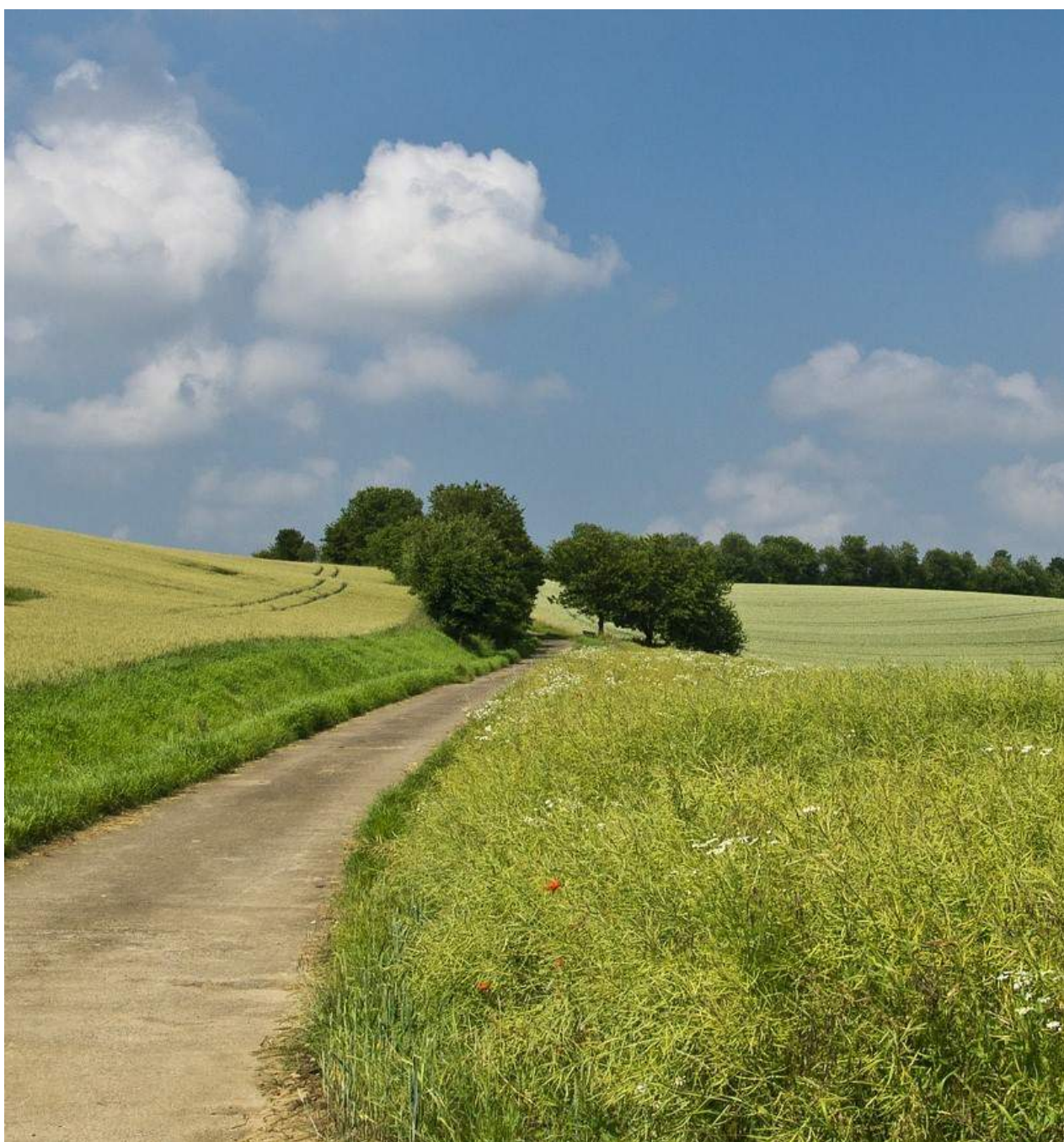


The Wey Forward

Issue 8, June to August 2018

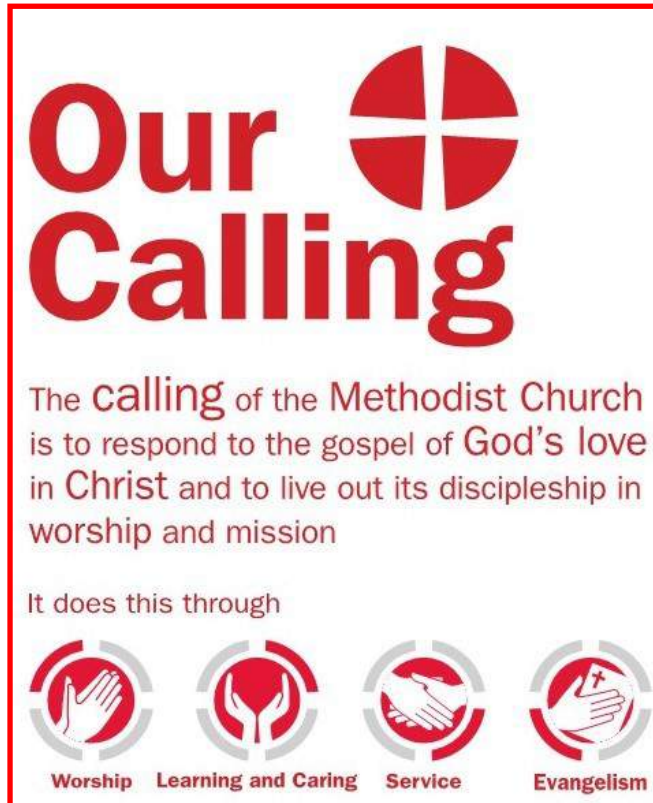


The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit came into being on 1st September 2016. It was formed by the joining of 13 churches in the Guildford and Woking & Walton-on-Thames circuits. Each church has its own distinctive personality and gifts, and continues to look forward to mutual sharing and support and to responding together to the gospel of God's love in the community and the wider world. (For those not familiar with the term, a "circuit" is an administrative group of Methodist Churches in the same geographical area).

Our churches can be found in :

- * Addlestone
- * Byfleet
- * Cranleigh
- * Godalming
- * Guildford
- * Knaphill
- * Merrow
- * Sheerwater
- * Stoughton
- * Walton-on-Thames
- * West Horsley
- * Weybridge
- * Woking



Our Calling

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

It does this through

Worship **Learning and Caring** **Service** **Evangelism**

If you are a visitor or newcomer to the area, or living here and seeking a church for the first time, please use our website - www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk to find a church that meets your spiritual and pastoral needs. We have included links to the websites of all of our churches in the circuit but you can also contact the Circuit Office for more information. The office is open each weekday morning from 9am to 1pm and Sue Howson, the Circuit Administrator, can be contacted on circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk or 07808 046451.

