supper	Byfleet
Sat 9 Dec	Morning	Coffee Morning	Addlestone
Sat 9 Dec	7.00pm—9.00pm	Carol Praise	West Horsley
Sat 16 Dec	Afternoon	Community Tea and Concert	Cranleigh
Tues 19 Dec	Evening	Community Concert	Cranleigh



Releasing gifts for the growing of God's Kingdom

**Come and celebrate together
Circuit Service to mark the start of our
second Connexional year as a
Methodist Circuit**



We will be exchanging the churches' gifts again so please
bring the gift your church received last year

All welcome

Sunday 3rd September 2017 6.30pm

Knaphill Methodist Church

Broadway, (between Lloyds Bank and Boots), Knaphill, GU21 2DR

For car parking, turn into nearby Englefield Road (alongside the
Co-op) and you will find a **free** public car park. There is an entrance to the
church premises from the car park, clearly marked.