

# **The Wey Forward**

Issue 12, June - August 2019

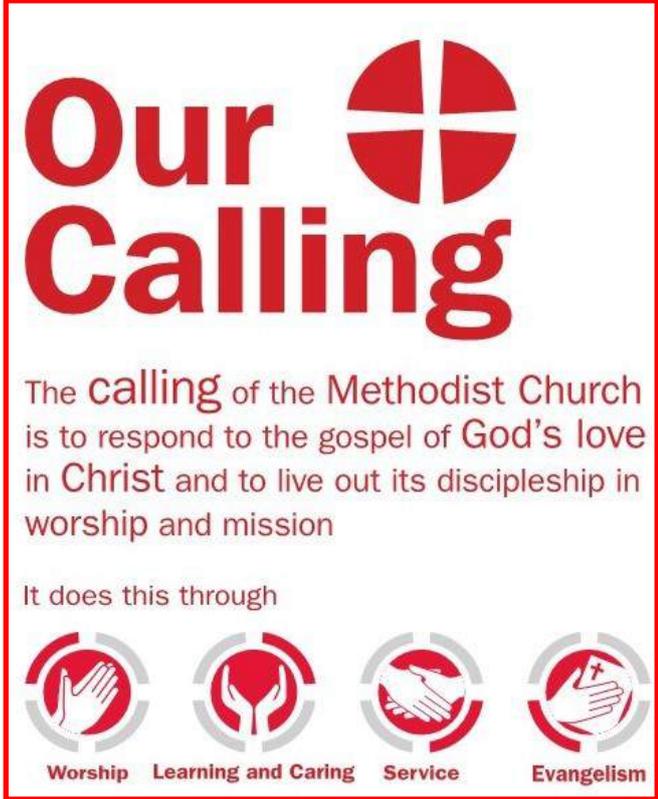


# The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit came into being on 1st September 2016. It was formed by the joining of 13 churches in the Guildford and Woking & Walton-on-Thames circuits. Each church has its own distinctive personality and gifts, and continues to look forward to mutual sharing and support and to responding together to the gospel of God's love in the community and the wider world. (For those not familiar with the term, a "circuit" is an administrative group of Methodist Churches in the same geographical area).

Our churches can be found in :

- \* Addlestone
- \* Byfleet
- \* Cranleigh
- \* Godalming
- \* Guildford
- \* Knaphill
- \* Merrow
- \* Sheerwater
- \* Stoughton
- \* Walton-on-Thames
- \* West Horsley
- \* Weybridge
- \* Woking



**Our Calling**

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

It does this through

-  **Worship**
-  **Learning and Caring**
-  **Service**
-  **Evangelism**

If you are a visitor or newcomer to the area, or living here and seeking a church for the first time, please use our website - [www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk](http://www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk) to find a church that meets your spiritual and pastoral needs. We have included links to the websites of all of our churches in the circuit but you can also contact the Circuit Office for more information. The office is open each weekday morning from 9am to 1pm and Sue Howson, the Circuit Administrator, can be contacted on [circuitoffice@veyvalleycircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@veyvalleycircuit.org.uk) or 07808 046451.

This quarterly newsletter aims to showcase what is going on around the Circuit, provide relevant information for the forthcoming quarter and offer some thought provoking articles.

*Sue Howson*

*Editor*

## A Message From Our Superintendent

Dear Friends,

As I write I am very mindful that Rev Paul Hulme will be having his last service as an active minister at Godalming on 30 June. I know you will wish him well and want me to thank him personally, and on your behalf, for the unique contribution he has made to this circuit over the last seven years and to the wider Connexion since 1967. Paul will, no doubt, find ways to express his vocation as a supernumerary minister, but hopefully he will be freer to spend time with his family and friends.

Summer is indeed a time for the annual round of appointment changes in the Methodist Church. This year our South East Methodist District says farewell to Rev John Hellyer our District Chair, who according to Minutes of Conference has been in this appointment for thirteen years! Also, Rev Conrad Hicks is transitioning towards what will be a full-time post at Methodist Church House overseeing Global Church Relations.

We will be very pleased to welcome Rev Gill Le Boutillier-Scott as a circuit minister (presbyter) in a half time appointment with pastoral charge of Trinity Woking. Please support Gill and her family in your prayers.

Samuel, the kingmaker, priest, seer and last judge of Israel in his farewell speech says, "As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you" 1 Sam. 12:23 NIV. Let us all commit to pray for our church, our nation and our world, especially during Thy Kingdom Come 30 May – 9 June.

God bless you,

*Keith*

*Rev Keith C. Beckingham*

*Superintendent Minister*



# News from around the Circuit

## Addlestone

In March we welcomed Rev Barrie Tabraham back to lead our evening service with some 'Surprises in Scripture'. We thank those members from the Circuit who joined us for the service.

Rev Paul Hulme will lead our evening service on 9 June and further services are planned for 15 September and 1 December.



### Restoration with a message



Church side windows restoration started in February and we are hopeful that by autumn we will see natural light again on both sides of the church.

On 5 May we celebrated our church anniversary service, led by Rev John Hellyer. We welcomed the opportunity for us to thank him for his services to the South East District and to wish him well in his new appointment in the Gloucester Circuit.

Efforts are continuing to meet the objectives of our church mission. The group leading this, recently renamed the Church Mission Group, are concentrating on making existing groups and activities more effective, finding new ways to meet the needs of our community, and supporting worldwide needs. Communication with Grace, the girl we support in Ecuador has increased with more support and involvement from members.

With a greater number of our members experiencing serious health problems and some no longer able to attend church regularly more attention is being paid to the church's pastoral needs. Jesus, during his earthly ministry, taught us how to respond to such needs and we pray we can follow his teachings.



*Fred Rowe*

# Byfleet



Byfleet Methodist Church celebrated in style the 80 years since the opening of the present Church building in March 1939. With daffodils on every windowsill, on the pew ends, and in every nook and cranny, as well as adorning the outside of the building, what more fitting way to start the weekend than by hosting the ecumenical World Day of Prayer on the afternoon of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, followed by tea and cakes.

In the evening we were treated to a talk by Jim Allen. Methodism has been in Byfleet for much longer than most people realise but our focus was on '*The Wesleyan Chapel in Byfleet 1875-1939*' which was followed by the millennium film '*The Three Villages*' when some of the congregation were surprised to see themselves on camera.

The Methodist Church is home to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Old Byfleet Brownies and the Susan Robinson School of Ballet, amongst others, and we were delighted that the Brownies and Rainbows wanted to share our Anniversary by hosting a Coffee Morning. This was followed by light lunches and then a rare treat – a dance extravaganza that was incredible! For over an hour the pupils wowed the audience of some ninety guests with sheer magic as we watched their skill and grace perform ballet, modern and tap dance in costumes that any self-respecting theatre would be proud to showcase. A full afternoon tea followed, prepared and served by Cynthia Haslam and her friends.

Meanwhile many visitors came just to enjoy the exhibition that had been prepared – *Past, Present and Future*. Our unofficial curator, Brian Hankin, had pulled together plans, brochures (from the opening ceremony and subsequent special anniversaries), newspaper cuttings and fascinating facts. 'The Present' demonstrated the variety of talents of both young and old: painting, sketching, writing, baking, knitting, needlework, quilting – and of course the beautiful garments, blankets and toys that are knitted/crocheted for the premature baby unit at St. Peter's Hospital. What of 'The Future'? Byfleet Methodist Church values its place in the community and it is our pleasure to be able to continue to support the numerous groups that use our premises and charities further afield.

Friends and members from the past joined the congregation at the two very special Sunday services. In the morning the Rev. Christopher Bishop, who had been deeply involved in building alterations in 2001, led worship and presided over the monthly celebration of Holy Communion, which was followed by a three course lunch. Finally, in a packed church, at 3.30 pm. we came together again for the final act of worship of this special weekend; led by the Rev Dr. Peter Howson and the Rev Julie Underwood, both well-known in Byfleet village. We concluded as only such an anniversary should end – with the cutting of a 'birthday' cake bearing a photograph of the church and the singing of 'Happy Birthday'.

Indeed a memorable, wonderful, happy weekend, in a sea of cheerful yellow daffodils arranged by Pam Bailey and Kate Starkey and others. It couldn't have happened without the team effort of so many people who gave their time and talents freely. If you missed it, you missed a very special treat!

*Margaret Watts*

## 51 Years on the Shop Floor of the Church

At the moment I feel as tho I am living in a parallel universe, as I prepare to 'Sit down', which is the quaint phrase Methodism uses for Ministers who are about to retire from the active work. It's a between and betwixt time for me. And it feels very strange. Perhaps because it's unknown territory?

But the dominant feeling I am living with at the moment is one of overwhelming gratitude. Especially to the Methodist Church, who for eight years, and at their own cost, trained me. First at Cliff College for two years. Then at Wesley College Bristol for four years. Followed by a two year Probation period in the Beccles Loddon and Bungay Circuit, before Ordination, when the Conference met in Manchester in 1970. I look back on those formative years with immense affection and gratitude. They gave me firm foundations on which to build, and taught me that the learning process never ends.



