

The Wey Forward

Issue 1, September 2016



A message from our Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this very first issue of *The Way Forward*. Newness gives so many opportunities. We have the traditions and history of our two former circuits, and that is a vital part of who we are. But now we are developing a new way of being that is exciting. So please do dare to dream. Listen to what God is calling you and your church to do. Let us see together how we can resource and support God's mission.

The image below is the painting that first sparked my interest in Caravaggio. It is the most accessible of his works for us, because it is in London! It is his famous representation of 'The Supper at Emmaus', and this is not a bad way to start anything new. Before this moment, those two weary disciples had slogged along for seven miles thinking their world had come to an end. Their hopes in a new restored world had seemingly been dashed. Our journeys have not all been as weary as that, but there have been times when things have been hard. We have been managing a shortage of staff, uncertain times ahead, new ideas to wrestle with, a concern that people seem less inclined to get involved with the life of a church community than they might once have done, fears about age and health. We have also been facing increased terror as extremists act with deadly and atrocious force, and we have been confused by a muddled political world. Perhaps then we have known what those disciples might have been feeling on that long journey.



Yet they were not alone. The risen Jesus appeared and walked with them. He did not shout out to them that he had risen, he did not shake them and make them see him for who he was. No – he walked, he talked, he helped them to see their experiences in the light of scripture, he cared for them. Perhaps then, at this new start, we can all think back over the journeys that have led us this far and identify when God was walking with us, offering us that deeply concerned pastoral care. We may have found it in another

person, in a glimmer of hope, in a moment when someone noticed and really understood what was going on for us.

And then comes the picture. At the end of the journey the disciples invite Jesus into the house to receive hospitality from them. Still he is not forcing himself or his news on them, but he receives from them as their guest. At the end of our long journey we have come together to make this new Circuit. Like the supper at Emmaus, it is a place of meeting and a place for the giving and receiving of hospitality. Here in this new Circuit all are welcome, all matter, all can share their stories and be heard, all can find refreshment and love.

The painting freezes the very moment when Jesus broke the bread and Luke tells us that "*their eyes were opened and they recognised him*". It could be that they only reached that moment because they had travelled on that long journey of gradual understanding beforehand. And perhaps the same is true for us. We bring into this new Circuit all of our journeys, our experiences and ourselves. May God open our eyes too to see anew what he has done for us, and what he will continue to do for us as we move on into our bright new future together. That is our Way Forward!

With love and all good wishes,

Claire



A message from the District Chair

The referendum on whether the United Kingdom should remain in or leave the EU has led to unprecedented consequences. The decision to “brexit” means a need for a wholesale reshaping of our place in Europe and relationships with rest of the world. The question of whether there should be a further referendum about independence for Scotland is on the agenda again. We have a new Prime Minister and the Labour Party is caught up in a hotly disputed leadership contest.

Alongside this decision, which most commentators suggest was heavily influenced by anxieties about immigration, we regularly continue to be horrified by unprecedented forms of violence directed to innocent people in the name of the so called Islamic State.

The deep wounds and fractures in our world are all too evident.

As Methodists, our President, Rev Roger Walton, and Vice President, Rachel Lampard, have reminded us of our calling to holiness and justice. In practice that means living out the words of the prophet Micah in all our relationships.

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8 NRSV)

For the Apostle Paul, the death and resurrection of Jesus mark out the possibility of a new beginning and fresh hope in a deeply fractured society. Talking of the division between Jews and Gentiles at the time the letter to the Ephesians says:

“For he [Jesus] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.” (Ephesians 2:14)

The Methodist way of churches working together in circuits in a relationship of mutual interdependence, support and accountability is more than bureaucracy. It is way of expressing what we believe about the gospel and witnessing to what the gift of God’s reconciling love makes possible. We were made by God to live in a life giving and enriching relationship with God and with one another. We want to witness to our communities that people from of all ages and backgrounds can come together for the common good. It is about travelling together and helping each other on the road to a better world.

John Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism believed that people needed to make the journey of faith together, helping each other to live differently and to fight injustice. He said:

“Holy Solitaries’ is a phrase no more consistent with the gospel than holy adulterers. The gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social, no holiness but social holiness.”

The formation of the Wey Valley Circuit gives you an opportunity to find new ways to be better people in your own lives and good neighbours who make a difference in your communities. You will be able to find news way of working together and supporting one another as you take action for holiness and justice.

John

John Hellyer
District Chair



Message from the Circuit Stewards

Among their responsibilities within the Circuit Leadership Team, **Circuit Stewards are required to attend Local Church Councils**. This is to support the Minister, to act as an additional link for information sharing between the local church and both the Circuit Leadership Team and Circuit Meeting (such as communicating the process and opportunities as we explored becoming a single circuit) and to help build awareness in local churches of District and Connexional policies and issues under consideration (such as the question of whether or not the Methodist Church needs to re-visit its definition of marriage following the change of law regarding same sex marriage).

The Circuit Stewards appointed by the Circuit Meetings in June to serve the Wey Valley Circuit are:

- Margaret Ireland - Senior Steward, worshipping at Godalming United Church
- Linda Weedon - Deputy Senior Steward, worshipping at Weybridge
- Roger Stickland - Treasurer, worshipping at Trinity, Woking
- Phil Beastall - worshipping at Stoughton
- David Lander - worshipping at Trinity, Woking
- Carole Steele - worshipping at St Michael's, Sheerwater
- James Strawson - worshipping at Cranleigh.

The full responsibilities of the Circuit Stewards are set out in the Standing Orders (found in the *Constitutional Practice and Discipline of the Methodist Church - CPD*).

WEY VALLEY CIRCUIT VISION STATEMENT AND POLICY

The Circuit commits to lead and support local churches in releasing the gifts of the Holy Spirit to allow modelling of Christ-like lives, so that the good news of God's love can be witnessed in all areas of worship, fellowship and outreach.

We aim to do this by:

- supporting opportunities for worship and faith sharing;
- encouraging sharing of gifts - both talents and material resources;
- promoting the passing on of experience in all areas of church life through resource groups;
- facilitating training.

Adopted by the (shadow) Wey Valley Circuit Meeting: July 14th 2016

GREEN LIGHT FOR WEY VALLEY CIRCUIT!

On July 7th 2016, Conference approved the proposal that the Guildford and Woking & Walton-on-Thames Circuits should become one legal entity – to be known as the Wey Valley Circuit, with effect from September 1st 2016. So all the work of the last 12 months (and more), becomes a reality. A time for celebration!

The new Circuit will be launched on September 11th at a circuit service at Trinity (Woking) Church – led by our Chair Revd John Hellyer, Assistant Chair, Revd Conrad Hicks and our Superintendent, Revd Dr Claire Potter. We will start with a cream tea at 5pm – relying on batches of scones from each church (your stewards have details about this). As part of the service, each of our 13 churches will bring a gift (presented by one member during the service) representing something about their congregation or local community, and will receive one in return. Another church member from your church will receive a circuit candle on behalf of their own congregation for use within your own context as appropriate.

