

The Wey Forward

Issue 4, May 2017



A message from our Superintendent

Dear all,

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Wey Forward. This is the final quarter of our first year as a Circuit.

So much has happened. In the first nine months of the Circuit :

Over 530 sermons have been preached
8 quinquennial inspections were carried out
2 Circuit meetings were held
Approximately 12,000 cups of tea have been drunk in churches
13 gifts have been exchanged between the churches
2 new Circuit resource groups have developed
Preachers have been to churches they had never seen before
Congregations have welcomed preachers they did not know
and much more.....



We have said goodbye to some people as they have moved away or changed their roles. We have welcomed new faces. We are very grateful to Catherine Heffernan and Corinne Jones, the Circuit Administrators who worked so hard through the transition into the new Circuit. Catherine has moved to a new role for the Circuit – providing administrative support for safeguarding and financial matters. And in March we welcomed a new PA and Circuit Administrator, Sue Howson, who introduces herself later in this issue of the Wey Forward. It is good to have you here Sue. This coming September marks the 50th year since Paul Hulme started his ministry. Paul – congratulations from us all. We thank God for you and your ministry amongst us.

The Circuit's purpose is to support and resource the churches, to release gifts and to enable those to be shared. We are all part of the Circuit, just as we are part of the District and the Connexion. In this Summer quarter, we have the opportunity to take a further step on that journey with the two taster sessions around the idea of resourcing discipleship. These will show how we can build a pool of people who will receive training and then go in teams to churches to help them to consider their identity, their gifts, and how they are working with God in their area. What a resource that will be! This will help churches to answer the questions many are asking as they look to the future.

This edition of 'Wey Forward' takes us from the great festival of Pentecost, through Trinity Sunday and then back to 'ordinary time'. I have never liked that description. Every minute of life should be 'extraordinary' if we expect to find God at work in it. But it is so very easy to fall back into the ordinariness of our rotas and duties, of keys and kettles! Yet even these things can be extraordinary because each is a sign of welcome, of service, of showing that worship and discipleship matter.

So – enjoy the summer, enjoy the gifts of those around you in your church and Circuit, enjoy living in an extraordinary world with extraordinary people, all made in the image of the extraordinary God.

With all good wishes

Claire

Geoffrey Dennis King

Geoff King was born August 12th 1926 in Carlton, near Pontefract. He had two older sisters, Muriel and Barbara. The family lived in Harrow, then Torquay and then Evesham, as Geoff was growing up. His home life was happy and full of fun.

Family remained central to Geoff and he had an inspirational marriage of 65 years with Elma. They met through the church at Evesham, soon knew that they were made for each other and were married at Elma's home town of Caithness in 1950.

His joy knew no bounds when they were enabled to adopt Helen and they loved being parents and then parents-in-law to James and then Paul. James suffered from Cystic Fibrosis and Geoff and Elma constantly supported the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Geoff has loved being a grandfather to Sophie, Emma, Olivia and Andrew. And he has lived to see the arrival of two great-grandchildren : Mackenzie and Jayden. He has deeply missed Elma since her death in November 2015 but he was also able to enjoy the memories of all those years together.

Geoff was a man of great resourcefulness – keeping rabbits and transforming gardens during the war. He inherited his father's practical skills and Meccano was always his favourite toy! In Evesham a local craftsman and teacher took Geoff on and taught him how to make and restore furniture. Geoff had endless patience and a keen eye for detail. He made a harpsichord and four spinets – all absolute labours of love and handmade in every detail.

He trained as a teacher, teaching first in Birmingham and then from 1955 at Glebelands School in Cranleigh where he taught woodwork and technical drawing. The first home they owned as a married couple remained their home to the end of their lives. Cranleigh was his mother's home town and his Uncle was the manager of Manns, which is still a feature of Cranleigh's High Street. So this move for them was like coming home.

Early retirement led to what he called an 'absolutely fresh start' in his life, though even before that he had helped restore antiques for friends and developed a life-long interest in making and restoring bellows. But in retirement he threw himself into restoring and making furniture. This was when his 'Cranley chest of drawers' came into being – he made no fewer than 80 of these! He held the title of life President of the Cranleigh Art and Craft Society, which gave him great pride

Geoff has frequently suffered health problems but has found ways of managing them. He and Elma were always grateful for the carers who lived with them in the last years – because they made it possible for them to remain in their own home. It was only in the last months when it became clear then that he would not be able to manage at home that he moved to Oaklands, a care home near where Helen lives.

Christian faith has been as natural to Geoff as breathing. He was always grateful that he had been brought up in a Christian household. Sunday School, Choirs, and hearing the organ were always important.

He wondered whether God wanted him to become a minister and asked God to wake him one night if that was indeed to be his vocation. That did not happen, so Geoff, as always, thought this out carefully, and decided that his calling must therefore be to become a Local Preacher. In September 2015 we celebrated his 60th anniversary as a Local Preacher. He held many offices in the church including church and circuit steward. He was at Cranleigh Methodist Church just before Christmas, enjoying the community tea and singing carols with every ounce of his energy.

He never shied away from questions and always said he would have many to ask when he got to heaven. He died peacefully at Oaklands after 90 years of life lived to the full. We give thanks to God for his life, legacy and inspiration.

Claire Potter

Introducing the new PA to the Superintendent and Circuit Administrator

Hello

As the new PA to the Superintendent and Circuit Administrator I am very much looking forward to supporting Claire and the Wey Valley Circuit.



I have come to the role with a long and varied work background. I worked in health insurance for eight years, worked for myself as a freelance garden designer for ten years and more recently have been involved in the voluntary sector in office and volunteer management roles. Most recently I worked for Sight for Surrey as their Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator.

Originally from north Lincolnshire I've lived in Guildford, with my husband Neil, for almost twenty-five years. We met while both students at Keele University. While I occasionally hanker to move further north again, Neil is a Londoner born and bred and thinks Guildford is in the country, so I think

we are firmly planted in the south-east for some time to come.

Given my background, you won't be surprised to hear that I am a keen gardener, although I never have enough time and sometimes my garden has to thrive on neglect. My other interests include long distance walking, writing, (I have two novels, "in train" as the Americans say, but I am making slow progress with both), and I continue to volunteer as a home visitor/befriender for Sight for Surrey.

I look forward to meeting many more people involved in the Circuit and thank you in advance for your help in the future.

