

# The Wey Forward

Issue 16 June - August 2020

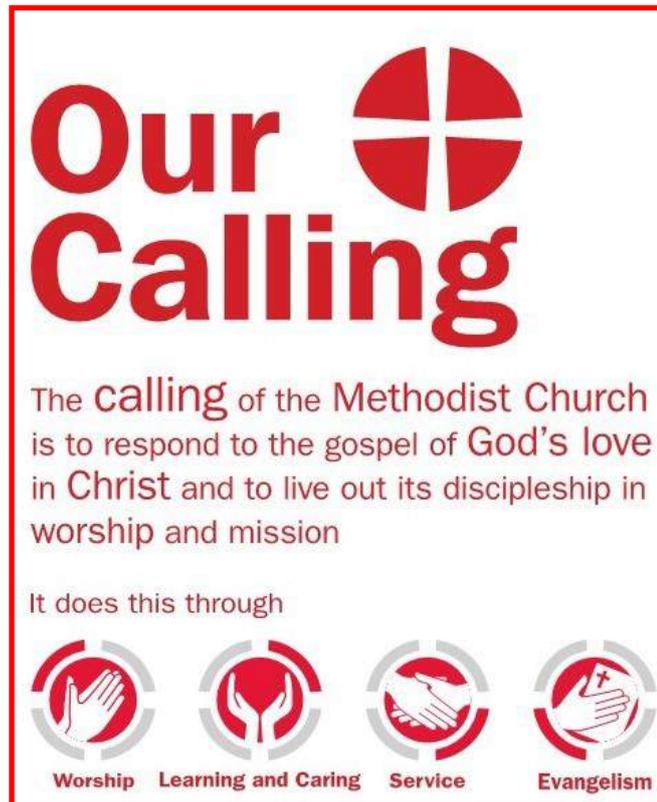


# The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

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



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,

Has there been a circuit magazine prepared in stranger times than these? I guess we can all look back on times of crisis that we have lived through or been told about. We have experienced Black Friday, the Bank Crash, two Iraq Wars, the events surrounding so-called ISIS, and the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in which the government of the day were supposed to be safe, as well as the bombing of other towns and cities in England. We may remember the death of Lord Louis Mountbatten, President Kennedy and Princess Diana. Many of us lived through the Cold War and were told that in the event of a nuclear attack we should take refuge under our school desk. School desks were evidently well constructed in those days! Some of us may remember even further back. In the 1970s elderly ladies in Salford who had been born in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, described to me their memories of the Great Depression and the plight of shoeless, hungry children in that “Classic Slum” where Walter Greenwood’s play, “Love on the Dole!”, was set.

The point I wish to make is that most of us have lived through, or been told about, previous strange times and yet the nation has come through them. I draw inspiration, as most people in the UK do, from Captain Tom Moore, whose sponsored walk raised a fortune for the NHS. Such is his impact that he received 125,000, 100<sup>th</sup> birthday cards from all over the world. Perhaps you have seen the photo of his 16-year-old grandson Benjie standing with the displayed cards in the Great Hall of Bedford School. However, the determined walking of Captain Tom and his philosophical comments about the current pandemic have left a deep impression on very many people. His attitude could be paraphrased with the words, “*This too will pass – we will get through it*”.

My late mother in law had a similar philosophy. She loved to quote these words from the Authorized Version: “*It came to pass...*” Sooner or later the Covid 19 outbreak will pass into history, leaving behind valuable lessons painfully learned. Our hearts go out to the people whose loss will continue to be keenly felt when life takes on a more normal pattern for society.

Meanwhile, there are undoubtedly lessons to be learnt from the Stoics, like Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius, whose philosophy was that there are many processes in the world that we cannot control, for we are only a tiny part of the universe. But what we can control is our own response to those external things that are beyond our control. Epictetus taught that it is not what happens in life that makes us unhappy – it is how we think about what happens that affects our emotions. This is the key to serenity, and this concept influenced the early monastic communities whose members achieved a deep sense of inner peace whilst living a frugal existence. As Christians we can respond with grace and compassion and demonstrate faith, hope and love, whilst taking every sensible precaution to minimise risks, for our own sake and the sake of others.

Whilst writing, I have paused to spend a minute with the whole nation, in silent appreciation of all the frontline workers who have succumbed to this terrible virus. I am very heartened, as I am sure you are, by the gesture of a newly announced UK Government Life Assurance scheme to be offered to the families of NHS workers who have died during the epidemic. Our prayers go out to all those affected. Money cannot replace those whom we have loved, but it may certainly help to pay necessary bills and so alleviate anxiety.

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I would encourage local churches to plan carefully how they might start holding meetings and services when restrictions begin to be lifted. No doubt new guidelines will come to our attention in due course. However, it would be useful for those responsible for rotas to be kept informed of the availability of their volunteers just in case public worship becomes possible. I would ask preachers to keep themselves free for their planned appointments in case the lockdown is eased. It would be a good idea for preachers to have a draft service prepared just in case things happen more quickly than we anticipate. Preachers whose services have not been held early in the quarter are asked to be available for extra services if they are able to do so when the lockdown is eased. Please be ready to respond quickly when the time comes, especially if I, or Sue Howson, ask for your availability. Church stewards might ask themselves what measures they can take to make the "reopening" manageable. The question of hygiene especially when entering church, at Holy Communion and when counting money needs careful thought. As so often, it is best to be prepared!