We look forward to seeing you at this special service – which will also include the welcome of Revd Paul Chesworth as the newest member of our Circuit Staff team.

Jenny Jackson

Messages from The Methodist Conference 2016

Readers of Flight Path and Orbit will remember the report in the last magazine following Synod conversations as part of the connexion-wide consultation in preparation for the Marriage and Relationships debate at Conference this year. In accepting the interim report from the Marriage and Relationships Task Group, Conference listened, deliberated and conferred on the issues, hearing some very painful accounts of homophobia which sadly is 'alive and well' in many churches across Britain. A definition of homophobia was adopted and will appear in CPD from Sept 1st. It is one of many crucial issues where contradictory views have previously been held, and upon which the church has now taken a stand. A decision will be reached later as to whether a standing order (i.e. a matter of policy and discipline) will follow. Conference recognised the 'mixture of tolerance, acceptance and rejection' of same sex couples in our churches; accepted the need for a review of marriage preparation material, and asked for work to be undertaken to discern how best to include people who are transgender in the life of our connexional church. Further work will also be undertaken with a view to inform a future debate about whether the Christian definition of marriage in Methodist Theology should be revised in response to the new legal definition. A task group has been established to this end and local churches are urged to make use of all available resources in order to begin a process of local exploration of different and contradictory views which it is recognised are still held.

The political events over the summer have been quite unprecedented! A referendum delivered a watershed decision on the United Kingdom's relationships and place in Europe, we have a new Prime Minister, the main opposition party is in the throes of a leadership contest, and emerging from it all is a growing uncertainty about the future direction and wellbeing of the nations of the UK. In the midst of such realities, the words of the Psalmist are particularly poignant:

"nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter be still and know that I am God"
(Psalm 46 v 6 & 10)

These words connect us with the deep roots of our faith, offering themselves as a source of calm and reassurance. They also remind us that our God is not detached or disinterested in such earthly affairs but seeks to speak a message into their very heart.

Jenny Jackson, District Conference Rep

The 2016 Annual Conference of the Methodist Church meeting in London in July passed a resolution containing the following text:

The Methodist Conference believes that the British Isles are enriched by diversity and celebrates the contribution made by those who have come from other parts of the world.

The Christian tradition calls for respect, tolerance, love of neighbour and hospitality to the stranger. All bear the responsibility of speaking and acting for healing, reconciliation, and mutual respect.

The Methodist Conference abhors and deeply regrets those actions and words which incite hatred and lead to the victimisation of groups within society and notes with concern that such actions and words have been normalised in recent public discourse. Believing that racism is a denial of the gospel and that to stay silent when others are abused is to collude with those who seek to promote hatred and division, the Methodist Conference calls:

- on the Methodist people to challenge racism and discrimination;*
- for a political debate which neither demonises any nor leaves the vulnerable (the foreigner, the immigrant and refugee) in danger of victimisation;*
- on political leaders to work together for the good of the whole community putting the needs of the nation before party politics;*
- on all those in positions of power and authority to hear the voices of those who have been marginalised and alienated and to respond to them in ways which offer real hope for the future.*

The Conference now urges all Methodists to contact their MPs.

Ask them to support these aims, and ask how Christians within your constituency can help them in this important task

Welcome to Paul and Liz Chesworth

We are very much looking forward to joining you in the Wey Valley Circuit.

Time is passing quickly and our move from the Channel Islands District to the South East District is approaching with ever increasing speed!

About us: I was born in the north of England, but spent much of my youth in Hertfordshire in the town where my wife, Liz, grew up. We were married in 1986, and in 1988 began three years at Wesley College Bristol. We were then posted to our first ministerial appointment in Ripley in the Notts and Derby District. Our second Circuit was Bedford South, followed by nine years in the Guernsey Circuit. I then received Connexional permission to 'serve another church' for a season, and so for the past five years I have been on the staff of a New Frontiers affiliated independent church in Guernsey, building links amongst a tight island community, and strengthening the ties between Methodists and other Christians on the island.

That brings us to the present day, and we now return to Circuit ministry! I'm looking forward to working primarily at Trinity and Sheerwater, and also to being part of the wider Circuit team ministry.

Liz and I have two grown-up children in their twenties. Josh is married to Emily and they live in Cheltenham, and Abigail is engaged to marry James early next year, and they will be staying in Guernsey. Liz and I will begin an unfamiliar new chapter when we move to Woking, our youngsters having now grown and flown!

We are looking forward to living in Surrey, and we know we will very much enjoy our new home. We trust God's plans for all of us as the new Wey Valley Circuit takes shape. God is so very good, and we know the journey ahead will be fulfilling, at times challenging, but wonderfully blessed, as together we journey on the path he has prepared for us.

I look forward to meeting you all in due course, and to the exciting new season ahead.

Paul Chesworth



OUR STAFF



Rev Dr Claire Potter



Rev Paul Chesworth



Rev Asif Das



Rev David Faulkner



Rev Claire Hargreaves



Rev Paul Hulme

Welcome to Rev Gillaine Holland

St Michael's, Sheerwater are delighted that the Rev Gillaine Holland has been appointed for five years under a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO) .

A Welcome and a Celebration

I first became acquainted with St Michael's Shared Church in Sheerwater soon after being appointed District Ecumenical Officer for Surrey, some months before moving to Guildford. I made the long journey from Tenterden, in the Kentish Weald, to attend a Joint (or was it Ecumenical?) Church Council. I came away with a number of impressions, the most prominent being that the people who had the least say in the running and mission of the church seemed to be the church members. This is not the place to go into details, or the history of St Michael's as a shared church, or the many hours spent in meetings and correspondence, but now, eighteen months later, the picture is very different.

For various reasons it became difficult for the Parish in which St Michael's sits to continue to support it as a shared church. Cutting a long and involved story short, a Bishop's Mission Order was made, placing the Anglican oversight and ministry temporarily in the hands of the Diocese. (It's slightly more complex than that, but that's the general drift.) During this time things were not helped by the unexpected loss of two Circuit ministers and other happenings – but all's well that ends well.

It was a delight to be asked to attend the Inauguration of the Bishop's Mission Order and Celebration of New Ministry of the Anglican lead minister, the Revd Gillaine Holland. The service was well attended – though flooding caused even more traffic problems than normal and several guests arrived late – and I was pleased to be invited to join the platform party, representing the Methodist Church (in Claire's absence). I didn't have much to do, but was invited by Archdeacon Paul Bryer to join him and other ministers in laying hands on Gillaine. It was the climax of what was in every sense an uplifting service of celebration and new hope. With the arrival of Paul Chesworth, who will combine his ministry at Woking Trinity with the shared ministry at St Michael's, the future looks bright indeed.