Sue Howson



**GODALMING
UNITED CHURCH
BRIDGE ROAD
GU7 3DU**

FAMILY WATERSIDE FUN

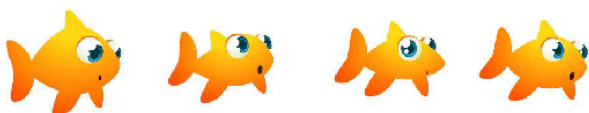
Crafts & games Party tea

SATURDAY JUNE 17th 3pm – 5pm

Admission Free

*Donation of £2
per child welcome*

Babies' play area



Flower Festival

"Together with Flowers"

Saturday 10 June 10.30am – 5pm

Sunday 11 June 12 noon – 4pm

**Godalming United Church
Bridge Road, GU7 3DU**

Refreshments available

**Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the joining
together of Methodist and United Reformed
churches to form Godalming United Church**





In Praise of Preaching Circuit Service

‘The Lord gave the word’

We will be gathering to support the
12 Local Preachers who will be receiving
long service awards
ranging from 27 years to 60 years.



Sunday 11th June 6.30pm
Godalming United Church
Bridge Road, Godalming, GU7 3DU

News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

Currently, we are in the middle of sorting repairs to upstairs windows. improving church heating and replacing the piano

On a happier note our play group will be entertaining parents, etc. on 21st July and we have a Jazz concert on 14th June and our coffee mornings continue on Saturday and Thursdays.

Byfleet

With ever-increasing demands on our resources in terms of essential repairs to the roof and replacement of much of the electrics throughout the building, where does one draw the balance between mission, fund-raising and not decimating the weekly offertory? Does your church face a similar quandary? Have we got it right? Is there more we could do?

One of the brightest pieces of news in recent months is as a result of the excellent relationship that we share with our local Anglican and Roman Catholic colleagues. As in previous years, Lent was a particular period of coming together for us when we shared weekly (evening) Bible studies and combined services. But this year one of our own members started a much-appreciated day-time series of meetings using the same York course, *Receiving Christ*, which meant we were able to reach those who are no longer willing or able to go out in the evening. Pentecost too will be celebrated at a united service.

Our monthly Coffee Mornings continue to reach out beyond our congregation and it is rewarding to see our 'resident' Brownie Pack and Rainbows taking their turn in hosting these. Will you come and join us on the second Saturday of every month? We're open from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

By the time many of you read this, our Flower Festival will be behind us and this too will have been a significant opportunity to reach out into the community we serve as we have invited local businesses to participate, and the local Art Group, Wey Voices Choir and individual musicians will all be contributing to the weekend.

Coming shortly:

17th June 6.00 p.m. Beetle Drive and Hot Supper

28th July 2.00 p.m. Film Afternoon and Tea

31st August 2.00 p.m. Film Afternoon and Tea

You will be sure of a warm welcome!

Further details will be available on our website: www.Byfleetmethodist.org.uk
or from margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com Tel: 01932 343489

Margaret Watts



The Methodist Church

Rectory Lane, Byfleet KT14 7LL



MAYTIME IN BYFLEET

**FLOWER FESTIVAL &
ART EXHIBITION**

20th - 21st MAY

10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

**Saturday: 7.30 p.m.
WEY VOICES IN CONCERT**

**Sunday: 4.00 p.m.
SONGS OF PRAISE
led by the Revd. Julie Underwood**

Refreshments available throughout



TREASURE TRASH 'N JUMBLE SALE

ENTRANCE FREE!

SATURDAY 20TH MAY

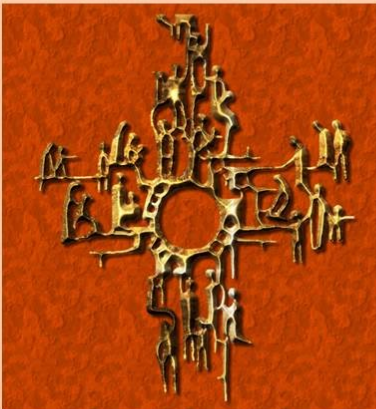
9.30- 12.00

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

BREWERY ROAD WOKING

All proceeds in aid of our Building Fund

Practical Aspects of Christian Spirituality



St. Mary's
Quarry Street
Guildford
09.30 – 12.30
on
Saturday 24 June

led by Sarah Hutton
~Spiritual Growth Facilitator

This stand alone Saturday morning session is open to all who want to take their spiritual life deeper.

Please bring a notebook and coloured pens and pencils with you.

If you would like to attend please email Richard Fox at richard@purposefullives.com

Words

Music

Stillness



A time for reflection

12.00 – 13.00 on Mondays

5 June, 3 July 2017

Coffee will be served from 11.45

St. Mary's Church
Quarry St, Guildford

Further details from: anna_jeffery@btinternet.com

Cranleigh

In this post-Easter season, we remember particularly the joint gatherings we had as members of Churches Together in Cranleigh: the walk together from the cricket field past each church on Palm Sunday, though not with a 'real' donkey on this occasion, the equally traditional united Service of



Witness in Stocklund Square, this year organised by our own minister, with all clergy colleagues participating. The sun smiled upon us, as indeed it seems to have done ever since!

After the Sundays of the Lent Liturgy, reminding us of Our Lord's suffering, the celebration of Easter Sunday was with the symbols of flowers, showing the joy of the Resurrection after the sadness of

the Crown of Thorns and the nails of the Cross. We gathered outside the Church to sing verses of 'Thine be the Glory', after the service.

Now, inevitably, our minds have been turned to the future of our country, with the somewhat startling announcement of a General Election, preceding negotiations to fulfil the nation's will to leave the EU. And what about the suffering outside Europe? Let us not forget the sad-faced women and children driven from their homes by misguided fanatics, urged on by power-hungry political leaders. Some of us have been thinking of the charities that exist to alleviate suffering of all kinds, and also of those who try to help resettle refugees in countries like our own. We can all support charities like Christian Aid, whose annual collection week approaches, and who, locally, are in need of new collectors to 'pound the pavements'!



Our own local Christian Aid Committee were delighted to welcome the members of the Rushmoor Male Voice Choir, who gave an excellent concert on April 8th to support our charity and raised £625 for the funds. Our own smaller efforts have also boosted funds, even before the collection week starts!

