

# **The Wey Forward**

Issue 15 March - May 2020

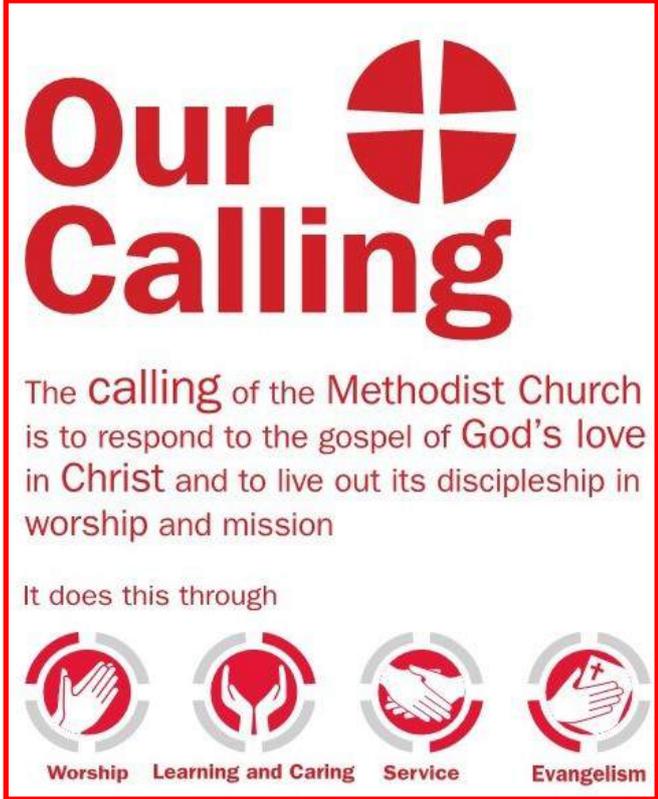


# The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

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,

I am pleased to confirm that the Wey Valley Circuit has been fortunate enough to have been matched with the Rev Sam (Samantha) Funnell currently stationed as Superintendent in the South Kent Circuit. Subject to Methodist Conference Sam will assume pastoral charge at Trinity Woking on 1<sup>st</sup> September, and this will be combined with duties as Assistant Chair of the Western Area of the SE Methodist District. Our thanks are due to everyone involved in this process, and especially our District Chair, Rev Dr David Hinchliffe.

By now most churches will have conferred regarding the report, *God in Love Unites Us*. We will report comments to Circuit Meeting and Synod. Voting will take place at District Synod and Methodist Conference. Many church members tell me that they have carefully read the report. As I read the report, I was prompted to reread Wesley's sermon on the Catholic Spirit, and to look again at John Wesley's Journal and books such as *Reasonable Enthusiast* by Henry Rack.

John Wesley was of course no stranger to controversy (see his Journal for 1741, and his relationships with Whitefield, Cennick, the Moravians and the Fetter Lane Society). More reason to take to heart the words written by the Apostle Paul from prison: "*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*" (Ephesians 4:3). The Methodist Church is committed to living with contradictory convictions.

John Wesley wrote a letter to the editor of Lloyd's Evening Post on 17 November 1760 in which he outlines "*the fundamental doctrine of the people called Methodists... Whoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the true faith: the faith that works by love of God and our neighbour, produces both inward and outward holiness...*" (The Journal of John Wesley abridged by Christopher Idle, Lion Publishing, 1986, p. 151). My prayer for the Wey Valley Circuit is that we unite around this doctrine.

I am due a Sabbatical from 6 April for 3 months. I am most grateful to those who will be caused extra work, especially Rev David Faulkner, who will act as Superintendent in my absence, also preachers who have offered extra appointments as well as churches who will have extra local arrangements and joint services.

As we are cheered by Spring and thoughts turn to Lent and Easter, I hope you are planning your spiritual reading. I have on my book wish list to read: *Healthy Spirituality* by Peter Scazerro, and *The Glory of the Cross*, by Cardinal Vincent Nichols whose preaching inspired my son when he was a student and chorister in Birmingham. Do let me know what books you plan to read.

God bless you,

*Rev Keith C. Beckingham*  
*Superintendent Minister*



# News from around the Circuit

## Addlestone

### Our Mission

We continue to look for new ways of making our mission activities more effective. On 22 February we held a coffee morning in support of the Woking and Sam Beare Hospice. Further events of this sort are under consideration.

We continue to support our local foodbank with regular contributions. Our picture shows Christmas Gift items donated to them recently.

Our efforts continue to find better ways to advertise and present our Café Style Evening Services. As with all our plans we employ the attitude 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.'



### Our Church Family

So many of our normally regular members are still struggling with health problems, yet we admire their efforts to get to church whenever possible and to help when they can. We remember them in our prayers hoping their health improves and they can be back with us again soon.

A new programme of events is being considered; home groups and social events including a 'faith lunch'. Our thanks to members offering to help in the organising of these family activities. A special thank you to our newer members who are a great help in spreading the day to day work load. We have a small but regular attendance at our Thursday morning prayer meetings and with the aid of the Methodist Prayer Handbook are able to include in our prayers many countries around the world where the Methodist Church is involved helping those in need and spreading the Word.

### Property Matters

The window restoration programme has been delayed due to the heavy work load of our contractors and it will probably be June before we have a full set of restored windows.

The work necessary to comply with the fire risk assessment is now complete apart from a few administration items and a few items identified in the Quinquennial Inspection are now being organised. An overdue church spring clean is to be organised in the spring – all hands to the wheel.

We can see a light at the end of the tunnel but it is still an uphill climb to get there – we are confident we will make it. (God is shining the light for us).

*Fred Rowe*

# Byfleet

On Saturday 21 March there will be a **Pilgrimage around Byfleet** with our Interfaith friends. Organised by Woking People of Faith, it will start from Byfleet Methodist Church at 10.30am. We will learn more of the faith of Christians, Hindus, Baha'i, Muslims and Buddhists. Lunch is included and the pilgrimage is due to finish at 3.15pm.