The new Council will comprise members of St Michaels and their ministers, plus a Circuit Steward (since the Council must also act as a Methodist Church Council). The Parish, Diocese and Circuit still have shared legal responsibilities for some property, but as far as mission and the everyday life of the church are concerned it is now (with apologies to Abe Lincoln) government of the people, for the people and by the people (all under the oversight of the Holy Spirit, of course!)

Peter Hills



Wey Valley input to the World Methodist Conference

The British Committee of the World Methodist Council felt that the previous banner was tired, somewhat worn and needed replacing.

The design, on which this new banner was based, was made by Tiffany Morlese, who is 18 years old, attends Northolt Methodist Church, Ealing Trinity Circuit, and who is seeking to move into design and IT.

The team who made it all worship at Cranleigh Methodist Church. It was dedicated at Cranleigh on Sunday 24th July.



The team have been meeting weekly to plan and create it for some months.

Pictured from left to right are: Celia Rust, Marion Pratt (seated), Pamela Newman-Horwell, Helen Smalley, Audrey Stoakes (seated—who oversaw the whole process), Hilary Strawson, Teresa Golden and Linda Hammond.

It will be taken to Houston, Texas at the end of August 2016 by members of the British committee of the World Methodist Conference and will be

paraded into the Conference with those of the other member churches.

The design is based on 'Our Calling' and the Methodist orb and cross.

Claire Potter

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

WEY VALLEY CIRCUIT MISSION TALK AND SUPPER

Saturday 4th February 2017

Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking GU21 4LH

Background to the event

For many years, the Guildford Circuit has enjoyed an annual event called the Mission Supper. An evening supper, with dishes provided by all of the churches, has been followed by a talk from a guest speaker, one year focusing on Home Mission, and the next on World Mission. All proceeds from the event have then been given to a charity selected by the speaker.

The first Mission Supper for Wey Valley

The Wey Valley Circuit is delighted that the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference will be visiting us in February, and that they will both be speaking at the first Mission Supper in our new, combined circuit. This is definitely a date for your diary!

Full details will be announced nearer the time.

Ryan Kelley

News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

Addlestone are enjoying a period of refreshment. Under the guidance of Rev Asif Das, a small group has been formed to look at updating the premises to appear more welcoming to visitors. Work has begun, and the entrance area is looking brighter for all those who pop in for a coffee at the weekly coffee mornings. Relations with the Play Group continued to grow; their end of summer term concert was once again held in the church and church members served refreshments to the parents. The small garden area behind the church, adjacent to the hall, has now been astro-turfed (thanks to a grant from Tesco). This allows the children to make use of this outdoor area at all times. The summer period will see a redecoration of the church hall, whilst the nursery are on holiday.

There is more (expensive) work to be done. Work is required on the stained glass window. Quotes are being sourced but the estimate will be a five figure sum!

Finally embryonic plans are underway to celebrate 'Get out of church Sunday' on October 2nd.

Why not come and visit us? Coffee is served on a Thursday morning at 10, followed by a time of prayer and every Saturday from 10am to 12 noon.

Daphne Platt

ADDLESTONE METHODIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR SATURDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2016

10am -2pm

Tombola



Raffle

Homemade cakes

Gifts

Jewellery



The **Methodist Church**
Rectory Lane, Byfleet

JUMBLE SALE

**Saturday, 29th October
10.00 am to 12 noon**



ADVENT WEEKEND

26/27th NOVEMBER

**Byfleet Methodist Church
will be open all weekend**

Display of Nativity Sets

SATURDAY

4.30 pm High Tea (£4.00)

6.00 pm Concert (£6.00 incl interval drink)

**Featuring Ann & Stephen Waters
And Guest artistes**

SUNDAY

10.30 am Morning Worship

Preacher : The Revd. David Faulkner

4.30 pm Special Advent Service

Inc. Commissioning of the Posada

Preacher: Mr Stephen Waters

..*****

Should anyone wish to display a nativity set during
this weekend please contact Margery Babb

Tel: 01932 340 417

Byfleet

Like most of churches, Byfleet is busy fund raising for building repairs and modernisation. The priority requirement here is for work to the church roof. These situations are not all bad in that they provide opportunities for members to work together for a common goal and grow relationships both with each other and the local community. Fund raising events can also provide fun and fellowship. This autumn sees many opportunities to join us. See posters on pages 9-11.

If anyone has any unusual Nativity set that they are willing to lend for our event on 26/27 November please contact Margaret Watts margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com or 01932 343489.

Margaret Watts

Cranleigh

Our world is a turbulent place: each day we hear of multiple deaths, brought about deliberately by sadly misguided people, whose terrorist acts cause many more to perish as they try to escape to find a better life; others die in plane crashes, or other disasters caused by the hectic speed of our modern world; many more are felled by earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, newly-discovered diseases (or old ones not yet defeated by modern medicine). Sophisticated means of communication ensure that we receive news of every sad detail.

Why do I mention these things in this article, which may or may not be read by a few hundred people in this relatively affluent part of our country? Some of us in Cranleigh have been disturbed at the prospect of changes, which may cause disruption in our relatively placid lives, but which perhaps should jolt us into a new perspective on what actually MATTERS, whatever may be our age, state of health or indeed financial situation. We may be saddened at the demise of the old Guildford Circuit, as our new friends may also be at losing their former identity as Woking and Walton, but we have to move forward, thinking of our future task of living our lives for Christ in whatever place or situation we find ourselves. This may well include helping those who have suffered far more than we could imagine, although we are moved by sad things presented to us via the media.

Those of you who have read articles in 'Orbit', our former Guildford magazine, will have noticed references in the Cranleigh article to Phase 2 of our 'Project'. We are still considering how we may fulfil our calling as Christians by changes we may make in our building to make fuller contact with the community. Many of our members have worked hard to raise money to this end, ideas have been discussed, and in some cases acted upon. It is still a work in progress.

We have been pleased to welcome seven small boys into our Sunday Club, and also parents into our Sunday morning services. We are in contact with Blossom Pre-School, which uses our premises, and we will be running our thirteenth Holiday Club during the first week of the school holidays, and hope that contact may be maintained with young families and hard-pressed working mothers!

Many of our members work for charities, three of which are Christian Aid and our own Methodist charities All We Can and Action for Children. We shall be remembering All We Can at our Harvest Service on October 9th. Various events are planned by a small CA Committee: for example, we are organising a 'thank you' afternoon on Saturday September 17th at 2.30pm in Cranleigh Bandroom. Laura Mead, SE Region organiser, will speak and there will be tea and entertainment. All are welcome, collectors, counters and anyone interested in the work, but please let us know for catering! Christmas is normally the time we concentrate on Action for Children and you will hear more about this in our next article, as well as our plans to help lonely or needy local people.