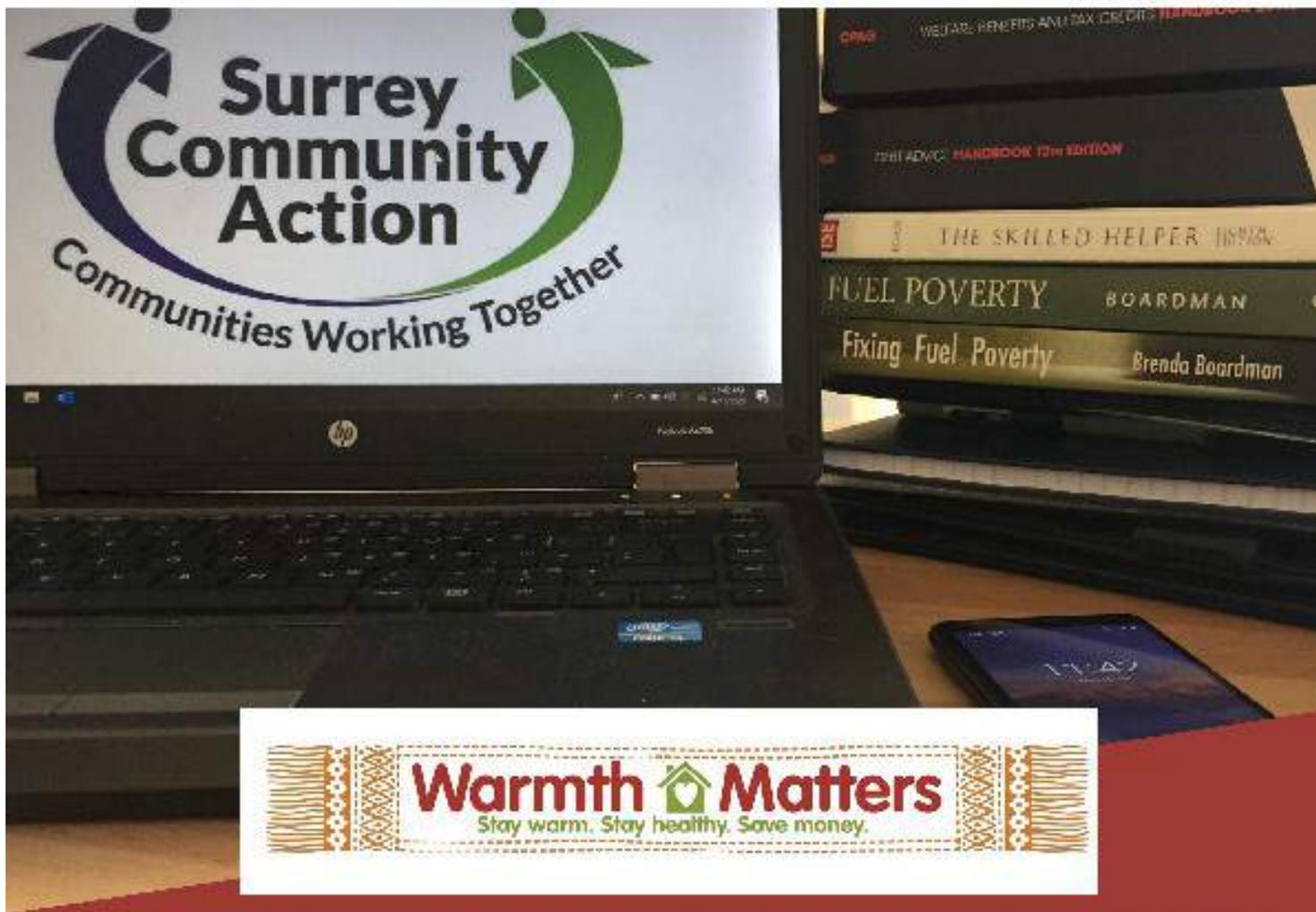
We have learnt a lot about online meetings and worship during this period. There are church members who have been unable to physically attend church for some time, but through the lockdown they have been able to attend online worship. Our thanks are owed to everyone who has made this possible. We need to think hard about maintaining an online presence in the future. I heard Mary Portas speak on the radio about a group of market stall holders whose market was shut down for the lockdown. They got together to receive online orders on a Thursday for delivery on the Saturday. They showed enormous innovation and resilience in circumstances that could have destroyed their livelihood. Necessity being the mother of invention, they came up with an idea that may well stand them in good stead into the future. I hope and pray that our churches may demonstrate similar resilience and inventiveness. If you wish to learn about what online worship is currently available, please see the weekly emails from the Circuit Office. Preachers and worship leaders are asked to make their availability known to those who are coordinating online worship.

I have allowed myself the luxury of a much longer letter than normal, this time, and I do hope that something in it has been of interest to you and provoked your thinking. Like you, I look forward to being able to visit my family and hug my grandchildren once again. This situation will pass, but in the meantime, "God be with you till we meet again".

God bless you,

Keith

*Rev Keith C. Beckingham*  
*Superintendent Minister*



Are you worried about your energy supply or need advice to help keep your bills down?

We can provide advice on:

- Topping up your pre-pay meter
- Switching energy suppliers during disruption caused by COVID-19
- The Priority Service Register
- The Warm Home Discount Scheme
- Financial support from energy and water companies

For email and telephone advice or more information please contact: [davidcarter@surreyca.org.uk](mailto:davidcarter@surreyca.org.uk) or call

David on 07521 503 696

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## Services Around the Circuit

Addlestone	Only about $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>rd</sup> of our members have internet access so we distribute hard copies to the rest trying to get our information, including the Thursday prayer meeting notes, out by Tuesday or Wednesday.
Byfleet	Dave Faulkner will be producing a weekly video. The aim will be for publication at 10:00 am on Sunday, just like the daily reflections we did in the circuit. People could be directed to my YouTube channel at <a href="https://bit.ly/DFYTChannel">https://bit.ly/DFYTChannel</a> to hit 'Subscribe' and then the bell icon next to it, so that they receive instant notifications when a new video is published.
Cranleigh	Several of our members take part regularly in the St Mary's Sunday morning services via zoom which are very helpful and encouraging. The orders of services for worship at home are also circulated to all members of the congregation.
Godalming	Full live service at 10.30am. Congregation numbers expected to be usual 80-100 people <a href="https://guc.online.church">https://guc.online.church</a> Services are available for viewing later on our website <a href="http://www.guc.org.uk">www.guc.org.uk</a> . Or YouTube channel <a href="https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube">bit.ly/GUCYouTube</a> . Viewing figures have been very positive and include people watching from across the country.
Guildford	Service via Zoom each Sunday at 10.30am. Contact Nigel Campion-Smith ( <a href="mailto:nigel.campion-smith@outlook.com">nigel.campion-smith@outlook.com</a> ) for link and password
Knaphill	Dave Faulkner will be producing a weekly video. The aim will be for publication at 10:00 am on Sunday, just like the daily reflections we did in the circuit. People could be directed to my YouTube channel at <a href="https://bit.ly/DFYTChannel">https://bit.ly/DFYTChannel</a> to hit 'Subscribe' and then the bell icon next to it, so that they receive instant notifications when a new video is published.
Merrow	No current plans to venture down the path of "on-line public worship". We will continue to publicise on our website and in our weekly Newsheet all the exciting initiatives across the circuit and wider which are successfully embracing the new available technologies.
Sheerwater	Zoom services publicized on Facebook, St Michael's Shared Church . Contact Tracey Francis ( <a href="mailto:office@stmichaels sheerwater.org.uk">office@stmichaels sheerwater.org.uk</a> ) for link and password.
Stoughton	Asif writes a reflection every week which is emailed to the church family members, as is Keith's weekly pastoral letter. The weekly district service is sent out and so are various other links to watch church services through different Methodist resources. Neil Champion is updating Stoughton's website - putting both Keith's and Asif's letters on the home page along with some of the many links to resources on the circuit, district, UK Methodist and singing the faith websites.
Walton	Walton hold a weekly Sunday Tea and Fellowship Zoom meeting for their congregation to come together. Weekly reflections by Julia Monaghan on Walton's website - <a href="https://www.waltonmethodist.com/weekly-reflections">https://www.waltonmethodist.com/weekly-reflections</a> either Powerpoint or video.
West Horsley	No on-line service but use service sheets (email and hand delivered)
Weybridge	Zoom service. Contact Linda Weedon for link and password.
Woking	Service via Zoom each Sunday at 10.30am. Contact Jackie Case or Dan Warr Schori ( <a href="mailto:office@trinitywoking.org.uk">office@trinitywoking.org.uk</a> ) for link and password  Foundry Worship – check with Hugh Bowerman ( <a href="mailto:hugh.bowerman@gmail.com">hugh.bowerman@gmail.com</a> )

## 2.6 Challenge

As you will be aware, the postponement of the 26 mile London Marathon has led to the development of the “2.6 Challenge” in which people were challenged to do something 2.6 (or 26 or 260) times to support charities that had missed out as a result of the fact that the Marathon did not take place.