My seven years in the Wey Valley Circuit have been challenging and utterly worthwhile. I have grown to love Surrey, about which I knew precious little before I came to live here, but travelling around our circuit on a summer's morning – even allowing for the A3 – is a joy. And to be a resident of this ancient town of Godalming, where I'm still discovering fascinating bits of history, is a privilege.

But above and beyond everything else, I have valued my pastoral contacts with people. I have learned and received so much from people whom it has been my privilege to be alongside. And I use the word 'Privilege' with great care, because it is a precious and unique gift inherent within Incarnational Ministry.

Fortunately, I will be retiring in Surrey, where the Methodist Ministers Housing Association have provided me with a bungalow in a leafy part of Croydon, near the Surrey Hills. I'll qualify for a London Borough Freedom Pass, which will give me easy access to my family, and to Wesley's Chapel where my Membership will be.

With love, kind thoughts and gratitude,

*Paul*

## Obituary - Rev Professor David Martin

Rev Professor David Martin, one time Woking Circuit Local Preacher, died in Woking on 8 March, aged 89. David Martin was brought up a Methodist, but was later ordained into the Anglican church, and became visiting Preacher to the University of Oxford among other honours.

His academic career focused on the sociology of religion, secularisation theory and religion and violence; growth of Pentecostalism in the developing worlds and religion and politics in contemporary Europe. He wrote countless books and was internationally well known.

## **Cranleigh**

We have good news and not-so-good news from Cranleigh! The good news is that we shall be able to resume services in our church from the Sunday after Easter, after quite a lot of tidying and putting things back in their proper places. The builders have been very good at keeping to their promised schedule and the quality of their work is excellent. However, they have sadly only now discovered that much work and money will be needed to repair the roof of the schoolroom (the oldest part of the premises), before this can be safe to use: no one had foreseen this! We shall now probably need to raise another £100,000 before we can make full use of the whole building for any community projects. This is a serious disappointment to us all, but especially to those who have been involved with the day-to-day contact with the builders, and with the organisation of the previous finances, which were thought to be sufficient. Many people have been involved with individual money-raising projects: only last week Teresa Golden raised over £400 at a bring-and-buy sale she organised in her house! Now we must think of other ideas!

As you may remember from my last article, many people have enjoyed the intimacy of services held in Cranleigh Bandroom, and preachers also have commented on the good atmosphere. We are hoping to maintain something of this, perhaps by making changes to the layout of the church when we return to it after Easter. (The church itself will not be affected by the trouble in the schoolroom; neither, we hope, will the new kitchen and cloakrooms!)

We again returned to the beautiful hall at Elmbridge Village for a morning service when the Bandroom was unavailable. This was on 31 March (Mothering Sunday) when the excellent preacher was Mrs Rosemary Lee. We were given a very warm welcome as before, given refreshments afterwards and flowers were very much in evidence. Small bunches of flowers were given to everyone by the Sunday Club and beautiful floral bookmarks by Wendy Berrevoets. We are very grateful to the residents of Elmbridge for their warm welcome. Many of them come regularly to our services and now two have joined our choir!

We are continuing to explore the future of our church using the Appreciating Church model, and as I have mentioned, are hoping to enlarge our Outreach, when our repair of the schoolroom can be done. We may of course be able to use the church itself for some kind of activities to help the neighbourhood, though not to run a nursery! We may be able to continue our work with refugees, as we used the church before.

The fortnightly Wednesday Group has continued successfully throughout the winter as it meets in people's houses, but since Christmas choir members have continued to practise their music as 'homework' and I am very grateful to them!

Please remember our church in your prayers, as we try to carry out some plans for community outreach, before our building work is completed!

*Glenda Sewell*

## **Circuit Directory**

Everyone will, no doubt, be very relieved to hear that this year we won't be asking for a completed, signed form from everyone who appears in the Circuit Directory. Only additions, changes of details and deletions will need to be documented.

The deadline for these is 30 June and although it sounds a long way off it will be here before we know it. If you are aware of any changes which have occurred since September please let Sue Howson in the Circuit Office know via [circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk) or 07808 046451.

## Alternative Worship

All are welcome to our alternative evening services taking place:

Date	Church	Service
9 June	Addlestone	Café Church 6.30 pm led by Paul Hulme
9 June	Merrow	ATS 6.30 pm led by Hugh Bowerman
16 June	St Mary's	Midsummer Evensong 6 pm led by Robert Cotton
14 July	Merrow	ATS 6.30 pm led by Dave Faulkner
4 August	Walton	Pudding and Praise (united with Weybridge) 6.30 pm led by Keith Beckingham
11 August	Merrow	ATS 6.30 pm led by Asif Das

## Prayer Training

Twenty-one of us gathered at Merrow Methodist Church in the afternoon of Sunday 7 April to learn more about prayer.

Rev Claire Hargreaves gave some excellent advice on how to pray in small groups, introducing several useful resources for prayer, which included hymns from "Singing the Faith" and the Bible. She covered prayers for Bible study groups, stewards' meetings, vestry prayers, house groups, and suggested that every church meeting should include prayer. Claire emphasised the importance of silence during prayers.

Graham Warr led a session on prayers for children, giving us all a sheet of prayers written by children of different ages, for us to discuss in groups. It was interesting to note the depth of content and language in the children's prayers. We should recognise the talents of our children and provide opportunities for children to share their gifts.

After a break for tea and cake, Rev Barrie Tabraham introduced the theology of prayer and led us to answer the question, "Why do we pray?" He suggested three answers:

We should pray because

- \* it matters to *God*,
- \* it matters to *others* - those around us
- \* it matters to *us* and enables us to become closer to God.

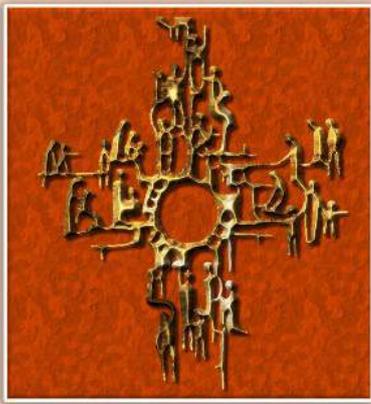
Barrie stressed the importance of listening to God, of cultivating an awareness of God's presence so that we can be changed. We should prepare for eternal life by spending time with God in prayer.

Thanks go to our three speakers who provided such a helpful seminar.

*Lyn McKay*

*Circuit Worship Resources Group*

# Practical Aspects of Spirituality



**St. Mary's**

Quarry Street  
Guildford  
09.20 – 12.30

Saturday  
8 June

**Sarah Hutton**  
Spiritual Growth Facilitator  
Guildford Diocese

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

If you would like to attend please email Richard Fox at [richard@purposefullives.com](mailto:richard@purposefullives.com)



Join the Novena of Prayer

for

**Thy Kingdom Come**

at

**St. Mary's Church**  
Quarry St. Guildford GU1 3UY

daily at 13.00

31 May - 8 June

**night vision**  
*...looking at life through a different lens'*

**St Mary's**  
Quarry St, Guildford GU1 3TY

*drop in between*

20.00 and 23.30

*for*

calm, reflection, music

& refreshments

- Friday 31 May
- Friday 28 June
- Friday 26 July
- Friday 23 August



**Come to**  
**St. Mary's**

Quarry St, GU1 3TY

**for a time of**  
**peace & stillness**

**Still Mondays**

**12.00 – 1.15 pm**

*... including*

**Guided Contemplative**  
**Reflections from 12.30 – 1 pm**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday:** *A picture tells a story*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday:** *A guided contemplation*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday:** *Silent Prayer*
- 4<sup>th</sup> Monday:** *TakeTime – a time of meditation*
- 5<sup>th</sup> Monday:** *Christian Mindfulness*



# Godalming United Church

On Easter Sunday, early risers from our congregation took part in the town's Churches Together Sunrise service at the Ladywell Shrine – Godalming's oldest known Christian site. The welcome hot cuppa afterwards at the nearby convent allowed for a further exchange of greetings with friends from churches around the town. Two days earlier many had joined the town's Good Friday walk through the town centre – a powerful act of witness.

Two musical events marked the approach to Easter. On Palm Sunday the singers of the local U3A treated us to an up-to-date compilation: "Hallelujah! What a Saviour! The crucified and risen Christ". And on Good Friday the Guildford & District U3A choir gave us "Victim to Victor", a more traditional approach to the events of Easter.

On 14 April our minister Paul returned to his former domain – Wesley's Chapel in the heart of London – for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its unification with the Leysian Mission. And now for an interesting bit of history ... The Leys School was opened in Cambridge in 1875, just two years after non-Anglicans were admitted to Oxbridge, and it was intended to be "the Methodist Eton". Its London mission was started in 1886 by former pupils concerned by the appalling social conditions in the East End, and Leys alumni gave time and money towards social and evangelical programmes that touched thousands of lives. Today you can see its grand red brick building in City Road. The building was badly bombed, times changed, and in 1989 it was decided to merge the Leysian functions with Wesley's Chapel just round the corner.