This quarterly newsletter aims to showcase what is going on around the Circuit, provide relevant information for the forthcoming quarter and offer some thought provoking articles.

Sue Howson

Editor

A message from our Superintendent

Dear Friends,

“How do you solve a problem like Maria, how do you catch a cloud and pin it down?”

So asked the nuns in ‘The Sound of Music’ who are exasperated with Maria for being too frivolous for life at the Abbey. That song always comes into my mind at the season of Pentecost because *“How do you catch a cloud and pin it down?”* is a good question to ask of the Holy Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is variously described in the Bible as ‘breath’, ‘wind’, ‘fire’ or being in the form of a dove. None of these are easy to get hold of, to control or to pin down. The Spirit of God is everywhere – in all things – in between all things – through all things.

“He is not here” said the young man to the women who went to Jesus’s tomb, in Mark’s account of the resurrection. He is not here – because now he is everywhere. Having been tangible and present with the disciples through his human life on earth, they had to get used to him being absent. And yet it was not an absence of despair but one full of promise. The gospel writers differ in their accounts of the coming of the Holy Spirit, but Matthew, Luke and John all describe the disciples being given a commission and the inspiration and energy to carry it out.



Often Pentecost hymns contain the words: *“Come Holy Spirit”*. It is not an image I am comfortable with because it suggests firstly that we human beings can summon up the Spirit like Aladdin’s genie to do our will. Secondly it suggests that the Holy Spirit is external to us. Yet, we believe that the grace of God is already given to all people before they know it. So surely we can think of the Spirit of God as being already within every person. It is what makes our character, our potential, our gifts. The song about Maria eventually celebrates her for her own individual nature! The Spirit of God helps us all to respond to God’s grace by fulfilling our potential and using our gifts to grow God’s kingdom.

The growing of God’s kingdom and the releasing of gifts were the themes that brought this Wey Valley Methodist Circuit into being. Through these early years of the life of the Circuit we have certainly faced challenges but we have also seen more and more gifts being released and shared between and within churches and communities. At this season of Pentecost, that is really something to celebrate.

I would like to thank you for support and challenge in these last four years. I am grateful for shared leadership, for relationships of trust and for new opportunities. I know you will welcome Keith Beckingham, your new Superintendent Minister, and Sydney Samuel Lake, your new Probationer Minister, with friendship and support. I wish you all well as you work together with God in developing the next chapter for the Wey Valley Methodist Circuit.

With all good wishes,

Claire

News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

Our 8th April Café Style Evening Service was led by Elizabeth Gurd, with the theme 'The Road to Emmaus: A first-hand lesson in Evangelism' supported by our usual Songs of Joyful Praise and Thanksgiving. In spite of the poor weather it was well attended by our members and those of the circuit churches, and Elizabeth's subject left us with a lot to think about. Our next evening service will be on 8th July, led by Rev Paul Chesworth.



Café Style Service – April 2018

On Sunday 6th May we celebrate our Annual Church Anniversary. The service is to be led by Deacon Richard Goldstraw who was with us a few years ago.

Lunch will follow the service to give members the chance to catch up on Richard's news.

The church is looking forward to welcoming The Addlestone Singers for their annual 'Tea Party Performance' at 3pm on 7th July .

The Bear Hugs Nursery will hold its Summer Concert in the church on 20th July at 11.30am. An event appreciated and much enjoyed by proud parents and friends.



Addlestone Singers July 2017 Tea Party



Work in progress

The restoration of our windows don't yet look quite the way we intended but the restored windows are planned to be refitted by the end of May.

Fred Rowe

Be the best you can

Across our churches we have dedicated and willing volunteers who undertake all sorts of tasks; each one essential to enable our churches to offer worship Sunday by Sunday. However, the world in which we are asking our folk to do this requires us to demonstrate that they have been appropriately resourced - through training and support - to do the work.

The Circuit has purchased some on-line training from a company called iHasco so that people can enhance their skills and make sure that they are aware of best working practices and, in some cases, health and safety regulations.

The courses are generally quite short and they do not need to be completed all in one go. The tests at the end shouldn't be seen as anything daunting but as a way of measuring understanding of the course material. As well as being informative they are **FUN** and **FREE** to sign up for.

You can choose to complete any or all of the courses below—whichever would be helpful to you personally.

- Accident reporting
- Electrical safety
- Bomb threats and suspicious packages
- Fire awareness
- Health and safety basics
- Ladder safety
- Working at height
- Manual handling
- Noise awareness
- Slips, trips and falls
- Cyber security awareness
- Display screen equipment
- Lone working in the workplace
- Food allergy awareness
- Food safety and hygiene – levels 1 and 2



Please note because we have to follow the Methodist guidelines the following courses are not to be taken – Data protection, GDPR Essentials and GDPR for Managers.

If you are interested, contact me with your email address and the name of the course/s you would like to do. If you're not sure I'm happy to chat through any queries or concerns you may have.

Sue Howson (circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk or 07808 046451)

Byfleet

Byfleet Methodist Church wishes to record its sincere appreciation of the support offered by the Circuit which has enabled the fire safety measures and essential repairs to the roof to be commenced so that all those who use their premises can continue to do so safely. Meanwhile out of adversity has come a willingness for the whole congregation to engage with our future, our mission, our sustainability, who we are and what our role is in Byfleet, and now we look forward to grasping with both hands the opportunities for reflection and renewal that *Appreciating Church* will offer.

“Cycle Ride Day”, as **Sunday 29th July**, has become known locally causes disruption to Services in the northern part of the Circuit. While Byfleet village appears to be cut off, it is possible to get across Parvis Road from New Haw, so if you cannot get to your church that morning, can you get to New Haw? Come and join in the 10.30am service at the Methodist Church which will be followed by a Bring & Share Lunch. You will be warmly welcomed.

The summer months are often lonely ones for those who live on their own: weekly social occasions close down and families go away, but it is our intention to repeat and expand last year’s programme of providing a mid-week informal lunch or afternoon tea during the school holiday period. If you know of someone who would appreciate the fellowship, please ask them to get in touch (01932 343489) or look out for more detailed information in due course.