This article inevitably presents the views of the author, perhaps more so than usual at this time of change. We look forward to getting to know better our new colleagues, and reading about their views and activities. We pray for Claire our minister as she continues her new role as Superintendent of our enlarged Circuit. May we be supportive of her and of each other.

Glenda Sewell



CONCERT

The Wey Voices

With Special Performance by
Susan Robinson School of Ballet

1st October, 7.30 pm

**BYFLEET
METHODIST CHURCH**

Tickets £6.00

(includes light refreshments)

Available from:

Cynthia Haslam Tel: 01932 406060

Margaret Watts Tel: 01932 343489

or at the door.

Dave Bilbrough LIVE & ACOUSTIC

SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER

Tickets £10 01483 730761

7.30PM

Reserve by email:

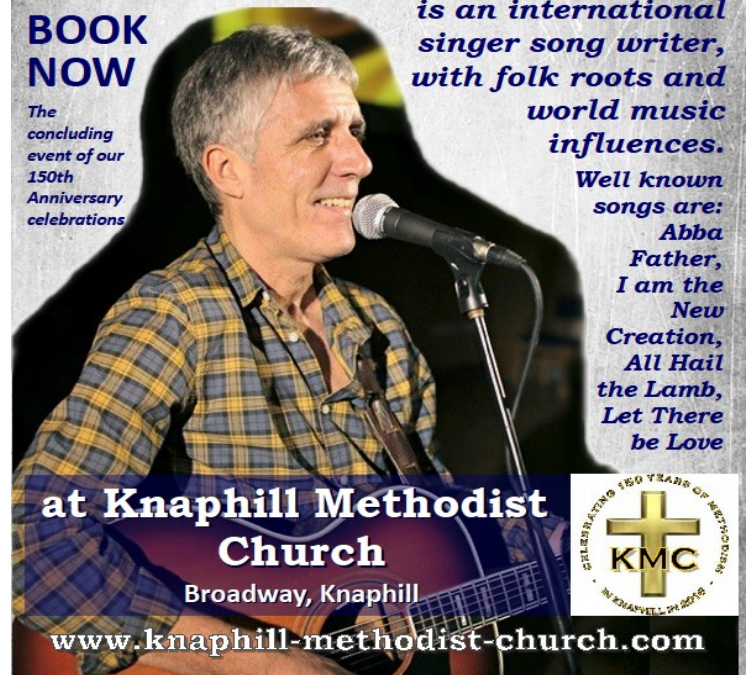
150@knaphill-methodist-church.com

**BOOK
NOW**

The
concluding
event of our
150th
Anniversary
celebrations

*Dave Bilbrough
is an international
singer song writer,
with folk roots and
world music
influences.*

*Well known
songs are:
Abba
Father,
I am the
New
Creation,
All Hail
the Lamb,
Let There
be Love*



at **Knaphill Methodist
Church**

Broadway, Knaphill

www.knaphill-methodist-church.com



Godalming United Church

Firstly, a big "Thank You" to all who contributed to this year's collection of clothes, toiletries, non-perishable foodstuffs and other essentials for the Whitechapel Mission in the East End. By the closing collection date, July 4th, we had packed not only a trailer but a bulging car-full of overspill items.

Those who attended the Thanksgiving Service for the Guildford Circuit will already have seen our new "window screen". But for those who didn't, it really is worth a visit. We had always had a problem of "morning glare" through the main south-east-facing chancel window above the Communion table. To solve this, church member Maureen Nye decided last September to involve a group of Year 8 students at Rodborough School – where she works in the Art Department. The stunning work of art uses hand-motifs from 134 contributors – mainly children, ranging from Rodborough School through Green Oak Primary School & Nursery to the United Church "Godaltots". The shapes are painted in vivid transparent acrylics mounted on a detachable frame which fits exactly over the existing Edwardian window and is fixed with magnetic tape.

The design theme is based on the story of Noah and features the Rainbow (symbol of God's covenant with mankind) along with the Ark, and a Nativity star representing the bridge between Heaven and Earth. The Flood is shown as a huge wave, in the style of Japanese painter Katsushika Hokusai, and incorporates the shapes of currently endangered animals, reminding us of mankind's stewardship over the animal kingdom bestowed on us by God.

In May, forty lunchtimes after the launch of the project, the "stained-glass-window-effect-screen" was installed and revealed, forming the centrepiece of a family service attended by many of the young people who had worked on it. This vibrant "Helping Hands" feature breathes new life into the church interior and challenges the beholder. Do drop in and see it!



Nancy Wilks

Guildford St Marys

FROM THE OLD NEW WE TRAVEL TO THE NEW OLD

The story so far... for new readers to catch up, in 2013 Guildford Methodist Church gave up its striking, comfortable, well-equipped (but by then too large) premises outside the Town Centre to move back into the heart of Guildford's shopping area.

Our new home is the oldest church in Surrey and the oldest building in Guildford – St. Mary's in Quarry Street. We entered into a Sharing Agreement with the Church of England and now share all our services and activities. As St. Mary's is medieval in origin it was in fact a Roman Catholic church for centuries before becoming an Anglican church. It has now come full circle as we host a weekly lunchtime Roman Catholic mass, as well as twice monthly Russian Orthodox mass and a Sunday evening service for emergent church Emmaus Road, which attracts between 75 and 100 young adults each Sunday.

The Church's historical attraction and its appeal as an oasis of calm in the Town Centre attract some 3,000 casual visitors each year in spite of very limited opening hours. We have amazing opportunities to reach out and serve which underlay our move in the first place.

In parallel to our expanding ministry, we are seeking to improve the building by improving the welcome and accessibility, installing a 21st century heating system, decent toilets, a meeting room and a small kitchen. This has introduced us to a whole new world of Diocesan faculties and engagement with the many stakeholders in historic buildings. We hope to be in a position to undertake these works in 2017.

The vision for St. Mary's is an ecumenical one, both because the human resources available within the congregation are limited but more importantly our witness is much more effective when churches of the town are seen to be working together as part of the community. We already have tremendous support from a wide range of churches for whom St Mary's history means it is seen as Common Ground. Our next step is to explore the possibility of establishing an ecumenical missional community to help develop this vision so watch this space!

It seems strange in the middle of Summer to speak of Advent but during the currency of this magazine our series of lunchtime Advent Reflections will start in late November and we would like you to save the dates now. On the 4 Thursdays starting 24 November we will be running a series from 12.30 to 1.30pm looking at "Finding our way to Bethlehem", led by Reverend Andy Wheeler, an excellent speaker who last year published a book on The Journey of the Magi. It will be a short Reflection followed by a bread and soup lunch, a great opportunity to meet people.

St Mary's stands in the heart of the Wey Valley, just a couple of hundred feet East of the River Wey but fortunately some 30 feet above river level. Our new Circuit colleagues are warmly invited to head upstream and visit us either during our regular opening times or, better still, to try some of our activities such as the monthly Coffee and Cake on the fourth Thursday of the month and our Advent Reflections. We're open 11-3 on Thursdays and Farmers' Market days with extra opening over the Heritage weekend of 9-11 September. Do take a look at our church calendar on www.guildfordmethodist.org or call on 01483 505230.

