



A S P I R E



Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

Autumn 2015

A MESSAGE FROM CLAIRE HARGREAVES

Dear friends

I hope that some of you reading this will already know me, at least by sight, but let me introduce myself anyway.

I come with greetings from your neighbouring Circuit, Guildford, where I am minister of West Horsley Methodist Church. I will be with you for the next year while you go through the stationing process to appoint a new minister starting in September 2016. I work part time, am non-stipendiary and live in my own home in central Guildford with my husband Mark, together with our 2 dogs and 2 cats. We have 2 grown up children. I have been in the Guildford Circuit for over 25 years and was ordained in 2009 serving first at Shalford and then Cranleigh Methodist Churches concurrently with the role of chaplain at the University of Surrey, which ended in August this year.

At the university I was part of a multi-faith chaplaincy team and this has given me an enthusiasm for inter-faith dialogue. So I was pleased to meet Nabil Mustapha, Chair of Elmbridge Multi-faith Forum and well known to Walton through Street Angels, at a recent interfaith gathering in the grounds of the Bishop of Guildford's residence. This is a connection I hope to pursue together with other community projects with which you are already involved through the youth work, the Elmbridge Community Link and other outreach initiatives.

As you know, Guildford and Woking and Walton Circuits are in talks to explore how they might work together, and there will be much consultation about this over the coming months. I hope you feel that there is already a friendly connection between the two circuits as my colleagues Reverends Claire Potter, Asif Das and I share ministerial responsibilities across the churches. Some people have seen the A3 as a barrier between us, but I for one view the A3 as an essential and an effective link rather than an obstacle!

I am looking forward to getting to know you all more during the coming months. There is much to look forward to - and I would especially

mention here the exciting prospect of the Uganda trip for the young people which deserves your support. Although the church is sad to lose Megan as their youth worker, how blessed you are that she is staying part of your worshipping community and for the time being will continue to lead the youth groups as a valued volunteer.

As the church continues to consider how best to proclaim Christ's gospel message of love, hope and salvation in this place I leave you with this encouraging text from Acts ch2. 44, 46b, 47 :

All the believers were together and had everything in common... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. **And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved!**

Claire Hargreaves

August 2015

EDITOR VACANCY!

Is there anyone out there who might like to take over editing Aspire now that I am about to move away from Walton?

If you think you might be interested, please contact me for more details re what the job involves - I promise you will not be making any commitment just by asking!

Alan Weight

07941 893462

flingel@hotmail.co.uk



PLAN OF SERVICES FOR THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

September

6	10.00am	Mrs Gill Taggart	
13	10.00am	Mr Mark Lawson	
20	10.00am	Rev Graham Horsley	<i>Holy Communion</i>
27	10.00am	Mr Patrick Coad	<i>Harvest Festival, All Age Worship / Parade</i>

October

4	10.00am	Mr Hugh Bowerman	
11	10.00am	Mrs Elizabeth Gurd	
18	10.00am	Sandra & Colin Wright	<i>All Age Worship</i>
25	10.00am	Rev Claire Hargreaves	<i>Holy Communion</i>

November

1	10.00am	Mr Graham Pearcey	
8	10.00am	Canon Steve Green	
15	10.00am	Mr Graham Warr	<i>All Age Worship</i>
22	10.00am	Mr John Mitchell	
29	10.00am	Rev Claire Hargreaves	<i>Holy Communion</i>



FAMILY NEWS

Although Aspire only comes out 4 times a year, it seems to come around very quickly and I'm scratching my head to remember family news.

After the shock news earlier in the year that Rev Mike Deacon was moving to work in the NHS we welcome Rev Claire Hargreaves from West Horsley Methodist Church who has come to help us as a Pastoral Care Worker and to be with us to chair essential church meetings. She has already endeared herself to us and we thank her most sincerely for her readiness to help us whenever she can. If all goes to plan, Claire will be with us until September 2016 when hopefully a new minister will be appointed.

As it's school holiday time our congregation is somewhat depleted for a few weeks. We wish everyone safe travelling and a very good time. Several have gone for some weeks to Korea to visit their families there.

Not many marriages take place in our church now but it is with pleasure we mention that Val and John Barker's eldest son Michael was married on July 25th at St John's Church of England at Hedge End near Southampton. Michael, and his best man Jack, both attended our Sunday School when they were at school. As a church we sent a card to Michael and his wife Laura wishing them many happy years together. At the moment they are going to live in Walton.



As you know, Emily Hoy is studying midwifery at Surrey University and her exciting news last week was that she had helped deliver her first baby at St Peter's Maternity Unit, Chertsey. After lots of theory, Emily was keen to start on the practical side.

It is with sadness that we have very recently lost two of our faithful elderly church members - so close together. Several of us had visited Joyce and Sylvia both in Fenner House and latterly in Sherwood House. Their obituaries are included in this magazine.