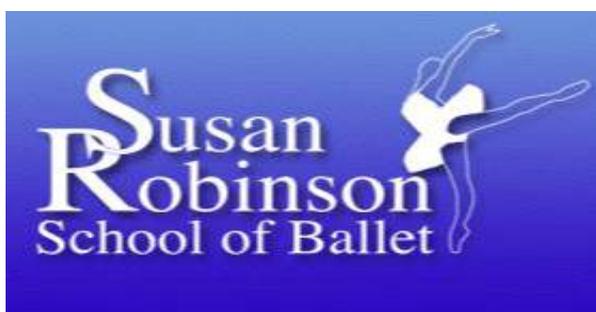
Byfleet Methodist Church is justifiably proud of its diverse links with the local community, using its premises to facilitate such activities as Music for Toddlers, Soft Play for under-5s, Rainbows/ Brownies, National Childbirth Trust, a badminton club, U3A games afternoons, Alcoholics Anonymous, Woking Foodbank, etc. However, the licensee who has been using our premises for the longest period is undoubtedly the **Susan Robinson School of Ballet** who has been teaching in Byfleet for over 40 years. Recognised worldwide, the school is one of the top non-vocational dance schools in the UK. It is our privilege to be able to support them in their forthcoming show.

Every two years, all pupils are invited to perform in the School Show at the Rhoda McGaw Theatre in Woking to raise money for charity. This year the Ballet School will be fund-raising for **The Brain Tumour Charity**, a UK-based, Charity Commission registered charity, dedicated to funding research, raising awareness of brain tumours, reducing diagnosis times and providing support and information for people with a brain tumour and their families and friends. This is a charity particularly dear to their hearts as it recently supported one of their teachers when her husband lost the fight against a brain tumour.

The 2020 show entitled '*Kaleidoscope*' takes place on 16, 17 and 18 April and will showcase an array of the students' and teachers' fantastic work, not only in ballet but also the dance genres of modern, tap and musical theatre. £1,000 will be donated from the proceeds of the show to The Brain Tumour Charity, in addition to all monies raised from a raffle on the night and further events over the coming months. Further information and tickets are available by contacting: [sroballet.adm@gmail.com](mailto:sroballet.adm@gmail.com) or [margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com](mailto:margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com) (01932 343489).

Tickets: £13.50. Child concession £11.50 for the Saturday matinee only.

**Please will you support this worthy cause?**



*Margaret Watts*

# Cranleigh

Many of us in Cranleigh have been perhaps busier than usual during the Christmas period and many of you reading this will say 'Amen' to that - but perhaps we're just getting older! Be that as it may, one positive result of many people's efforts was the record amount that was sent to Action for Children from collections made from the Community Tea (thank you to Jane and helpers), from the choir concert and tea at Elmbridge and at the Gift Service on 8 December. We were delighted with the total of £670!

The church was as usual blessed with the traditional crib, and each Sunday in Advent a special liturgy was used. Children took part in the liturgy whenever possible and lit a candle on the Advent ring on the Sundays before Christmas Day when the special central candle was lit. A decorative innovation this year was a group silhouette, made by the Wednesday Group, depicting scenes from the Nativity story and put on the wall opposite the main church entrance.

Special Services included our own Gift Service (mentioned above) and the Carol Service on 15 December, led by our own minister, Keith. The traditional Village Carol Service was on 22 December and a choir of Anglicans and Methodists (with semi-professional helpers) led an unusually large congregation in traditional carols and sang others, less known, to illustrate the traditional Lessons usually read at these services.

January was busy too, with many things happening both in our church and in other churches in Cranleigh. We shared in a united service in the Catholic Church to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity as well as the prayer vigil with other churches in our Circuit, bringing before God the various needs we all share, in some measure. We also met in our church to discuss the serious matters of our relationships with others, particularly in marriage, as discussed in the excellent report received by Conference in July 2019. We ask for God's help in all these important events and discussions that we may make progress in love.

Finally, we have made an important step forward in our church when a new group met for the first time to help anyone who feels the need to meet with other people of any age simply to chat or feel less isolated. This group was originally planned to help isolated young mothers, but it was thought afterwards that many older people also feel alone – and not only women of course! It was also realised that such a group could operate in the back of the church, as indeed our Friendly Voices Group does on a Tuesday afternoon (refugees and others, for whom English is not their native language). This new group now meets in the mornings from 10am until 12 noon on Thursdays and will not be affected by our dangerous schoolroom roof! We received a very encouraging report from Hilary Strawson, one of the organisers, the other being Miffy Dackham, a young mother, that the first meeting was very successful with several young mothers and about a dozen toddlers, who doubtless kept the organisers very busy. No older people attended the first gathering, though many have expressed interest and it is hoped inter-age friendships may be formed as has happened in other places!



*Glenda Sewell*

# Surrey University Chaplaincy



It may be that some members of Wey Valley Circuit are unaware of the circuit's commitment to this vital work. There are over 16,000 students at the Guildford based institution of which over 6,000 are overseas students. The university contributes £1.7 billion to the national economy and there are over 100 companies in the Research Park. The University comes 7<sup>th</sup> in the Times Student Experience List. By any standard the University is a major institution within the Wey Valley Circuit.

On the circuit's stationing profile, time was allocated for the Superintendent to be committed, in an honorary capacity, to the chaplaincy team. Because of churn both in the circuit staffing and the chaplaincy, this has presented some initial challenges. The "new" coordinating chaplain, Rabbi Alex Goldberg, has made major developments in the department, which comes under the wing of the Wellbeing Department. Unusually, the Jewish Chaplain serves as coordinating chaplain and his skilled leadership has resulted in improvements to the appearance of the Round House (Chaplaincy Centre) with attractive exterior lighting, shields representing all the faiths and specially designed art work containing in multiple languages words that express the common value of the various religions and secular philosophies. A new "zig zag" path has been constructed to enable access to the Round House, which is now well used. An olive tree has been imported from Italy and planted to commemorate the holocaust. Recently a full time experienced Anglican chaplain has been appointed and a Pentecostal honorary chaplain has also recently been appointed. The chaplains meet regularly as "the College of Chaplains" and this must be one of the most culturally diverse groups on campus. Our religious and philosophical views may be varied, but the sense of unity in serving the university community is actually a privilege to be part of. Chaplains write a thought for the week, published on the University website, and it was my privilege to do this for Advent. The chaplains are acutely aware of the challenges faced by overseas students and members of minority religions. This has motivated the coordinating chaplain to lead the efforts which have resulted in women only nights at the sports centre, as we have responded to concerns voiced by students.