Nigel Campion-Smith

Knaphill

Knaphill Methodist Church will be making its usual collection of goods and monetary donations for the Whitechapel Mission over the harvest celebrations weekend, 24th and 25th September. Tony Miller, the Whitechapel director, will be coming to pick up whatever is collected in early October, so we want to collect as many goods as possible by the end of September, to make his trip worthwhile. We have some storage space at the Church, so if anyone from another church in the Circuit would like to contribute, please contact Lynda Shore on 01483 730761 to arrange matters. The Mission website, www.whitechapel.org.uk has full details of the most urgently needed items, but we regularly contribute men's serviceable clothing, trainers, toiletries (disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste and shampoo), tea bags, coffee, sugar, biscuits, tinned plum tomatoes, baked beans, pasta and rice.

Lynda Shore



Coffee & Cake

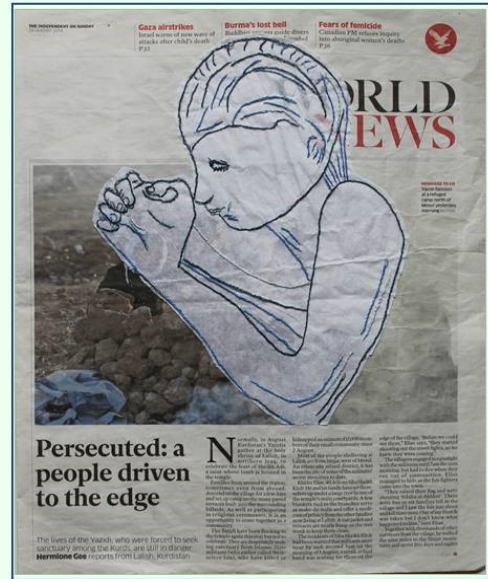
**St. Mary's, Quarry St,
Guildford
10.30 am - 12 noon**

Thursday 22 September:
~ featuring the Besom project

Thursday 27 October:
~ featuring the work of
Friends International

Everyone welcome!

A THREAD OF LIFE



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES WITH A CHRISTIAN THEME
BY CLARE KUZNIK

ST. MARY'S CHURCH,
QUARRY STREET, GUILDFORD

TUESDAY 23 AUGUST TO SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2016
OPEN TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS - 11AM TO 3 PM

**Byfleet
Methodist Church
Rectory Lane**

**CAROLS
BY
CANDLELIGHT**

**Sunday
18th December
at
4.30 pm**

ALL ARE WELCOME

SAVE THE DATES!



'FINDING OUR WAY
TO BETHLEHEM'

~ a series of Advent Reflections at St Mary's
Thursdays from
24 November - 15 December 12.30 - 1.30 pm

Merrow

At Merrow, we're delighted to be part of the 13 churches that now make up the Wey Valley Circuit. We already had a relationship with Woking & Walton Circuit as our nearest neighbours, and we now look forward to being open to new ideas as well as to the new people that the churches will share. During the summer months, our focus is on planning for our Autumn events. We seem to have lists for everything – coffee mornings, children's club preparation and our ecumenical lunch club, to name just three.

At the end of September, we will celebrate Harvest, and that weekend also coincides with a church family wedding, so there will be much celebration. Please get in touch should you wish to be part of our Saturday 24 September celebrations at 3.30pm (after the wedding has taken place) when you can view our Harvest displays, enjoy tea and cake, while the youngsters engage in activities that we will lay on for them.

On Sunday 25 September, our evening Songs of Praise at 6.30pm is open to all. If you would like to choose a favourite hymn for us to sing at the service, then please get in touch with me.

We pledge ourselves to pray more in this new year and are discussing ways to do this – to find new ways to pray including using prayer cards, for example. Our current monthly prayer diary sees every member and adherent prayed for on a specific day, but we can broaden the scope of this. Please pray for us while we seek ways to move forward with this.

Joan Tabraham

St Michael's, Sheerwater

St Michael's are delighted that the Rev Gillaine Holland has been appointed for five years under a Bishop's Mission Order (BMO).

The Rev Gillaine Holland was welcomed at a service of Inauguration on the 23rd June 2016, lead by the Archdeacon Rev Paul Bryer; in attendance were the acting Rural Dean, Rev John McCabe, the Rev Peter Hills, Ecumenical Officer for Surrey, and the Rev David Faulkner representing the Woking and Walton-on-Thames Methodist Circuit. A lovely service of celebration for this new Ministry. We also look forward to welcoming the Rev Paul Chesworth into St Michael's to work alongside Gillaine and the congregation in September.

We are hosting a Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning on Saturday 1st October from 11.00am to 3.00pm. There will be a variety of tables of things to do and buy. At lunchtime we will be serving hot dogs with onions. There will also be children's activities and Graham Warr will be acting as a story-teller to keep the children entertained. All are welcome.

Carole Steele

Stoughton

In June we warmly welcomed Rev. Darlene McCarley to lead our Anniversary service. Our annual Action for Children thanksgiving service was held in July and we were pleased to welcome a representative from the charity who outlined the excellent work supporting young people.

The Guildford Circuit Grants committee have kindly awarded Stoughton assistance towards the upgrading of the central heating system and repair to an outside gable wall. We hope to have both sets of work completed before the winter months and are very grateful for the support we have received.

As we look to celebrate the new Wey Valley circuit maybe, like me, you have had the words of Sydney Carter's hymn 'One more step along the word I go' in your head, particularly the chorus line 'And it's from the old I travel to the new'. The words are so relevant at this time but it is the words of the second line of the chorus which means so much to the success of this new circuit 'Keep me travelling along with you'. With those words in mind the folk at Stoughton look forward to our future together.

Linda Macbeth

Walton

Walton Methodist Church was built in the 1880s – and we still use the heating pipes put in at the time. And the boilers are many years old too. Each winter, we hold our breath – will this be the year that the boilers finally give up? How warm (or cold) will the Church be each Sunday?

We've known for a while that we needed to upgrade our heating, but finding the money and deciding what would be the best system have held us back.

Thankfully, earlier this year, we contacted a heating company who specialise in church heating. Their advice was spot on – and the cost seemed manageable. Two consecutive annual gift days raised most of the money we needed, so we approached the Circuit to help with the difference and the Circuit meeting very kindly agreed a £10,000 grant for which the church is very grateful.

So we finally have all the money ready and the work will be carried out this autumn. We are all looking forward to worshipping with warm feet as well as warm hearts this winter.