- June 9th - Coffee Morning, organised by the Brownies and Rainbows
- July 7th - Shuffleboard Evening and Ploughman’s Supper at 7pm. Tickets £6
- July 21st - Byfleet Parish Day – visit us at our second-hand book stall
- July 29th - United Service (10.30am) followed by Bring & Share Supper
- Aug 11th - Coffee Morning
- Sept 8th - Coffee Morning

Margaret Watts



NIGHT VISION
‘looking at life through a different lens’
St Mary’s, Guildford
between
19.30 and 23.00
for
calm, coffee, chocolate, cake & chat
Fridays
25 May, 22 June, 20 July

 Common Ground
Night Vision
PRAY • TOGETHER • GO

Cranleigh



Although Easter Sunday is now some weeks ago, we still remember our Service on that joyful day when the somber symbols of Lent surrounding our wooden cross were replaced by a wonderful display of spring flowers, symbols of new life at Christ's Resurrection. We all accompanied the transformed cross out of the church as we sang 'Thine be the glory' after the Communion Service. (There had been, as in other years, the quieter, more reflective Communion Service, at 8.30am followed by breakfast).

Holy Week was busy throughout the village, in the various churches, culminating in the traditional open-air Service in Stocklund Square, which was well-supported despite the inclement weather. Singing was accompanied by the Baptist Worship Band and afterwards everyone adjourned to the Baptist Church for coffee and hot cross buns.

Several events were planned by our minister, Claire in our own church, sometimes attended by members of other churches. An innovation was the Communion Service for

Maundy Thursday, including readings, hymns and some recorded music. We all left the church in silence. I found this a very helpful service.

Apart from the United Service late morning on Good Friday, Claire also led us in a Service at 9.45am, including a symbolic hammering of nails into the wooden cross: our response to prayer was that of the repentant thief - 'Jesus remember me'. In the afternoon, we took part in a silent meditation with words read aloud by Claire. Again, we were joined by a few people from other churches.

Sunday, April 22nd was a very important day for us as it was our AGM, which this year we held as part of the morning service, in café-style, with members seated at tables, having been offered refreshments as they came in. Very importantly, this Service will form part of our Appreciating Church Initiative, and included group discussions, involving both children and adults, with the results of these written on boxes (children), and on symbolic leaves or fruit placed on a tree (adults). Of course, necessary business was conducted as our Constitution dictates, but as part of the on-going 'Appreciating' procedure which all our churches are involved with. A Church Lunch was provided after the service.



Glenda Sewell

A Short Guide for Readers in Church

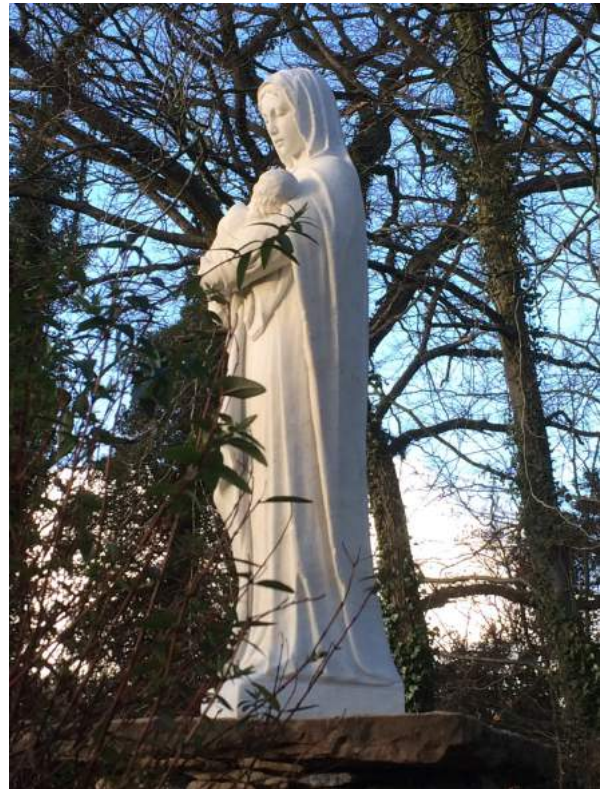
Graham Warr and I were asked by the Circuit Worship Planning Group to put together some suggestions for those who are asked to do a reading in church. This is not an exhaustive list! The following are some tips which have been passed onto us over the years by different people, and which you may find helpful.

- If the reading is from the Bible, look at the previous and following chapters to get more of a feel of the passage.
- Readings should always be introduced with a sentence or two (not more) of explanation. Check with the preacher to see whether s/he will be doing this.
- If the readings are being shown on a screen, it's worth checking with the projectionist to see that the translations match!
- When the size of the text is too small to be comfortable, one can always print out the reading using a programme such as *Bible Gateway* which has every conceivable translation, and is free.
- Finish the reading with perhaps 'Amen', or 'Here ends the reading', or 'Thanks be to God' – but perhaps not this last, if the passage happens to be Hebrews 11:17-29!
- Obviously read and re-read the passage well beforehand, even if it's familiar to you. Check on the pronunciation of difficult words, especially Hebrew names in the Old Testament.
- When reading, it's often helpful to look at each whole sentence, and with practice you can remember short phrases, so that you can make eye-contact with the congregation. In particular, memorise the phrase overleaf when turning a page, so as to avoid an awkward pause.
- Speaking clearly and distinctly doesn't mean that we have to shout – the pronunciation of consonants will enable the congregation to hear us more clearly. Sound travels on vowels, but words are separated by consonants.
- Many readers speak too fast – try about half the speed of normal conversational speech. Speak s-l-o-w-l-y!
- Breathing is important too: take breaths at the end of sentences or where a natural pause comes in the reading. Unless you do this (and read slowly!) it's very easy to 'gasp', particularly if you're a little nervous.
- Avoid the classic error of dropping your voice at the end of sentences!
- When using a microphone, try not to lower your head and speak into it! Rather, speak to the person in the back row.
- Use pauses judiciously, especially at the end of sentences. Avoid breathing in the middle of phrases (like many weather forecasters do on the TV!) or pausing in 'unnatural' places – only William Shatner ('Captain Kirk' in *Star Trek*) could get away with this.
- Be aware of the need to vary inflexion – how your voice rises and falls. Exaggerated emphasis on words is almost as bad as reading in a monotone.
- Try if possible to change the tone of your voice slightly when moving from a section of narrative to one which contains direct speech, e.g. Luke 4:31-37.
- If you make a mistake in say, pronunciation, don't stop! The chances are that most of your listeners will not have noticed.
- Be aware of body posture – e.g. avoid movements that are likely to be distracting. Practice in front of a mirror if in doubt.
- If you are unsure how your delivery or voice sounds, try recording it and asking a (trusted!) friend for comments.
- Practise, practise, practise!

