



Weybridge Methodist Church

Newsletter June 2022



John 6 v1

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberius.

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.

, Creator of the food chain

by Revd Josie Smith.

I observed my cat one recent morning ruining a newly-planted flower bed in the course of pursuing a frog near the adjacent pond in my garden. This is the nature of cats, I realise, but seeing her doing this raised questions in my mind, not for the first time. She often suggests questions to me which are also both simple and profound.

Can anyone tell me how to reconcile the concept 'loving God' with the predatory hierarchy, AKA food chain which appears to be a necessary part of the design of the created order?

I know about that rather charming word picture about lions lying down with lambs, but lions and lambs have different digestive arrangements and neither could be sustained by the other's diet. The whole of nature, it seems, is designed so that the stronger, faster, cleverer or more toxic beasts live by killing and eating those lower down the food chain. (Though there are enlightened cultures in which hunters will apologise to the animal they have just speared to death and ask its forgiveness, showing respect to their prey before consuming its strength to maintain and enhance their own.)

How do we differ? Genetically we, lions and lambs, cats and humans alike, are all made of the same stuff of life.

Are we in fact different from the rest of the natural world? My football team has to be capable of beating yours, our child needs to have better exam marks than yours, and so on. In international relations it would seem that the food-chain principle has always applied. A diplomat would put it more delicately perhaps, and a dictator in other terms, but recent world events have furnished many examples – one could express it as 'My tribe is stronger and better than yours so I propose to gobble up your land if I have to kill your population in the process.'

My generation was taught to believe that the human race (then known as 'Man') differed from all other created beings in having a soul, and more words have been written on this theme than ever angels have danced on pinheads. But we now know that trees can communicate

with other trees, that all sorts of creatures have recognisable language, and only recently someone with very sensitive recording equipment has picked up sound communication from a living mushroom.

The more we learn about other living things – the close family relationships of elephants, communication systems of bees, design and construction skills of ants, birds and beavers, navigational skills of butterflies – the more we respect and marvel. I am a cat person, but dog lovers will tell you of the devotion a dog will give its owner. (Cats don't have owners – it is cats who have humans, but they too are capable of a genuine relationship with another species, often us.) And crows, for example, are very good at problem solving, as are some squirrels.

What is the soul, and why do we think we are alone in having it?

We have faith in a creator God. Our ancestor whom we call Eve was born with a silver question mark in her mouth, thus giving rise to the sciences which grew alongside theology. Wondering 'What if?' leads to experiment, which may lead anywhere and sometimes in unexpected directions.

So I worship God, and (not 'but!') I also ask a lot of questions.

I am not able to answer – or find answers to – many of the questions I meet every day. The best questions don't have answers, but lead to deeper questions. A Catholic priest I used to know turned questions aside by using the word 'mystery', but I prefer to understand life by the both/and principle. My theology is not 'systematic', but proceeds by flashes of insight and by niggling doubts.

And perhaps especially by walking with those who have also encountered the God whose name and nature is *Love*



Worship in June 2022



05th June Rev Barrie Tabraham
4.00pm Testimony Service for Rev Sydney Samuel Lake at
Walton Methodist Church

12th June Mrs Rosemary Lee.

19th June Mr Dave Paterson
5.00pm Farewell Service for Rev Keith Beckingham at
Guildford St Mary's. (*n.b. Parking free in Guildford
from 5.00pm*)

26th June Local Arrangement. *For those who wish to attend a
Communion service, Rev David Faulkner will be leading communion at
Byfleet at 10.30 am*

Refreshments will be served after the services.



Thank you to all those who help with refreshments.

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- 08 June    Munch with Mozart at the Weybridge United Reformed church. *Bring your lunch and munch through the music. Tea/coffee provided*
- 11 June,    Our fund raising Coffee at Addlestone Methodist church  
10 -12

# Platinum Jubilee of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



**Celebrate with us at Weybridge Methodist Church**



**BBQ|BUFFET**

*Music and Songs from the last 70 years*

**Fun & Games**

**Fancy Dress (optional)\***

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - 12.30pm-4.30pm**

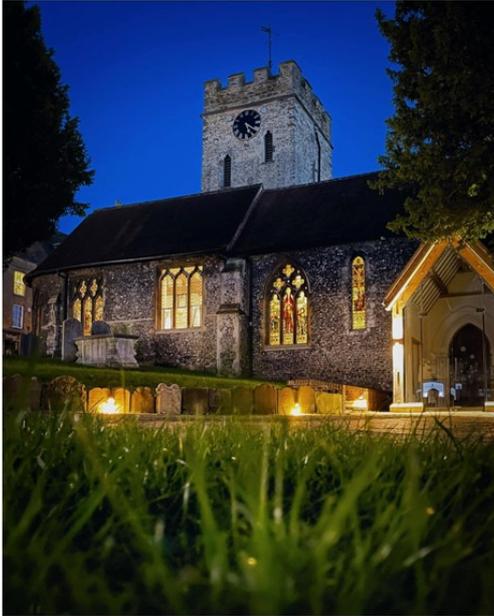
\*dress like Her Majesty – 70 years to choose from-On or off duty