The Messy church program is about to restart for the autumn period. Despite the loss of several committed helpers, mainly due to an exodus to university, a new team of volunteers has been assembled and we are raring to go. *See details below.*

On 30 September we host the annual Coffee Morning for MacMillan Cancer Care, *See details on page 14.* During November we have a service of 'Pudding and Praise' on 13 November when we invite you to sample a variety of puddings with tea/coffee followed by a service of praise. *See page 16 for details.* We are also hosting a lunch on 19 November to raise funds for the Woking & Sam Beare Hospice. See page 16 for details.

Chris Mills, Jeannette Curtis, Marion Wadley

September 24th "I am the true Vine"

October 29th "Bible Mountains"

November 26th "Bible Roads"



Creative
family
fun



These meetings will take place in the Hall, Emmaus and Wesley rooms.
From 3p.m – 5p.m.
All families are welcome.

There will be lots of messy things to do, songs to sing,
and games to play.

Do book the dates and come and join in.

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

Jeannette 01932 221562, jeannettecurtis@gmail.com

Walton Methodist Church
Terrace Rd, Walton-on-Thames
Saturday 19th November 2016
12 – 2pm

Ploughman's Lunch



In aid of



01932 844742 or 01932 229301 for tickets

 The Methodist Church in Weybridge

Café Church


Visualising Scripture

Speaker

Rev Dr Claire Potter



Sunday 23rd October 2016, 6.15 for 6.30pm

 **QUIZ !**
with fish & chip supper
19th November, 7.00pm
Merrow Methodist Church
Tickets £12 pp from 01483 861865

Walton Methodist Church, Terrace Road, KT12 2SR

Pudding & PRAISE

Sunday November 13th 2016



- 6.00 pm for puddings, tea and coffee
- 6.30 pm for informal evening worship

SAVE THE DATE

**TRINITY METHODIST
CHURCH**
Brewery Road Woking

*Come and celebrate our Harvest
Weekend*

Saturday 1st October at 7pm

Authentic 3 course Lebanese Supper

Speaker/Film/Music (tba)

£15 per head

*Supporting All We Can work for
Syrian refugees*

Tickets will be available soon.....



Walton Methodist Church
Terrace Rd, Walton KT12 2SR



**Friday
30th
September**

Join us for Coffee/tea and Cake

Bring and Buy stall

Doors open 10 – 12

All welcome

West Horsley

The sudden and unexpected death of Di Bamber has left us stunned and incredulous; the thought of speaking of Di in the past tense seems unreal. Not only have we lost a treasured friend and stimulating companion but also one who was deeply involved in the leadership of our church as well as the 'daily round and common task' of chapel life. Di had a formidable intellect and an inquiring mind, with a love of poetry and literature. Her prowess as a professional musician is well known; how privileged we have been to have had her as one of our organists. Di had a zest for living and a generosity of spirit which has enriched our lives and we thank God for all she has meant to us as she lives on in our memories.

For some weeks we have held our services in the Wesley Room while resolving a damp problem in the chapel. This necessitated removing the old plaster from one of the side walls which must be left to dry out during the summer. The exposed brickwork could have been a temporary eyesore, but somehow it adds a certain charm to our country chapel.

Our Archivist has been preparing an exhibition of some of our interesting archives to be shown as our contribution to Guildford Heritage weekend. The chapel will be open on Saturday 10th September from 10 - 12 and from 2 - 4 and on Sunday from 2 - 4.

Date for your diary: Carol Praise on Saturday 3rd December at 7.00 p.m. at West Horsley chapel. We do hope that you will be able to join us.

Ruth Isaac

Weybridge

By the time you read this Weybridge will be well into a fresh Wey Forward. The new kitchen should be complete and ready for use. This will allow 'Churches Together in Weybridge' to discuss the possibility of a new stage with the Bedding & Clothes bank (the bank is hosted each month by the Weybridge Methodist church but staffed in rotation by all of the churches in the town). The plan is to offer a frugal hot lunch to those who need to use the facility. The church wishes to record thanks to the Circuit for the financial aid which has helped us to install the new kitchen far sooner than anticipated and to those from our sister churches who assisted by recommending local firms and contractors who are known to be reliable. Once again we thank all of you who have supported the bedding & clothes bank with donations.

The church also looks forward to welcoming Rev David Faulkner as Minister for Weybridge; a new start in line with a new circuit. We hope to make him, and his family, welcome as we start this new journey in faith as a church as part of the Wey Valley Circuit. We also record our heartfelt thanks to Rev Asif Das who has loved and cared for us during the past year.

Finally why not come and visit us? On Sunday 23 October, Rev Dr Claire Potter makes her first official visit to Weybridge to lead our Café Church at 6.30pm (come slightly earlier for coffee and cake). The theme will be 'Visualising Scripture'. *Details on page 16.*

Linda Weedon

Trinity, Woking

On Friday 23 September Woking are hosting a Macmillan coffee morning with a ploughman's lunch. If you require a ploughman's lunch please book by Monday 19th September. Contact: Tarina Berry Tastietreats2014@gmail.com or 01483 382066.

The 50th anniversary celebrations reach a conclusion over the weekend of 1/2 October when the church celebrates Harvest Festival. There will be a Lebanese meal on Saturday 1 October at 7.00pm followed by a film and a speaker. The Harvest service will be led by Rev Claire Hargreaves. Proceeds from the weekend will go to All We Can.

Jean Normington

Refugees – the crisis continues

Aleppo, an ancient city in North West Syria, is under siege. About a quarter of a million people have been trapped in the city since government forces cut them off in July. There is no food left in the markets, no milk for the children, no fuel for transport and every day there are 20-30 aircraft and helicopter attacks. The people stay inside to avoid being killed or injured by the shelling and the streets are deserted.

I met Nahla last May in Amman, Jordan. She and her husband and six small children fled Aleppo when their house was destroyed by bombing. They used to be farmers with land just outside Aleppo. Now they live in extreme poverty in two rooms in a basement in Al-Ashrafeyah, a poor, rundown part of Amman. They were being helped with limited cash assistance for six months from one of All We Can's humanitarian partners. Nahla was hoping that they would be able to go back to Aleppo one day.

Jordan has been a most welcoming neighbour to Syrian and other refugees but until very recently, Syrian refugees were not permitted to work legally. Now in return for low-interest loans and easier access to European markets, Jordan has granted work permits to 23,000 Syrians and promises more up to a maximum of 50,000 permits in 2016. Being able to work restores dignity, hope and purpose to refugees like Nahla and her family.

There are over 650,000 Syrian refugees who have been welcomed into Jordan since the beginning of the conflict. They all need our help, especially the vast majority still not able to work legally.

In June, you helped raise nearly £3500 for All We Can's Syria Appeal at a Sunday Tea Party and a Saturday evening Family and Friends event at Warren Farm House. Donations from talks and coffee mornings around the circuit have contributed over £1500 to the work of All We Can in Jordan. Many individuals have given directly to All We Can and other humanitarian organisations working with refugees. Just as importantly, through talks and articles like this one, people are being made aware of the need and shown a positive way of making a difference. I have also spoken about refugees at the Spring Synod and All We Can Fringe event at Conference.