My wife, Joy, normally leads ‘Singing for Wellbeing’ sessions for two local MHA ‘Live at Home Schemes’. Clearly those groups are not meeting at the moment, and so, in response to the 2.6 Challenge, Joy played through (non-stop) 26 songs – one for each letter of the alphabet and offered them to MHA and to the local churches here as a ‘Guess that tune’ Quiz.

We recorded the songs and have posted them on Joy’s Facebook page. People have found the quiz to be great fun and the responses have far exceeded our expectations. We offer this quiz to you for your own fun – and to pass on as you feel appropriate. There is no obligation to give a gift to MHA but if, after doing the quiz, people do want to give to MHA there is a Just Giving page where, much to our surprise, over £1000 has been donated in a week.

Perhaps you might like to attempt the quiz or maybe you would be willing to pass this on to others in your circuit who might enjoy this quiz. The links to the questions, the answers and the Just Giving page are below. The only request is that MHA have asked that the answers are not published on-line – other than by publishing the link below (which goes to a video of the answers) so that people will see the quiz before they come across the answers.

Joy’s 2.6 A-Z Music Quiz Challenge is at <https://youtu.be/ZkkpAH-UPSk>

The answers are at <https://youtu.be/tRZjDgbbWDg>

The Just Giving page is at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joy-blake-MHA](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joy-blake-MHA)

Many thanks

Chris

*Rev Christopher Blake*

*Minister Aldershot and North Camp Methodist Churches*

*Superintendent Minister for the Hants-Surrey Border Circuit*

# News from around the Circuit

## Addlestone



**God's world.** Who could ever have imagined it would take something like Covid-19 to provide clearer skies, greatly reduced pollution in our streets and birds and wildlife reappearing in some places again.

Let us pray that when the horror of the present situation is over we don't totally forget how much the environment can be helped by our restriction of at least some of our human excesses.

**Coping with Church 'lockdown.'** So much more is being learned about the use of modern technology. Our Thursday prayer meeting and Sunday services still continues albeit in a lockdown format thanks to our members ensuring that our non-internet members receive hard copies of the information. We are just now learning the benefit of Zoom software to participate in a live service and we are getting more members interested in this new way of 'worshipping together.'

**Communication.** Whether by telephone or smartphone we are still communicating with each other trying to ensure all are coping as best they can during these difficult times. Some conversations even 'face to face' if done by WhatsApp. Some members are finding the isolation, added to existing health or other personal problems, extremely stressful and we remember them in our prayers never forgetting that by **loving one another** everyone will know we are one of His disciples.

“

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

JOHN 13:34-35

”

**Our Family.** We are experiencing an unusually high number of members with health problems. All are in our prayers and we will be helping as much as possible those affected. The winter 2020 issue of The Connexion reminded us of 'the Methodist Way of life'. A 'Way' we should all be striving to follow, if only the day to day material needs of our church were not so demanding. Our thanks go to those active members helping to spread the 'material' work so more can follow The Methodist Way of Life.

And finally, although it seems an awfully long time ago now I thought you would be interested to know that our Saturday coffee morning in February raised £128 to help the Woking and Sam Beare Hospice. Thank-you to everyone concerned.

*Fred Rowe*

# Byfleet

Where will we be when each of these messages from our churches within the Wey Valley Circuit are read? Is 'Lock Down' still with us? Has it brought fear, loneliness and isolation or has it brought us together in a way that we never have time for when we are so busy getting on with life? So many people are now saying "I spoke to so and so today". Links are forged as we share each other's news and pass it on; as we read the Superintendent's pastoral letter each week, as we circulate the worship services provided for us by the Connexion, the District, the Circuit, the Vine and others, as we participate in the words of comfort through YouTube, Zoom, and other visual media.

How often has it been said in recent weeks: "I am so fortunate! The weather is glorious, nature is beautiful, this enforced period at home is a gift to do the things I never usually have time for – creative cooking, knitting, sewing, reading, gardening, even the clearing out of cupboards!" Reflecting the age profile of our church family at Byfleet, we benefit from the regular income from our state pension which continues to arrive in our bank accounts, and groups of community supporters have sprung up which help with the shopping, collecting prescriptions, etc. We have much to be thankful for, not least the incredible generosity of strangers who donate to the Foodbank which continues to support those in dire need.

Yes, the Foodbank continues to serve, albeit in a social distancing way, thanks to a dedicated, selfless volunteer couple, and through this we are so aware of the hardship that the Coronavirus pandemic is inflicting on many families whose livelihood has been taken away from them. We are reminded every day on the radio and television of all the families that have lost a loved one; of the selfless dedication of thousands of front line key workers who do not 'lock down' – the medical professions, carers and scientists, the shop workers, emergency services and social services, delivery drivers, and many more - all who risk their own health to look after others; of the politicians who have incredibly difficult decisions to make balancing the health of the people versus the financial survival of the nation.

Never has the story of Holy Week and Easter, and the message that the Resurrection brings, seemed so pertinent. Thank you to each of our Circuit Ministers who led us through their thought-provoking reflections.

To all of you, Byfleet Methodist Church sends greetings and good wishes, and a hope that you will stay safe and well!

*Margaret Watts*



## Cranleigh

This article is going to be different from all previous ones I have written, because, as you all will have realised, the current crisis has presented us with unprecedented problems – but also with unexpected opportunities. Even the Second World War did not force churches to close, unless they had been bombed, and children continued to go to school (only the over-eighties will remember this). You do not need me to point out the difference between war and a pandemic. Both have produced unbelievable acts of heroism, but in the case of war, we have known our enemy. Today's warriors are doctors and nurses, scientists, care-workers, cleaners, parents, refuse-collectors, all volunteer helpers, money-raisers: the list is endless. Many of these have already given their lives to help others. The enemy is invisible and toxic: this very day more warriors are stepping up to test the first vaccine.

Opportunities presented by this crisis I have already hinted at: the ordinary person inquiring after their neighbour – offering help with shopping, gardening or other things which may be done at a distance; the more knowledgeable providing virtual get-togethers for prayer, services or friendly chats; the rest of us doing more old-fashioned phone calls, letter writing or emails. We have been prevented by the government rules from our weekly meetings with our refugee friends; we have not been able to continue with our Thursday mornings with mothers and young children, or with the popular Wednesday Group (fortnightly); choir practices aren't happening, though I think we may return to the homework we organised when we couldn't use the church last year. Of course pastoral visitors and other church members are busy checking on isolated friends.