Members of our own Refugee Group, made up of people from all faiths or none, have been meeting to support local initiatives, though progress is slow. A family is being welcomed in Haslemere, and we will at least be able to help financially! Others of our number are also hoping to support local workers, or stay-at-home mothers, whose native language is not English, and who are in need of 'Friendly Voices' to help them settle in.

Finally, we at Cranleigh have been very pleased to welcome preachers from the north end of our new circuit, and we hope they have been happy to meet us! We look forward to meeting more of them and to more united gatherings!

Glenda Sewell

Godalming United Church

Our anniversary celebrations continue – 2017 being our 40th year as a “united” Church since Godalming’s United Reformed and Methodist Churches came together.

The Godalming Band Anniversary Concert in March - marking the joint anniversaries of the Church and our town’s Band (80 years) – was a sell-out. A selection of music chosen by the Band, the URC & Methodist churches and the Salvation Army provided a joyful and moving celebration.

Our first Messy Church in April was well-attended and a good time was had by all. On Good Friday we were delighted to host the U3A choirs’ Music for Easter – excerpts from Elijah, The Crucifixion and Messiah being linked by a skilful narrative.

GUC’s charitable link with The Gambia continues. Ryan and Sylvia Kelley led a group of church members on visit to The Gambia in April – a chance to visit the country and see the work that we have supported there for so long. On May 13 another container of medical and educational equipment is being filled and despatched to Banjul.

Here are some of our special events:

Special Sunday morning Services To celebrate our 40th anniversary, former ministers & members leading worship:

Sun May 7 10:30 Rev’d Michael Hunt

Sun June 4 10:30 Rev’d Bryony Arnold

Sun June 11 10:30 Rev’d Norman Walker (Church Anniversary – followed by celebration BBQ & entertainments; tickets £6, children £4 from frymaile@gmail.com)

Musical Allsorts Sat May 6th 2:30 Music Kids, Nick Wyschna, The Surrey Fringe, Godalming Jazz Choir, followed by tea & cake. Free to 60+s

Together with Flowers Anniversary Flower Festival Sat 10 June 10:30-5:00, Sun 11th 12:00-4:00 Refreshments available on both days

Messy Church Sat June 17th 3:00-5:00 Waterside Family Fun and party tea

Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless Collection of goods at your local Methodist Church or at Godalming United Church 2-17 July. Non-perishable breakfast foods, clothing (especially men’s), toiletries.

Sun July 2 10:30 Tony Miller of the Whitechapel Mission will lead morning worship – do come and hear about their amazing work in the East End.

Circuit Service

Sun June 11 6:30 pm

Nancy Wilks



Safeguarding Update

The Wey Valley Circuit is very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of Church Safeguarding Officers. Although Safeguarding is the responsibility of **everyone** in the church - it is your Church Safeguarding Officers who are there to make sure everything is running smoothly and to answer any queries you may have in your churches. The Circuit Safeguarding Team are there to support the Church Safeguarding Officers and to ensure relevant information from Connexion and District is communicated and actioned. We all meet together twice a year - and our most recent meeting was on Monday 24th April. We always have a very good attendance and always find many things to discuss and often quite a list of things for the Circuit team to go away and find out the answers to!

One of the discussions we had at our last meeting was about Safeguarding Training. This is required for anyone whose role within the Church or in church-related activities, brings them into contact with children and young people or vulnerable adults. Again, we are very fortunate to have a training officer in our Circuit - Rev Peter Hills -and three new people who are willing to look into becoming trainers for the future. This is a good thing - as we estimate across the circuit there are over 100 people who need re-training.



We have recently been informed that safeguarding training is now due **every 4 years** (whereas formerly it was every 5 years) This has meant that we have had a marked increase in those in need of Refresher training. Each course we run can only accommodate 30 people - so we have quite a task ahead of us.

The next Refresher training will be at Merrow on Saturday 17th June 2.30pm - 5pm.

Your Church Safeguarding Officers have all the details - so do get in touch with them if you know or think your refresher training is due or if you have any queries relating to this training.

Finally we always welcome interest from anyone thinking about becoming a trainer and there are special "Train the Trainer" courses run by the District for potential trainers. Please let your Church Safeguarding Officer or one of the Leadership Team know if this is something you might be interested in.

Maggie Woolcock, Nan McFarlane and Catherine Heffernan
Circuit Safeguarding Team

Guildford St Marys

Drawing on our Methodist roots, working with Christians from a range of churches through the Common Ground initiative, we are seeking creative ways to tell the Christian story to the people of Guildford, encouraging prayer, including making people welcome at St Mary's as a place to reflect and addressing the challenge of living wisely and justly

How's it going?

- It's early days but lots of support and a committed community building up
- Discerning the way forward through study and prayer and assembling the pieces of the jigsaw
- Open throughout Holy Week with Prayer stations using the *I am* statements of Christ – nearly 300 visitors plus over 250 attending services and other events
- Improving the welcome and resources on offer at St Mary's
- Working to increase opening hours as there always seem to be people wanting to visit the church, talk and pray
- Supporting Thy Kingdom Come Pentecost event at Guildford Cathedral on 4 June

How can I join in?

- Share in our Sunday service at 10.30
- Visit us between 11.00 and 15.00 each Thursday and the first Tuesday of the month
- More opportunities in August - open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - and Heritage Weekend (7-10 September), with an exhibition by a Brazilian artist on Christian and wildlife themes
- Come along to our monthly Coffee and Cake 10.30 - 12.00, usually the fourth Thursday of the month
- Join us for Cream Teas for Africa – Tuesday 29 August 13.30 – 16.30

Nigel Champion-Smith

Knaphill

A few months ago a small group of church members at Knaphill Methodist Church formed a committee to help set up ways of reaching out into the village of Knaphill.

One of many ideas is to organise a children's clothing and bed linen bank, like the one which Weybridge Methodist Church have been successful at running once a month.

A date has been set for **21st October** for our first one, and we would be very grateful to accept donations of children's clothing of good quality, age range from new born to teenagers and bed linen.

Items for the clothing bank can be delivered to the church on 24th June and the 22nd July when we have our monthly coffee morning from 10 a.m. to 12 midday. Alternatively they can be taken to the church on a Thursday morning between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. where there will be someone to take the donations.