At the request of Woking Borough Council for help, the circuit also donated over £400 worth of goods to equip homes for four Syrian families being resettled in Woking.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone for your generosity and ongoing support for this work.

Future events focusing on refugees include a Trinity Harvest Supper advertised elsewhere in this magazine and the visit of the President and Vice President in February 2017 for the Mission weekend. I will be going to Jordan in October with All We Can to visit their projects and will update the circuit on my return.

Claire Hargreaves
August 2016

Woking & Walton-on-Thames Circuit

Service of Thanksgiving at Knaphill, 17th July 2016

This was also a service of recognition for Elizabeth Gurd, a recently accredited Local Preacher whose home church is Knaphill.

The address was given by Mr Graham Warr.

Introduction:

I first met Elizabeth when I was invited to lead a Youth Service at Knaphill some years ago. She was the youngest member of the Worship Team and showed some of the attributes of a preacher then. She was very committed and produced good ideas. In the later final meeting Elizabeth produced a well-planned and thought out element of the worship. I was impressed. Over the following years I worked with Elizabeth many times on All Age worship.

Elizabeth's 'Call to Preach' was very clear when she attended the Local Preacher's Meeting to support her 'On Note' and I was very pleased and privileged when I was asked to be her Mentor.

Mentoring Elizabeth was a real pleasure. Her attitude and commitment was very strong and she produced good ideas and carefully planned and researched services. Elizabeth's growth and development was supported by the quality of her studies and careful worship preparation.

Elizabeth continued her training through some very difficult times with the support of family, friends and other preachers. After considerable struggle she has achieved her goal.

I was very touched, honoured and humbled when she asked me to preach this sermon today.

Although this sermon is intended to encourage and support Elizabeth it is also relevant to Local Preachers, Worship Leaders and all those who profess to following our Lord.

The Ministry of the Apostle/Preacher, 1 Cor. 4:1-2

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

Trustworthy, Honest, having Integrity:

Honest to ourselves in recognising our need of God's love for us and acknowledging our sins and seeking forgiveness and accepting God's call to service.

Honest to our Lord in our responses, our commitment to our calling and the acceptance of the gifts he gives and the integrity to develop our relationship with our God and the use of his gifts in us to preach the Gospel.

Honest to our congregations where we preach and to all of God's children in the way we live out our Christian lives to love and serve our Lord in every way.

In the way we prepare and deliver worship and preaching with honesty and integrity, always to do our best.

2 Timothy 4:1-2, 5b, Paul's exhortation to Timothy:

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable – convince, rebuke and encourage with utmost patience in teaching; do the work of an evangelist carry out your mission fully.

Proclaim the message:

In his well known hymn Charles Wesley succinctly sums this up:

We have a Gospel to proclaim, good news to spread throughout the world.

A Gospel of Love, Hope, Joy, Redemption, Salvation, Forgiveness, Spiritual and Social Holiness and service to God and his people.

(continued on page 20)

(..continued from page 19)

Be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable – convince, rebuke, encourage, with utmost patience in teaching:

To take the initiative in proclaiming this Gospel of love for all mankind in whatever situation we are, whatever place both in church and out - to convince of sin and the need for salvation through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus and to accept the free forgiveness we are all offered.

This Gospel to be preached in love, with compassion, understanding and patience, without judgement.

To rebuke – by facing the needs of the congregation – to challenge, to point out weaknesses and in certain circumstances errors but always with sensitivity and love.

To encourage and exhort our congregations to seek God's will in their lives and to seek holiness through our love and service to the Lord. To be in touch with their needs and support them through the worship and preaching –again with sensitivity and love

Do the work of an evangelist and carry out your mission fully:

To serve the whole needs of the community in thoughts, words and actions. To show practical love and concern, to go the extra mile.

Like Jesus to meet our congregations and the people we meet every day, where they are, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to seek to meet those needs.

Whilst researching for this sermon I found Barrie Tabraham's book, 'The Making of Methodism' very helpful. In it he lists 'John Wesley's Rules as a helper/preacher.'

This is a short extract from Rule 12;

Act in all things not according to your own will but as a preacher of the gospel.

As such, it is your part to employ your time in the manner which we direct, such as a course of reading, meditation and prayer as we advise from time to time (continued study and spiritual development)

Reading, meditation and prayer – continued study and spiritual development

All this is achieved by making and using time to read scripture, commentaries, exegesis, theological interpretation and sharing with other Christians through discussions eg House Groups

Meditation upon them to focus our own thoughts, so that God can distil the message to his people through our worship and preaching. We all need to remember that we are preaching the Word of God and not our own thoughts and ideas.

Wrapping up all this Biblical and Theological study, mediation and processing through prayer –

Prayer focussed on our congregations and their needs supporting the life of the church, both collectively as a congregation and individually as practising Christians.

Prayerful consideration, of ourselves and the work we do, listening to the message from our Lord and using the Holy Spirit to lead our thinking and speaking.

To ensure the message presented is relevant, to the needs of our hearers, it is presented in an interesting and stimulating way encouraging, uplifting, spreading hope and joy.

Extending this to our daily lives, to smile because Jesus loves us and them and wants to share his love with them too. As Jesus did in a way that touched peoples' hearts and their needs, with compassion, understanding and love, such as; the woman at the well, the ten lepers, Mary and Martha and, one of my favourite stories, Zacchaeus.

Benediction:

To this congregation and particularly Elizabeth, I close with Paul's blessing to Timothy:

May the Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. Amen. (2 Tim.4:22)

Guildford Circuit

Service of Thanksgiving at Godalming, 24th July 2016

The address was given by Rev Allan Taylor.

A Circuit is an integral part of Methodism, something which members of other Christian denominations don't understand, something which not all Methodists understand, something which probably few of us fully understand. As Jenny Jackson and John Nelson wrote in a document not long ago...the concept of circuit distinguishes Methodism from other Christian denominations and it is through the sharing of resources and working across a group of local churches i.e. a circuit that many of the functions of the wider, connexional, church are expressed and governed. And that's another word...connexional. When you tell folks from other churches or from no church that we belong to the Methodist Connexion a glazed look comes into their eyes! However to those who understand Methodist-speak words like circuit and connexion and local preacher and 'on note' and 'on trial' and The Plan are the very stuff of life!

So we come to this day no doubt with some sadness that the Guildford circuit which we have known and grown accustomed to and perhaps even, in our kinder moments, cherished is coming to an end. And at such a time as this I would suggest that there are two things we might do:

We might... Look back and...

We might...Look forward

Of course looking back is not something which is generally recommended. You remember right at the beginning of the Bible Lot's wife was warned not to look back and when she ignored the warning she was turned into a pillar of salt...which reminds me of a story I've told some of you already...the story of a class of young children who were being told the story of Lot's wife by their class teacher. A little boy put his hand up...please Miss he said, my Dad looked back once when he was driving the car...and he turned into a telegraph pole!