Ryan and Sylvia Kelley have recently returned from a visit to The Gambia. GUC has been linked to The Gambia since 1984 when Bob and Sue Mann from Godalming served as mission partners with the Methodist Mission there – Sue as a nurse at the Marakissa Methodist Clinic and Bob as the founder and director of the Methodist Agricultural Project at Brikama. The main purpose of the recent visit was to travel some 250 miles up country to open a new two-classroom block at a school in the village of Sandy Kunda. En route Sylvia and Ryan met briefly with Sheriff Bah, a cataract surgeon, to hand over the money, raised at Godalming at Christmas, for further cataract operations. Sue Mann travelled with the Kelleys and opened the new kitchen, also at Sandy Kunda, which had been financed largely by donations given in memory of her husband Bob, who died last year. It was a fitting memorial to a man who later in life worked for All We Can and who loved Africa and especially The Gambia.

Looking ahead you are invited to join us for:

We've all got things on our mind - successes, hopes, fears and anxieties - about ourselves, those we love and the wider world. As part of the world-wide **Thy Kingdom Come** prayer initiative, Godalming United Church invites you to come and bring these to God in prayer. Our prayer event on the weekend of June 1st and 2nd is a chance for anyone to offer the things on his/her mind with the aid of our prayer stations, or use the opportunity to sit quietly for reflection in the sanctuary. You are welcome to drop in any time between 10 am and 4 pm on Saturday, and between 1 and 4 pm on Sunday.

Sunday 9 June 10:30 am - **Church Anniversary** - Rev John Walker will be the guest preacher. Followed by BBQ and entertainments – ring 01483 421268

Saturday 15 June 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - **Messy Church** - Fun for all the family – crafts, games, story and songs, party tea

*Nancy Wilks*



## Wesley's Chapel Leysian Mission Celebration

On Palm Sunday, Wesley's Chapel Leysian Mission celebrated their 30th Anniversary, since joining together as one church on Palm Sunday 1989. I remember that day very clearly. I had just been appointed by the Methodist Conference to be Superintendent Minister of the new circuit, and it was a huge challenge to face. It was a privilege to be at the Chapel on this anniversary day,

No doubt many readers of this journal will have visited City Road at some point, but if you haven't I would strongly recommend a visit. Wesley's Chapel is known the world over as the Cathedral of World Methodism and it attracts thousands of visitors throughout the year. As well as being a strong centre of worship in central London, it is also a centre of Methodist history. John Wesley himself founded the Chapel and is buried in its grave yard. It is a place where history comes to life, in the worship offered daily in the chapel, and in the house and Museum of Methodism, which is open to the public every day of the year.

30 years ago, when the Leysian Mission (just a few hundred yards up the road from Wesley's Chapel and founded by the Leys School Cambridge over a hundred years ago), closed down and joined forces on the City Road site, it proved to be a momentous decision. The Chapel has never looked back since that day. Its work and witness have been vigorously renewed, in a way that would have been undreamed of just three decades ago. A large congregation gathers Sunday by Sunday, with a weekly programme of activities for all age groups. Far from it being merely a historic monument, it is a lively active church at the heart of the City's life, representing the immediate community of thousands of people who live and work in the area. And in the words of Mr Wesley himself it is 'serving the present age'.

*Paul Hulme*

## The Big Read



At the official start date of this edition of *The Wey Forward* (1 June 2019), those of you taking part in this project to read the Bible from cover to cover will be reading 2 Samuel chapter 7. Are you still with us? I am now aware of several people who are undertaking this exercise so I don't feel so lonely. You may be interested to hear that my 'secular' friend, whom I wrote about last time, is still with us.

I must admit that I have struggled to find time to read even one chapter a day, which is rather pathetic, and was behind but I have found another way to keep up. For those of you who, like me, have an app on their phone and iPad to listen to books, there is a version of the bible available to download. Thus I can now listen to the daily chapter whilst cooking, ironing (very rare occurrence), on the train or even whilst driving. My husband said that this was cheating as it isn't reading or allowing time to sit and contemplate what I have read but I view it as a positive way to keep the Bible at the heart of everyday life. What are your views on this? Drop me a line and let me know. [linda\\_weedon@hotmail.com](mailto:linda_weedon@hotmail.com)

Please remember that Rev Asif Das has kindly said that if anyone has any challenges with anything they read he will be willing to try and answer any questions. Email Asif or give him a call [asifdas@hotmail.com](mailto:asifdas@hotmail.com) or 01483 575432

*Linda Weedon*

# Guildford St Mary's

## A matter of perspective

Writing this before Easter, it's a little difficult to predict where our building work will have reached by the time of publication. The gas man came on time in early April allowing the contractors to start work on the foundations. The way things have worked out means we will be without heating for a number of weeks, so we are quite grateful that work started in Spring rather than Winter as originally envisaged.

I am feeling slightly guilty - on such an historic site, excavations have to be supervised by an archaeologist. Every time I have met him, I have expressed the hope that he has not found anything exciting which does seem a little unfair (and probably not popular with the enthusiastic historians in our congregation). From my perspective, I can do without the excitement of archaeological finds delaying the works and increasing the costs. From his perspective, it makes for a boring day. So far, to my relief, boring has won and, hopefully, by the time you read this the walls of our new Welcoming area will be growing.

I can also make a categorical prediction regarding Brexit. Whether or not the nation's path has been determined by the time of Wey Forward's publication. I can safely predict there will be many millions of unhappy people in the country. Whatever our own perspective on the debate, it can be very hard to understand how the people on the other side can justify their stance.

Perspectives are equally important in sharing our faith. The Gospel may be obvious good news from our perspective and there are vocal opponents at the other extreme. In the middle are many people who are just indifferent and may have had little exposure to the Church. Key to our mission is trying to look from their perspective to find ways of breaking down that indifference.

Many people are puzzled and surprised to find a church open on a Friday evening for Night Vision and wonder why we are there. Whilst we can't claim to have vast crowds flocking in (20 to 30 is more typical), we have special moments when people accept the invitation to come in for a chat or just for the quiet and stay for much longer than they expected.

Despite the building work, we continue to invite people to come in to experience the spirituality of St Mary's. Hopefully a little bit will rub off and their perspective might shift a little.

We'll be marking Thy Kingdom Come again with brief lunchtime reflections at 1 pm each day from 31 May to 8 June. Even if you can't be at St Mary's in person, if you're able to join us in prayer at that time, we'd value it. We'll then be joining the Pentecost Sunday event at Guildford Cathedral from 4pm onwards and it would be great to see other Circuit churches represented there. Watch out for more details when these are firmed up.

The summer months see more visitors dropping in, especially during our longer opening hours during August. Details of various events appear in this issue and we'd love to welcome you at St Mary's.

*Nigel Campion-Smith*



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

**10.30 am - 12 noon**

**Thursday 27 June:**

Foundation for Relief & Reconciliation in the Middle East

**Thursday 25 July:**

Tools for Self Reliance – helping to build sustainable livelihoods in Africa

**Thursday 22 August:**

Conquest Art – inspiring those with disabilities to gain self confidence through art

Take a break from your shopping  
& meet up with friends

*Everyone welcome*



**St. Mary's**  
Quarry St  
Guildford

**Cream Tea**

Tuesday 27 August

1.30 – 4.30 pm

*In aid of projects we support  
in Uganda & Kenya*

For further details, contact  
[gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk)



**MERROW METHODIST  
CHURCH ANNIVERSARY  
9 JUNE 2019**

Morning worship will be led by

**Rev the  
Lord Leslie  
Griffiths of  
Burry Port**

Leslie is a past President of the  
Methodist Conference and we  
welcome him to our Anniversary  
celebration



Messy Church logo © The Bible Reading Fellowship 2019  
[www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

**SATURDAY JUNE 15<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm**

**FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES**



*Crafts, games, songs, story, party tea*

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

# Knaphill

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly supported the Cancer Research UK Coffee Morning organised by Tarina Berry and hosted by KMC on Saturday 30 March 2019. The fantastic sum of £415.38 was raised for this very worthwhile cause – the best result ever for Tarina.

The Refugee Drop-In Centre continues to operate weekly at KMC on Thursday afternoons between 1.30 pm and 3.00 pm and is proving a most useful asset to the local Syrian Community. The next step in the initiative is to set up a series of “Conversation Cafés” to provide additional, less formal assistance with “day-to-day” language skills. Representatives from several Knaphill Churches have already signed up to help and Woking Borough Council is arranging a Cultural Awareness Workshop to be held at the Council offices on 15 April, aimed at promoting greater understanding of the Syrian culture and the transition stages Syrian families go through when they come to the UK. It is hoped that the “Conversation Cafés” will start after Easter, with volunteers attending weekly on a rota basis.

Following the very positive feedback received after our last Free Children’s Party in January, we have decided to hold another afternoon of “fun & games” with Steve from Shooting Stars Circus Skills on Saturday 1 June from 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm. Steve has promised to bring along some alternative equipment, so there will be a wide choice available for everyone, should any children wish to come again. The age range is 3 - 8 years (younger siblings may come with their older brothers/sisters) but all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Party refreshments will be served at the end of the session. Numbers are limited, so pre-registration nearer the time is advisable to avoid disappointment. For further details, or book an early place, send a message to [admin@knaphill-methodist-church.com](mailto:admin@knaphill-methodist-church.com)

Knaphill Methodist Church opened *Clothes4U - preloved clothing with TLC* in October 2017. It is open once a month, usually the third Saturday 2 pm - 4 pm - 18 May, 15 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October and 16 November.