I have participated in a graduation ceremony and preached at the Cathedral for the University Carol Service and I have attended interfaith events. I have also made contact with the Chinese Christian Society; introduced myself to the Christian Union; made myself known at the Freshers Fayre and with the help of Christian student workers in Guildford compiled a list of the Christian Societies and the churches that support them. Obviously such a list requires regular updating. Friends International are valuable partners in student work and have good associations with Guildford St Mary's.

If you can think of a religion, it is probably represented at the University of Surrey and if so there will probably be a chaplain serving that community. I invite your prayers for this key service which provides a model for "living with contradictory convictions".

*Keith Beckingham*

WEYBRIDGE METHODIST  
CHURCH

# Café Church

LED BY  
REV CLAIRE HARGREAVES

SUNDAY 1 MARCH @ 6.15  
FOR 6.30



# Coffee Morning



**Saturday 14th March**  
**10am to noon**

at  
Knaphill Methodist Church,  
Broadway, Knaphill.

Variety of stalls including Bacon Butties, Bric-a-Brac, Homemade Cakes, Marmalade, Guess the Name of the Teddy, How Many Sweets in the Jar, Guess the Weight of the Cake,.....and many more!



Saturday 28 March: 3pm - 5pm  
Easter Saturday 11 April: 3pm - 5pm  
Saturday 25 April: Party Time



These meetings will take place at  
Walton Methodist Church  
Terrace Road, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2SR  
All families are welcome.

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



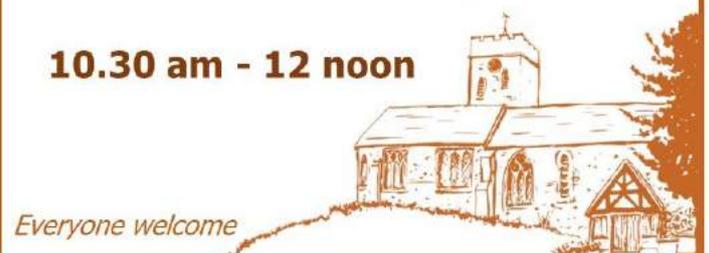
# Coffee & Cake at St Mary's

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

**Thursday 23 April**  
**Thursday 21 May**

*Each month showcases  
a different charity*

**10.30 am - 12 noon**



*Everyone welcome*

# Godalming United Church

On Sunday 19 January there was no morning service at our church – for the best of reasons: the Churches Together in Godalming were celebrating our annual New Year service at the Baptist Church. It is good to do things a little differently sometimes and to be reminded that “We have far more in common with each other than the things that divide us” (Jo Cox). And it is always a joy to worship with the Christian community across the town – old friends and new.

The weekend of 8/9 February saw our annual pantomime – The Wizard of Oz. Again it was specially written by local lad Josh Dixon, with parts accommodating our various groups, ranging in age from five to “mature”, making up a cast of approximately 50 - plenty of scope for everyone! Good clean fun – and another triumph for Barbara Keene and her team.

We continue to watch the level of the River Wey carefully (it’s right outside our back door!) and our flood prevention procedures have been updated. However, we always enjoy the incomparable view over the waterside Lammas Lands across to St Martha’s. It’s stunning whatever the weather, and we frequently see deer, herons and kestrels from our kitchen and aptly-named River Room and Lammas Room. (A reminder to readers of Wey Forward – the Town Bridge beside our church marks the head of navigation on the river that gives our circuit its name. From our church to Thames Lock at Weybridge is 20 miles of navigable waterway – part natural river and part man-made “cuts” smoothing-out the tricky bits of the Wey. There are 16 locks to accommodate a drop in water level of 30 metres, and the pleasant towpath provides an easy level walk within the Wey valley “green corridor” through the heart of urban Surrey.)

The interregnum – a period which is making extra demands on us all, particularly our Church Council – continues, as we seek a new Minister, this time from The United Reformed Church. Please keep us in your prayers.

Looking ahead you invited to:

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Sat 28 March 2:30pm - 5.00pm | Musical Allsorts – a free concert organised by Godalming Woolsack Rotary Club. Music for all tastes performed by local groups; tea & cake served during the interval. |
| Sat 4 April 3.00pm - 5.00pm  | Messy Church - Easter Egg Trail . Fun for all the family, plus party tea  |
| Sat 6 June 3.00pm - 5.00pm   | Messy Church  |

*Nancy Wilks*



Coming soon... Save the dates!

# HOLY HABITS

St. Mary's  
Quarry St.  
Guildford  
GU1 3TY

- a series of 15 minute  
**Reflections for Lent**  
followed by a bread & soup lunch  
Thursdays 12 March – 2 April 2020  
12.15 for 12.30

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

## V3RS3: & VOIC3 IV

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

*"Come to the table"*

Come and worship God through  
Scriptures & Songs  
in an alternative style of service.  
Learn and sing newer songs on the theme of

 Holy  Communion

from Singing the Faith and other sources.