Graham Warr and Barrie Tabraham

Godalming United Church

On Easter Sunday early risers from our congregation took part in Godalming's Churches Together Sunrise Service in the Minster Field – a wooded glade just a few hundred metres from where I write. The Ladywell shrine there, (dedicated to the Virgin Mary), occupies the site of Godalming's first Christian church – probably built in the 7th century on an earlier Saxon pagan site. The ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service has been an annual event since the 1960s. This peaceful spot is owned and maintained by nearby Ladywell Convent, and the invitation to join the sisters afterwards for a hot cuppa is always most welcome – a chance to exchange Easter greetings with friends from churches around the town. Anyone can visit the Ladywell shrine and garden, off Tuesley Lane on the southern fringe of Godalming. (Grid Ref SU 969 423—plenty of parking in nearby streets, and opposite Ladywell convent itself GU7 1ST). It makes a good starting point for a walk in Busbridge Woods, well known for bluebells in May or even on to Hydon's Ball.



On a more practical note – our church is now trialling live-streaming of Sunday morning services. They can be viewed on www.thesundaysevice.org or on the church website www.guc.org.uk. This facility will not only enable us to engage with church-goers unable to attend, but also reach out to the wider community. The procedure is completely unobtrusive. The camera is positioned above the door at the rear of the church and focused on the raised area at the front. Most of the congregation (certainly back from the front two rows) does not appear, and the direction in which the camera points is under the control of members of the congregation who have been trained in its use. We use a pre-programmed “privacy shot” – usually the cross and east window - if there is something we don't want to include in the broadcast e.g. the congregation walking up to and back from Communion. Parents must give their consent for children to appear, and there is an Opting Out form for adults wishing not to be seen. We make it clear to visitors, including those attending baptisms and weddings, that the service will be broadcast – and we think this will be a positive thing for many families. In addition, at the end of April our sound system was upgraded with new speakers, new amplifiers (including induction-loop amplifier) and more input sockets in the chancel area providing extra flexibility. The work was done by DSAV Ltd who specialise in church audio-visual system design and installation. It was a pleasure to see Dan and Courtney in the service on the following morning – testing their work “on the receiving end”. They did an excellent job.

Upcoming dates:

- Sunday June 10th Church Anniversary followed by lunch and entertainment
- Saturday June 16th 3pm-5pm Messy Church
- Late June - early July—Annual collection of clothing (especially men's), non-perishable foodstuffs and toiletries for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless. Do start collecting now.

Nancy Wilks



Whitechapel Mission Appeal

Godalming United Church (Methodist and United Reformed), Bridge Street, Godalming is co-ordinating an appeal to support the Whitechapel Mission with **clothing and non-perishable breakfast foods**.

The Whitechapel Mission has been helping the homeless of London since 1876. Today, it provides showers, breakfast, clothing, advice and dignity to each of the 300 people who walk through its doors – every day of the year.

This year's collection at Godalming will be:

Thursday 28th June to Tuesday 10th July 2018

As in previous years, the churches of the Wey Valley Circuit are invited to join this collection and bring any donations to Godalming. Please contact Ryan Kelley (01483 423261) or Janet Shaw (01483 527670) or check Godalming United Church website (www.guc.org.uk) to ensure someone is on site to receive donations.

Clothing needs to be appropriate for street dwellers and in good condition.

There is a particular need for men's socks, underwear and trainers, as well as shirts, sweaters, jeans, trousers and outer clothing.

Rucksacks, blankets, sleeping bags, plastic carrier bags and 35mm film cannisters (for shampoo) are also urgently needed.

Food items which are also particularly needed are porridge, pepper, Pot Noodles, tea, biscuits, squash, peanut butter, Nutella, baked beans, plum tomatoes, sugar, coffee, honey and instant hot chocolate.

Please check the Whitechapel Mission's website for the most recent list of needed items as this is subject to change: www.whitechapel.org.uk

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Janet Shaw



Guildford St Mary's

ENCOUNTERS AT ST MARY'S

Phone call from 18-year-old boy overheard outside St Mary's 10.50pm during Night Vision recently: 'It's a long story, and you're never going to believe it, but we've ended up in a church!', explaining why he and 3 friends had spent over 30 minutes of their Friday night out in St Mary's, chatting to our team, looking at thought-provoking displays and enjoying hand massages (a great way to engage in meaningful conversation, we found out) from Eden People.

Conversation with a young RE teacher during the same Night Vision – 'I wish my students could see this church and what's going on. I want to pinch some of these ideas for my lessons.' [We did invite her to organise a visit for them].



Astonishment from 3 Filipino nurses that the church was open and welcoming on a Friday night and that Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox churches all worship there. 'We want to come back; so relaxing'.

Our encounter ministry continues with Night Vision on Fridays 25th May ('That's the Spirit'), 22nd June and 20th July – more details are on

www.guildfordmethodist.org and www.commongroundguildford.org closer to the time. 'Look at life through a different lens' sums it up well. Why don't you drop in?

Encouraging people to encounter God is by no means confined to Friday night, with opening the church and offering glimpses of God at the heart of our ministry, taking advantage of our central location and intensely spiritual historic building. Drop in between 11am and 3pm any Thursday or Farmers Market Tuesdays, (first Tues of the month), and see our website for extra openings.

In a different vein, we can also get enthusiastic take-up for activities on a cross-church basis. A few months ago, we organised a Sunday afternoon Taize service, hoping 15-20 people might attend. As it happened, there were nearer 50 present and the feedback was immensely positive. We'll be holding another on Sunday 10th June around 4pm (time to be confirmed). Again, friends from around the Circuit would be most welcome to attend.

Nigel Champion-Smith

Knaphill

The Clothing Bank is growing slowly and it was lovely to see a number of families at our last one. It is a very good means of showing God's love to the wider community. We provide tea, coffee and refreshments and a listening ear if needed.

Future dates are

26th May, 16th June, 21st July from 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Our Monthly Coffee Mornings are growing in popularity. We see regular faces and new ones each month. One lady last month said 'how lovely to come and have someone to chat to, I'll now go home and see no-one else over the weekend, but this has set me up!' We sell books, homemade cakes and preserves, second hand books and bric-a-brac. We also show a film for the children, free of charge.

