

The Wey Forward

Issue 10, December 2018 - February 2019

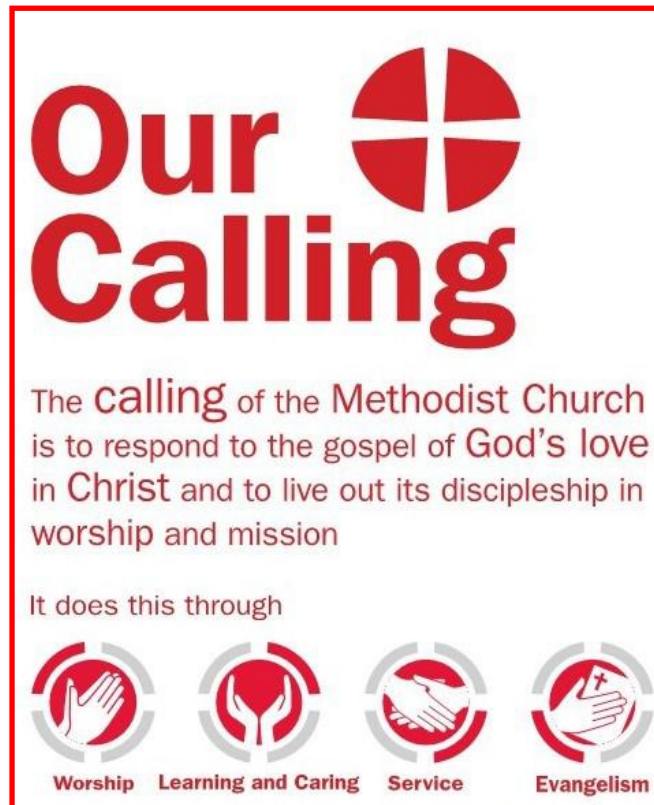


The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

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



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,

It has been said that Christians either emphasise the Incarnation or Redemption, as reflected in our emphasis on either Christmas or Easter. In reality these are inseparable aspects of Christian teaching. The incarnation is hugely important to my own personal faith. That God became flesh and dwelt among us is truly amazing. That He should take the role of a servant, humbling Himself and emptying Himself of all but love is certainly a mystery to be pondered on every year with thankfulness and praise. Advent and Christmas are very busy for most of us, but I hope that in the frantic rush of activity we find time for reflection and we will not overlook neighbours and church members who feel sad, isolated or lonely.

I received a leaflet from the Methodist Fund For Human Need, who help people who have no income by giving a small emergency grant. They are looking to have a contact person in every circuit. Please let me know if you feel called to do this.

In recent years I have overseen *Socks and Chocs* collections for rough sleepers. These were started by a former police officer in Birmingham who came to know several rough sleepers on his beat and started to put dry socks and a bar of chocolate in his pocket to help those met. His story has inspired many people. We all have our own ways of responding to the need which seems to be proliferating around us, and many of us will express Christian compassion at Christmas.

A matter of Circuit business relates to the role of the Circuit Treasurer. Our thanks and appreciation to Roger Stickland must be expressed. He has continued to act as treasurer despite having moved away. The Circuit Stewards are very focussed on finding a new way forward and so this is an appropriate time to say a very big thank you to Roger. We also must thank George Hammond who had retired from his role as Property Secretary, in which he has given outstanding service. In thanking him sincerely for his work in this regard, we do appeal for someone with relevant knowledge to step forward and help us.

The Methodist Conference has published a new report on ordained ministry and how we might achieve mutual recognition with the Church of England. Please watch out for a notice confirming the date of an exploration session into this report. A simplified "Readers' Guide" is available on the Methodist website.

As Hilary and I look forward to our first Christmas in this appointment, I am sure that we will all seek to use Advent to deepen our anticipation of Christ's appearing, to worship and adore the Christ child and to renew our Covenant with God in the New Year.

I pray God's richest blessing be upon you, those you love and all who are in special need. Hilary & I hope that you have a lovely Christmas!



Keith Beckingham

News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

Time to reflect. Summer held on but is now past. A new church year. A new minister.

The past year has seen some progress in our mission objectives but it's time now to review this progress and consider new ways, particularly in our aim of 'Finding new ways of presenting Jesus Christ to today's society.'