We are a dedicated team of volunteers who welcome families and individuals, offering them time to look for suitable clothes for their needs as well as pastoral care by way of FREE tea, coffee and cakes. There is a wonderful atmosphere of chatting and laughing. We are proud of our 'Outreach Projects' within the community and it has now become the largest project the church has ever taken on. The same families often come back each month and they in turn bring their friends along. Likewise we have seen a number of new parents who have really been excited to go home with bags of clothing for their little ones.

If you have any items for us, we will be very pleased to receive them, If you would like to volunteer to help us, or if you feel you could help promote the project somewhere we currently don't, please contact us at [clothing@knaphill-methodist-church.com](mailto:clothing@knaphill-methodist-church.com). We would also be pleased to hear from you if you would like to collect our pre bagged clothes for babies and toddlers outside the usual opening times.



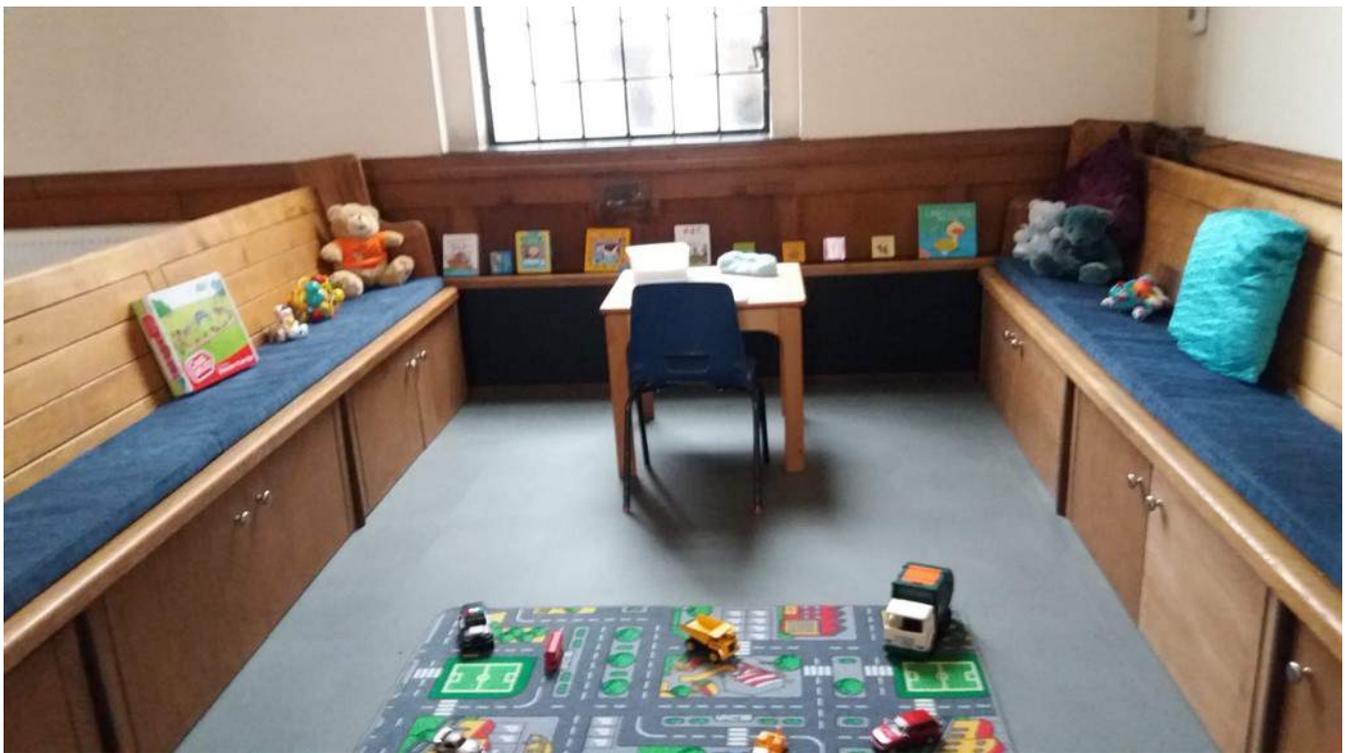
This year, our annual Plant Sale will be taking place on Saturday 25 May in addition to all our usual Coffee Morning stalls and features, we are hoping to have a wide variety of plants to tempt the gardeners of Knaphill plus garden related items.

Our regular Coffee Mornings take place on 22 June, 27 July and 24 August from 10 am - 12 noon. Our usual stalls are cakes, jams, marmalade, bric-a-brac, books and jigsaws as well as tea, coffee, biscuits and bacon butties!

Saturday 13 July sees the Woking Ladies Choir returning to Knaphill Methodist Church for their annual Summer Concert. The newly named Woking Ladies Choir (formerly Bisley Ladies Choir) will entertain us with a Summer selection of songs and music from 7.30 pm. Refreshments and raffle in the interval. For more information see [www.wokingladieschoir.org.uk](http://www.wokingladieschoir.org.uk)

Woking  
Ladies Choir

We have recently completed a family area at the back of our church. It has been constructed from existing pews and gives us an area for families with young children to enjoy our services. The area has been fitted out with toys/books/crayons/cushions to make it cosy and welcoming and it is proposed to decorate the wooden doors with child-friendly stickers/transfers. There is plenty of storage space so all the equipment can remain in situ. The new facility was first used at the ecumenical service on Good Friday. When appropriate, the area can be used for one-to-one prayer sessions, if required.



*Linda Todd and Liz Funning*

## Merrow

Spring “ sprung” early this year and this was highlighted when we were warned that it was unlikely that there would still be enough daffodils in bloom to enable us to provide posies to all the mums attending our Mothering Sunday morning service! Luckily the problem was overcome and the timing of Easter this year meant this celebration then led into a series of special services culminating on Easter Sunday.

Before then Merrow were delighted to host the well attended Circuit Service and Tea on 24th March when all present were tremendously inspired and moved by the words of Jean Kerr who works with the Archbishop of Canterbury as a founder member of the “ Thy Kingdom Come” global prayer initiative. Between Ascension and Pentecost we are all invited to pray for God’s Spirit to move within the Church, equipping us to share God’s love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today. We are now actively considering at Merrow how we can support this initiative not only in our Church but in our wider community.

At the end of March we enjoyed a delicious cooked supper and dessert at our Annual General Church Meeting. After the completion of our formal business, there followed a lively “Brexit-esque” discussion regarding the future direction of Cafe Style Worship at Merrow. Over the previous few months members had completed and returned questionnaires regarding this. Overall views varied from there being no place at all for such worship to the suggestion that we should hold a service every four weeks.

There were six definite “no’s” but a clear majority for, with 74% of those who replied saying we should continue with Cafe Style Worship. This is where the Brexit analogy comes in as however there was no clear consensus as to what these services should look like and whether they should be held in the mornings, evenings or both. There was a lively discussion with strong support for various options which we are now giving further thought to so watch this space.....

One service we are greatly looking forward to is our Church Anniversary on June 9th. This is going to be led by Rev Leslie Griffiths. Baron Griffiths of Burry Port (to give him his full title) is a life peer in the House of Lords, served as President of the Methodist Conference from 1994 - 1995, and is a well known writer and broadcaster and we are delighted that he has accepted our invitation to join us on this special day.

We will continue to hold our Charity Coffee Mornings on the second Thursday in the month and on the 13th June our proceeds will go to Street Angels and on the 11th July to the Mission Aviation Fellowship. Do come and join us for a cup of coffee and some of the best home made cakes in town.....

Planning is also well under way for our second Holiday at Home initiative which this year will take place on the 7 and 8 August. This event for the “ young at heart” held at one of the quietest times of the year was very well received last year and we are looking to increase our numbers from the twenty guests who were so appreciative of the lunches and varied entertainment that was provided for them.



*Hugh Bradley*

## V3RS3: & VOIC3

V3RS3: & VOIC3 is an alternative style of service that was conceived, and first held, at Knaphill Methodist Church in the autumn of 2017: 'alternative' in that it is a much more informally arranged service, led by the Worship Group, and focussed, quite tightly, around a specific theme.

It derives its name from its content and presentation: V3RS3 – as in verses of Scripture, of poetry, and of songs, and VOIC3 – as in participation, through both sung and spoken words, by those leading and those attending. The inclusion of the three '3's' in the title reflects the command from Psalm 33:3 which underpins what the services are about:

**“Sing to him a new song; play skilfully, and shout for joy.” Psalms 33:3**

A large part of the incentive for this service was to provide an environment in which people could just come and worship, with particular emphasis on learning some of the newer entries from the *Singing the Faith* hymnbook. As Methodists - 'born in song' - I believe we have a responsibility to express our faith in musical ways, trying and testing a variety of new material through its appropriate use, discerning the best, and passing this on to future generations: there is a focused discipline necessary in deliberating, and making the effort to learn something new, that can serve as a way to examine what our faith is all about. Most people learn more effectively through participation, so singing several new songs, set within the context of a themed service, seemed a worthwhile venture to undertake. *Singing the Faith* was chosen as the source book for the songs because it was a relatively new resource, widely being adopted throughout the Circuit, and containing a considerable number of 'new' hymns and songs to pick from: certainly, it has many new additions to the previous *Hymns and Psalms*. What is considered 'new' and 'known' is different in each Church community, and between individuals, so inclusion was based on the quality of the song – both words and music - and whether the Worship Group as a whole had had to learn it for use at Knaphill.