Knaphill Methodist Church 6:30pm  
(Refreshments from 5:30pm)  
**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

## Circuit Prayer Diary

The Prayer Diary is produced on a quarterly basis by Rev Claire Hargreaves and is available on the Circuit website where it can be accessed in several ways:-

- It has its own bespoke calendar so you can see all of the prayers for the coming months. From the Home page click on Calendar and in the drop down boxes choose Circuit Prayer Diary and the month you are interested in
- If you just click on Calendar it automatically shows all events from around the Circuit and the Prayer Diary will be included
- Each day the Prayer for that day is displayed on the Home Page under Coming Events (on the right-hand side of the screen on a PC; scroll down a little on a smart phone)
- The pdf is available under Publications, Circuit Prayer Diary (third one down)
- The pdf also appears each quarter in the News section of the website

The Prayer Diary is also circulated to churches in Word and pdf format for inclusion in newsletters or for printing off.

If you have any queries please do let me know.

*Sue Howson*

# Guildford St Mary's

Wow !

The enormity of our building project at St Mary's is, to be honest, quite scary. Not because of its scope and cost (although both are considerable). It's the historic significance of making big changes to a building which dates back over 1,000 years and is possibly the oldest church in Surrey which is nerve-wracking. What will our neighbours and future generations think of what we're doing?

It was therefore a great relief when the builders handed over the first phase to us just in time for our big pre-Christmas services; partly that we were back in action in time to welcome hundreds of people and mostly that the universal reaction was 'Wow' and 'stunning'. Fortunately we've been able to assemble funding (including access to more of the proceeds from the sale of our former building) which has enabled us to move straight on to undertake the remaining works. From January the builders have sealed off the majority of the ground level area so they can replace the floor and construct our meeting room. We're therefore worshipping in a limited area but with the benefit of the new Welcome area and kitchen.

It was a great joy to have that space full to capacity for our Covenant service which demonstrated just how well our ecumenical congregation has bonded together, with all appreciating the discipline, challenge and privilege of this feature of the Methodist year.

Hopefully we'll complete the building work before the next issue of Wey Forward is published but our timetable has been made uncertain by threatened road closures to replace the local gas main which will make access to the church very challenging for the builders. We hope there will be the same sense of excitement when we unveil the new look in the main worship area and we look forward to sharing it with you. In the meantime, the uncertainty impacts on our events timetable so do keep any eye on the Circuit website where we'll try to keep the calendar up to date.



Excitement is key, not just because it encourages our congregation but more importantly is a draw for our outreach work. The new entrance is already attracting great attention from passers-by and encouraging them to venture in to explore the church and see what's going on. It transforms the welcome we can offer for Night Vision and we're looking forward to having an accessible grassed area looking out towards the High Street for summer events and for displays at times of Christian festivals.

And that's why we embarked on this project in the first place - not for our comfort but to support our outreach activities. We greatly value the privilege we have of welcoming people from locally and around the world and we ask for your prayer support as we seek to make the most of the opportunities we have to offer glimpses of God and his love. And thank you for the Circuit's support, which has been key.

*Nigel Champion-Smith*

## Free Training and Support

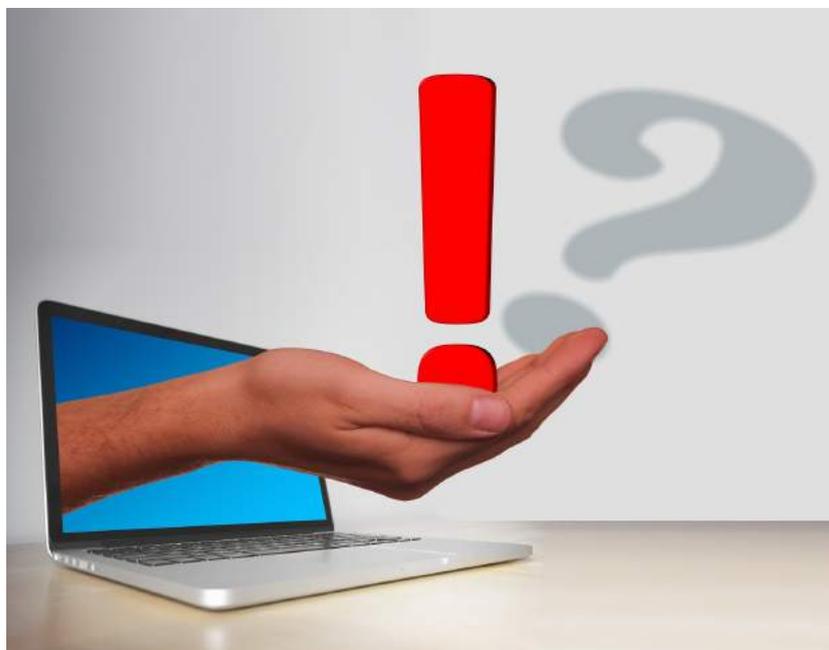
Across our churches we have dedicated and willing volunteers who undertake all sorts of tasks; each one essential to enable our churches to offer worship Sunday by Sunday. However, the world in which we are asking our folk to do this requires us to demonstrate that they have been appropriately resourced - through training and support - to do the work.

The Circuit has purchased some on-line training from a company called iHasco so that people can enhance their skills and make sure that they are aware of best working practices and, in some cases, health and safety regulations.

The courses are generally quite short and they do not need to be completed all in one go. The tests at the end shouldn't be seen as anything daunting but as a way of measuring understanding of the course material. As well as being informative they are **FUN** and **FREE** to sign up for.

You can choose to complete any or all of the courses below—whichever would be helpful to you personally.

- Accident reporting
- Risk assessments
- Fire awareness
- Health and safety basics
- Cyber security awareness
- Display screen equipment
- Lone working
- Bomb threats and suspicious packages
- Food allergy awareness
- Food safety and hygiene – levels 1 and 2



Please note because we have to follow the Methodist guidelines the following courses are not to be taken – Data protection, GDPR Essentials and GDPR for Managers.

If you are interested, contact me with your email address and the name of the course/s you would like to do. If you're not sure I'm happy to chat through any queries or concerns you may have.

*Sue Howson* ([circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk](mailto:circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk) or 07808 046451)

# Knaphill

Over the last few months we have found Clothes4U has brought many people together in ways we couldn't expect. We set out two years ago not really knowing what to expect, perhaps, on reflection, we clearly underestimated God's love and support in outreach projects within the community.