If you have any queries about the suitability of items or delivery please contact me, Helen Brice, on 01483 475718

Helen Brice

Merrow

In April, we held a farewell party at the church for our dear friends, Rosemary and Ken Mills, who are now settling into their new home in Dorset. Please get in touch with me should you need their new address. Family and friends came from all over the Circuit and helped say 'goodbye' and highlight the tremendous contribution that they both made to Merrow, the circuit and the wider community. All this was over a delicious tea supplied by the members. We wish them all our love and happy memories.

As a congregation, we continue to review our development as a church within the new Circuit and the wider community. The last General Church Meeting, which encouraged us to identify needs and gifts amongst the membership, is being followed up by a questionnaire where we will be asked to focus on specific areas where we feel personally that our ministry and mission can be developed. Every church member and adherent will be asked how s/he can help the church to function more fully as the body of Christ. Although we anticipate that this may take us many weeks, we hope that the result will mean that our church at Merrow will flourish in new ways.

We hope to discover how we can initiate a new phase in the life of Merrow Methodist Church, and not to fear the changes which it may bring.

We have missed our minister Asif during his lengthy illness, and we continue to pray for his complete recovery, and offer our love and best wishes to him and Martha.

Joan Tabraham

Merrow Methodist Church

Come to our **coffee morning** in
aid of

Cancer Research UK.

Bring your family and friends and
enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a
home-made cake whilst supporting
this very worthy cause

Thursday 13 July 2017
10.30 to 12.30

www.cruk.org

In aid of
**CANCER
RESEARCH
UK**



St. Mary's
Quarry St
Guildford

Cream Tea

Tuesday 29 August

1.30 - 4.30 pm

*~ including an exhibition by Gerziel Araujo
of Christian & Wildlife themes.*

In aid of projects we support in Uganda & Kenya

Looking forward to seeing you

For further details, contact
gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk



Uganda — Esubi

There are two coffee mornings coming up in the next few weeks supporting the work of Esubi, but what is Esubi all about?

Esubi (meaning hope) is a small charity with a big vision. Over the last 9 years it has built Ekiwumulo Orphanage Village, in Uganda, a community designed to meet the physical, educational and emotional needs of some of the country's neediest children. Built around the concept of family units, Ekiwumulo (meaning a place of healing and restoration) provides a safe environment and quality education. It now houses about 120 orphans and has nearly 300 children attending the school.

Esubi's development has received generous support from people in the Guildford area – both financial support and practical work as part of teams visiting the project. The work is led by a local committee in Uganda. Sponsorship of children helps with the running costs but we are seeking increased self-sufficiency. Initiatives towards that include opening a café to earn income from tourists and agriculture, both for the needs of the orphanage and to sell crops for cash.

Margriet Rasker and Helen Belsham from Merrow Methodist Church have been part of a visiting team in 2014. They say:

“ It was an amazing experience to see how much of this “ big vision” is already reality, e.g. massive water tanks have been installed, there is one tap for drinking water, steps have been built leading towards the school which is on a very steep hill with very uneven ground. A community area has been built. This is a round area with a roof and can hold 300 children, protecting them from the sun and the rain. On a recently purchased piece of land eucalyptus trees are growing which, when matured, will be sold for scaffolding. Our observation of the dedication of the staff and the happiness of the children who have literally nothing was a very humble experience”.

Do come to one of our coffee mornings and be inspired by those who have visited and helped this project.

Andrea Champion-Smith, Margriet Rasker, Helen Belsham.





**Coffee
&
Cake
at
St Mary's**

Thursday 22 June:
*~ featuring Esubi's work
with orphans in Uganda*

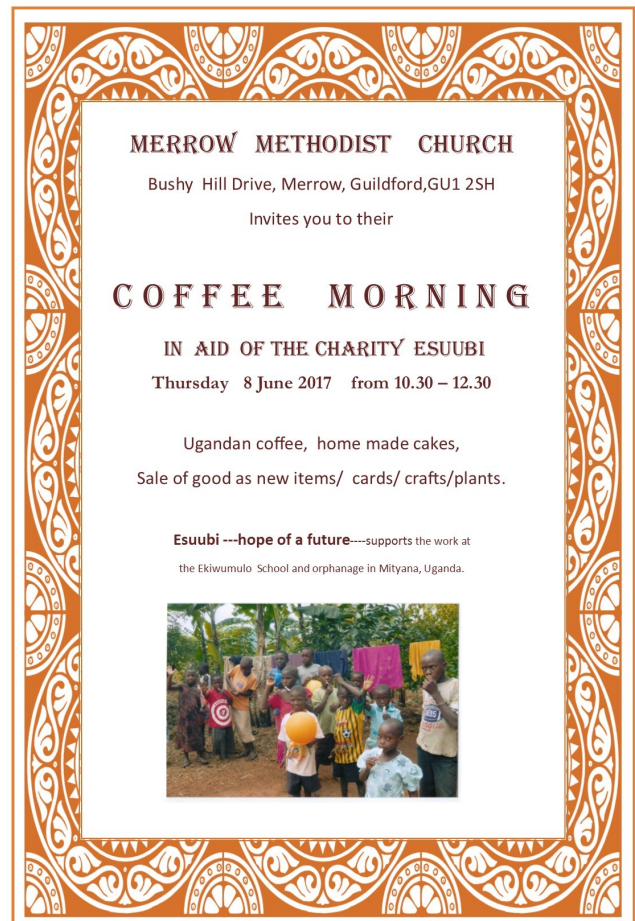
Thursday 27 July:
*~ supporting Matrix Trust's work with
young people around Guildford*

Thursday 24 August:
*~ take a break from your shopping
and meet up with friends*

10.30 – 12 noon



Everyone welcome




MERROW METHODIST CHURCH
Bushy Hill Drive, Merrow, Guildford, GU1 2SH
Invites you to their

COFFEE MORNING

IN AID OF THE CHARITY ESUBI
Thursday 8 June 2017 from 10.30 – 12.30

Ugandan coffee, home made cakes,
Sale of good as new items/ cards/ crafts/plants.

Esubi ---hope of a future---supports the work at
the Ekiwumulo School and orphanage in Mityana, Uganda.



Stoughton News

We were pleased to welcome Asif back to his ministry with us and we pray for his continuing recovery from illness.

We shared the joy of Easter morning as Rev. Brian Treharne led our worship and we decorated the cross with flowers to celebrate the risen Christ.

At the beginning of April we held a table top sale and afternoon tea. It was good to see so many folk from the local community who had come to support us.