In May, many of us have usually knocked on doors in neighbouring streets with envelopes for Christian Aid. This charity is going to be sadly in need this year without that collection, though many think this type of collection is becoming harder to do, if usually still profitable. We were pleased to have organised our Christian Aid Quiz in March, before the lock-down, and were able to raise over £300, slightly less than last year.

May I send best wishes from Cranleigh Church to our friends in the other Circuit Churches, especially those we haven't seen for some weeks, and our thanks to Keith for his care and his pastoral letters.

*Glenda Sewell*



## Circuit Mission Supper

Needless to say I wrote this review before the Covid-19 pandemic hit us. Its impact on the care sector in particular has been truly shocking, **as the separate article in this issue regarding MHA demonstrates**. Sadly, it has been an all too tragic manifestation of the 'Cinderella' status of adult social care in the UK which Sam Monaghan spoke of so eloquently at the mission supper.

About 100 people from all round the Circuit braved the weather to gather at Trinity, Woking on Saturday 29 February for the now annual Circuit Mission Supper. It always provides an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends from other churches. An innovation this year was to ask everyone to bring their own crockery and cutlery and we attempted (albeit with room for improvement) a greater focus on recycling the waste from the meal.



But to the main event! The guest speaker was Sam Monaghan, Chief Executive of Methodist Homes for the Aged (MHA). Sam has been in this role for about two years, having spent the earlier part of his career working in children's social care. For that reason he told us that he had been far from certain that this was a role for him – but Julia had persuaded him otherwise!

Sam gave an inspiring and thought-provoking presentation. The crisis in adult social care is well documented but, despite political parties on all sides talking up their concerns during the general election campaign last year, Sam confessed that he did not as yet see any 'green shoots' of recovery. The statistics speak for themselves:

- One in ten older people (1.4 million individuals) do not have access to the support and care they are assessed to need
- Over the last ten years, under 'austerity', local authorities have had to make a 17% reduction to their social care budgets

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- Daily there are 8% of social care jobs vacant – 122,000 roles
- 70% of people in care homes have dementia or severe memory problems
- By 2040 - 1.6 million people will have dementia, nearly double the 2020 figure.
- Whilst the significant reduction in funding is a key factor, the other is the shifting demographic trend towards an ageing population. Between 1943 and 2020 average life expectancy has risen from 64 to 81. In 1943 9% of the population (3.4 million people) was over 65, but in 2020 that has risen to 18% (12 millions), and by 2040 is projected to rise further to 25% (18.3 millions). Currently 2% of the population (1.4 million people) is over 85 but by 2040 that is projected to rise to 4% (3 millions).

MHA was founded in 1943 by Rev Walter Hall and a group of Methodists in North London as an independent charity providing care, support and accommodation for older people in need. Sam reminded us that at that time there were, in particular, a number of women whose husbands had died in the First World War who were now elderly and lacking support, both because there was then no welfare state and due to the constraints imposed by wartime. MHA's first home was opened in 1945 and it now has 90 care homes providing for over 4,000 residents, many of whom receive specialist dementia or nursing care.

The services offered have expanded over the years and there are now two additional and distinct types of accommodation: 70 Retirement Living schemes allow 3,000 older people to live independently with access to social and leisure facilities and care as and when required; and 11,100 people are living independently in their own homes under the care of one of 62 Live at Home community groups.

MHA is one of the largest charitable care providers in the UK. The scale of the operation sounds formidable: supporting over 18,500 older people nationwide, employing 7,500 staff, plus over 4,000 volunteers. We learned that each care home and most retirement living schemes have a chaplain, appointed independently. Inspired by the Methodist roots, the chaplains reflect the importance which MHA places on nurturing the mind, body and spirit of those they care for. The chaplains provide pastoral support and organise worship for those who wish to participate, or assist in allowing residents to maintain links with local faith communities. Another successful initiative has been the engagement of music therapists to assist in the care of residents with dementia.

We learned a great deal over the course of the evening about the significance of the work that MHA does and the quality of the care it provides. In all this we should be in absolutely no doubt about the relevance of the Christian ethos that underpins the organisation and its mission.

But of course the work cannot continue without a regular stream of fund-raising and donations. As one of the very few not-for-profit care providers, the good news for donors is that every pound donated is invested directly in the services MHA provides. Each year Methodist Homes Sunday (14 June this year) provides the opportunity for churches to celebrate the work of MHA and encourage support in all its forms. Do check out the MHA website for more information about the day. To coincide with this Sam and colleagues are going to undertake a gruelling challenge of cycling 375 miles from Surrey to Leeds to raise money for MHA's work. If you would like to find out more about 'Ride MHA' and how to donate go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sam-monaghan-mha>.

*David Lander*

The Mission Supper raised £688 from ticket sales and a further £230 in the retiring donation plate.

# Godalming United Church

During Lockdown GUC continues to "witness, worship and serve" thanks to the marvels of technology. With our interregnum continuing for the foreseeable future, this has been quite a challenge.

However, Senior Steward, Alan Steele has arranged for a series of local preachers, lay readers and ministers to deliver videoed sermons appropriate to the season and these have been supplemented by video and audio clips from bygone Sundays - all accessed, assembled and delivered by our technological wizard Richard August – to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude. Indeed all of our preachers and participants must be praised for often overcoming hesitancy with the technology and willingness to "step up to the mark".



Our good friend and long-standing local preacher Jean Shepherd has had her travel plans delayed by lockdown – her newly acquired camper-van resting here in Godalming rather than transporting her to the Hebrides – but the upside is that she delivered two notable services for us, on Easter Day and Low Sunday. And ecumenism thrives at GUC – two of our lockdown services have been conducted by our friend David Hodson, a Lay Reader in the Anglican Church and frequent attender at GUC when his wife Anne is singing with Candela. Thank you to both.

Services are streamed real-time **every Sunday 10:30am** at <https://guc.online.church> with a facility to exchange greetings and comments. They are available for viewing later on our website [www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk). Or YouTube channel [bit.ly/GUCYouTube](https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube). Viewing figures have been very positive and include people watching from across the country.

Behind the scenes, unsung hero and “property man” John Drake has been paying regular visits to the premises to check that all is well, clean etc, so that we are ready for opening-up as soon as restrictions are lifted.

In addition to our monthly magazine Span we are also producing a more frequently emailed newsletter, with hard-copies home-delivered (with the usual precautions) to those not on the internet by volunteers on an exercise-walk!

*Nancy Wilks*



# Methodist Homes (MHA)

Following on from David Lander's account of the Mission Supper in February 2020 – which was a joyous and upbeat affair – the situation at MHA has changed dramatically with the onset of Covid-19.