In May we have a special Spring Plant Sale as well as the usual coffee morning, where there are lots of home grown plants for sale,

Future dates are

26th May, 23rd June, 28th July from 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Barbara Humphries



Walton Methodist Church

Tuesday 29th May & Wednesday 30th May,

10am – 12noon

The topic: The unforgiving servant.

Matthew 18:21-35 New International Version (NIV)

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

On Tuesday we will be hearing about the King who forgave the debt and the servant who did not forgive the slave. We will be making a junk prison cell, Jail

Cakes and lots more.

On Wednesday we will find out what happened to the servant and the slave.

We will be sinking money and mending broken biscuits.

Lots of games to play and good food to snack on.

There will be some great songs and lots of stories so come and join us on one or two days to find out just what did happen to the servant and the slave.



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

WONDERFUL CATCH

*Waterside crafts & games for all
the family. Party tea*

SATURDAY JUNE 16th 3pm – 5pm

*Admission Free
Babies' play area*

*Donation of £2
per child welcome*

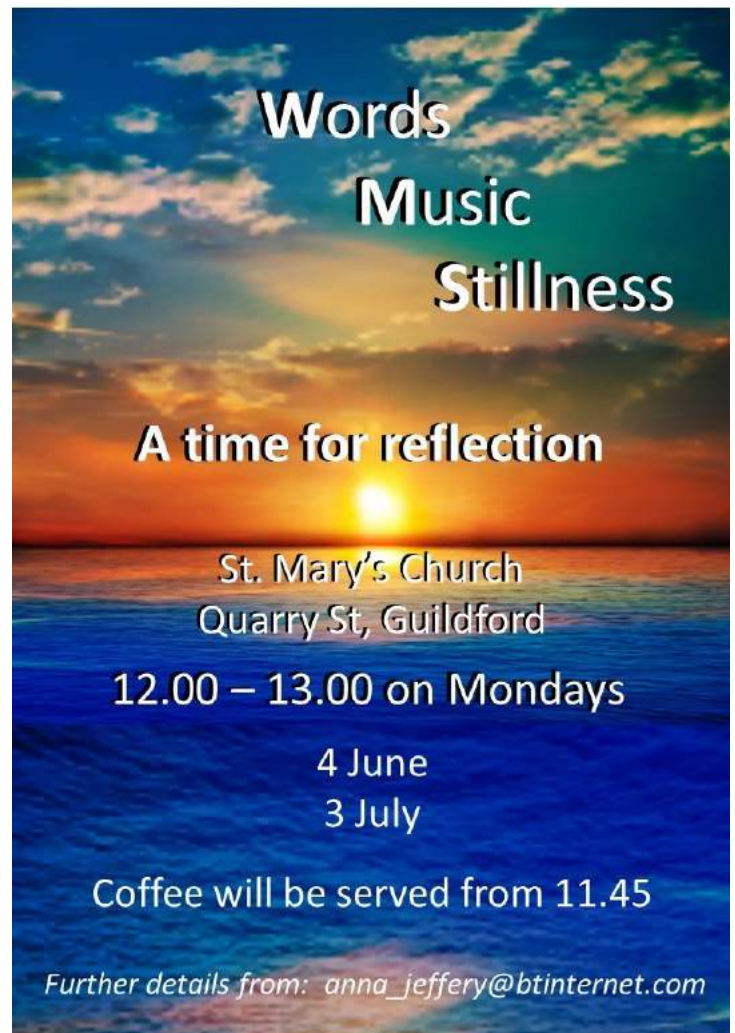


**MERROW METHODIST
CHURCH**

Coffee morning

**Thursday 14 June 2018 from
10.30 am to 12.30 pm**

*Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of home-made cake, and any money that we raise we will give to the **MANNA MINISTRIES** group who work with young people through drama and music to bring the Gospel of Christ closer.*



**Words
Music
Stillness**

A time for reflection

St. Mary's Church
Quarry St, Guildford

12.00 – 13.00 on Mondays

4 June
3 July

Coffee will be served from 11.45

Further details from: anna_jeffery@btinternet.com

Merrow

We are looking forward to hosting the Circuit Service on 3rd June at 6.30 pm, it will be led by three of our Local Preachers on the theme of Vocation, and Local Preacher Frances Roberts from Stoughton will be presented with her 25 year service award. We hope to see many of you there. A week later, the 10th June we will celebrate our Church Anniversary. Morning worship will be led by Rev Dr Chris Blake and will be followed by a church family lunch.

Our Monthly Coffee Mornings raising money for a variety of charities continue to be well attended. In March £517 was raised for Prostate Cancer UK and in April £433.60 was raised for Guildford Number Five Project (Guildford's night shelter for homeless men and women).

One of the ideas that came out of the "Appreciating Church" exercise undertaken at Merrow in 2016/17 was to hold a "Holiday at Home", aimed at attracting those in our community who are no longer able to go away for their holiday. A two day "holiday" is being planned by a small group of church members.

The two-day "holiday" will be held at Merrow Methodist Church on the 15th and 16th August. It will allow those who would welcome the opportunity to meet with others and enjoy a programme of activities and entertainment, or perhaps do crossword puzzles, quizzes, jigsaw puzzles or board games, read newspapers and discuss current affairs, or just chat with other guests and helpers. A light lunch will be served each day.

Wendy Rockhill

Introducing Appreciating Church

Six of our churches have asked to use the Appreciating Church model for their reviews, and another three in the Circuit are already using the model with positive outcomes. We are aware, however, that there is still some lack of understanding about how Appreciating Church works. So to recap:

Why is it particularly suitable for us:

- a. An inclusive approach to gather all voices – which maps on to our Methodist constitutional approach.
- b. Used when there is no clear path forward or predefined model which is where the church is today
- c. Implementation and review are not distinct phases – the inquiry process draws attention and attention fosters action.
- d. Very scalable

Particular traps for us:

- a. Reform theology can be interpreted as focusing on deficit, guilt and forgiveness
- b. Use of language around “what we should” be saying
- c. Need to focus on the easily squashed, hearing the voice of all, each speaking their truth.
- d. It is all in how the questions are asked, requires work and care; it is very easy to trigger a defensive reaction.
- e. Our congregations are defensive, tired, and stressed.
- f. Using facilitators who come with an agenda rather than a commitment and understanding of the process with preparedness to go where it goes.