As a team of volunteers we are spending valuable time together and enjoy a gentle natter while sorting through donations then chatting to guests as they arrive. We are always keen to invite more people to join us. We are also still in need of your donations too please.

During a recent appointment at my GP's surgery I met a Muslim Nurse, who is also a fashion designer and dress maker. She was telling me how she was also homeless when she arrived in the country and she introduced me to the charity who supported her to give her the training to be the nurse she is today. She has offered to give us clothing for our Syrian ladies who still dress in their traditional way. They are having a fashion show in February and I have been invited to speak to the guests to try and get even more donations. She will also be joining Clothes4U this month to chat to our Arabic speaking families.

We are only open for a couple of hours once a month, yet we see around 25 - 30 families during that time, and we are getting to know families and individuals, finding out more and more about their needs and dreams. Our pastoral team work hard to help when they can, but we are also there just to listen.

This has been a particularly difficult time for our families, however our relationship with the Salvation Army has grown this year and we were able to work with them, not only to join them when they were collecting gifts for the less fortunate, but to help sort the donations ready to be gifted onto their contacts. KMC was able to give six families presents from them and our families were very grateful. We were also able to give a number of families food parcels for the Christmas period and from the words of one lady 'We changed their Christmas in ways she could not begin to thank us'.

We were very pleased to see a few families come to our Christmas Carols by Candlelight Service too.

We are also working with Woking NCT, (National Childbirth Trust) who donate amazingly huge gift parcels for new mums and their babies. We are working with Holy Trinity (C of E) in Knaphill to promote their Fridge Bank and in return they promote Clothes4U. Most weeks, Tesco's in the village give us food donations to pass on, which are very well received.

Another lovely example of our outreach within the community is when we helped a lady with her heating problems by finding someone to help her without charge via Facebook last year. This week she was able to liaise with another family to pass on her no longer needed oil heaters.

## Dates for the Diary

**Clothes 4U** *preloved clothing with TLC* will meet at Knaphill Methodist Church on the following Saturday afternoons between 2.00pm and 4.00pm for the quarter: 21 March, 18 April, 16 May

**Monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings** – 10.00am to 12 noon on 28 March, 25 April

The May Coffee Morning is our annual Plant Sale – date to be confirmed – will either be 23 or 30 May.

**"Your Sanctuary" Coffee Morning** – 10.00am -12 noon Saturday 14 March (poster on page 8)

For any further information on any of the above please email [admin@knaphill-methodist-church.com](mailto:admin@knaphill-methodist-church.com)

*Yvette Wright*

# Merrow

As I write this on a bleak January morning I am heartened by the fact that gradually the days are getting longer and spring bulbs are just poking their heads through in the gardens and in a matter of weeks crocuses will be in full bloom and Christmas will almost be forgotten until preparations begin again for next year's festivities. But before looking ahead it is worth recalling some highlights of the Autumn and Christmas seasons at Merrow.

Saturday 16 November saw our Annual Church Quiz which again was very well attended. This year the "magnificent" cup was retained by St Mary's, Guildford who just pipped a strong Circuit Team but only after a very closely fought contest which for the first time in our 15 year history was decided by a tie break question which provoked some serious conversations among the losing team members! Full details of our next quiz will follow in the next edition of this magazine and it would be great to see every church represented in this epic contest!

Our various Advent, Christmas and New Year services were very well attended and we were again extremely grateful for the wonderful generosity of the congregations. The evening Advent Carol Service which was held at Merrow in conjunction with our TIC friends raised over £400 for *The Number Five Project*, the retiring offertory at our Carol Service on 22 December raised over £540, including Gift Aid, for *Embrace the Middle East* and the offertories from our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services totalled over £380 which has been sent to *All We Can*.

At the end of Christmas week we were delighted to welcome friends from a number of other churches from across the Circuit who swelled the congregation at our service on Sunday 29 December to over 70 and we enjoyed fellowship after the service with coffee and mince pies as promised!

Talking about coffee (and cake!) we are continuing through the Spring with our enjoyable fundraising coffee mornings on the second Thursdays in the month. On the 12 March this will be in support of *Diabetes UK*, on April 9 *The Number Five Project* will benefit, and then to support *Christian Aid Week* we will be pleased to welcome you on Thursday 7 May.

We will also continue with our Soup and Bread lunches on the third Thursdays in the month. Please do come and join us anytime between 12.15pm and 1.15pm.

On 25 April this year we will once again be supporting the Annual Unlock London Walk through walking or sponsoring this event. We have been involved in this Annual event since the first walk 37 years ago although our walking group seems to get smaller each year - but not the generosity of our sponsors! We were pleased that we raised the 5th highest sponsorship of the many churches involved for last year's walk. For those who don't know about it, Unlock is a small Christian charity which, in partnership with local Christians, is engaged in urban mission work in several cities in England and Wales, sharing the Gospel with those who would not normally attend Church or read the Bible. More information about Unlock can be found on their website at [Unlock-Urban.Org.UK](http://Unlock-Urban.Org.UK). Every year as a major source of income Unlock organises a London walk of approximately 7 miles visiting several churches en route where walkers learn more about the work of each church serving its local community and also have a chance for rest, refreshments and fellowship. This is an ecumenical event with hundreds of walkers participating mainly from the London and South East areas. Each year a different area of London is explored and this year the walk will be around Tower Hamlets. This is always a really interesting event and we would welcome anyone from other churches who may be interested in walking with us or sponsoring our walkers this year. Maggie Woolcock would be happy to be contacted for more information on her mobile no 07568 285451 or email her at [sogtjw@aol.com](mailto:sogtjw@aol.com).

*Hugh Bradley*

## **The BFG**

The Circuit Study Group has rebranded itself as the BFG (Biblia Fidei/ Books of Faith Group)

In the past the group has worked its way through such books as 'Not in God's Name', 'Singing the Lord's Song in a Strange Land' and 'Methodist Theology' as well as the 'Worship and Preaching' course.