It was hoped that V3RS3:& VOIC3 would be especially useful to all those who plan and lead in services throughout the Circuit: giving them a time and space to just be able to worship for themselves, and to concentrate on listening and learning, widening their range of known resources, from which they could then select when preparing acts of worship, but the services are open to and suitable for anyone who likes to sing their faith. By taking themes 'out of season', there should be sufficient time to encounter a new song at a V3RS3: & VOIC3, and then take it to another church in time to learn it for inclusion in the proper context.

V3RS3: & VOIC3 I was held in October 2017, and the theme was simply 'Worship'. By means of feedback cards, the congregation then could indicate their preferences for the themes for future services, and, by popular vote, V3RS3: & VOIC3 II, held in July 2018, was entitled 'Creation: living in God's world'.

By the same means, the focus for V3RS3: & VOIC3 III was decided: **'Christmas is coming ...'**.

So, if you would like to learn some new(-ish) hymns and songs, suitable for the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, I invite you to 'save-the-date', and come along to worship:

**6:30 pm @ Knaphill Methodist Church on Sunday 29 September 2019 (Tea from 5:30 pm)**

*Elizabeth Gurd,*

*on behalf of Knaphill Methodist Church Worship Group*

## Circuit Mission Supper

Trinity Methodist Church was the venue for the annual Wey Valley Circuit Mission Supper on Saturday 23 February. The Sanctuary was transformed into a banqueting hall and around 160 people from all the churches in the circuit sat down to a lovely two-course meal. Apart from good food and good company, we had the privilege of listening to Rev Mike Long, our guest speaker for the evening. Mike, a former Minister at Trinity, is well known to many in the circuit, so was welcomed both as a friend as well as someone who has been profoundly involved with the community in Notting Hill affected by the tragedy of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Mike moved from his previous posting in Haringey to Notting Hill Methodist Church in April 2017, so was very new to the area when the fire at Grenfell Tower happened on 14 June 2017. His church was just a few hundred metres away from the tower block. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, the church was inaccessible behind the police cordon, but as soon as he was able to access the building, the doors were opened to anyone that needed support, refuge or a place to come and offer help. People needed somewhere to go – the church became one of those places.



Mike explained that this was an unprecedented event with no rulebook or guidelines to follow – all one initially could do was to respond to each person who arrived and each situation as it happened. As the church was so centrally placed, it very quickly became a focus of the relief operation and almost immediately donations started to arrive of food, water and clothing to meet the basic and immediate needs of those affected by the fire. The donations continued, with all manner of goods and items given by members of the local community and further afield, who simply wanted to help in whatever way they could. In those first few days Mike described a somewhat confused and chaotic scene with individuals, community groups and external agencies all trying to help but with no overall structure and no clear leadership or coordinating role in place. The needs were immense and overwhelming. Many had lost their lives. Many others faced a terrible time of uncertainty, not knowing whether friends and family had survived, were injured or where they were. Others were now homeless, having lost everything. In the chaos, practical decisions soon had to be made about how to accommodate and manage the donations constantly arriving, how to support those in the local community and liaise with the emergency services and Local Authority. Dealing with the press, whilst protecting grieving and vulnerable people from press intrusion, and many other minute by minute decisions and encounters that had to be dealt with was an exhausting process. Mike very much saw the role of the church as enabling others to do what needed to be done and so provided the space and resources for this to happen.

As a recognisable church leader, Mike was often the 'go to' person. Being relatively new to the area, he was not always able to provide instant answers, but a steep and rapid learning curve led to the formation of new relationships between local community groups and leaders, the local churches and those of other faith groups as they sought to work together and share local resources and knowledge. This continues to be a positive legacy of the fire.

Because of its location, the Methodist church became a focus for people to express their grief, their despair, their anger and their hope. An impromptu shrine for those who had lost their lives sprang from the church's railings – where flowers, candles, teddies, letters, photographs and tributes were left. As a place of silent vigil, it also became the starting point for a monthly silent walk. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of each month crowds gather outside the Methodist church, and at an appropriate time walk in silence as an act of remembrance, to honour the 72 lives lost and to show support for the community and its continuing search for answers and justice. The latest of these was on Valentine's Day – February 14 2019.

The church community were described as a 'quiet people' who enabled members of the community to express their grief and anger. Mike felt that providing hospitality for all was one of the most important ministries that the church could offer. People of all faiths and none came to recognise the church as a place where people felt safe, where they could meet and where they could express themselves. This unconditional welcome has resulted in many in the community referring to the Methodist church as 'our church' – be they Christian, Muslim or of no particular religious faith or persuasion. What a testament to the service and sensitivity of those 'quiet people.'

One thing that Mike particularly spoke about was the diversity of Notting Hill, where extremes of wealth and poverty exist side by side. The needs of those who were directly affected by the fire and who lost everything were well known. But many were also indirectly affected, and their needs were less obvious and less well publicised. Mike talked of those who were not able to return to homes adjacent to Grenfell Tower due to safety concerns or damage caused by the fire. They also required much emotional and practical support. Many economic and social problems existed within the wider community before the fire. One of the effects of the fire was to heighten some of these needs, and now support embraces many more than those directly impacted by the fire. Donations of money have been used to support many people in different ways, and this is a continuing work of the Church. A retiring collection following the Mission supper raised £1,758 towards this fund.

Twenty months on, Notting Hill Methodist Church still plays a central role in supporting the community. There have been many new challenges and opportunities – hosting community forums and public meetings, attending acts of remembrance and commemoration, liaising with different agencies and working with other faith and community groups. Grief, anger, a need for answers and justice are still very much embedded in the community, alongside the practical, everyday needs of many who still struggle to cope.



Mike's talk was thought-provoking, interesting and humbling. Thrown in at the deep-end, his sensitivity, dedication and compassion shone through, and there is little doubt that his calling to serve God led him to be the right person, in the right place at the right time.

*Helen Bowerman*



# St. Mary's is open for **YOU**

*During August, St Mary's is open every  
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
between 11.00 – 15.00*

*Drop in for a chat, a coffee,  
to explore the building, to pray or just to  
escape for some quiet.*

*There will be photographic  
exhibitions by Fiona Bunn  
& Mike Sleigh.*



## **Lay Employment & Legal Matters**

I need to draw your attention to the Methodist Church pack of procedures on lay employment: <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-ministers-and-office-holders/employees-and-volunteers/lay-employment-advisory-information/>. The purpose of this pack is to help churches, circuits and districts in the recruitment and selection of employees and in the early stages of employment. The pack also identifies some of the issues that can arise during the employment relationship and offers advice on these matters.

Hard copies of the pack are available and we are ordering copies for use in the circuit. If you are a line manager or are involved in lay employment e.g. on an interview panel or involved in recruitment, pensions, dismissals, disciplinary or appeals processes, you need to be familiar with this. Contact the Circuit Office if you require a copy.

There are many legal duties upon employers and use of the handbook will enable trustees to avoid serious problems. I would stress that Methodist Insurance only covers trustees when they follow Methodist policies, and so trustees may become personally liable if they "do their own thing". To avoid this happening, I propose holding a workshop based on the handbook on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm at Trinity, Woking. Please make every effort to attend or send someone to represent you. Please book your place with Sue Howson.

Please also note that TMCP now have a panel of solicitors who are aware of Methodist procedures should trustees require legal advice.

Several churches are receiving financial claims for breach of copyright. Refer all such claims to Methodist Insurance. On no account publish images or articles from the internet or other sources without copyright consent.

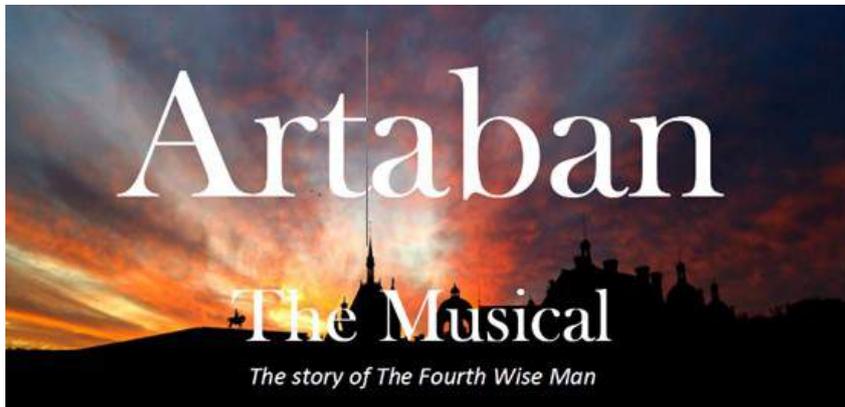
*Rev Keith Beckingham*

# Artaban the Musical

Some years ago Daphne was handed a small book by a fellow member at our previous church in Leatherhead. The book was a novel called 'The other Wise Man' and it was suggested to Daphne that with her experience in theatre she might be able to 'do something with it'.