The status of MHA on 7 April was as follows (I have not troubled Sam for an update since this date because his time is more gainfully employed lobbying for PPE for his staff than replying to emails):

- Half our homes/schemes have been impacted by either confirmed or suspected cases of Covid 19 – residents, members and/or staff
- 15 residents have been confirmed as having died from Covid-19 and a further 96 are suspected to have died from the virus
- 51 residents have been confirmed as having Covid-19 and a further 386 are suspected to have the virus
- 1 member of staff has been confirmed as having died from the virus
- 18 staff have been confirmed as having Covid-19
- 734 staff are either self-isolating or sick – that's 10% of our workforce off. This figure has plateaued, with staff who self-isolated either because they were sick or because they were in contact with those who had the virus now returning to work and new staff going off for the same reason.
- Our homes are closed to visitors except health professionals, but many GPs and District Nurses now decline to visit for risk of infection.

A huge thank you to those individuals and churches who responded to the plea for financial assistance which was circulated around Easter; donations of several thousand pounds have been received by MHA with a reference of Wey Valley Circuit and we are certain that many more donations have been made which cannot be directly traced back to our circuit.

Unfortunately there is still a need for funds. Whilst PPE has become more available it is NHS establishments and council run care homes who are first in the pecking order. Private care homes, including those which are charities, are still having to source PPE for themselves and the cost of these items is still increasing.

If you haven't made a donation yet, or if you wish to make a further donation, you can do so in three ways.

- 1) The easiest is to go to the website, <https://www.mha.org.uk/> and click on the Donate button. Under the heading 'Billing address' there is a box where you can say which organisation you are donating on behalf of – this is where you can enter 'Wey Valley Circuit'. This way of donating makes it easy to ensure that Gift Aid is claimed.
- 2) Donate via bank transfer:  
Sort code 20 05 85  
Account number 10053139
- 3) Send a cheque made payable to MHA and post to MHA, Epworth House, Stuart Street, Derby, DE1 2EQ

What MHA would be really appreciated from our circuit would be:

- Funding to support us acquiring PPE – we are having to go to a wide range of providers because the PPE supplied by Government/LA is insufficient and prices are now being hiked by suppliers as there is a scarcity
- To raise awareness of the needs of care homes in the wider community and with MPs and Councillors and show support on Thursdays alongside clapping for the NHS
- Prayers for our residents and staff, not just those on the front line but all those across MHA, working so hard to ensure we do the right thing and meet need
- Prayers for MHA to endure through this as there is a physical, emotional and financial toll on the organisation and its people.

It is looking very unlikely that we will be back in church to support Methodist Homes Sunday originally planned for 14 June when we would normally place a donation in the offertory. This would normally be a generous source of income for MHA which they will forfeit this year. Perhaps you could help anyway.

MHA and the circuit thank you in advance for your help in these difficult times

*Linda Weedon*

## Walton Methodist Players

24TH—26TH SEPTEMBER AT 7:30PM

Walton Methodist Players Present

Call us 'cock eyed optimists' - no we aren't attempting South Pacific – but Walton Methodist Players are busy rehearsing (via Zoom ) with the hope of delivering a production in September 2020!

If we are not back to normal – if anyone can remember what 'normal' was – then we will look at different dates later in this year or early in next.

Meanwhile – Save the Dates!



Tickets: £12

Walton Methodist Church Hall  
Terrace Road, Walton-on-Thames  
KT12 2SR

Visit [waltonmethodist.com/wmp](http://waltonmethodist.com/wmp)

## Speaking to Camera

Dave Faulkner shares his thoughts on equipment upgrades for those “speaking to camera”.

Since this is evidently going to continue for a long time, I’m going to upgrade my equipment. Currently, I don’t record to a webcam (mine is not that good), I did my first video to iPhone and subsequent ones to my DSLR camera. However, I end up sitting at a distance from the camera to get the frame right and so the audio leaves something to be desired. So I’m going to add a dedicated microphone to my gear.

For those interested in looking at good mics for cameras or phones, there is an excellent article here: <https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/buying-guides/best-microphone-for-vlogging-and-filmmaking> It’s that top recommendation mic I’m planning to buy, and if you would like to speak to me to find out my thoughts on it once it has arrived and I’ve had chance to use it please do contact me.

And here’s a video by someone giving tips on how best to use the top recommendation in that article: <https://fstoppers.com/audio/10-great-hacks-using-new-rose-wireless-go-microphones-477435>

*Dave Faulkner*



## 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**

It's likely that anything written now will be out of date almost as soon as I have pressed the Send button as pundits and politicians debate how and when to ease the Lockdown. The demography of our congregations will likely dictate an extended period before church life can resume in our buildings with any semblance of 'normality'. Even for those allowed to congregate, worship on the new German model, with two metre separation and a ban on singing, would be a rather different proposition from what we are used to!

One has to ask at some point what sort of worship and church life we aspire to in the changed world likely post lockdown? Will our practices, tastes, routines and relationship with God have moved into a different model?

It has been a joy to share online services with a larger congregation, including worshippers from Cranleigh, Merrow and further afield. It has also been a privilege to find worshippers increasing the frequency of their attendance and a readiness to invite friends and neighbours to participate, in a way they might have been hesitant to do for physical services.

We're also valuing the ability of some being able to join in who've been precluded from attending physically for some time through ill-health. At the same time, it is unfortunate that some are excluded from full participation by the technology but remarkable how many people have shown determination to master and benefit from it. The systematic provision of pastoral care, building on Methodist practice, has been invaluable and appreciated right across the congregation at St Mary's.

Our ChitChat drop-in for international residents has successfully moved to an online platform for the time being and Common Ground's members are enjoying more frequent community meetings online.

This is all taking place against an outpouring of creativity in Christian circles, giving us an abundance of new resources to help us worship, reflect and develop our relationship with God and each other.

Easy access to a wide range of worship styles from different churches has been interesting and our Sunday routines may well have changed. I suspect we will have to be proactive in thinking of a post-Lockdown pattern for church life.

In the midst of Lockdown I should still report on the works at St Mary's. Despite the isolation of our site prompted by unexpected protracted road closures and then Lockdown, the builders have now been able to restart on the final stage of their works, complying with Government guidance. The new floor and heating are nearly complete and the stained-glass window we brought from our previous Methodist building has now been installed.

Given the constraints resulting from Lockdown, it is hard to say when we'll be able to welcome you all to share in celebrating our new facilities or indeed what the impact of changes in lifestyles will be on the way we use them.

St Mary's has been a beacon for Christianity for about a Millennium, and has seen such events as the Reformation, Bubonic Plague, Civil War and myriad changes in life – but its witness has survived. Although currently a building site, it awaits our return as we continue that witness.