If you are interested in learning more about Appreciative Inquiry, I recommend a YouTube video (under four minutes in duration) *Appreciative Inquiry by Jon Townsin*

Margaret Ireland

Food for Thought

In advance of Walton using the Appreciating Church programme Dave Paterson has been doing some research. He came across two articles “which made for interesting reading and some food for thought, as to where we may be going wrong in attracting people to our churches and what behaviours we need to be striving for if we want to exist in the future. I have always believed that having a good understanding of the problem leads to better and more effective solutions. I look forward to hearing peoples responses to the points raised below”.

The characteristics of unchurched people that the article outlined follow in brief. The full article can be found at <https://careynieuwhof.com>

1. They don't all have big 'problems'. If you're waiting for unchurched people to show up because their life is falling apart, you might wait a long time. There are always people in crisis who seek God out, but many are quite content with their lives without God.

2. They feel less guilty than you think about not being in church on Sunday .

3. Occasional is regular. When they start coming, they don't always attend every week.

4. Most are spiritual. Most unchurched people believe in some kind of God.

- 5. They are not sure what “Christian” means.** Other than how they see you act and behave!
- 6. You can’t call them back to something they never knew.** Old school ‘revival’ meant there was something to revive. Now that we are on the 2nd to 5th generation of unchurched people, revival is less helpful to say the least. You can’t call them back to something they never knew.
- 7. Many have tried church, even a little, but left.** A surprising number of people have tried church at some point – as a child or young adult, but because it wasn’t a good experience, they left.
- 8. Something is generous.** I hope every Christian learns to live a life of sacrifice and generosity, but telling them they are ungenerous is a poor way to start the conversation.
- 9. They want you to be Christian.** They want you to follow Jesus, authentically. Don’t alter the content of your services for unchurched people, but you should change the experience.
- 10. They’re intelligent, so speak to that.** Don’t speak down to them. Just make it easy to get on the same page as people who have attended church for years by saying “this passage is near the middle of the bible.” You can be inclusive without being condescending.
- 11. They hate hypocrisy.**
- 12. They love transparency.** When you share your weaknesses, everyone (including Christians) resonates.
- 13. They invite their friends if they like what they’re discovering.** They will be your best inviters if they love what you’re doing.
- 14. Their spiritual growth varies dramatically.** One size does not fit all.
- 15. Some want to be anonymous and some don’t.** So make your church friendly to both.

The second article goes on to say how churches must look forward, and suggests the following are the hallmarks of those that will do well.

- 1. The ability to say no.** One of the reasons churches don’t change is because leaders are sometimes unwilling to say no to current members who prefer things the way they were.
- 2. Outsider focus.** Churches that become passionate about people outside their walls will be far more effective than churches that are passionate about keeping the few people they have inside their walls.
- 3. Quick decision making.** If you have a decision-making process that’s slow and complicated, you will not be able to keep up with the pace of change needed.
- 4. Flexibility.** You don’t need to change your mission (for the most part), but you do need to change your methods. Flexible and adaptable churches that can innovate around strategy and different initiatives will have the freedom to make the changes they need to make an impact moving forward.

5. A willingness to embrace smaller to become bigger. When small churches stop trying to be mega-churches, good things can happen.

6. A quicker, lighter footprint. Churches need a quicker, lighter footprint to grow. If you're waiting for millions to build/ repair your building, you might wait forever. Get innovative and start looking at portable and non-traditional ways of growing your ministry.

7. Valuing online relationships as real relationships. Churches that aren't online beyond a website are going to miss the boat. Even though you might struggle to understand it, for many people, virtual relationships are as valid as one to one friendships.

8. An openness to questions. Most unchurched people today come in with questions that can seem strange to those of us who spent a life time in church. Don't try to answer them right away. Churches that understand that embracing questions is as important as providing immediate answers will make an impact in the future. We're discovering that if you embrace questions, the answers eventually find their way into people's lives. The Holy Spirit actually does move in people's lives.

9. A high value on experimentation. The more traditional you are, the less you will value experimentation. The more successful you are, the less you will value experimentation. If you start to raise the value of experimentation, you will accelerate change and flexibility. The churches that connect with their community will be the churches willing enough to try a variety of things, and who also have the courage to cease them as soon as they stop producing results.

10. Prioritizing a *for you not from you* culture. Churches that will make an impact on the future will be passionate about what they want *for* people – financial balance, generosity, the joy of serving, better families, and of course, Christ at the centre of everyone's life.

11. A tailored experience, not a tailored message. You don't have to tailor the message to unchurched people, but churches that have an impact will tailor the experience.

Discuss!!

Dave Paterson

Circuit Prayer Diary

The Mission Group have suggested a Circuit Prayer Diary for June, July and August and this can be found on the Circuit website at:

<http://www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk/news/circuit-prayer-diary-june-august-2018.html>

If you can't access the website you can get a copy of the prayer diary from Sue in the Circuit Office.





SAVE THE DATE!

Circuit Mission Day

6th OCTOBER 2018

10am – 4pm

Venue - tba

BUILD YOUR CHURCH

Led by

Rev Adrian Roux

Happy Birthday to us!

On 1st September 2018 the Wey Valley Circuit will celebrate its second anniversary. Many of us celebrated the first anniversary with an energetic walk along the Wey Navigation in glorious sunshine, where we had the opportunity to chat with members of different congregations as we walked, and ended up with the usual tea and biscuits at Weybridge, at the northern end of the Wey Navigation.

The Big Read



This year I am suggesting that we celebrate our second, third and fourth anniversaries by reading the entire Bible from cover to cover, one chapter a day.

Commencing on 1 September 2018 this will keep us all busy until 2 December 2021.

I took part in a similar exercise which commenced in October 2006 but confess that there is much of the bible I do not remember and I suspect that I might have skipped or skimmed a few chapters.

In 2006 one of the participants created a spreadsheet for those who took part which enabled us to keep an accurate record of where we should be on every day across the 3 years, two months and two days of the read.

So please join me in this long term act of worship. You will be able to join in from the comfort of your home, at what ever time of the day/evening/night suits your life style and commitments. You could read the chapter by yourself or with a family member or with a friend.

Whilst you can of course undertake this in private, it would be good to know that I am not alone so feel free to drop me a line to let me know that I have company. Also, contact me or the Circuit Office if you would like a copy of the spreadsheet sent to you.

Linda Weedon

linda_weedon@hotmail.com

Syrian Supper

Mohammed Nazal and Mohammed Shada Ayash, (left), refugees from Dar'a Syria, living in Jordan.