Our Church Anniversary will celebrate 122 years of witness in Stoughton and after a Strawberry Tea on Saturday 3rd June, Asif will lead a service of celebration on Sunday 4th June.

There is the possibility of a nursery opening in September and we see this as an opportunity for more interaction with the local community as children and parents come onto the premises.

Linda Macbeth

JAZZ ON A SUMMER'S EVENING

A concert by THE PHIL BROWN SWINGTET

(traditional through swing [Bix to Basie], big-band, old pops. – and back!)

on Wednesday 14th June 2017, 8.00-10.30 p.m.

at

Addlestone Methodist Church

Station Road, ADDLESTONE (nr. Weybridge), Surrey, KT15 2AR

Tickets: £10.00 (cash, or cheque to "Addlestone Methodist Church")

For tickets, please TELEPHONE: 01932 848431 or 881598,

or E-MAIL phil.pat2530@btinternet.com



Walton on Thames

We have a monthly Sunday afternoon ministry to 2 local care homes, where a group of our members go along and lead a time of hymn singing for the care home residents. This ministry has been very well received and we will add a third local care home to it in May.

Across the past year, we have managed to forge stronger ecumenical links with 7 other Churches in Walton. We meet once a month with our ecumenical brothers and sisters to pray together for our various ministries and for our local community. We enjoyed being part of ecumenical Lent groups running up to Easter (following the "Receiving Christ" study by York Courses).

We enjoyed a variety of Easter services and activities in April. We started Holy Week with a communion service for our Friendship Club, and Claire Hargreaves led a reflective Good Friday service, which included 3 prayer stations. Our "Messy Church" Easter service on Easter Saturday was energetically supported by 22 children from local families.

Claire will join the Church leaders in our ecumenical group of Churches on a retreat in May to pray together and to look at new ways in which we can work together. We are looking forward to a baptism service in mid-May, and our quarterly "Pudding and Praise" service on the 28th of May at 5.30. The theme for this service is on the Fruit of the Spirit and will be led by Rev. Claire Hargreaves and *Breeze* (our pop up praise and worship band).

Ross Richardson

Weybridge

The Clothes and Bedding Bank continues to grow. It is held in the church hall on the 3rd Saturday of the month although there has been an increase in demand for ad-hoc appointments. The team are grateful for the continued support which they receive by way of donations from members across the circuit.

Weybridge continues to host a monthly coffee morning on the 2nd Saturday of the month on the Addlestone Methodist Church premises. This allows Weybridge to take advantage of their prime position on the High Street but also assists AMC's aim of having the church open every Saturday without calling on the AMC member's every week.

Weybridge Church members also continue to help at the Weybridge Old Folks Club which meets weekly in the Public Hall.

New and exciting news is that in May some of the Weybridge members commenced a regular open evening to support homesick and lonely au pairs. There is a large community of au pairs in Weybridge and this informal session, hosted every second Friday, will allow for the making of new friends over tea and coffee. There will be a short element of prayer and teaching as part of this session. *Your* prayers are asked for the success of this initiative.



Finally there are two opportunities for evening worship with us this quarter. On Sunday 4 June at 6.30 pm, WMC is hosting the 'Churches Together in Weybridge' ecumenical service for Pentecost. The service will be led by Rev David Faulkner and will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome to join with Christians from the Weybridge churches at this joyous event. On Sunday 25 June we host an informal Café Church led by Rev Paul Chesworth.

Linda Weedon

Trinity, Woking

TRINITY 2020

Over the past two years we have been developing a strategic plan for the refurbishment and improvement of our premises. The church was built on the Brewery Road site in 1965. A previous scheme to extend and enhance the building was undertaken ahead of the Millennium and now it is time for another phase of renewal to ensure that Trinity remains fit for purpose in the 21st century.

Following extensive consultation we have developed plans to change the use of some areas of the building, refresh and modernise some of the essential services and, most importantly, create some new facilities designed to meet the needs of both our own worshipping community and the wider community. Trinity is an important facility for a large number of local groups and we have calculated that over 900 people pass through the doors on a typical week. Our plans can be viewed at <http://www.trinitywoking.org.uk> (see 2020 Building Plans on the About Trinity dropdown menu).

We are shortly to submit a planning application and will be looking to develop detailed plans later in the year. A project such as this will cost a great deal of money (approx. £900,000 in all) and we are therefore geared up for a major fund-raising effort. We have held an initial gift day and other efforts coming up shortly include the Treasure & Trash sale (referred to elsewhere in this issue of Wey Forward), a sponsored climb to the summit of Mount Snowdon (and down again – hopefully!) and a 'Swimathon'. In addition we are approaching a number of bodies who will hopefully be able to offer financial assistance including our own Circuit Grants Committee.

We believe this project is essential to Trinity's continuing mission to serve as the body of Christ in our area. Please pray for us and encourage us in any ways you can. The project team is led by John Nelson.

David Lander



**The Whitechapel Mission has
been helping the homeless since
1876**

Collections of non-perishable
foods and clothing will be made at

**Godalming United Church
Bridge Street, Godalming**

2nd July to 17th July 2017

Please see the leaflet to find out
how YOU can help!



SPRING CONCERT

In support of Byfleet Methodist Church's 'Raising the Roof' Appeal



Saturday, 20 May 2017 at 7.30 pm
Byfleet Methodist Church, Rectory Lane, Byfleet KT14 7LL



Admission £7.00 (Children Free) - Includes Refreshments



West Horsley



“This Joyful Easter-Tide” was celebrated at West Horsley with a larger than usual congregation as Claire Hargreaves preached and presided at our Easter Communion service. This had been preceded on Good Friday by, first the chapel open for meditation and then an open-air Churches Together service in the shopping parade; with representatives of five of the local church groups taking part.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have had a successful Songs of Praise evening as part of our Chapel Anniversary celebrations.

Our premises continue to be well used by local community groups, which was one of our aims when it was rebuilt six years ago. These include a weekly Scrabble group and a monthly film group organised by volunteers from the local “Good Neighbour” scheme, various U3A groups, committee meetings of the community garden team and also the team preparing the local neighbourhood plan.

We are appreciating being part of an enlarged circuit with a variety of new preachers coming to take our services and also benefitting from Linda Weedon’s contributions to our Church council meetings.

