



# **Weybridge Methodist Church**

## **Newsletter March 2022**



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.

## Pastoral Message

Dear Friends,

I wonder what you have learnt from the Pandemic. There are some people who are much poorer financially than they were pre-pandemic, whereas the richest people in the world are now even richer. A similar trend was seen in the Great Depression and the Second World War. As we emerge into the light of the new normal, I wonder if parallel trends can be seen in churches. Will some congregations quickly flourish better than ever, and will the decline or demise of some churches be hastened? One amazing new feature of UK church life is the rapid recent growth of Chinese churches, which is being closely studied by the Bible Society.

One cynic said that in the pandemic he learned that according to the media, there are so many 'leading experts' that he wonders whether there are any scientists left who are not 'leading'! One statement I have heard repeated around the circuit is 'We can't carry on as we are'. I am never sure what people mean when they say this and suspect that there may not yet be a consensus about the alternative. However, it is clearly the case that we need to discern a unifying vision in order to move the circuit forward in the (hopefully) post pandemic world. For this reason, the CLT, together with some church stewards, are to gather for a Vision Day, facilitated by the Learning Network. I suspect that this will be the beginning of a process and not the endpoint.

I have become increasingly aware that whilst in business a vision or a mission is the product of hard thinking, analysis and consultation with marketing and PR advisors etc, in Biblical terms a vision is a revelation given by God, sometimes unasked for and sometimes the result of great spiritual striving. Our mission is the Mission of God which He invites us to participate in. Take the case of Jacob. In 1742 a hymn comprised of 14 6-line verses was published. It was written by Charles Wesley and came to be known as Wrestling Jacob. It is of course inspired by the story found in Genesis 32:24-32. Here is the first verse which may be familiar to you:

Come O thou traveller unknown,  
Whom still I hold but cannot see!  
My company before is gone,  
And I am left alone with thee,

With thee all night I mean to stay  
And wrestle till the break of day.

Such was the intensity of Jacob's spiritual struggle that ever after he walked with a limp! Is part of the lesson of this strange story that revelation, or vision, does not always come easily. There is a cost involved.

Jesus Himself spent 40 days and 40 nights in the desert in preparation for his public ministry culminating in his redemptive sacrifice, as the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He began His ministry with a clear mission statement - to seek and save the lost. As we approach Lent, I hope that as a circuit we will make it a time to wrestle with big questions about what God is calling us to do post-pandemic and how does God want us to do it. As individuals, as local churches and as a circuit community, I pray that in the period leading to Easter we may be granted the revelation or vision of what our calling truly is. I believe that when God calls us to a task, He will grant us the means to fulfil it. Our responsibility is our response to His ability. If we have learnt that lesson, then the pandemic years have not been wasted.

God bless you,

*Keith*

Keith C. Beckingham. Superintendent Minister





The flower rota is now available. If there is a date or anniversary you wish to celebrate by sponsoring the church flowers, write your name on the rota or speak to Carol.



Thank you to all who have helped with serving tea and coffee during February. It really helped to share the load. Please don't wait to be asked, come forward and volunteer.



Join us on Friday 25 March from 10.30 am for coffee (or tea) and a chat



## I'm still here!



I will be making a regular appearance on a Sunday morning in the hope that you will put some of your loose change in me. I need to raise funds to assist with the major portfolio of works (costing up to £70k) which are necessary during 2022/23 to preserve our building.

**If anyone else has any ideas for fund raising, especially 'fun' events, the stewards and the treasurer will be happy to hear from you.**



# Opinions Sought

The recent Church Council meeting raised some issues on which we would like to canvas opinions from the whole church family.

- 1) Maundy Thursday 14 April: Rev Sydney Samuel Lake is proposing to hold a Communion service at 6.30pm. This will ensure that church members have the opportunity to receive communion during April as there is no morning communion planned during April (due to the shortages of preachers available). Please indicate to one of the stewards (as soon as possible) whether you would be happy to attend a service at this time.
- 2) The queens 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee. Would the church family like to attend a lunch after the service on Sunday 5 June to help celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Her Majesties reign? Again please indicate your wishes to the stewards so that plans can be made.

If you prefer, you can email your thoughts to [weybridgemethodistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:weybridgemethodistoffice@gmail.com)

## Confirmation Classes.

If anyone in the church family is not currently confirmed as a member of the Methodist Church and would like to consider becoming so, Rev Sydney Samuel Lake will be running a course of confirmation classes on a Saturday morning commencing on 15 April (Easter Saturday) 10 – 12 (to be confirmed) and running weekly until 4 June. These will be held at Walton Methodist Church, Terrace Rd, Walton KT12 2SR. A service of membership will take place at Walton on 5 June, Pentecost Sunday. Please contact Rev Sydney Samuel Lake if you are interested at

[SydneySamuel.lake@methodist.org.uk](mailto:SydneySamuel.lake@methodist.org.uk)

## Annual Church Meeting

The annual church meeting will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 immediately after the service. As this is also a Communion service please allow time for both.