Come and hear their stories, and how they have been given hope for the future through a training course supported by All We Can.

For more information please contact:

Claire Hargreaves : aerolo@aol.com or

Jeannette Curtis : jeannettecurtis@googlemail.com

All are welcome





Claire and Jeannette
aerolo@aol.com jeannettecurtis@gamil.com
invite you to

A Syrian Supper
Walton Methodist Church
Saturday 21st July 2018
From 6.30pm, with food from 7pm
Lots of Music and pictures
Cost £5, reduction for families



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

*Take a break from your shopping
& meet up with friends*

Thursday 28 June:

*~ supporting ATD – Action through Dignity
... giving poverty a voice*

Thursday 26 July:

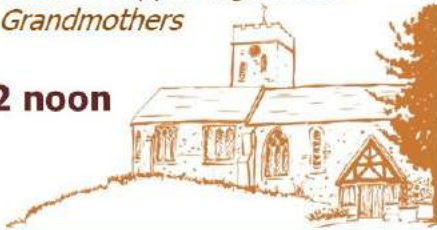
~ Mothers' Union

Thursday 23 August:

*4 G's. Grandmothers supporting African
Grandmothers*

10.30am – 12 noon

Everyone welcome



Plant Sale

SATURDAY 12TH MAY

**Trinity Methodist Church
Brewery Road
Woking**

9.30am until 1pm

All proceeds go to Christian Aid

**Coffee & Cake
Great variety of plants**

christian
aid

West Horsley

Thank you to those people who came from the circuit churches to join us on Saturday 14th April for our very successful Songs of Praise evening. We had an enjoyable evening with a wide range of hymns and songs. We were very pleased that it was so well supported by people from the local community.

This year, it was the Methodists turn to lead the Churches Together outdoor Good Friday service in front of the village shops. Claire Hargreaves had prepared an excellent service incorporating the various symbols mentioned in the Crucifixion story. It was very well attended and, fortunately, the rain held off until the service had finished.

We are extremely grateful to Claire for all the years that she has spent having pastoral responsibility for us. She has been so attentive in pastoral care and encouragement in all we do; including regularly leading our Bible Study Group. Her services have been inspiring and she has given us far more than our share of her time. We wish her well for the next phase of her ministry and look forward to getting to know Asif and Martha better.

Margaret Faulkner

Weybridge



As with all the churches in the circuit, Weybridge struggled through the unexpected snow this spring, but it was a challenge to our carefully planned church redecoration project. We had a wedding scheduled for 17th March – the first in our church for some years – and whilst going round the church with the happy couple we realised that the church was in dire need of redecoration (it was last done in 2000 in preparation for the Centenary Celebrations).

For those of you who know the car park at Weybridge and the challenges of neighbours parking right up to, and opposite the car park entrance, you can only imagine with what fascination and awe we watched the low loader, carrying the scaffolding, reverse on to the premises – what driving ability! The photo shows the erected scaffolding required for the decorators to reach the top of the church. It was very exciting for the few children to

arrive and find this in place. The work, plus clean up, was completed by 16.00 hrs on Thursday 15th March in time for Weybridge to host the Circuit Meeting at 19.45 the same night!

The Wedding went off very well on the Saturday, (in another flurry of snow), and we look forward to hosting a Christening in May when we hope that the sun will shine and show off our beautiful church to all those attending.

The congregation are looking forward to a summer celebrating Pentecost with Churches Together in Weybridge, building on 'Thy Kingdom Come', preparing for 'Appreciating Church' and most importantly preparing for the arrival of Rev Sydney Samuel Lake in September.

Linda Weedon

Circuit Mission Supper

Trinity Methodist Church warmly welcomed Dr Olubunmi Olayisade, Methodist Church Partnership Coordinator for Africa, as speaker at the Circuit Mission Supper held back in February.

Bunmi, as she likes to be called, makes frequent visits to many African countries, linking in with Mission partners from Britain, and representing the Methodist Church of Britain at various conferences and international meetings.



At our supper she spoke about a recent visit to Kenya. Her lively, warm personality captivated the audience of approximately 150 people who were there.

Bunmi with Ryan Kelley



Enjoying the fellowship of the bring and share Circuit Mission Supper

Jenny Jackson

Worship Across The Circuit



The training session on Prayers of Intercession was well received and attended by 30 people. Our thanks go to Dave Faulkner and Allan Taylor who led the session. Feedback suggested that people would like further training, in other aspects of worship.

It was agreed that another session should take place on prayers for different occasions e.g. morning and evening worship, house groups, meetings etc. Sunday afternoon was agreed as a good time for training. It was also agreed that some material from the Worship Leaders' course should be used in the training session to encourage people to start the course.



In February Stoughton hosted a meeting for those involved in using projectors in worship. It was an opportunity to share experience and information. The next meeting has been arranged for 7.45pm in the Church (and Chancel Room) at Godalming on Tuesday 12th June 2018.

The Music and poetry evening at Knaphill Church on 29th October 2017 was well received and people gave suggestions of themes they would like for another service. The aim is to plan future evenings so that there is only one service on any given evening. be to only plan evenings like this so that that is only one evening service on the same date.

The next Circuit Service's theme will be Vocation. Breeze will lead the music and Local Preacher Frances Roberts will be presented with her 25-year-long service-preacher award. The service will be held on 3rd June (6.30pm) at Merrow Methodist Church. With refreshments served after the service.

Looking ahead, the Welcome Service for Keith Beckingham, our new Superintendent Minister, and Sydney Samuel Lake, probationer Minister will take place on 2nd September at Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church.

Philip Beastall has agreed to fix a date for a first session with organists and pianists who would like to train as organists and five people have already have expressed interest in this.

The group are grateful to Claire Potter for her enthusiastic leadership over the past two years. We have enjoyed moving forward.