There was a short account about Graham Aston and a lovely photograph of him in the last Aspire but we thought his life was worth a fuller mention in this one - again included elsewhere in this magazine.

Though Jeannette Curtis, Sue Mack and Joy Walshe have all finished their offices as church stewards, we thank them along with Chris Mills and Catherine Heffernan for all they are doing to hold us together as a congregation until some new stewards are appointed.

When Rev Hargreaves chaired our Church Council meeting she made it very clear that we cannot function as a church unless we have a leadership team. That is laid down in Methodist Church law. Whenever our new team take office, I'm sure you will join me in wishing them God's blessings on their new appointment.

Ruth Evans

If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters. *Alan Simpson*

Right is right, even if everyone is against it; and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it. *William Penn*

This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man. *William Shakespeare*

MR GRAHAM ASTON

All of us at church were very saddened when we heard that Graham had died. Graham was from Wolverhampton and graduated at University as an Environmental Health Officer in 1960. He worked in Wolverhampton and the Midlands before moving to Walton and Weybridge as Deputy EHO in the late 1960's.

In 1974 he was appointed as Housing & Health Officer at Epsom & Ewell Borough Council where he remained until his retirement in the early 1990's. He had many a tale to tell about trying to get travellers into permanent housing in that area.



He co-founded Eaton Publications in 1967, a company supplying food hygiene and health and safety material. He also started another company, Graham Aston & Associates, providing Health & Safety and Food Safety training, one of the main clients being the NHS. His wish was that his business partner of many years should continue to run this and this she is doing.

Another side of Graham's life was involvement in South America. He was introduced to this part of the world through the Scout movement and remained very involved for the rest of his life. For many

years he supported and worked on buildings in Uruguay including a nursery and a clinic. He raised money for these schemes and personally supervised its transfer to South America to make sure it reached its destination and was properly used. The clinic was named after his lovely wife

Karen who sadly died some years ago. Latterly he supported and raised funds for the provision of community kitchens in Paraguay. He filled shipping containers with donated goods and accompanied them to South America himself - an activity sometimes fraught with danger.

Graham was a very keen and gifted sportsman. He excelled in racquet sports - tennis, badminton, squash and real tennis at which one time he had a world ranking. He also played cricket well when he had the opportunity. A really good all rounder!

He will be remembered for his enthusiasm for whatever he did in helping others whether here or in South America and for his mischievous sense of humour.

MRS SYLVIA LEAMAN



Sylvia was born in Folkestone but was evacuated to Wales with her siblings during the war. Later she went to university and obtained a degree in Mathematics. She met her husband John possibly at University and when they married they came to live in Walton, for a while in Rydens Road and then moved into York Gardens as those houses were being completed there. Their 3 children David, Alan and Frances were born there.

Sylvia used her mathematical skills at Vickers Armstrong before it became BAC.

For many years she helped Marion Wadley in the running of the church Guide Company. She also enjoyed tennis and golf in her spare time.

She was a keen member of Hersham Women's Institute and until very recently was treasurer of the Hersham Friday Morning Market. We welcomed her as treasurer of our church Friendship Club as well. I was reminded to say that she was part of the team that cleaned the church

premises - not just the church - for 25 years. Thank you Sylvia. She will be missed both at the market and our church. We thank her for her commitment in whatever she took on to help in the community and at church.

MRS JOYCE MITCHELL

We were saddened to hear of the death of Joyce in July. Joyce was one of a few of our congregation who could claim to be a true Waltonian. She was born Joyce Robins and lived most of her life in Rodney Road. She very much enjoyed Bible Studies and for 10 years or more would attend in the Manse in Sandy Way with the late Rev Putman and subsequently with the late Marie Or - again in Sandy Way.



She was a key member of the Women's Fellowship and then the Friendship Club. For several years she also enjoyed fellowship meetings and lunch on a Wednesday at the Baptist Church.

When she went to live in Fenner House she was very determined to continue to get out and about and frequently took herself to Woking or Staines on the bus. She made full use of Fenner Transport to bring her into Walton to do her weekly shop. If at all possible she would be in church on Sunday mornings many thanks to Marion and Edgar, and Graham Pearcey, and latterly her granddaughter Sarah, Sarah's husband Daffit and their lively little daughter Arriana. It was good to have them come and worship with us. We will remember Joyce with much affection for her loyalty, determination and sense of fun.

Ruth Evans

PS there was a fuller tribute to Joyce read at her funeral which is in my possession. If anyone would like to see it, please ask me.

A decorative border of colorful butterflies surrounds the entire page. The butterflies are in shades of purple, pink, and yellow, and are arranged in a repeating pattern along the edges.

PICNIC AND PARTY IN THE PARK

EVERYONE WELCOME!
all children to bring along an adult...