At present the BFG has 12 regular members...women and men...from a number of different churches and meets every three or four weeks. During the summer months the group has visited Chichester Cathedral and the Blue Idol Quaker Meeting House in West Sussex.

New members are always most welcome. Information re dates and times of meetings are available from myself.

*Rev Allan Taylor*

## **Who Makes the Coffee??**

A married couple were arguing about who was going to make the coffee. The wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in HEBREWS!"

## **Stoughton**

By the time we receive this edition of our circuit magazine we will have already left Christmas behind as we prepare for Lent and Easter.

However, we can still reflect on our Advent and Christmas services which began with our Gift service providing gifts for Shooting Star Chase and remembering the wonderful work carried out by this local hospice charity who care for children with life limiting conditions and also give support to their families.

After celebrating the birth of Jesus at our Christmas services Asif led our Covenant service when we gave thanks for all that God has done for us and affirmed our lives relying on the grace of God and trusting in his promises.

Our bible study group continue to meet regularly and are currently following the book of Isaiah. We are grateful to Hilary Fletcher for leading this group.

The nursery and other groups that hire our premises during the week give us the opportunity to share in the life of our community and although it can and does have an impact on the fabric of the building, it is a positive resource rather than a negative.

Stoughton send blessings and good wishes to you all for 2020.

*Linda Macbeth*

# **A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**

## **led by Rev Claire Hargreaves and Helen Belsham**

### **(organised by McCabe Pilgrimages)**

Monday 3 – Monday 10 May 2021

We invite you to come on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Experience for yourself the sites where the most important events of Jesus' life and ministry took place, in Galilee, Jerusalem and surrounding areas. Whether you have been before or you are new to the Holy Land, you will be moved and enriched as we journey, pray and learn together. Reading the gospels will never be the same again!

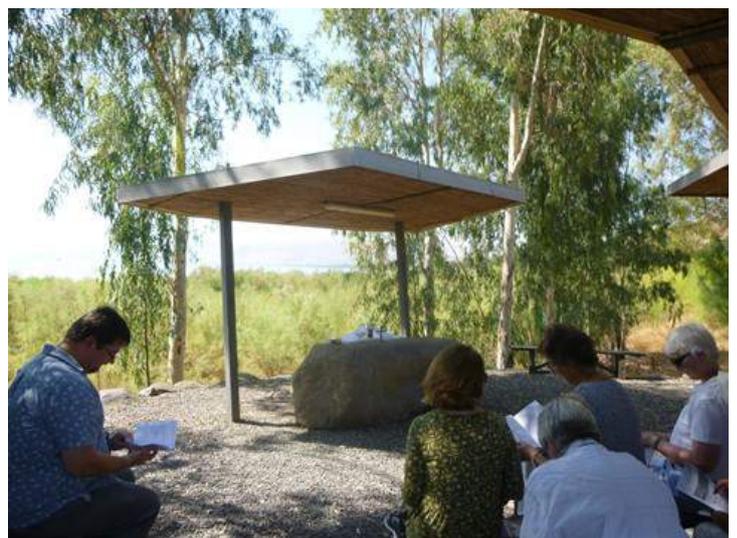
The cost will be in the region of £2,000 per person sharing an en suite room on a full board basis (flights included). We will stay in hotels in Tiberias and Jerusalem and be visiting Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

**Come and find out more on Sunday 29 March at 12 noon at Merrow Methodist Church.**  
Bring your own lunch! Coffee/tea provided.

Enquiries : [helenebelsham@icloud.com](mailto:helenebelsham@icloud.com) or [claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk](mailto:claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk)

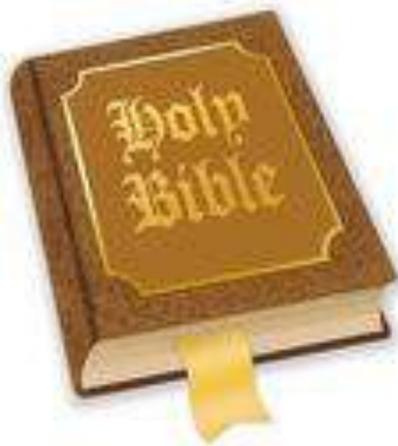


Inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem



Preparing for Holy Communion by the Sea of Galilee

## The Big Read



At the official start date of this edition of *Wey Forward* (1 March 2020), those of you taking part in this project to read the Bible from cover to cover will be reading Psalm 70. Most of the what I consider to be the difficult parts of the Old Testament are now behind us. (not that the names get any easier!)

I hope that some of you are still with this exercise. Having been confined to the sofa for six weeks subsequent to an operation on my foot I have no excuse for slacking. Yes I am still 'cheating' by *listening* to my chapter and have now linked up our 'Alexa' device such that I can listen to my chapter whilst wandering around the house. Technology is marvellous when it works.

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*

# Songs of Praise



**Saturday May 30th**  
**Horsley**  
**Methodist Church**

(next to W.H. Village Hall)

**7.00pm**

Come and sing a selection of favourite hymns.  
Phone 01483 282474 to make requests.

**n**ight vision  
*...looking at life through a different lens*  
St. Mary's  
Quarry St  
Guildford  
GU13TY

*drop in for*  
calm, reflection & refreshments  
on Fridays 20.00 - 23.30  
\* 28 February 27 March  
24 April 29 May 2020  
\* 21.00 start

*A Common Ground initiative*

## Walton - on - Thames

In the run up to Christmas, we enjoyed singing Carols to the rail commuters, who were a little jaded by the strikes. At least we cheered them up and got some money for Action for Children as well. We also joined with other churches in Walton and sang carols to shoppers on a chilly Saturday morning in The Heart Shopping Centre.