Church Stewards for election:

Church Stewards: Eli (Lek) Melech, Andy Seehusen, Pat Seehusen, Carol Smith, Linda Weedon

Church Council Secretary: Carol Smith

Treasurer: Robert Lewis

Safeguarding Officer (and Verifier): Jean Simango

Due to Covid restrictions the last ACM was held on 31 March 2019. The minutes of that meeting are included below:

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### **Weybridge Methodist Church**

#### **Annual Church meeting, Sunday 31 March 2019**

Present: Rev Sydney Samuel Lake (chair), Anna Robson, Brenda Smith, Nancy Fuller, Paula Lewis, Robert Lewis, Jose Iparriguire, Lili Massacane, Stanley Barnes, Mary Barnes, David Marjot, Steve Holderer, Teresa Holderer, Adelaide Hammond, Helen Belsham (Circuit Steward), Eli Melech, Hawa Lake, Grace Lake, Sydney Lake, Adrian Cook, Linda Weedon

Apologies: Pru Ashplant, Carol Smith, Claire Smith

SSL thanked everyone for the warm welcome he and his family have received from church members since their arrival in September 2018.

The minutes from the 2018 annual church meeting were read out to all. They were proposed as a true record by Robert Lewis, seconded by Jose Iparriguire and accepted unanimously. They were then signed by the Chair.

#### 1. Witness of the Church Life.

- ❖ SSL offered thanks for all those who work for the church, who help out at services.  
He also offered thanks and prayers for those people who use our premises during the week.
- ❖ SSL reported that Brenda Smith will be moving to Devon very shortly. As this may well be her final service at Weybridge Methodist church she was presented with a book 'The Map of Heaven'. SSL invited all present to sign the book for Brenda. We wish Brenda a happy and fruitful future in her new home.
- ❖ SSL reported that Adelaide Hammond wishes to move her membership from Midhurst Methodist Church to Weybridge Methodist Church. The meeting voted unanimously to accept this move. Adelaide was welcomed by SSL and LLW and presented with a copy of 'The Map of Heaven'
- ❖ Appreciating Church; a report has been sent to the Circuit Learning, Discipleship and Training group reporting the churches progress on this. SSL commends the online prayer group which runs via the WhatsApp application. Anyone wishing to be added to this group should make sure that they give their mobile phone number to LLW. SSL wishes to establish a regular time of prayer and discussion for the congregation at a suitable time of the week. He would like to see more social interaction amongst church members.
- ❖ SSL wishes to engage more with Users of the premises and go out more into the community.
- ❖ The 2019 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative runs from Ascension to Pentecost (30 May – 9 June). It is proposed to strip the prayer tree of the old prayer requests and recommence with the prayers from this year's special prayer period. More details will be in the May newsletter and some informational resources will be provided

## 2. Financial Update

SSL reported that the financial affairs of the church are currently very healthy, mostly due to the efficient letting of the premises. The church is facing major expenditure to implement the recommendations of the Fire Safety Assessment report and the work on the external guttering which was deferred from 2018. There is also potential work in the main church roof void to undertake.

The replacement of the P.A system is currently subject to a specific fund raising initiative.

### 3: Stewards

The existing steward team of Pru Ashplant, Jose Iparraguirre, Linda Weedon, and Carol Smith agreed to stand for re-election. No one else offered themselves as additional stewards thus the team was proposed for re-election en masse.

Proposed by Lili Massacane, Seconded by Stanley Barnes and accepted unanimously.

### 4. Church Council membership.

It is a standing item at the Annual Church Meetings to elect representatives to the Church Council. (CC is comprised of all church officers and elected congregational representatives). As our membership is less than 49, all congregational members are eligible to attend under the provision of S.O. 610(x) which states that '*all members of the Methodist Church on the membership roll of Weybridge Methodist Church who wish to be on the Church Council are automatically thus members*'.

The meeting closed at 12.25pm

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## Lenten Prayers on zoom

Led by Rev Sam Funnell

Wed 2 march 2022 5.30pm – 6.00pm

Fri 18 march 2022 5.30pm – 6.00pm

Mon 4 April 2022 5.30pm – 6.00pm



Join us for a time of prayer and contemplation.

The Zoom link is here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82554430962?pwd=aDhlM3M4UjJYYlclc0c3BtVU5ubVZHQT09>

Meeting ID: 825 5443 0962

Passcode: 678216

As the weather turns towards spring – time for a day out

## A Day out in WINCHESTER



The statue of Alfred the Great in the Broadway of the Cathedral City of Winchester.

South of the High Street is the must see destination, the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, St. Peter, St. Paul and St. Swithin. Inside you can see the Jane Austen Memorial; the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Baptismal Font; the Izaak

Walton Window; St. Swithin's Shrine; a plaque to Samuel Wesley and the tomb of William Rufus. There is a charge to enter this wonderful building but you may return again with in the year at no extra charge.

Back on the pedestrianized High Street, a stroll to the west will take you to the West Gate which houses a small museum. If it is open you can climb up the tower to enjoy panoramic views of the city. To the south of the West Gate is the Great Hall which is home to a Round Table, but not that of the legendary King Arthur! This one is thought to date from the reign of Edward III, although names of Knights from Arthurian legend surround the edge. Remember to visit Queen Eleanor's Garden.

Another must

to visit is the City Mill which spans the River Itchen on Bridge Street. Discover the history of milling on this site since Saxon times. Great activities for children. Check with the National Trust for opening times (<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/>).

If visiting Winchester in the run up to Christmas you will find a Christmas Market and ice rink in the Cathedral grounds.

Getting there:- The best way to travel to Winchester is to drive and use the Park & Ride facility to the city centre, alighting at the Broadway. Take the M3 to junction 10 and follow the signs to the St. Catherine' Park & Ride site.

By train - From Weybridge take the train to Woking and change for an onward connection to Winchester. The Railway Station is approximately ½ mile from the town.

For more information on your day out visit the following web sites:-  
<http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/>    <http://winchester-cathedral.org.uk/>