LARGE GAMES PROVIDED ☺

...please bring your own picnic and a pudding to share.

YOU ARE MY SUN SHINE

CHURCHFIELDS RECREATION GROUND, WEYBRIDGE

Sunday 6th September 3pm onwards

The Youth Group and Sunday School invite **ALL** the church congregation to join us for a picnic and play in the park on Sunday 6th September 3pm - 6pm

We are going over to Churchfields Recreation Ground, Churchfield Road, Weybridge to play some games and have fun. Just bring a picnic for your tea, - and something nice to share.

We have giant Jenga and Kerplunk, to name just a couple of the fun games we have in store. We also hope to play rounders as well.

You are very welcome to come along and join in - or bring a chair and sit and chat and watch the young people, and not so young people, having fun!

We look forward to seeing you there.

The Youth Group and Sunday School

Coffee Morning & Cake

**Saturday 3rd
October**

10am–12noon

Pay £5 to enter any **homemade cake**, it is that simple. Cakes will be judged on taste and creativity.

There will be 3 prizes. After judging the cakes will be auctioned to the highest bidder!!!



Come and
enjoy a
cuppa and
a cookie
and a chat.

Contact
Marion Deacon
to enter
07772 442574

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council met in July, with Claire Hargreaves as the Chair. Most items are covered elsewhere in Aspire but briefly these are the headlines:

- Proposal for the purchase of a new photocopier
 - A newer photocopier that can scan, print and copy in colour
 - Will help make leaflets and posters more attractive
 - Black and white printing will be cheaper
 - The meeting voted and approved to proceed with this purchase
- Report of Circuit Lay Employees
 - Tasks carried out by church secretary
- Review and Approval of Walton-on-Thames Safeguarding Policy
 - Need for a new complaints procedure
- Review of Mission Statement
 - Further discussions to take place

Carol Morgan

COULD YOU HELP?

I am looking for people willing to learn how to run the sound system on Sunday mornings. If there are a few people, you may only be asked to do this once or twice a quarter.

And I would like one person happy to liaise with the others to make up a rota for each quarter.

If we don't get more people to help with this important job, we will not have a sound system every Sunday and we may be forced to all sit in the front three pews in order to hear the preacher!

Please speak to me or email me, at philchris44@btinternet.com if you would like to help.

Thanks for considering this.

Chris Mills



Help Create a Huge Stir and be part of the **World's Biggest Coffee Morning For Macmillan Cancer Support**

Friday 25th September 2015
10am to 12noon

Walton Methodist Church Hall
Terrace Road, Walton

Cakes ~ Bring & Buy Stall
Please bring your friends

Further details from
Marion Wadley 01932 844742 / Ruth Evans 01932 229301

Do come and support this
event. Every penny raised
will help people with cancer
to get the practical and
emotional support they
want and need



Ploughman's Lunch

plus

Dessert

on **Saturday 21st November 2015**
12.00 to 2.15pm

in **Walton Methodist Church Hall,**
Terrace Road, Walton

Cake Stall, Raffle and Bring & Buy Stall

Tickets - £6 Adults, £3 Children

All proceeds for
Sam Beare Hospice, Weybridge

Tickets available from:

Marion Wadley at the church
or phone 01932 844742

Ruth Evans 01932 229301



MHA Woodbank in Woking

In 2014 some of the Friends of Woodbank met Revd Dr Keith Albans, the Director for Chaplaincy & Spirituality at Methodist Homes (MHA), at Trinity Methodist Church to hear about the plans for the new Woodbank (40 apartments offering 24 hour help and support to care home levels). At that time they were disappointed to hear that MHA's application had been turned down, despite an earlier supportive consultation with the Planning Committee. We are still in discussions with the Local Authority and the Head of Planning to amend our plans without losing our aim to provide the suitable accommodation intended and a further meeting is planned in July 2015.

MHA appreciates the ongoing support from the Friends group and local church and community members, and understands how frustrating it can be to see a delay to the development. We look forward to letting you know about progress with the plans and will provide a further update after the next meeting.

Lesley France – Faith Communities Fundraising Co-ordinator MHA, Epworth House, 3 Stuart Street, Derby DE1 2EQ. Tel: 01332 296200 or email: enquiries@mha.org.uk

Maggie was an infant school teacher, and on her first day with the reception class at Northern Primary, Portchester, a little girl gave her a note which said: 'The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of her parents.'

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt.'

His son asked, 'What happened to the flea?'

HARVEST FESTIVAL GIFTS

Harvest Festival services have in recent years received food items to be distributed by the local Food Bank or donated to the Homeless Project. However at that time of year these charities receive excessive donations from schools and other churches. Therefore as the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box appeal is to be launched by the Scouts at our Harvest Festival service on 27th September, we have agreed that this year it would be more appropriate to ask for items to be included in those boxes.