Please see Janice to confirm attendance and offer any help.



Special prayers for Carol Smith who has unfortunately had her operation postponed.

Prayers for Caryl Ingoldby who will be undergoing surgery on 10 June.



*You are invited to the .....*

## **Festival Afternoon**

### **St Mary's**

Quarry Street Guildford GU1 3UP

**3-5pm Sunday 19 June 2022**

- *come and explore our historic building with a taste of the activities based here*
- *enjoy a Cream Tea and music outdoors*
- *followed at 5 pm by a*  
**Wey Valley Methodist Circuit Service**  
*giving thanks for the updated facilities at St Mary's and for the ministry of Rev Keith Beckingham*

On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June at the above service we say a formal farewell to Keith & Hilary Beckingham before they 'sit down' (although they will continue to take worship until 17 July). Phil Beastall will present a gift on behalf of the circuit.

We look back on their turbulent years in the circuit – no one ever anticipated the situation with Corona Virus and all the challenges that brought! – and thank Keith for his calm and discerning leadership through that unprecedented time.

We wish them well as they enjoy their retirement together and take time to enjoy family events, enjoy uninterrupted walks with the dogs and worship together





# Songs of Praise

**Saturday June 18th**

Horsley

Methodist Church

(next to Village Hall, KT24 6DD)

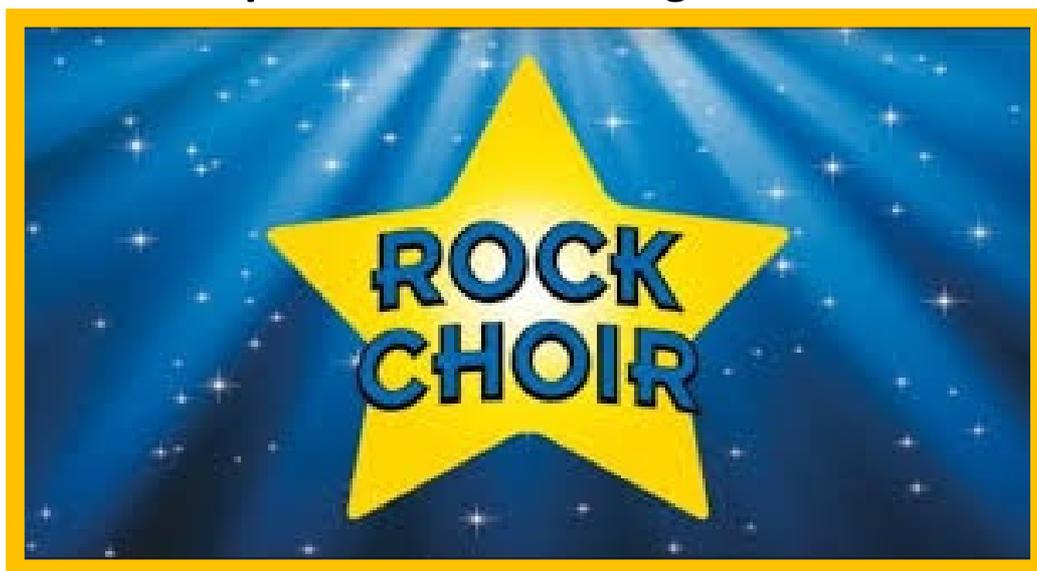
**7.00pm**

**Come and sing a selection of your favourite  
hymns**

**Phone 01483 282474 to make requests**



**Christ Church, Ottershaw**  
*presents an evening with*



**The UK's Original, Award-  
Winning, Local, Contemporary  
Choir**

**7.30pm: Friday 24th June**

**Seats: Adult £10, 16 years and under free**  
***Interval refreshments***

*To book seats please call 07921 568244 or  
email [denisec.williams@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:denisec.williams@hotmail.co.uk) by 20th June please*