*Nigel Campion-Smith*

## Nature Walk—A Poem

We thought we'd walk to blow the blues  
As the sun was shining stronger  
Not far - to get us moving  
Can't stay in any longer  
We chose a little country path  
The sunshine it was warm  
And nature looked all fresh and bright  
In green of every form  
Celandines and dandelions yellow faces to the sun  
And in the hedgerow margins even bluebells have begun  
Then suddenly and something moved and fluttered on near-  
Is it - was it - it surely was - a peacock butterfly!  
Before, we'd seen a brimstone on sulfur yellow wings  
How wonderful is nature in all these little things.  
We looked around and upwards to see the beautiful blue sky  
And then behind us heard anew a distant yaffle cry.  
A robin in the hedgerow sang music to his wife  
Why can't we all just learn from him to lead a simpler life?  
We saw the lords and ladies : the lilies of the field  
Their beautiful broad and shiny leaves are all they really need  
We felt that Someone's telling us, have hope and love and prayer  
For nature will always be beautiful in this and every year



by

Martin Letts – Swanmore Methodist Church

(For those who don't know, a "yaffle" is another name for a green woodpecker)

*Submitted by Jeannette Curtis*

 Positive steps to Wellbeing	
Be kind to yourself	Exercise regularly
Hobbies/new skill	Have fun/be creative
Rest and relaxation	Eat healthily
Balance sleep	Connect with others
Beware alcohol/drugs	See the bigger picture
Help others	It is as it is

# Knaphill

Knaphill Methodist Church has long supported Action for Children. We used to do the house-to-house collection for many years, going right back to when the organization was known as National Children's Homes. Recent years, however, had seen our support fall to quite small amounts, so Sue Findlay, our Action for Children representative, asked if we could have a special service devoted to this cause.

The ideal opportunity came with a Local Arrangement Service on 11 August 2019. Elizabeth Gurd kindly agreed to lead the service and various members of the Missions Committee contributed. It was a lovely service which informed us of the broad nature of the current work of Action for Children and raised £318.02 for the charity by a retiring collection.

This was just the beginning, however, because Elizabeth had the brilliant idea of making small collecting boxes and distributing them after the service with the challenge of filling them over the following 150 days to mark Action for Children's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We collected them in on 12 January 2020, at a second service, themed around homelessness, and Action for Children's work here specifically, and counted the contents. The magnificent sum of £566.37 was raised through the boxes!

Altogether, with a small collection at Christmas, we have been able to send £955.79 to Action for Children since last August, so we are very pleased to have been able to support them substantially, especially in their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

*Lynda Shore*  
*Treasurer*



Our Church Worship Group is currently practicing "long distance" each Thursday using YouTube downloads or the Singing the Faith midifiles, in preparation for V3RS3 & VOIC3 IV, originally planned for 31 May. New date to be confirmed.

Once life returns to "normal," it is envisaged that our regular events will continue as before with

- C4U on the third Saturday of each month between 2:00pm - 4:00pm
- Coffee Mornings each 4th Saturday of the month between 10:00am - 12 noon
- Annual Church Bazaar- Saturday 28th November between 10:00am - 2:00pm - keep the date free!

For up to date information check our website [www.knaphill-methodist-church.com](http://www.knaphill-methodist-church.com)

- Alternative methods of Worship - look under the heading 'Church Services' and click on the service you wish to watch and listen to.
- KMC Magazine – look under the heading 'Latest News' and click on 'Magazine'

*Yvette Wright*

## Merrow

On Sunday 15 March we held an Annual General Meeting after our Morning Worship at which we discussed the developing Covid-19 situation. We agreed that for future services we would continue to follow government advice with visitors being asked to use the hand sanitisers on entering and exiting the premises. We said we would make printed services available for those not wishing to come to Church and sadly determined to cancel some of our regular weekly events although refreshments after services would continue to be served.....

Who knew then that two days later matters would be taken out of our hands with the introduction of the government's social isolation guidelines to be followed by the more stringent "lock down" rules. Now as I write this six weeks on the world we live in has completely changed. We have had to come to terms with worshipping "remotely". One of our resulting initiatives has been to produce daily reflections which we email out with our continuing weekly Newsheet or post to those who do not have internet access. As the radio news, on in the background, informs me that the overall UK death toll in hospitals and care homes continues to rise at an alarming rate, today's reflection written by Allan Taylor seems particularly pertinent. It concludes "We Christians are called to be people of hope. But like those disciples on the Emmaus road sometimes our hope leads to heartbreak. Sometimes we are left standing still, looking sad, stopped in our tracks by grief or disappointment or fear. The promise of this story is that in those moments when our hearts are breaking, when we are stopped in our tracks and it feels like we can't go on - it is then that Jesus will show up beside us. It is then that the fire of the Holy Spirit will be rekindled in our lives. Loving God, give us, we pray, the strength to be your messengers of hope even when we are confronted by the deepest despair".

On Easter Sunday I went out for one of my now regular walks and the messages on the notice board outside our church were quite contrasting. But anyone passing by the church buildings could not fail to be struck and uplifted by the posters in all the windows supported by the flowers displayed in the rear entrance by a local church member.

Who knows what will develop over the next few months. What I do know is that we have been truly blessed with the sunniest April since records began and those lucky enough to have gardens have been able to make the most of them. We are reliably informed that the blue skies we have been enjoying are a much deeper hue because of the reduction in pollution levels. With less traffic on the roads we have been able to hear more clearly the beautiful singing of the birds. I have personally discovered blackbirds, blue tits and robins nesting in our garden. Indeed I came across one baby robin which had fallen from its nest. Eyes barely open and unable to fly. What do I do?

I phoned a friend (not of the coughing Major variety) who is a keen ornithologist and he said tuck it safely back at the bottom of the hedge and its mother would find it, feed and take care of it and all would be well.



And all will be well.....

*Hugh Bradley*



# Christian Aid Week

**10-16 May 2020**

Christian Aid Week 2020 is moving online! Christian Aid will be live-streaming worship each day during the Week (10 – 16 May), and hosting a fun daily quiz to join and raise funds. Please join in to show love for our neighbours near and far, as a global family.

## **Fundraising is more important than ever this year**

The coronavirus pandemic means that we cannot run activities such as the house-to-house collection, cake and plant sale, sponsored walk (Circle the City) and even our barn dance has had to be postponed! So it is up to all of us to do what we can to support Christian Aid Week this year.

## **e-Envelope**

Help to raise vital funds by sending your friends and family a personalised message in an e-Envelope. It's easy to use – just go to <http://envelope.christianaid.org.uk>, create your message and send it by email or share the link on social media. The money raised will help people to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.

## **Other ways to give to Christian Aid**

**Telephone:** call 020 7523 2269 to donate using your bank card.

**BACS transfer:** call 020 7523 2226 to pay directly into Christian Aid's bank account.

**Cheque:** if you cannot give by the methods above, but would like to donate by cheque, this is possible if you send your donation directly to Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London, SE1 7RT. Be sure to let them know if your donation qualifies for Gift Aid.

Please give generously this Christian Aid Week.

£4.40 could teach 10 farmers how to plant drought-tolerant crops

£10 could buy a tap at a water point which will be installed at an earth dam, making it easier for people to fetch water

£1,560 could pay for all the materials, tools and equipment to build an earth dam

Every pound raised, every prayer said, every action taken: these are expressions of our Christian love and compassion, of our belief that all life is equal and precious in the sight of God.