The book was written by an American, Henry van Dyke, over a hundred years ago. It tells the story of Artaban, who has the vision that a new king will be born who will bring light back into a world filled with corruption, oppression and greed. He sees the star that led the magi to Bethlehem but whilst Caspar, Balthasar and Melchior make their progress he is waylaid time and again by encounters with people in need. Overwhelmed by compassion he gives away the three gems which were to be his gift to the new-born king. Obsessed with his quest he despairs at failing to reach the king at his birth but ultimately comes to realise that through his acts of kindness he has fulfilled his mission and found the God who loves him.

It is a story that resonates very strongly in today's world and Daphne was inspired along with her school friend Anne to create a musical out of it. Daphne set about creating the libretto and Anne wrote song lyrics. Another friend, Rick, is a rock guitarist. He had never tackled anything like this before but in what is probably the most wonderful discovery on this journey, was inspired to write music for 17 songs. And so a rock musical was born.



But what to do with it? Two years ago Daphne organised a workshop at Trinity where we tried out the dialogue and played the songs in their early 'sketch' form. The feedback from that helped iron out some glitches but we needed an opening. Anyone involved in the world of theatre knows how laborious is the process of knocking on doors until one opens.

This case is no different and there have been a number of dead ends. But eventually through a neighbour in Carters Lane we made contact with a professional rock musician who agreed to arrange the songs, and through him a writer to take the libretto forward and a young theatre director, Joe. All of this has of course cost money, most of which has come from the generosity of Anne's husband!

Everyone who has got involved has caught the vision of this story. It is not overtly Christian, despite its heritage, but it is spiritual. It is a hopeful story in a troubled world, demonstrating the power of love to conquer hate and light to overcome darkness. And so the team are convinced that there is a future for the project. On Joe's advice a week-long workshop was organised in which a 40 minute reduction of the show was rehearsed by five professional actors and a four-piece rock band culminating in a 'showcase' on the Friday afternoon in front of an invited audience. The video recording of this will be an essential tool for spreading the word.

The hope is that it will lead us to someone who will not only catch the vision but be prepared to invest financially in order to take the project to the next stage. If nothing else comes of Artaban it has been a wonderful experience which Daphne, Anne and Rick plus everyone who has got involved along the way, have gained a lot from. But that doesn't feel enough. This is a story with a mission - so watch this space! And if you are interested do visit the website [www.artabanthemusical.co.uk](http://www.artabanthemusical.co.uk)

*David Lander*

# Walton - on - Thames

## Change, Risk Assessment and Alcohol

In the last edition of The Wey Forward, Sue Howson mentioned “thought-provoking articles”. I hope this fits the bill! Our monthly walking group at Walton has been on the go for over 5 years, finishing with lunch together in a pub or restaurant. In line with Methodist guidelines we carry out a risk assessment for each walk, using the form “Walking for Health”, which we found on the internet. At the start of each walk we are alerted to possible risks such as danger from cars and bicycles on roads, dogs, waterways and uneven paths.

In my youth it was unusual for a group of Methodists to meet regularly in pubs! But times have changed. Many Methodists now have occasional drinks, some are teetotal whilst others like me only drink if taking communion at an Anglican church. Times are also changing for pubs, with about three a day closing since 2016 as they face the stiff competition of cheap supermarket alcohol and the trend of more and more young people under 25 avoiding alcohol. A third of under 25s do not drink any. Smartphones have become a new way of socialising, rather than going to pubs, whilst excessive drinking can quickly become embarrassingly visible to the world at large.

The reasons for drinking alcohol are also changing. For at least 3,000 years, in Europe the Middle East and Egypt, alcohol has been added to water to sterilise it to make it safer to drink. Inns were placed at strategic locations along highways to provide rest and refreshment for weary travellers. As a former Chartered Water Engineer, I am conscious that in the UK we now have safer methods to sterilise drinking water. Surprisingly, non-alcoholic beer is one of the UKs fastest growing drinks!

The Bible records Jesus changing water into wine, which was the “safe” thing to do. Water used for ceremonial washing needed to be sterilised before being fit to drink (John 2 : 6). This miracle also made the disciples put their faith in Jesus. The water in Laodicea was often lukewarm and unhealthy to drink, since it came through an aqueduct warmed by the sun. John used the imagery of unhealthy water by writing “Because you are lukewarm – neither hot nor cold – I am about to spit you out of my mouth” (Revelation 3 : 16). Paul advised Timothy to “Use a little wine because of your stomach and your frequent illness”. It was widely known that boiling water or adding alcohol made it much safer to drink.

Two major health studies in the UK, using data sets for about 18,000 people (including me), came to the incorrect conclusion that moderate alcohol consumption promoted good health. The results for both studies were inaccurate because the input data did not include details of the prescribed medicines that participants took. Without this information people who were teetotal because they were ill created a bias in the results. On my (and perhaps others) prompting, a similar analysis five years later, which included information about prescriptions, reversed the earlier conclusion, now showing that alcohol was not beneficial to health. Not surprisingly, suggestions that alcohol is good for health makes headlines (“The Times”, 2.8.2018)! I wrote to the paper pointing out they had published incorrect information and shortly afterwards was pleased to read an excellent article which quoted authoritative information from the Department of Health’s “New Alcohol Guidelines”, published in January 2016.

Many things we enjoy doing have an element of risk, including drinking alcohol. Often, we accept the risks or try and ignore them. About 7 in every 100 people, for genetic reasons, are intolerant to alcohol; alcohol has no nutritional value and cannot be stored in the body, so it has to be metabolised right away; drinking alcohol can cause tumours (cancers) to develop by harming our DNA (the building blocks of all life on earth); also, it can be addictive. The risk of cancer is the reason why the Department of Health says there is no safe limit for drinking alcohol. Also, it is well known that obesity, lack of exercise, smoking and excessive alcohol consumption is bad for health. It is particularly dangerous if more than one of these conditions apply. Self-harm from excessive alcohol intake is a major challenge to the NHS in staff time, accommodation and costs, especially at weekends.

In conclusion, I think we can be proud of our Methodist heritage which has encouraged zero to light drinking. However, our walking group return time and again to pubs offering good food and service in a pleasant environment and at a reasonable cost. One or two we have learnt to avoid!

*Colin Wright*

## Methodist Eco Circuit and Eco District



A new scheme has been launched to continue the ongoing commitment of the Methodist Church to reduce its impact on God's creation. Eco Circuit and Eco District awards have been developed to support the growing interest in Eco Church. The new awards have been developed by the Methodist Church and A Rocha UK, the organisation behind Eco Church, and are similar to the Church of England Eco Diocese award. They provide recognition of the concerns of circuits and districts in their care of creation and will encourage further local church engagement with Eco Church.

To become an Eco Circuit/Eco District, the circuit or district needs to:

- \* Have an agreed environmental policy
- \* Be recording and celebrating individual environmental initiatives
- \* Have achieved the Eco Church Bronze level or above in the Buildings category for its district/circuit offices (where appropriate) and land (where appropriate)
- \* Have gained a number of Eco Church awards across the circuit or district

The full list of criteria is available on the A Rocha UK website at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Michaela Youngson, President of the Conference of the Methodist Church has welcomed the new awards and made the following statement, "The urgency of the climate crisis is increasingly clear. As a nation we have begun to reduce carbon emissions but not nearly fast enough. I call on our government to put in place policies that will reduce our national carbon emissions to net zero as soon as possible.

In the midst of this crisis I have come across many members in our churches who are responding in different ways. Some are taking action within their churches while others are working alongside others in the community. The Eco Church programme is a great way for us to recognise these efforts. It is a simple and straightforward programme and I encourage every Methodist Church to consider becoming an Eco Church".

*From The Methodist Church News Release*

## Olny Srmat Poelpe Can Raed This

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacilty uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. Its the phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mind. Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihis is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig! And I awlyas tghuhot spleling was ip-morantt!

*(Yes, it is amazing that you only need the first and last letter of a word in the right place to be able to read what is written.)*

*On behalf of the Proof Reading Team*



## Mental Health First Aid Youth Course

### What is Youth Mental Health First Aid?

Youth Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an internationally recognised two day training course, designed to teach people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health in young people and provide help on a first aid basis. The training can be attended by anyone from 16 upwards and is relevant for people who teach, work, live with and care for 8 to 18 year olds, including young people themselves.

### What will I learn on a two day course?

Our Youth MHFA instructors deliver training that has been designed to fit into four manageable chunks. These are:

- What is mental health?
- Depression and anxiety
- Suicide and psychosis
- Self-harm and eating disorders

Within each section there is clear focus on the issues faced by young people today, including bullying/cyber bullying and substance misuse. The course also teaches the importance of promoting protective factors, whilst highlighting the risk factors.

Everyone will receive a copy of the Youth MHFA manual which is an excellent support resource and when you have completed the course you will be a Youth Mental Health First Aider.