Lyn McKay
Circuit Worship Group

RETREAT

22/24TH JUNE 2018

LADYWELL CONVENT
GODALMING, SURREY

LED BY GILL DASCOMBE
(FORMER VICE PRESIDENT OF THE METHODIST CONFERENCE)

THE THEME FOR THE WEEKEND
WILL BE

"JESUS REMEMBER ME WHEN YOU COME INTO YOUR KINGDOM"

Cost is £160 fully catered

To book your place please contact

Brian Sherrell

brian-car@hotmail.co.uk or 01883 370945

This retreat is organised by the
Methodist Retreat Group "REFLECT"



Detail of Mary Magdalen stained glass window
at Ladywell Convent



St. Mary's

Quarry St
Guildford

Cream Tea

Tuesday 28 August

1.30 - 4.30 pm

*In aid of projects we support
in Uganda & Kenya*

Looking forward to seeing you

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



Practical Aspects of Spirituality



St. Mary's

Quarry Street
Guildford

09.30 - 12.30

on

Saturday

16 June

Helen Shanks

on

Practical Thoughts on Prayer

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

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



British Red Cross First Aid Phone Apps

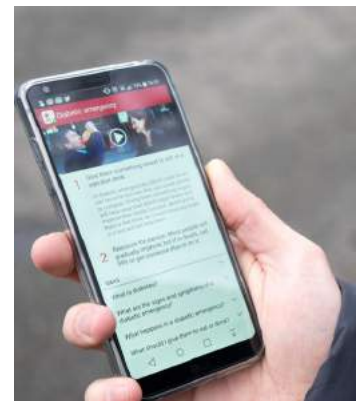
The British Red Cross offers two free apps to allow you to learn simple first aid skills at a time to suit you and keep your knowledge refreshed. They can be downloaded from <https://www.redcross.org.uk/first-aid/first-aid-apps>

In an emergency the information they contain can be used as an aide memoire.

First Aid app—This free app features simple, easy-to-learn skills for a range of first aid situations, as well as tips on how to prepare for emergencies, from severe winter weather to road traffic accidents. With videos, interactive quizzes and simple, step-by-step guides, it's never been easier to learn first aid.

Baby and Child First Aid app - This free app provides simple, easy-to-learn skills to help a baby or child in a first aid emergency. It is packed with useful tips, animations and video clips. You can test your knowledge using the app's built-in first aid quizzes. There is also a handy device to record your child's medication needs and any allergies.

The information you need is all hosted on the apps themselves, meaning no internet connection is needed, once they have been downloaded, making it fast and easy to access.



Publicity, Marketing and Communications

Social Media Training

Saturday 9th June 2018, 2pm — 5.30pm

Merrow Methodist Church

Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, GU1 2SH

Love it or hate it it's here to stay, so come and find out how you can use it to the best advantage for your church. The Connexional Team's Digital Media Team will help you make sense of it all with useful tips and pointers with a presentation and Q & A session.

To book your place please contact Sue Howson,
Circuit Administrator by 20th May 2018
circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk or 07808 046451



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 to the articles. As always, it has been a real pleasure to receive and read each item as I put the newsletter together.

If you would find a large print version of the magazine useful then please let me know and I can arrange that for you.

We would like the focus of the magazine to be a forward looking one. So as you plan your events, bear in mind that the rest of the circuit would love to know about them.

**The deadline for Issue 9 of The Wey Forward
is midnight 1st July 2018**

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sue Howson

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 2018			
3rd June	6.30pm	Circuit Service—on the theme of Vocation	Merrow
3rd June	10.30am	Cranleigh Church Anniversary	Cranleigh
4th June	12.00 noon - 1.00pm	A Time for Reflection	St Mary's, Guildford
9th June	2.00pm—5.30pm	Social Media Training	Merrow
9th June	9.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning organised by Brownies and Rainbows	Byfleet
10th June	10.30am	63rd Church Anniversary	Merrow
10th June	10.30am	Church Anniversary followed by lunch and entertainment	Godalming
10th June	4.00pm tbc	Afternoon Taize Service	St Mary's, Guildford
12th June	7.45pm	Meeting for those using projectors in worship	Godalming
14th June	10.30am	Coffee Morning in aid of Manna Ministries	Merrow
16th June	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothing Bank with refreshments	Knaphill
16th June	3.00pm – 5.00pm	Messy Church—Wonderful Catch	Godalming
16th June	9.30am to 12.30pm	Practical Aspects of Spirituality	St Mary's, Guildford
22nd June	7.30pm—11.00pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
22nd/24th June	Over three days	Ladywell Convent Retreat Weekend	Godalming
23rd June	10.00am - 2.00 noon	Coffee morning with second hand books, bric-a-brac and free film show for children	Knaphill
24th June	10.30am	Café style worship tackling one of the 'big questions' from our AGM	Merrow
28th June	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake, supporting ATD, giving poverty a voice	St Mary's, Guildford
July 2018			
1st July	10.30am	Choir Anniversary	Cranleigh
1st July	Midnight	Deadline for copy for Issue 9 of They Wey Forward	
3rd July	12.00 noon - 1.00pm	A Time for Reflection	St Mary's, Guildford
7th July	3.00pm	Addlestone Singers' Tea Party Performance	Addlestone
7th July	7.00pm	Shuffleboard Evening & Ploughman's Supper .Tickets £6	Byfleet
8th July	6.30pm	Café Style Evening Service	Addlestone
19th July	10.30am	Coffee morning in aid of SAND	Merrow
20th July	11.30am	Bear Hugs Nursery Summer Concert	Addlestone
20th July	7.30pm—11.00pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
21st July	6.00pm	Syrian Evening— open to all	Walton
21st July	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothing Bank with refreshments	Knaphill
21st July		Byfleet Parish Day—visit our second-hand book stall	Byfleet
26th July	10.30am- 12 noon	Coffee and Cake—Mothers' Union	St Mary's, Guildford
28th July	10.00am - 12.00 noon	Coffee morning with second hand books, bric-a-brac and free film show for children	Knaphill
29th July	10.30am	United Service at New Haw followed by Bring & Buy Lunch	New Haw (Byfleet)
August 2018 (and beyond)			
11th August	9.30am— 12.30pm	Coffee Morning	Byfleet
15th August	10.00am	Holiday @ Home	Merrow
16th August	10.00am	Holiday @ Home	Merrow
23rd August	10.30am— 12 noon	Coffee and Cake, Grandmothers supporting African Grandmothers	St Mary's, Guildford
28th August	1.30pm—4.30pm	Cream Tea in aid of projects in Uganda and Kenya	St Mary's, Guildford
2nd September	6.30pm	Welcome Service	Walton-on-Thames
8th September	9.30am—12.30pm	Coffee Morning	Byfleet
6th October	10.00am—4.00pm	Circuit Mission Day	TBC



Welcome Service

for

Rev Keith Beckingham
our new Superintendent Minister

and

Rev Sydney Samuel Lake
Probationer Minister

WELCOME

Light refreshments will be served before the service at 5pm

Sunday 2nd September 2018 6.30pm

Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church
Terrace Road, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2SR