We have been unable to secure a youth worker in 2019, so during 2020 we are looking at other ways of engaging our young people and keeping them involved in church activities. Ten of our young people together with some adult helpers and leaders went off to the 3Generate weekend in November. They enjoyed themselves immensely, and would like to do something like that again, so there will be fundraising activities for this across 2020.

In February we will host our quarterly Pudding and Praise cafe styled service with Claire Hargreaves and our music group Breeze leading it. All are welcome to join us at 6pm.

On March 2nd we will be celebrating our Church anniversary which includes our Gift Day, and the annual church meeting which will be part of the morning service, as that will involve more people being present.

Having had an away day last year, we are hoping to review the results of that day and look at practical and relevant ways in which we can reach out to the lonely and those with mental health problems in our community.

We have a group led by Ruth Evans that goes out to sing in some of our local care homes on Sunday afternoons as part of our outreach ministry. We hope to do some of these afternoons in the next quarter.

*The Stewards at Walton*

## A Woman at the Post Office

A Woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

"What Denomination?" asked the clerk.

"Oh, my goodness! Have we come to this?" said the woman.

"Well give me 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic!"

## West Horsley

We were very pleased to welcome friends from the Circuit to our evening of Advent Carol Praise before Christmas. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and was well attended by members of the local community and churches.

There will be another opportunity for a good sing on Pentecost Saturday 30 May at 7.00pm when we will be holding our Annual Songs of Praise evening. You'll be most welcome and, if you'd like to choose a hymn in advance, please contact Celia on 01483 282267.

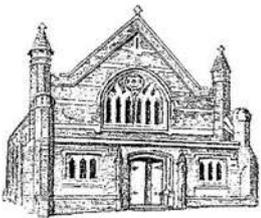
It's now even easier to find the chapel as the council has, at last, put a sign to the Methodist Church at the roundabout on the A246.

It was lovely to see friends and families of members, at our services over the Christmas season. Our other activities are continuing as usual and we will be discussing the report 'God in love unites us' at our house group in January and at a special Church Council meeting in February.

We are currently fundraising for the No 5 project, the Prisoners' Education Trust and AFC. The latter is supported by our weekly coffee morning and the sales table, raising over £800 over the last year.

*Margaret Faulkner*

## Weybridge



Life at Weybridge continues on a pace with small changes which we hope will be of use to the community around us.

In December we issued personal invitations for our annual Carol Service to all those who use our premises. A few of our weekly users accepted the invitation and one of the Hirers read a lesson in the service. We pray that those who visited the church on this occasion may feel moved to visit us again.

Our annual church family Christmas lunch saw the largest number of attendees to date – we nearly ran out of food.

The clothes and bedding bank continues as does our involvement with the Old Folks Club, the Byfleet Foodbank and the Addlestone Coffee mornings where our attendance helps to ensure that they are able to open the church every Saturday morning.

This spring we plan to resume some social activities within the church family, some indoor and some out (weather permitting) and maybe an outing or two.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March we welcome Rev Claire Hargreaves to lead our Café Church. During this time of worship Claire will update us on her work with Refugees. As ever all are welcome.

*Linda Weedon*

## Trinity, Woking

### Long Service Celebrated

During the morning service at Trinity on 8 December Rev Jackie Case presented David Lander with an ArtServe long-service certificate, kindly arranged by Daphne. The certificate celebrates David's fifty years as an organist in the Methodist Church. His first appointment was as organist and choirmaster at South Croydon on leaving school in 1969. Prior to joining Trinity in 2006 he was organist for many years at Leatherhead.



*Daphne Lander*

## Alternative Worship

All are welcome to our alternative evening services taking place:

Date	Church	Service
1 March	Weybridge	Café Church led by Claire Hargreaves (6.30pm)
8 March	Merrow	ATS led by Keith Beckingham (6.30pm)
9 April	Merrow	Led by Peter Hills (8.00pm)
9 April	Woking	Tenebrae Service led by Claire Hargreaves (8.00pm)
19 April	Addlestone	Café Style Church led by Dave Faulkner (6.30pm)
3 May	Walton	Pudding and Praise led by Sydney Samuel Lake with Breeze (6.00pm)
31 May	Knaphill	V3RS3: & VOIC3 IV led by Elizabeth Gurd (6.30pm, refreshments from 5.30pm)
Alt weekends	Woking	Foundry Worship (please confirm times/dates with Trinity, Woking)

## Tales of a Travelling Preacher

**In the final instalment, of a series where Graham Warr looked back on his life, he looks to the future**

It has become clear to me that God wants us as Christians to share the Gospel by talking about our faith with confidence and openness both in and outside church. As congregations our attitude to worship should be positive and to seek God's word for each of us as individuals and congregations. To be positive in our approach to variations and new forms of worship. To encourage and support them even if it is not to our taste and to avoid negative criticism.

When I was starting out in 1970 a Local Preacher colleague, who was a member of my church in Lymington, gave me this advice. Don't be afraid of your youth because we need modern ideas to develop and enhance and worship or it will fade away. She was 84 and told me she was always looking to develop and improve her services. She gave me the simple example that she felt the language used about God in the Lord's Prayer was out of date and confided that she didn't use 'thy or thine anymore but you and yours'. Since then when using the traditional form, I have always used you and yours. Now we have a more up to date form.

Change to meet changing needs is not the same as change for changes sake. Indeed, our God, Father/Mother, Son and Holy Spirit is always present in all we do; guiding, leading and sometimes pushing us to love and serve him in changing ways to serve a constantly changing world. As a Preacher and practicing Christian I am often aware I could and should do better, but our loving Lord is always there to support and forgive.

Over the years I have found this text to be so encouraging and supportive.

*'In all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'*

*Romans 8:37-39 NRSV*

*Graham Warr*

## A cheerless world? Perhaps not!

"This seems a cheerless world, Donatus, when I view it from this fair garden under the shadow of these vines. But if I climbed some great mountain and looked out over wide lands, you know very well what I would see. Brigands on the high road, pirates on the seas...and under all roofs misery and selfishness. It is a really bad world Donatus, yet in the midst of it I have found a quiet and holy people. They have discovered a joy which is a thousand times better than the pleasure of this sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are the Christians."