Below is a list of suitable items for any member of the congregation who would like to donate.

Wrapped soap, flannels, individually wrapped toothbrushes, children's toothpaste

Hair brushes and accessories, jewellery.

Hats, scarves and gloves

Pads of paper, colouring books and pencils, rulers, pencil sharpeners and erasers, picture books

Wrapped sweets (sell by date before end March 2016)

Please - no toys at this stage

These items can then be divided where needed between the individual boxes. Flat pack boxes will also be on sale at the church price 30p plus £3.00 transportation fee.

The filled shoe boxes will need to be back at the church to be blessed and then collected by members of the Samaritan's Purse Appeal team on Sunday 15th November.

I hope this meets with your approval.

Joy & Neil Walshe



It's time to go to the ball...

Walton Methodist Youth

Present

Cinderella

Friday 11th
(7:30pm)

Saturday 12th December
(2:30pm and 7:30pm)

Tickets: £10 Under 16: £7 Family (of 4): £30

Contact Colin and Sandra: 01932 224877

or see the website

In Aid of **MISSION DIRECT** trip to
UGANDA

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church Hall

Terrace Road

KT12 2SR

the **RCS** Sherriff Trust
advancing the arts in Elmbridge

www.waltonmethodist.com

BEETLE DRIVE

Saturday 26th September

7pm in Walton Methodist Church Hall

£6 per person with the chance to win
a PRIZE!!

mission direct
Volunteers helping the world's poor



**All profit
will be
going
towards
the
Uganda
Trip
2016**



will start again in October

October Saturday 31st 3 – 5 pm

November Saturday 28th 3 – 5 pm

December Thursday 24th 3 – 5 pm

These meetings will take place in the Hall, Emmaus and Wesley rooms. We have not yet decided on the themes for October, November and December. We will be making the advent ring in November so that it is ready for the advent services.

All families are welcome,
lots of messy things to do,
songs to sing and games to play.

Do book the dates and come and join in

If you can help in any way or want to know more please contact:

Jeannette: 01932 221562 jeannettecurtis@gmail.com

FINANCE REPORT

In the quarter from 1st March to 31st May 2015, the main items from our accounts were as follows:

Income

Collections	£ 8,009
Lettings	£ 4,257
Gift Day	£ 22,125

Expenses

Assessment	£ 11,200
Utilities	£ 4,266
World Mission Fund	£ 500
Youth Worker	
Salary & Expenses	£ 2,251



In addition from charitable giving including coffee collections we gave:
21 and Co. £37, The Bible Soc. £51, Love Russia £150

Anyone wishing to see the full accounts please see me.

Duncan Curtis

Treasurer



Dear God,
Thank you for
the baby brother
but what I prayed
for was a Puppy
Joyce

Dear God
Maybe Cain and Abel
would not kill each so much
if they had their own rooms.
It works with my brother
Larry

**Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church is part of the
Woking and Walton-on-Thames Methodist Circuit and
is in the South East District of the Methodist Church.**

***The Mission Statement of the Church is to be found on the
inside of the back cover.***

Minister and Church Officers:

Minister: Rev Claire Hargreaves

Church Stewards: *Vacant*

Treasurer: Duncan Curtis

Pastoral Secretary: Ruth Evans

Lettings: Rosanne Jackson

Church Answerphone: 01932 429184

Aspire: Editor: Alan Weight
e-mail: flingel@hotmail.co.uk

Distribution: Ruth Evans and
the Pastoral Visitors

Copy for the next issue of *Aspire* (Winter 2015) should
be with the Editor no later than **8th November 2015**

The Methodist Church in Walton-on-Thames

Our Mission

The calling of Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church is to respond to the Gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out our discipleship in Worship and Mission.

How we seek to do this

In our **Worship** - we seek to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.

In our **Learning** and **Caring** we seek to help people to know that they are loved and valued, and to help everyone to grow and learn in the Christian faith through supporting and caring for each other.

In our **Service** to the community and to the wider world - by being a good neighbour to the people of Walton-on-Thames, by challenging injustice when we see it, and demonstrating a loving way of life that shows a better way to live.

Through **Evangelism** - to help more people to become followers of Jesus Christ.

By living up to our Motto
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Our Priority for the next five years

To develop our work among children, young people and families - both within our Church and within our Community.

Who to contact (*all numbers prefixed 01932 unless stated*)

Beavers, Cubs & Scouts:

Beavers: Helene Hackney 246062

Cubs & Scouts: Philip Mitchell 222603

Crèche:

Sharon Paterson 251199

Elmbridge Community Link:

Pier Markham 01252 266336

Friendship Club:

Marion Wadley 844742

Guides:

Marian Bushell 881614

Walton Methodist Players:

Linda Weedon 846597

W.I.T.S. (Women's Informal Talking Shop):

Rosanne Jackson 953801