### How will becoming a Youth Mental Health First Aider help?

The course will:

- Give a deeper understanding around the issues that relate to young people's mental health
- Teach practical skills that can be used every day, including being able to spot the signs and symptoms of mental health issues

### Research and evaluation show that taking part of an MHFA course:

- Raises awareness and mental health literacy
- Reduces stigma around mental ill health
- Boosts knowledge and confidence in dealing with mental health issues
- Encourages people to start a conversation with a person who may be experiencing a mental health issue
- Promotes early intervention which enables recovery

Youth MHFA won't teach you how to be a therapist, but you'll be able to say you're a Youth Mental Health First Aider.



### Next Courses:

**10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Book now to become a Mental Health First Aider**

**01483 574900   info@matrixtrust.com**

**Supporting Young People**

# Advanced Safeguarding Training

Safeguarding training has been updated over the last couple of years and this includes the Advanced Module Safeguarding training (which was formerly called The Leadership Module).

Training consists of about an hour and a half of 'Essential Preparation' which is carried out before you attend the training session. This can be done individually or in small groups if preferred. This is followed by a Core Learning training session, organised by the District, after which you will be given a handbook to take away for further study.

We have been fortunate enough to secure a date for the District to come to our Circuit to deliver this training. This will take place on:

**Wednesday 10 July 10 am to 3 pm at Merrow Methodist Church.**

Those required to attend include:

- ◆ All presbyters, with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- ◆ Local Preachers
- ◆ Worship leaders
- ◆ Lay people who have been appointed to exercise pastoral leadership within a local church.
- ◆ Church Safeguarding Officers
- ◆ Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Please note that the Foundation Safeguarding Training Course should have been undertaken before attending the Advanced Training Module. Also Conference in 2016 decided that the frequency of attending Safeguarding training courses should change in 2017, from 5 years to 4 years to ensure that training keeps pace with changes in legislation and safeguarding practices. If it is 4 years or more since you attended the old Leadership training and you remain in the same role you will therefore need to undertake the new Advanced Training programme.

Our Presbyters and Supernumeraries are already booked onto courses in Farnborough and Eastbourne, together with Maggie Woolcock and Catherine Heffernan.

We are anticipating that the training course at Merrow, being so nice and local, will book up quickly as we have many people due this training and there are only 30 places.

If you would like to secure your place - please email Catherine Heffernan on:  
[circuitoffice@virginmedia.com](mailto:circuitoffice@virginmedia.com)

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact your Church Safeguarding officer or any of the Circuit Safeguarding team. More information is also available on the Methodist Church website under *Safeguarding Training*

*Maggie Woolcock (Circuit Safeguarding Lead)*  
*Catherine Heffernan (Circuit Safeguarding Administrator)*



# Tales of a Travelling Preacher

## In the third of a series Graham Warr looks back on his life

Without doubt God had intended me to go to Cliff College. I started in October 1968 and it changed my life. I had failed my 11+ because, being left handed I found handwriting very difficult and I wrote quite slowly. I had done well but as there were only 25 places at Wimborne Grammar School and 125 candidates the authorities thought I would find it too difficult to cope. Cliff solved all that and I took my GCEs there as well as Theology, Old and New Testament Studies and Worship and Preaching which met the requirements to become a Local Preacher. I also did some community service.

We were out preaching almost every Sunday across the Peak District and the East Midlands. We were transported to the various places by cars or the minibus and sometimes by bus. Many chapels did not have morning services but afternoon and evening services and we were invited to tea with a member of the congregation before the evening service which could be at another chapel. Their hospitality was always generous and sincere.

I also took part in Evangelical Missions to Bradford, Colne, Sleaford and Barnet. Even so in the year from September 1968 – August 1969 I preached over a hundred times. I had become a genuine 'travelling preacher' and not yet 'Fully Accredited'.

There were three churches in particular – Newtown, Penistone and Hognaston which stood out for different reasons.

In November we had heavy snow and I was planned to preach in the 'White Peak' at Newtown in the afternoon and Longnor in the evening. Those of us planned in the area were taken by minibus to Youlgreave where we transferred to local cars. The Minister took me towards Newtown and when we got to the top of a hill he stopped. He pointed to a farm in the distance and said, 'The key for the Chapel is kept at the farmhouse you need to knock and ask for it. They will be expecting you'. Having said farewell he drove off and I trudged through the snow for twenty minutes to the farm. I got the key but by now I was cold and although the chapel was easy to find it was like walking into a freezer. I had about half an hour to wait for the service. There was an electric heater on the wall but I didn't know how to turn it on. I was wearing a thin overcoat but I was just getting colder. It was almost 2.30 before a man arrived and turned the heating on. He also informed me that he was my host for tea after the service. Eventually a lady arrived who played the organ and then another lady arrived. I had planned five hymns and I felt it was a bit much for them to sing. I suggested perhaps we could have a less formal service and some Bible Study. My host abruptly told me,

'We've come for service lad, get into pulpit.' I did and preached in my overcoat. We sang all five hymns, one lady played, one lady sang, my host sang, I sang and we managed to make 'noise' to the Lord. I'm not sure if it was joyful.

My biggest shock was yet to come, the congregation left quickly after the service and my host, who had a 'gammy leg', led me to his car, a large somewhat dated saloon. As I got in he told me it was the only car he could drive because of his leg. By now it was getting dark and freezing we started off and it quickly became clear he didn't drive the car but aimed it. In the half-light, we had an uneventful but 'interesting' ride to his farm on the top of a hill. The wind was biting cold and as we sat around a lovely warm fire for 'high tea' my face was burning, and my back was freezing.

After tea, we prepared to go onto Longnor. It was about a half-hour drive. It was full dark with brightly twinkly stars and below zero. The snow twinkled in the starlight and the snow packed roads looked like a toboggan run and they were.

We set off out of the farm yard and then sped along these narrow, thankfully, empty roads until we reached the end of the ridge. Then we hurtled down this long steepish slope and I suddenly realised the car was out of gear and we were free-wheeling. I prayed that I would arrive at my service in a fit state to preach. My host was oblivious: he was enjoying his toboggan ride. We arrived in Longnor safely but it was the most frightening ride I have ever had. The church was larger with a larger congregation and warm. We sang all the five hymns lustily and it was a good service.

I was driven back to College very well by a member of the congregation. However, it was after 9.00 when I arrived back. I was the last preacher 'home' and they were getting a bit concerned that I might have been stuck in the snow. They had left me a slice of cold meat, a couple of slices of bread and lukewarm tea at the bottom of the large, now empty tea-pot.

It was a tradition that after tea we gathered around the piano and sang hymns to welcome the preachers as they returned. I sat and munched my cold meat and drank my cold tea feeling a bit down. Then we launched into 'Abide with me', it was so moving, despite the experiences of the day I had not been alone. God had been with me and I had taken the gospel to small congregations to enable them to worship.

In March, I went to preach in Penistone Methodist Church. It had been a harsh winter and there was still some snow about. The afternoon service was well attended with some children and it went very well. A lovely, genteel, petite, elderly lady introduced herself as my host for 'tea'. She was charming and so caring. As we chatted I discovered she lived on her own, and I think had been widowed for quite a long time. To host a visiting preacher was a 'highlight' of her life and she only used her parlour for meals with special visitors, mainly preachers. It was magnificent, beautifully laid out with bone china, silver cutlery and a full Sunday Roast. It was a wonderful experience and she got so much from it.

The evening service was a traditional evening service, I really miss them now. To close I had chosen what is probably my favourite evening hymn: '*Father in high heaven dwelling*,' It turned out to be a fitting end to a lovely day and I wasn't the last one home either.

One of my last preaching appointments at Cliff was at Hognaston near Wirksworth, it was a pretty, little chapel on the ridge of a low hill surrounded by farm land and animals. It was a lovely Summer evening and a very poignant service. Sadly, you won't find the chapel today for shortly after that service the valley was flooded to make Carsington Water.

When I returned some years later the road that led to the chapel stops at the water's edge and you can see it continuing the other side. It reflects that time passes and things change but God is always with us.

To be continued.....

*Graham Warr*

## **Methodist Ministers' Housing Society**

Methodist Ministers' Housing Society (MMHS) were delighted to receive Merrow's generous donation of £435.69 plus a CAF voucher of £50 on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

2018 marked the 70<sup>th</sup> year since the beginning of MMHS and during the year they remembered the generosity of individuals and churches contributing to their mission since the Society was founded in 1948.

Monetary support enables MMHS to continue its ongoing ministry of housing retired presbyters and deacons, to fulfil their Acts 4 : 34 vision – '*There was not single person in need among them*'.



## Walton - on - Thames

Here at Walton we have shared three Lent groups, meeting with people from other churches in Walton. We used the "Travel lightly" Lent pack from All We Can, this was particularly appropriate for us at Walton as the topics for the 6 weeks matched a number of topics that were brought up on our Away Day to think about appreciating Church.

Our busy day in March, which had Church Anniversary, Gift Day, AGM, Communion and All Age Worship, turned out to be a great success. Sydney Samuel suggested having the AGM as part of the service, which meant that we had a service of 1½ hours. It also meant that we had a number of people present at the church meeting who would not normally have stayed, and it is important at the AGM to have a good representation from the full church community. The service was followed by a family lunch, which allowed us to get to know each other a bit better.