*(Written in AD 258 by the Bishop of Carthage)*

# Celebrating Action for Children's 150th Anniversary

Last year I had the privilege of being invited to St Paul's on the evening of 23 October to celebrate 150 years of AFC. The event was held in the crypt and the hosts were Reverend Dr Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Conference of the Methodist Church of Britain, and Sarika Patel, the chair of Action for Children.

When Rev Thomas Bowman Stephenson saw children living rough under the arches at Waterloo station in London 150 years ago he decided he had to act. His first action was to listen. He paid the children the respect of hearing their stories, before working out the most practical way to help. A century and a half later the spirit of AFC's founder remains their inspiration.

The choir, Young Carers Aloud, from Rhondda Cynon Taf in south Wales, were very moving. They love to sing as a way of coping with - and taking a break from - their caring responsibilities.

The keynote address was from Reverend Michaela Youngson, Chair of the London District of the Methodist Church, who gave an impassioned speech on how the work of the charity was needed now more than ever.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary the great-great granddaughter of one of Rev Thomas Bowman Stephenson's supporters, Rev Francis Horner, Sonia Sacadura travelled from Portugal with her husband and young daughter to present a copy of his book 'Shadow and Sun' to Sarika Patel.

I sat next to Edward Finlayson who had travelled down from Scotland. He was the great nephew of Walter Tull. Walter and his brother Edward grew up in a Methodist Children's Home and Orphanage in Bethnal Green after their mother died when Walter was nine years old. Walter went on to become the first black officer to lead white men into battle. He was killed in action on 25 March 1918 a month before his 30th birthday. He was honoured last year with a commemorative Royal Mail stamp.

I also met Ronnie Archer-Morgan who is a valuer on the Antiques Roadshow. I remember watching him last year value Sooty and Sweep puppets. He was quite overcome as he had remembered Harry Corbett coming to visit the National Children's Home where he lived. I told him he had inspired me as a volunteer fund raiser for AFC.

The event was filmed by the BBC for Songs of Praise and transmitted on Epiphany Sunday, 5 January.

A century and a half later, the spirit of Action for Children's founder remains an inspiration. Last year AFC supported 387,000 children, young people and families all over the UK. They did this in 476 local services, in schools and on line.

*Suzanne Burnham*  
*Circuit AFC representative*



## **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 16 of The Wey Forward  
is midnight 5 April 2020**

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 17** 5 July 2020

**Issue 18** 4 October 2020

**Issue 19** 18 January 2021

**Issue 20** 6 April 2021

**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>March 2020</b>			
Every Weds	12.30pm - 2.30pm	Foodbank	Byfleet
Every Weds *	9.30am - 11.00am	Chit Chat for foreign residents *in term time only	St Mary's, Guildford
1 March	6.30pm	Café Church led by Claire Hargreaves	Weybridge
8 March	6.30pm	ATS service led by Keith Beckingham	Merrow
12 March	12.15pm for 12.30pm	Holy Habits 15 mins of reflections for Lent	St Mary's, Guildford
12 March	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning in aid of Diabetes UK	Merrow
14 March	10.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning—Your Sanctuary	Knaphill
14 March	9.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning hosted by the Brownies and Rainbows	Byfleet
19 March	12.15pm for 12.30pm	Holy Habits 15 mins of reflections for Lent	St Mary's, Guildford
21 March	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
21 March	10.30am - 3.15pm	Pilgrimage around Byfleet (begins at Byfleet Methodist Church)	Byfleet
26 March	12.15pm - 1.30pm	Soup and Bread Lunch	Merrow
26 March	12.15pm for 12.30pm	Holy Habits 15 mins of reflections for Lent	St Mary's, Guildford
27 March	8.00pm - 11.30pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
28 March	10.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
28 March	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Messy Church	Walton
28 March	2.30pm - 5.00pm	Musical Allsorts	Godalming
29 March	12 noon	Info event about Pilgrimage to The Holy Land	Merrow
<b>April 2020</b>			
2 April	12.15pm for 12.30pm	Holy Habits 15 mins of reflections for Lent	St Mary's, Guildford
4 April	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Messy Church - Easter Egg Trail	Godalming
5 April	Midnight	<b>Deadline for Copy for Issue 16 of The Wey Forward</b>	
6 April - 12 July	-	Rev Keith Beckingham on sabbatical	
9 April	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning in aid of Number Five Project	Merrow
9 April	8.00pm	Service led by Peter Hills	Merrow
9 April	8.00pm	Tenebrae Service led by Claire Hargreaves	Woking
11 April	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Messy Church	Walton
16 April	12.15pm - 1.30pm	Soup and Bread Lunch	Merrow
16/17/18 April	tbc	<i>Kaleidoscope</i> at Rhoda McGaw Theatre, Woking	(Byfleet)
18 April	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
19 April	6.30pm	Café Style Church led by Dave Faulkner	Addlestone
23 April	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
24 April	8.00pm - 11.30pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
25 April	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
25 April	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Messy Church - Party Time	Walton
25 April	tbc	Annual Unlock London Walk	(Merrow)
<b>May 2020 (and beyond)</b>			
3 - 10 May		Pilgrimage to The Holy Land	(Merrow)
3 May	6.00pm	Pudding and Praise with Breeze	Walton
7 May	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning in aid of Christian Aid	Merrow
9 May	9.00am— 12.30pm	Coffee Morning and Plant Sale	Byfleet
16 May	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
21 May	12.15pm - 1.30pm	Soup and Bread Lunch	Merrow
21 May	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
23 or 30 tbc	10.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning with plant sale	Knaphill
29 May	8.00pm - 11.30pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
30 May	7.00pm	Songs of Praise	West Horsley
31 May	5.30pm (6.30pm)	V3RS3: & VOIC3 IV	Knaphill
10 June	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Messy Church	Godalming