Margaret Faulkner

Whitechapel Mission Collection of Food and Clothing 2nd July to 17th July at Godalming United Church

The Whitechapel Mission is a Methodist charity which helps homeless men in the Whitechapel area of London, providing breakfasts, showers and support services 365 days of the year. It is a vital lifeline to some of the most destitute in London.

For the past few years, Godalming United Church has been holding annual collections of Food and Clothing for the Whitechapel Mission. The churches of the Guildford Methodist Circuit have contributed to the collection and so this year we would like to extend the invitation to take part to all the churches in the Wey Valley Circuit.

If your church would like to take part, please see the information leaflet on the Circuit website at <http://www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk/p/news/61134.html> which explains what items are needed and the times that you can bring your donations to Godalming. Additionally, the charity's own website gives the most up to date details of items needed: <http://www.whitechapel.org.uk/>

If you have any queries please contact Ryan Kelley 01483 423261 or Janet Shaw 01483 527670

Report from The Mission Group

The Mission Group is in its fifth year and exists to help the circuit churches consider ways in which they can undertake Mission initiatives, often with limited resources. There is always something we can do. Following requests subsequent to the first joint 24 hour prayer vigil between the previous circuits, we update and circulate the prayer 'Aide Memoire' for those church prayer groups who find it useful. This is done after each Mission Group meeting (usually four per year). If this does not currently reach you and you would like to have it contact your church Mission group rep (see list below) or the Circuit administrator.

In previous years we have hosted two Circuit Mission Days: the first invited us to identify those tricky questions posed to us as Christians and to help us consider appropriate and (hopefully) inspiring answers. The second event focussed on helping us to find ways to talk about our faith. A third event is being planned for October 2018.

The group has also assisted with several annual 24 hour prayer vigils in the previous Woking and Walton-on-Thames circuit one of which was held jointly with the previous Guildford circuit. The first 24 hour prayer vigil event for the Wey Valley circuit will take place in September 2017.

The Mission group has discussed various options for future events in which the Circuit churches and church members may like to be involved:

24 Hour Prayer Vigil: 16/17 September 2017

This will follow the previous pattern where churches will be allocated time slots in which to pray. The Circuit 'Aide memoire' will be updated and circulated to all churches but this is only a guide and is not at all restrictive.

Back to Church Sunday: 17 September 2017

This is a national event which is in its ninth year. In a nutshell it is an opportunity to invite those who used to worship, but no longer do so for various reasons, to re-engage with church. More information will follow but you can find out more at www.backtochurch.com

Mission Supper February 2018 – date to be confirmed

Woking have once again offered to host the event which is planned for February 2018. The date has yet to be confirmed with the proposed speaker but will be communicated as soon as it is confirmed.

Mission Group team:

Addlestone – vacant but a representative would be most welcome
Byfleet – Liz Swift
Cranleigh - vacant but a representative would be most welcome
Godalming – Janet Shaw, Ryan Kelley
Guildford - vacant but a representative would be most welcome
Knaphill – Lynda Shore
Merrrow - vacant but a representative would be most welcome
Sheerwater - vacant but a representative would be most welcome
Stoughton - vacant but a representative would be most welcome
Walton – Jeannette Curtis
West Horsley – Celia Chapman
Weybridge – Linda Weedon
Woking – John Nelson

Linda Weedon

How about inviting people to our services?

This autumn, shall we think about inviting others to our services?

This question is being posed by A Season of Invitation, which began as 'Back to Church Sunday' in 2004. This was an annual opportunity for churches across the UK and abroad to invite people to come with them to church.

As time has moved on they have moved from one invitational service to five:

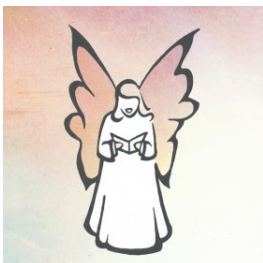
Back to Church Sunday (September)

Harvest (October)

Remembrance (November)

Christmas Starts (early December)

Christmas (December)



The reason for this change is that they found people are much more likely to come to church and keep coming if they're invited several times. So they want to build A Season of Invitation, with five invitational moments coming one after the other.

To facilitate churches in holding these five services, they have produced attractive, high-quality invitation cards for each one, as well as a children's invitation card that can be used for any of the services.

In addition, they are providing a series of resources and local training events to help churches make the most of their Season of Invitation. If you are interested in the initiative and want to find out more their website can be found at <http://seasonofinvitation.co.uk/>

South East Methodist District (Western Area): Study Day

“Living and Worshipping Honestly in God’s World”



led by Revd Dr Philip Luscombe

Assistant Chair: South East District (Eastern Area)

Saturday 15th July 2017

10am – 4pm

(Coffee available from 09.30, sandwich lunch provided)

at Trinity Methodist Church, Woking

Brewery Road, Woking GU21 4LH

<http://www.trinitywoking.org.uk/>

To book your place and for general enquiries please contact:

David Morgan: 4 Purslane, Wokingham RG40 2DD

ddv_morgan@hotmail.com / 0118 977 1269

Worship Across The Circuit

During the coming quarter we will have the opportunity to worship together as we gather to support the twelve Local Preachers who will be receiving long service awards ranging from 27 years to 60 years, on Sunday June 11th at Godalming United Church at 6.30.p.m.

In this quarter we hope to enable everyone to attend evening services by planning these services so that they do not clash. Several churches will have a monthly evening Communion service, Weybridge will have a Cafew Church on 25th June, Walton Methodist Church will have a Pudding and Praise service on 30th July and Merrow Methodist Church will have an alternative worship service on 6th August.

We would like to encourage you to volunteer to take part in worship, in your own church or across the circuit. If you participate in a music group and your group would be willing to offer to assist in an evening service, that would be much appreciated. If you enjoy taking part in drama, or you feel you would like to share your experience of God with others, please have a word with the person planned to preach on that particular evening.

It would also be great if a few more people would join the lists of those willing to lead prayers of intercession in morning services. Ideally there would be a group of people in each church willing to lead prayers. Training can be provided for those who wish to offer for this important role.

At our February preachers meeting preachers shared ideas for services during Lent. In June we will be having a training session on choosing hymns. Preachers have been asked to volunteer for peer assessment of services. One of the questions on the assessment form is "Were you enabled to hear God's voice?" If you were aware of God during worship please feed that back to the preacher. We all want to do our best as we lead worship. There are many opportunities for training for preachers and worship leaders. If you would be interested in training please let me know so that I can include you in relevant opportunities for training. Please share your thoughts on worship with preachers so that we can encourage each other in serving God.