Submitted by

*Yvette Wright*



## The Big Read



At the official start date of this edition of *Wey Forward* (1 June 2020), those of you taking part in this project to read the Bible from cover to cover will be reading Ecclesiastes chapter 11. In these challenging times it is good to have the discipline of this exercise to sustain us. Whilst in lock down routine and discipline have become even more important to help us get through the days (and keep us out of the biscuit barrel), which at the moment seem endless. To paraphrase a regular statement which appears many times across the 66 books of the Bible 'This too will pass'. What a phrase of hope to sustain us in these challenging times!

I am pleased to report that my friend is still with us: she has found solace over recent days especially as her daughter was due to get married on 1 May and of course that didn't happen. We sent a card to the disappointed young couple to mark the day and referred them to Numbers Chapter 6, v 24 – 26. They are now planning to include these words in their (secular) service when it takes place next year. Apparently they felt the comfort these words give us.

I hope that some of you are still with this exercise. Yes I am still 'cheating' by *listening* to my chapter but then I am also worshipping via technology and following commentaries via YouTube. Who knew that we would become experienced users of technology?

Please remember that Rev Asif Das has kindly said they 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*

## Don't Forget to Smile

A country conference centre which was much used by church groups had as its motto, "There are no problems here, only opportunities." A minister booked it for a weekend retreat with a group from his church. The day arrived and they all signed in and were shown to their rooms. A few minutes later the minister returned to the reception desk and said he had a problem. The receptionist responded with a smile and said, "Sir we don't have problems here, only opportunities." The minister said, "Call it what you like, but there's already a woman in my room."

~

Heads bowed in prayer, the congregation at our Church listened in complete silence to the Minister as he said, 'Now let us pray in the words that Jesus taught us.' A little girl's voice could be heard throughout the hushed congregation as she said, "Daddy, I didn't know Jesus had a tortoise."

## Walton - on - Thames

On Saturday 29 February, many of us went to the Mission supper in Woking for an enjoyable meal and chance to catch up with other people in the Circuit. We were delighted to hear Sam Monaghan talk about the Methodist Homes for the Aged in his capacity as CEO. It is a great privilege to have Sam and Julia with us as members at Walton and at this pressured time, we are particularly praying for Sam and his team at the MHA organisation, that they will be brought through Covid19 safely, with God's help.

On Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrated our Church anniversary, where we had our gift day and our Annual General Meeting, which was followed by a bring-and-share lunch, when we were able to share food and fellowship. We had a celebratory anniversary cake, and we displayed a picture created by Messy Church next to it. The picture was titled "A Church full of Love" and is an image of the outline of our church filled with finger-painted hearts created by the 22 children who had attended our Messy Church session the day before. Little did we know how significant and poignant this image was?

As we went through March and life gradually closed in, and most Church activities stopped, we had to use different methods of meeting up – all underpinned by the Agape love that flows through our community as we have had to find new ways to look out for and care for each other. We have resorted to the "good old telephone conversation", email, WhatsApp and many of us have been pushed into the 21st century with Zoom, and Google Hangout... We have managed to continue our Saturday morning prayer group by creating a WhatsApp group that meets every Saturday at 8am for an hour of shared scripture and prayer through messages. The upside of having our weekly prayer meeting this way is that the organiser can do it with coffee in his hand, in his pyjamas, and without worrying that his hair looks like he has been "dragged through a bush backwards..."

We have been incredibly grateful to Revs. Sydney Samuel and Keith for their weekly Pastoral Letters and the Circuit and the District for the acts of worship that they have been doing for all of us. Christopher Heffernan has done an excellent job of updating our Church website so that members are able to interact with it, and can still feel that they have some connection, through these challenging weeks. Just this week, on April 26<sup>th</sup> we have started a "Tea and Fellowship" time on Sunday afternoons when the church members can talk together from their own homes.

We are also grateful to Rev Julia Monaghan for her thought-provoking meditations in Holy Week and across the Easter festival. If you have not yet seen these, they are worth having a look at on our website - [www.waltonmethodist.com](http://www.waltonmethodist.com). We also have "A Page of Hope" where people can share thoughts, words or images of encouragement.

So, we give thanks for all the great ways, in which we are being brought together, not just in Walton or in this Circuit but all over the world. When you watch the services from Wesley Chapel or Methodist Central Hall, it is amazing seeing all the messages from people coming from all round the world.

continued.....

I can also recommend this:

Every day at 1.17pm, All We Can is sharing positive and uplifting content on the theme of 'Colossians 1:17 – All Things Hold Together' – a series of encouraging broadcasts that you can watch and join in with from the comfort of your home.

You can catch them every day on the All We Can Facebook page.

[www.allwecan.org.uk/all-we-can-1-17-programme-all-things-hold-together/](http://www.allwecan.org.uk/all-we-can-1-17-programme-all-things-hold-together/)

It brightens up the day and encourages us to go on.

All of us are experiencing different forms of lockdown, but at least we have clean water to wash in and food in the cupboard. We can also go out, enjoy the good weather, and go for a walk in pleasant surroundings. However, in the refugee camps, they too are in lockdown and the virus affects them. If you go to the link below you can find out what is happening in the refugee camps

<https://www.allwecan.org.uk/give/current-appeals/emergencycoronavirusappeal/>

Also have you seen or heard the poem How the virus stole Easter?

The story behind the poem (and the poem as well) can be found here:

[www.faithit.com/how-virus-stole-easter-story-behind-pastor-wife-viral-easter-poem/](http://www.faithit.com/how-virus-stole-easter-story-behind-pastor-wife-viral-easter-poem/)

*Jeannette Curtis*

## **West Horsley**

We, like everyone else, are trying to make the best of these strange times.

We are keeping in email contact weekly with all our members with a news sheet and also sending out all the information that Sue is distributing from the Circuit office. We have some volunteer cyclists who are distributing paper copies to those without email.

We are very grateful to Sue, for keeping us up to date, particularly with alternative services, to Asif for his weekly reflections and to Keith for his weekly pastoral letter. It was good to participate in the daily reflections for Holy Week that were put together by the circuit staff.

Being a small society, it is easy to keep in touch by phone to make sure everyone is OK. So far, we have only had one case of the virus; she is making a slow recovery. But, we have recently lost one member, who died from a chest infection after living in the nursing home at Ewhurst for some years.

We have missed our Chapel Anniversary (144) and the forthcoming Songs of Praise will have to be postponed. I'm sure we will be arranging another date and to have a big celebration once we are allowed to meet again.

*Margaret Faulkner*

# Weybridge

Well what can we say? Like everyone else we are locked out of our building.

Weybridge is a smaller congregation than many so it is easier to keep in touch with everyone on a very regular basis. As I write this everyone is safe and well and we have just finished Sunday Worship (via Zoom) where we were joined by many members of the Addlestone Church.

It is lovely to see each other but we have a couple of members who do not have the technology available for the video access who are still able to join our worship via phone.

Naturally we all look forward to a time when we can be back together in the same room but until then we are thankful that technology permits our virtual gathering.

We give thanks to all those preachers who are supporting us at this time by leading our worship.