In April, we had a good service with one Adult Baptism, one christening and one transfer of membership. So from babes to retired we are getting new members at Walton.

In August on the day of the cycle ride, we are looking forward to acting as a cheering post for Action for Children and in the evening having an alternative service.

The house group that meets on a Thursday is going to watch "The mystery of everything" and follow a course based on the film. We have done this with three other films before, so it sounds as if we are in for a good time. The course is based on both the mysteries of the universe and everyday life. If you would like to know more about this contact Colin Wright

We are also looking at other ways to involve the church community and the wider community in Walton, particularly those who might be lonely. So if you can pray for some of these new initiatives we would appreciate it.

*The Stewards*

## West Horsley

We had a busy week at the start of April to celebrate the chapel's 142nd anniversary. It began on 4 April with an occasional lunch, serving 30 people with filled jacket potatoes and a selection of puddings. Then on the Saturday we had a very successful Songs of Praise evening and were grateful to those who came from other circuit churches and from our neighbourhood to share their favourite hymns and join with us. On the Sunday we invited Rev Paul Hulme to lead our Anniversary service. We are very appreciative of Paul's ministry in this circuit and are very grateful to him for taking another Sunday service for us in May and also attending our house group before he leaves. We wish him a happy and fruitful retirement, well deserved after his long service in the active ministry.

We felt inspired by the Rev Jean Kerr's talk at the circuit service in March and are planning to participate in the forthcoming Thy Kingdom Come events.

We are active with our local community and are making plans to have a stall at the forthcoming village fete in September. This will be held at West Horsley Place and it will be interesting to see how the work there is progressing since it was inherited by Bamber Gascoigne.

*Margaret Faulkner*

# Weybridge

## Hello, Goodbye



Since the last edition of Wey Forward there have been comings and goings at Weybridge. On 31 March we held our Annual church meeting where we had the privilege of welcoming a new member. Adelaide has been worshipping with us for some months but at the meeting Rev Sydney Samuel Lake formally welcomed her to Weybridge with a transfer of her membership from Midhurst and he then presented her with a gift on behalf of the church.

Unfortunately at the same meeting we said goodbye to Brenda. Brenda came to worship at Weybridge when the Shepperton Methodist church closed down in the 1990's. She played the organ for a while and has always been willing to read the lesson. Brenda and her husband are moving to Devon with their son as her husband requires more care than she can now give him on her own. Rev Sydney Samuel presented Brenda with a book and the church will send a gift once she has settled into her new home. We send her love and prayers as she and Keith embark on this new stage of their lives.

The church took the opportunity to engage more with the children's nursery which meets on the premises by giving all the children a 'Real Easter Egg' which is accompanied by a small booklet telling the Easter story. We will also give them all one of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' sticker leaflets at the appropriate time.



All other regular church activities continue; the Bedding and Clothes bank occurs monthly on the third Saturday, our monthly coffee morning (held at Addlestone) takes place on the second Saturday of the month and we are now raising funds specifically for a new P.A. system in the church. Church members continue to support the Weybridge Old Folks club on a weekly basis and recently Rev Barrie Tabraham came as a visitor to talk about Nursery Rhymes - went down a treat.

We are trying to introduce a social event for all church members on a semi regular basis during the summer months; more news next time

*Linda Weedon*



# THY KINGDOM COME

30 May – 9 June

Those who attended the circuit service at Merrow Methodist Church on Sunday 24 March heard a truly inspirational address by Rev Jean Kerr about the commencement and truly rapid growth of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' movement internationally and the plans for the 2019 events. The service was followed by a marvellous tea and thanks go to the Merrow Methodist church for their hospitality. An offertory was taken up for the All We Can Relief fund and it raised £474.01.

The Methodist Connexion became a full partner with the Anglican Church for this wonderful prayer project in 2018 and Rev Jean Kerr reported that the Roman Catholic Church will become a full partner in 2020.

The 2019 event runs from 30 May until 9 June. Circuit churches are urged to recognise it in their own way with local events as suits them. There are resources available to help, with a prayer journal and a novena free to all. Your church will have received some by the time you are reading this.



This year the circuit is holding a 24 hour prayer vigil over the weekend of 1 and 2 June, just into the start of the TKC period of prayer. As ever all circuit churches will be assigned two hours across the 24 hours to cover with prayer. Preachers will be encouraged to bring the prayer vigil to a close during worship on 2 June. Preachers will also be encouraged to bring the TKC 11 days of prayer to a conclusion during worship on 9 June.

Guildford Cathedral will be holding an event on 9 June in the afternoon and evening; details will be circulated when we receive them. There is also an event at Westminster Central Hall.

Why not go on the website - [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) – and pledge2pray? When you do so, a light will be added to the world map which is a good indication of the magnitude of prayer being offered around the world.

*I cannot remember in my life anything that I've been involved in where I have sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit.*  
- Archbishop Justin Welby

*Circuit Mission Group*

## **A note to contributors**

It is our practice to publish each edition of The Wey Forward, in its pdf format, on the Circuit website. The Wey Forward is an important source of information about the life of the Circuit and what is going on in each of the churches across it. We want to share it with others.

However, we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable with a mention on the internet. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so. Please advise at the time of submitting the copy.

## **A Message from the Editor**

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

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

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

**The deadline for Issue 13 of The Wey Forward  
is midnight 7 July 2019**

Submissions to the newsletter are accepted at any time but we can only guarantee a submission **will be considered** for a particular issue if it is received by the corresponding deadline listed below. Pop them in your diaries now.

**Issue 14 20 October 2019**

**Issue 15 19 January 2020**

**Issue 16 5 April 2020**

**Issue 17 5 July 2020**

**Please send your items (and photos) to  
[weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk](mailto:weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk)**

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Sue Howson*

# Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>June 2019</b>			
Mondays	12.30pm - 1pm	Still Mondays—Guided Contemplative Reflections	St. Mary's, Guildford
30 May - 9 June		Thy Kingdom Come	
31 May - 8 June	1pm	Thy Kingdom Come Novena of Prayer	St. Mary's, Guildford
1 June	2.30pm - 4.30pm	FREE Children's Party	Knaphill
2 June	10.30am	Church Anniversary	Cranleigh
8 June	9am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning	Byfleet
8 June	9.20am - 12.30pm	Practical Aspects of Faith with Sarah Hutton	St Mary's, Guildford
9 June	6.30pm	Café Church with Paul Hulme	Addlestone
9 June	10.30am	Church Anniversary followed by Church Family Lunch	Merrow
9 June	6.30 pm	ATS with Hugh Bowerman	Merrow
9 June	10.30am	Church Anniversary with later BBQ and entertainment	Godalming
13 June	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning in aid of 'Street Angels'	Merrow
13 - 14 June	Tbc	Mental Health First Aid Youth Courses (014832 574900)	Guildford
15 June	3pm - 5pm	Messy Church	Godalming
15 June	2pm - 4pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
15 June	11.30am - 1.30pm	Bedding and Clothing Bank	Weybridge
16 June	6pm	Midsummer Evensong with Robert Cotton	St Mary's, Guildford
22 June	10am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
27 June	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake for FRRME	St Mary's, Guildford
28 June	8pm - 11.30pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
30 June	10.30am	Paul Hulme's Farewell Service	Godalming
30 June	Midnight	<b>Deadline for changes to Circuit Directory</b>	
<b>July 2019</b>			
4 July	7.30pm - 9.30pm	Lay Employment Workshop	Trinity, Woking
7 July	Midnight	<b>Deadline for copy for Issue 13 of The Wey Forward</b>	
7 July	10.30am	Choir Anniversary	Cranleigh
10 July	10 am - 3 pm	Advanced Safeguarding Training	Merrow
11 July	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee morning supporting 'Mission Aviation Fellowship'	
13 July	7.30pm	Woking Ladies Choir—Summer Selection	Knaphill
14 July	10.30am	AFC 150th Anniversary service	Merrow
14 July	6.30pm	ATS led by Dave Faulkner	Merrow
20 July	2pm - 4pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
20 July	11.30am - 1.30pm	Bedding and Clothing Bank	Weybridge
25 July	10am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake for Tools for Self Reliance	St Mary's, Guildford
26 July	8pm - 11.30pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
27 July	10am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
<b>August 2019 (and beyond)</b>			
Tues, Thurs, Frids	11am - 3pm	Drop in for chat, coffee, pray or explore the building	St. Mary's, Guildford
4 August	6.30pm	Pudding & Praise (united with Weybridge)	Walton
7 - 8 August	10am - 3pm	Holiday at Home	Merrow
9 August	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning	Merrow
11 August	6.30pm	ATS led by Asif Das	Merrow
17 August	2pm - 4pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
17 August	11.30am - 1.30pm	Bedding and Clothing Bank	Weybridge
22 August	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee and Cake for Conquest Art	St Mary's, Guildford
23 August	8pm - 11.30pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
24 August	10am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
27 August	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Cream Tea in aid of projects aiding Uganda and Kenya	St Mary's, Guildford
29 September	6.30pm	V3RS3: & VOIC3 'Christmas is coming.....' (tea from 5.30pm)	Knaphill