Lyn McKay
Circuit Worship Group



Woking Choral Society Concert
Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking
Saturday 24th June 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Programme: GOUNOD St Cecilia Mass **POULENC** Gloria

Soloists

Nina Bennet *soprano*, Tom Raskin *tenor*, Andrew Ashwin *bass*, Richard Moore *organ*

Conductor

Ben Palmer

Tickets £15, with students in full time education and children £5, sales of 10 or more £14 each -can be booked online at www.wokingchoral.org.uk or obtained from H G Wells Centre Box Office, or the Lightbox, Chobham Road, Woking, or Christ Church Shop, Town Square, Woking, or Brittens Music, 13 The Broadway, Woodham, New Haw KT15 3EU.

The Gambia—God Intervened!

In January of this year The Gambia made a rare appearance in our news here. British holiday makers were being brought home because of the volatile political situation in the country. This evacuation however was the culmination of a period of uncertainty provoked by the then President of the country, Yahya Jammeh's, refusal to accept the result of an election held on 1 December when he was outvoted by Adama Barrow.

A period of civil war was averted by the diplomacy of the neighbouring African states. When it looked as though Jammeh wouldn't go, as well as diplomacy, these states sent in their armed troops and airforce to show their determination to replace him with Barrow. Eventually, two days after he was supposed by the constitution to step down, on the evening of 21 January, Jammeh agreed to leave and is now in exile in Equatorial Guinea.

Christians who are a small minority had been deeply concerned by Jammeh's declaration of Gambia as an Islamic State with the possible introduction of Sharia Law. Before the election, the Christians held a day of national prayer in the grounds of Independence Stadium. Interestingly both Christians and Muslims participated.

After the election, when Jammeh was considering whether to leave, he invited Muslim and Christian leaders to meet with him. The only leader, who was prepared to openly and forcefully tell Jammeh that he should go, was the presiding Bishop of the Gambian Methodist Church the Most Revd Hannah Faal-Heim. The recording of what she said to him was leaked to social media, putting her personally in danger. However, her street credibility, and by implication the Christian Church's, is now high amongst the Gambians.



We were privileged to attend President Barrow's inauguration on 18 February at the stadium. We shall never forget the sound of the huge welcome which he received from 25,000 people when his vehicle entered the stadium. He faces enormous challenges. Jammeh emptied the coffers as he left. The needs in the Gambia are enormous. Both Godalming and Trinity Woking Churches have and continue to support the outreach of the Methodist Church and Government there in education, medical care and agriculture.


At the inauguration, some Gambians wore T shirts emblazoned with their belief that "God intervened" and it is displayed still on billboards by the roadsides. We pray for their future.

Ryan & Sylvia Kelley

24-26 NOV 2017

3GENERATE

METHODIST CHURCH CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY



3Generate is a chance for children and young people to speak out to the Church about the issues that affect them and to empower them to be Agents of Change in their home churches and communities.


WHEN 24-26 NOV 2017

WHERE PONTINS, SOUTHPORT

WHO FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 8 - 23

BOOKINGS FROM MON 24 APRIL

NEW BIGGER VENUE

The **Methodist** Church 

3GENERATE

24-26 NOV 2017 METHODIST CHURCH CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY

PACKED WITH CONVERSATIONS, DEBATES, INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, GAMES, MUSIC, SPORT, CRAFTS AND CHALLENGES. WOVEN THROUGH THE WHOLE EVENT ARE CREATIVE AND DIFFERENT STYLES OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER.

FOR THE FIRST TIME YOUTH LEADERS AND CHILDREN WORKERS ARE INVITED TO ACCOMPANY AND CARE FOR THEIR GROUP AT THE EVENT. WE ARE ALSO ACTIVELY ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUALS, WHO DO NOT BELONG TO A GROUP TO ATTEND WITH OTHERS FROM THEIR DISTRICT.

Find out more about 3Generate, watch videos, get involved & booking info at:

3Generate.org.uk

The **Methodist** Church 




Promising to be the biggest 3Generate yet, bookings have now opened for this year's children and youth assembly of the Methodist Church, taking place at a new, bigger, venue, with up to 1,000 young people and leaders expected to attend.

Following massive growth and growing demand for places in recent years, this year's event will run from 24-26 November at Pontins, Southport, for children and young people aged 8-23.

This inspiring and fun weekend for children and young people across the Church encourages reflection, conversation and speaking out on the issues that are of concern to them and their faith.

If anyone books to go, please let Sue Howson know in the circuit office circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk – because we may be able to put people in touch with others from neighbouring circuits so that they can meet up before going and share transport.

Please note, if financing is difficult, there is support available.

Refugees and humanitarian aid

Some really good news – the All We Can/Methodist Church World Relationships Team East Africa Famine Appeal has raised more than £340,000 to date to help avert famine in countries on the verge of disaster. (Methodist Recorder April 28th) This generosity has been matched on a local level by the vote of the Circuit Meeting on 30th March to make a generous gift of £5,000 from the Wey Valley Methodist Circuit to the Appeal particularly to support All We Can's vital life saving work in Yemen. The situation in war torn Yemen is extremely difficult and sensitive for aid agencies, but All We Can's experienced humanitarian aid partner in Yemen has been able to distribute food aid to families effectively.

At the same Circuit Meeting, it was agreed that a sum of £5,000 be set aside for urgent needs for refugees locally. This will enable us to respond more efficiently to appeals for help and equipment for refugee families coming into our area.



It has just been announced that 130 more lone child refugees from Europe will be taken by Britain after the government admitted a mistake in its previous calculations. This means that the total number of children coming under the "Dubs" scheme will be 480.

Originally campaigners had asked for 3,000 refugee children to be admitted and pressure is being kept up on the government to re-open the "Dubs" scheme (*The Times*, April 27th).

Fares Swais, the Executive Director of DSPR, has confirmed that the hairdressing gifts have arrived at Talbiah Refugee Camp and have been joyfully and gratefully received by the women there. I was hoping to visit Talbiah in May during my sabbatical but as this has now been moved to the autumn, I am having to re-arrange my plans.

Refugee Week begins on 19th June! Do let me know of any events you are holding. I will be speaking about the refugees I met in Jordan and about the work here in this Circuit at a Conference entitled "Brexit – the impact and consequences" at Methodist Central Hall Westminster on Saturday 24th June.