We pray that everyone around the circuit is safe and well and continues to be so.

Until we are able to meet again.....Prayers from all at Weybridge

*Linda Weedon*

## **When Life is Shaken to its Core**

When life is shaken to its core,  
when clouds and storms arrive,  
we find it difficult to know  
God present in our lives.  
Yet there's no misery or grief,  
pain, doubt, or emptiness,  
that is not known by the divine  
and filled with tenderness.

When we are tempted to give up,  
and purpose drains away,  
where is the God of hope and joy?  
Can peace replace dismay?  
God, in the centre of our pain,  
makes of our dark a tent,  
a holy place of tearfulness  
as life splits and fragments.

We need to learn to trust and know  
God in our lives, God here  
hidden within the clouds and storms,  
one with our doubts and fears.  
This is our peace: that in the depths  
of our adversities  
we find a God who shares our pain  
and life's cruel miseries.

Words: © Andrew Brown (November 2019, rev. March 2020)

Submitted by

*Fred Rowe*

## **And on a lighter note.....**

A man running a little behind schedule arrived at a church film evening and, in the semi darkness, he managed to find a seat. As his eyes adjusted to the darkness, he was surprised to see a dog sitting beside its master in the row ahead, intently watching the film. It even seemed to be enjoying the film, wagging its tail in the happy bits, drooping its ears at the sad bits, and hiding its eyes with its paws at the scary bits. At the end the man approached the dog's owner, "Wow, I'm amazed at how your dog really seemed to enjoy the film" The owner replied, "Yes, I can't believe it myself, because he hated the book."

## Woking's ROC Conversation

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm 185 people started to gather at Trinity. Debra Green OBE had arrived from ROC's Manchester HQ and all preparations were complete. Events started with a song – performed by Sarah Goddard (Christchurch CAP) accompanied by Graham Kirby-Smith. Following a few housekeeping matters, proceedings were formally started with David Munro (Police & Crime Commissioner) and our Mayor Beryl Hunwicks saying a few words. Then down to business.

First task was to write all the good things happening in Woking on Post-it notes and stick them on a large poster – and to surrounding walls. Debra then proceeded to interview various local notables. Ian Nicholson & Rosemary Johnson told us about the community work run by Woking FC. Ray Morgan reminded us of the need for affordable housing – a need of 300/year. We were then invited to share our own needs by pegging luggage labels on a 'wishing line' – yellow labels were filled in with needs, green labels with offers of help. There were 160 and 120 of these respectively – an impressive sight and valuable database going forward.

More interviews followed. Brett Freeman, principal of Woking College, spoke passionately about the need to give students a sense of belonging to a community, and reminded us of the poor mental health of many students with many 10's of students being 'watched'. Insp. Andy Greaves, Surrey Police Woking Commander, reminded us of policing concerns including so called 'county lines' issues and the targeting of vulnerable young females. Dr Caroline Baker, CEO of NW Surrey Integrated Care Services then spoke about issues challenging GP's, including new initiatives to use volunteers to help with some of the social issues that GP's often end up dealing with. This led us into the main heart of the evening – round table discussions about local issues that were of concern to guests. Issues were first identified, and then suggestions tabled as to how these could be resolved. In total 150 issues were raised, the top three issues being Youth (21), Loneliness & Isolation (20) and Mental Health (17). All other issues were in single figures.

Each of the 23 tables was asked to select it's priority issue and present it to the gathering. Debra and her husband Frank did a double act of interviewing the table reps, and somehow managed to get all reporting back done in less than half an hour. It was fascinating to hear what had been discussed, particularly some of the solutions proposed.

ROC always aim to finish on time, and managed it. There was some minor feedback and gathering of personal details, including people indicating whether they were happy to be included in the next stage, the Action Group(s). 75 people have indicated they would – a commendable number. Where do we go from here? If it wasn't for COVID-19 we'd be starting to plan the Action Group. Clearly face to face meetings are not currently possible. Plans are being discussed for a digital meeting, but we need to think carefully about how that will work with 75 people. Over the next few weeks I will be considering the elements which can plug into our Foundry Project. For a while now I have felt that loneliness and isolation is an area we can focus on, and as the preliminary results have indicated, it is an area of widely accepted need. Just how the COVID-19 crisis will re-write that issue remains to be seen.

continued.....



Photos from the evening

Finally I want to end by thanking all those who contributed to making the event a success – Debra Green emailed us to say it was one of the best organised events they'd had. I won't name individuals, but my estimate is that there were about 30 people from Trinity involved in one way or another, be it table hosting, praying, moving furniture, making staging, parking, serving tea & coffee or cooking. To all of you, a huge thank you from myself and also on behalf of the steering group.

*Hugh Bowerman*

# Surrey Care Trust

Surrey Care Trust have been commissioned to deliver an **Early Help Mentoring Programme** in West Surrey (Surrey Heath, Guildford and Waverley).

Surrey Care Trust provides learning, training and mentoring to support young people and adults in improving their chances in life.

They enable people to overcome the disadvantage of low skills, poor educational achievement, limited opportunities and tough financial circumstances.

Nurturing skills for life, work and learning creates brighter futures.

Setbacks in life such as illness, addiction, family breakdown and unemployment can also leave people facing hardship and needing to learn new skills and rebuild confidence. They help there, too.

Not only do individuals benefit personally from their work, but they believe that the wider community also gains when people are better equipped to make a positive contribution to society.

The Early Help Programme is designed to support some of the most isolated families in Surrey, so that they can make positive changes and feel confident about themselves and their futures. The mentoring delivery is designed on an individual basis to suit the specific needs of young people and parents involved. As the service is targeted at families with children aged 5-11 as well as families with young people aged 11-19, they have established a partnership with Home-start to deliver the services to the 0-5 age group.

They will be recruiting volunteers to attend a three session training course, we then introduce them to referred young people/parents to offer mentoring support.

They would like to offer their services to any agencies that are currently offering support to families during these difficult circumstances we are experiencing. Should they recognise that there is a young person/parent that may benefit from some mentoring support please encourage them to get in touch with Helen Placito. Helen and her team are able to offer support to any young people over the phone or on line.

*Helen Placito*

*Early Help Project Lead and Programme Manager-West*

*Surrey Care Trust*

Mobile: 07593438137 [helen.placito@surreycaretrust.org.uk](mailto:helen.placito@surreycaretrust.org.uk)

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## **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 17 of The Wey Forward  
is midnight 5 July 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 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>June 2020 (and beyond)</b>			
Ongoing	Various	Virtual Services around the Circuit (see P 6)	
21 - 31 May	-	Thy Kingdom Come	
14 June	-	MHA Sunday	
5 July	midnight	Copy deadline for Issue 17 of The Wey Forward	
2 September	7.30pm	Welcome Service for Rev Sam Funnell	Woking
24 - 26 Sept	7.30pm	"I'll Get My Man" - Walton Players	Walton
28 November	10am - 12 noon	Annual Church Bazaar	Knaphill