On May 6th 1954 Roger Bannister became the first man in history to run a mile in less than 4 mins. Within 2 months John Landy eclipsed the record by 1.4 seconds. On August 7 1954 the two met for an historic race. As they moved into the last lap Landy held the lead. It looked as if he would win but as he neared the finish he was haunted by the question...where is Bannister? As he turned to look, Bannister took the lead. Landy later told a reporter...if I hadn't looked back I would have won!

Of course Jesus himself said...no one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. And as one contemporary writer says we can look back with nostalgia which can be self-indulgent, we can look back with sorrow which can become self-pity, we can look back in anger which can turn to bitterness and we can look back in shame which can turn to despair.

This evening however we can legitimately look back with thanks for the life of this Guildford Circuit, for the churches which are or have been part and parcel of its life... including Shalford and Woodbridge Road, for the Superintendents who have led it over the years, for the ministers who have been stationed here, the Local Preachers who have preached here and for the Worship Leaders. We can be grateful for all those men and women who have served as Circuit Stewards, Circuit Treasurers, Circuit Officers of one kind or another. We can thank God for the faithfulness and loyalty of our mothers and fathers in the faith, for those who were here on the day the Guildford Circuit was inaugurated, for those who guided it in its infancy, for all the bright succession of men and women who have sustained it down through the years and for all the children and young people who have had cause to be glad that the Methodist Church was here for them.

(continued on page 23)

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
September			
27/08 – 11/09	11.00 – 15.00	'Thread of Life' exhibition	Guildford
08/09/16	10.30 – 12.00	Coffee Morning in aid of Bible Society	Merrow
10/09/16	10.00 – 16.00	District Synod	Camberley
11/09/16	18.30	Launch Service for the Wey Valley Circuit (preceded by tea at 17.00)	Woking
13/09/16	19.45	Circuit Meeting	Merrow
22/09/16	10.30 – 12.00	Coffee Morning	Guildford
23/09/16	10.30 – 14.00	Coffee Morning & Ploughman's Lunch	Woking
24/09/16	15.00 – 17.00	Messy Church	Walton
30/09/16	10.00 – 12.00	Macmillan Coffee Morning with Bring & Buy	Walton
October			
01/10/16	11.00 – 15.00	Macmillan Coffee Morning & snack lunch with activities for children	St Michael's Sheerwater
01/10/16	19.30	Concert – Wey Voices	Byfleet
01/10/16	19.00	Lebanese meal with music and address	Trinity
02/11/16	Various	Get Out of Church Sunday	Various
15/10/16	19.30	Concert – Dave Bilbrough	Knaphill
23/10/16	18.30	Café Church	Weybridge
27/10/16	10.30 – 12.00	Coffee Morning	Guildford
27/10/16	10.30 – 12.00	Coffee Morning	Merrow
29/10/16	10.00 – 12.00	Jumble Sale	Byfleet
29/10/16	15.00 – 17.00	Messy Church	Walton
November			
10/11/16	10.30 – 12.00	Coffee Morning	Merrow
13/11/16	18.30	Pudding & Praise	Walton
19/11/16	12.00 – 14.00	Ploughman's Lunch	Walton
19/11/16	19.00	Quiz with fish & chip supper	Merrow
19/11/16	12.00 – 14.00	Ploughman's Lunch	Walton
24/11 – 15/12	12.30 – 13.30	Advent Reflections <i>Finding our way to Bethlehem</i>	Guildford
26/11/16	10.00 – 14.00	Christmas Fayre	Addlestone
26/11/16	09.00 – 16.00	Display of Nativity Sets (refreshments available)	Byfleet
26/11/16	15.00 – 17.00	Messy Church	Walton
26/11/16	16.30	High Tea followed by a concert	Byfleet
27/11/16	12.00 – 16.00	Display of Nativity Sets (refreshments available)	Byfleet
December			
03/12/16	19.00	Carol Praise	West Horsley
15/12/16	10.30 – 12.30	Coffee Morning – Action for Children	Merrow
2017			
04/02/17	18.00	Circuit Mission Supper	Woking
11/02/17 – 12/02/17	08.00 - 08.00	24 Hour Prayer Vigil	All churches
9-11/03/17	19.45	'A Night of Eastern Promise' (19.15 on Sat)	Walton

(...continued from page 21)

Looking forward, on the other hand, is something the bible does encourage...

from the prophet Isaiah who says...See, I am doing a new thing. I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland...right the way through to the apostle Paul's great statement...I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me...reaching forward to those things which are ahead.

Reaching forward, moving on, looking to the future, looking ahead, remembering those words of the angel to the women at the tomb...Go, tell his disciples, he is going ahead of you into Galilee.

And Galilee is not just Galilee of the Gentiles in 1st century Palestine...Galilee is every new place, every new situation, every new circumstance into which Christians are called. He is going before you into Galilee. Jesus leads the way into Galilee, into a new day, into a new world, into a radical new discipleship.

The temptation, of course, is to stay where we are.

Once there was a temptation to stay in Jerusalem, to stay in the place where he had been crucified and laid in a tomb, but he went before us into Galilee.

Once there was a temptation to stay in the Middle Ages when bishops and kings and cities competed with each other to see who might build the grandest cathedral... Chartres with its glowing glass, Cologne with its twin spires, Salisbury with its soaring spire and Wells with kings and saints standing row on row, rank on rank but he went before us into Galilee.

Once there was a temptation to stay in the parish churches and chapels, great and small, of the Victorian era but he went before us into Galilee.

At the end of this final circuit service, when we have shared together in Holy Communion and been refreshed with bread and wine, we shall be sent out into the world, remembering that...he is going ahead to Galilee, there you will see him, just as he told you.

Amen

A message from the Editor

Welcome to this first edition of the Wey Forward. It is exciting to be involved in the life of this new circuit and I am pleased to be appointed as Editor of this new magazine. It is a magazine by the circuit and for the circuit and the content is controlled to a major degree by those of you in the pews. Send in whatever you wish the rest of the circuit churches to be aware of (remembering that this is the *Wey Forward!*)

Thanks to all those who submitted articles by the deadline date—it does make life easier—and to those who responded promptly when chased!

The deadline for Issue 2 is Tuesday 1 November 2016

**Please send items (and photos) to
weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk**

Finally my thanks to Corinne and Linda for their assistance with this bumper edition.

ED (aka Allen Weedon)

N.B. If you would like any of the posters included in this edition for your notice boards please email the above address



**Inauguration of
The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit
& Welcome of Rev Paul Chesworth**

Cream Tea at 5.00pm

followed by

Service of Celebration at 6.30pm

Preachers: Rev John Hellyer & Rev Conrad Hicks

SUNDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2016

Trinity Methodist Church

Brewery Road, Woking GU21 4LH