Reverend Claire Hargreaves

Wey Valley
Methodist
Circuit



DISCOVERING

Appreciating Church

An afternoon of **conversation** and **inspiration** to help us explore the church's **vision** and **mission** in an appreciative way.

Come and discover more about **Appreciative Inquiry**, a different way of thinking about church and discipleship.

Light refreshments will be served

Saturday 10 June, 2.30pm - 5.00pm

Addlestone Methodist Church
71 Station Road, Addlestone, KT15 2AR

and

Sunday 18 June, 2.30 pm - 5.00pm

Stoughton Methodist Church, in the Church Hall
Stoughton Road, Stoughton, Guildford, GU2 9PT



For more information and to book your place, please

contact Natalie Newton 07929503937 / newtonn@methodistchurch.org.uk

Update on Manses

The Circuit currently has seven manses. Five of them are occupied by our Presbyters:

8 Eastgate Gardens, Guildford (Rev Claire Potter)
36 Woodham Road, Woking (Rev Paul Chesworth)
72 Collingwood Crescent, Merrow (Rev Asif Das)
48 Lane End Drive (Rev Dave Faulkner)
Epworth, Charterhouse Road, Godalming (Rev Paul Hulme)

The position regarding the two others is as follows:

2 Clements Road, Walton on Thames: this property became vacant in Summer 2015 following the departure of Rev Mike Deacon. It has been let since November 2015, the current tenancy terminating on 27 April 2018. It will therefore be available to the Circuit after that date.

9 Queens Avenue, Byfleet: this property became vacant in September 2015 following the departure of Rev Peter Howson. Following a refurbishment scheme it was let in May 2016, the tenancy terminating on 2nd May 2017. The Circuit Meeting resolved on 30th March that the property should be sold on the open market as it will not be required in future stationing plans. The sale process is currently underway. Readers may be interested to know that before taking the decision to sell the property the CLT investigated whether it would be of interest to Woking Borough Council as part of their Syrian refugee resettlement programme. The Council advised that it was too large to meet those needs.

One beneficial outcome arising from the letting of these two manses, together with 36 Woodham Road between October 2015 and June 2016, has been some additional revenue into the Circuit by virtue of rental income. Valuable as this has been it can naturally only be seen as a short-term windfall.

David Lander

A Message From The Editor

I hope you have found the latest edition of 'The Wey Forward' both interesting and useful. Thank-you to everyone who contributed articles. I have found it a real pleasure to receive and read each item as I put the newsletter together.

The magazine gives you the opportunity to showcase the work of your church across the Circuit so please keep that at the back of your mind in the coming months. Is there something going on in your church you would like to share?

We are going to try and publish the next edition in line with the quarterly preaching plan for September—November so

the deadline for Issue 5 is **Monday 3 July 2017**

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sue Howson

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 2017			
Sat 20– Sun 21	10am—4pm	Flower Festival & Art Exhibition	Byfleet
Sat 20	7.30pm	Spring Concert	Byfleet
Sat 20	9.30am —12 noon	Jumble sale	Woking
Sun 28	5.30pm	Pudding and Praise	Walton
June 2017			
Sat 3	8am—6pm	Walk the Wey—Circuit Celebratory Walk	Wey River
Sun 4	6.30pm	Churches Together service	Weybridge
Mon 5 — Fri 30	12noon—1pm	A Time for Reflection	Guildford
Thurs 8	10.30am—12.30pm	Coffee Morning in aid of the Esuubi Project in Uganda	Merrow
Sat 10	10.30am—5pm	Flower Festival	Godalming
Sat 10	6.30pm	Anniversary Celebration Supper	Merrow
Sat 10	10.30am—5pm	Flower Festival	Godalming
Sun 11	12 noon—4pm	Church Anniversary – we welcome Rev Paul Tabraham to lead our All Age morning worship	Merrow
Sun 11	12 noon—4pm	Flower Festival & Celebration BBQ	Godalming
Sun 11	6.30pm	Circuit Service	Godalming
Weds 14	8pm—10.30pm	Jazz on a Summer's Evening	Addlestone
Sat 17	6pm	Beetle Drive	Byfleet
Sat 17	3pm—5pm	Family Water Fun	Godalming
Sat 17	2.30pm—5pm	Refresher Safeguarding Training	Merrow
Thurs 22	10.30—12 noon	Coffee and Cake	Guildford
Sat 24	9.30—12.30pm	Practical Aspects of Christian Spirituality	Guildford
Sun 25	6.15pm	Café Church	Weybridge
July 2017			
Sat 2— Mon 17	See website	Whitechapel Mission Collection	Godalming
Thurs 13	10.30am —12.30pm	Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research	Merrow
Sat 15	10am—4pm	Living and Worshipping Honestly in God's World	Woking
Thurs 27	10.30—12 noon	Coffee and cake	Guildford
Fri 28	2pm	Film & afternoon tea	Byfleet
Sun 30	6.15pm	Pudding & Praise	Walton
August 2017			
Thurs 24	10.30am—12 noon	Coffee and cake	Guildford
Tues 29	1.30pm—4.30pm	Cream tea	Guildford
Thurs 31	2pm	Film and afternoon tea	Byfleet

FIRST BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

WALK THE WEY



The **WEY VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT** is one year old and its new logo shows the River Wey winding through its bounds. The **River Wey** and its **Navigation Canal** run from the walls of the **Godalming United Church** to the Junction with the Thames, not far from **Weybridge Methodist Church**. Twenty miles of easy walking link the two on the tow path.

The **Celebratory Walk** will cover these 20 miles on **Saturday 3rd June** and Claire and I hope that some of the Circuit will join us for all, or part, of the way. The plan is to leave Godalming between 8 and 8.30am in the morning, be in the centre of Guildford at about 10am, near Send at noon, not far from West Byfleet by 3pm and to finish at the Thames Lock north of Weybridge by about 6pm.

The tow path from Weybridge to Guildford has been trodden for over 350 years and the extension to Godalming for 250 years: Claire and I hope that you agree that now is the time for a few more steps along the Wey.

Interested? Please contact me on 01483 575667 or at johnpotter169@btinternet.com

A more precise route plan will be available nearer the day and I shall also be able to supply information about connecting bus services, hostelrys on or near the tow path and the possibilities for car parking to any who might need it.

I look forward to hearing from you!

John Potter