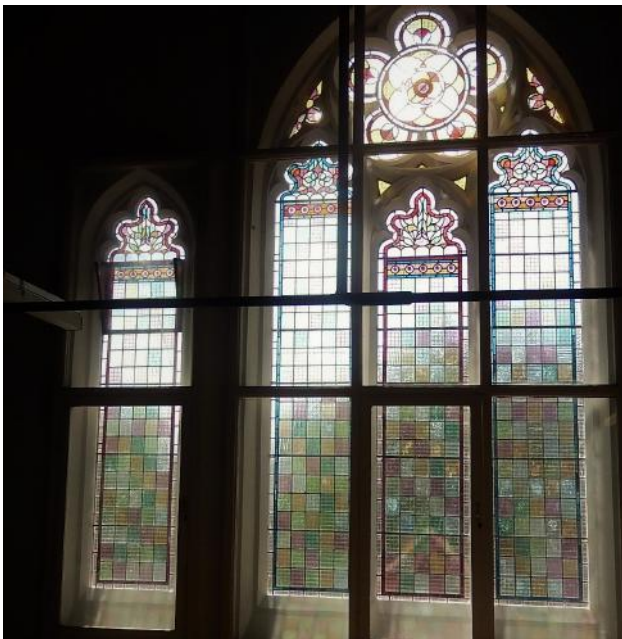
We were pleased to welcome four new members into church membership in the past year. More thought is now being put into our coffee lounge, evening services and our group meetings to improve their effectiveness.

Essential restoration work continues with plans approved for the restoration of our church side windows.

We regret having to cancel our October Café Style service. Unfortunately we were too ambitious in having a Sunday morning service, an afternoon concert and a Café Style evening service on the same day, however the afternoon classical music concert with Fabio Zindaco on the piano was well supported.

Our next Café Style service will be on 13th January 2019 and this year our Carol Service will be on Saturday 15th December at 10.30am.

The photos show our restored front windows, one of our Café Style services and Fabio playing a wide range of classical music at our October concert, all reminders to thank God for His guidance and direction in the past year.



Fred Rowe

Byfleet

Here at Byfleet, come 1st September, we appear to have `hit the ground running`. To begin with our Church was opened for the Heritage Weekend when we had a number of visitors in to admire our Art Deco Church with its beautiful stained glass windows. We were able to provide refreshments, which were very well received.

On the 22nd September we held our Harvest Supper, when around 80 people were entertained by the Country and Western Group, Blazing Saddlers, who were very well received.

Our regular coffee mornings are still very well attended and October's was in aid of `For All We Can`.

Our next `event` will be over the weekend of 1st/2nd December, when the church will be open all weekend. On the Saturday we shall be displaying international Nativity Sets from all over the world, so if you have a Nativity Set that we may borrow for that weekend, please contact Margaret Watts, margaretwatts10@ntlworld.com,

On the 1st December we are hosting a concert by given by Wey Voices and tickets can be obtained from Cynthia Haslam (01932 406060) or Margaret Watts.

We are hoping to hold a Salvation Army Concert shortly, so watch this space!!

Nicola Page

The **Methodist Church**
Rectory Lane, Byfleet KT14 7LL



**BYFLEET METHODIST CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO OUR ADVENT CELEBRATION WEEKEND
1ST and 2ND DECEMBER 2018**

SATURDAY 10am – 4pm	SATURDAY EVENING 7.30pm
	
A WONDERFUL DISPLAY OF NATIVITY SETS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. <i>Refreshments available</i>	CONCERT GIVEN BY WEY VOICES <i>Tickets £7 on the door</i>

SUNDAY
MORNING WORSHIP with HOLY COMMUNION at 10.30 a.m.
AFTERNOON TEA at 3.00pm
followed by
ADVENT SONGS OF PRAISE at 4.30pm
Led by Members of the Methodist and St. Mary's Congregations



**AN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC, READINGS AND MEDITATIONS
WHICH ALLOW US TO STEP INTO THE SHOES OF THOSE WHO WERE
PRESENT AT THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

Enquiries: 01932 342047 or 343489



The **Methodist Church**
Rectory Lane, Byfleet
KT14 7LL

The Church Family
invites
You, Your Family and Your Friends
to join with them at events and services for
Christmas 2018

Sunday 16th December
10.30 a.m. Gift Service
in support of The York Road Project
Christmas Lunch
3.30 p.m. Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 23rd December
10.30 a.m. Morning Worship
Junior Church Nativity Play

Monday 24th December
No Midnight Service

Tuesday 25th December
10.30 a.m. A Family Service for Christmas Day
**Retiring Collection for the
Fund for Human Need**

Details of the services can be found at www.byfleetmethodist.org.uk

Cranleigh

Momentous happenings at our southern end of the Circuit this quarter! Not least, we have welcomed a new minister (and Circuit Superintendent), Rev Keith Beckingham (and his wife Hilary, a most welcome local preacher and keen musician), and we look forward to many years of fruitful association with them both. Certainly Keith has needed a great deal of energy to cope with the two churches of which he is in pastoral charge – not to mention his commitments to a widespread circuit, with its ministerial shortages. Hilary has already helped the choir and has promised help with accompaniment when needed, so we already have reason to be grateful to them both!

Our own church's welcome to Keith and Hilary took place on Sunday, September 9th, though many of us attended the Circuit Welcome Service in the evening of September 2nd (preceded by an excellent tea organised by the host church, Walton). Of course, we also welcomed Rev Sydney Samuel Lake at that same service and we offer him our best wishes. Our own service on September 9th was both Keith's first service in our church and the last for all of us for some months, as almost immediately afterwards, preparatory work began on the extensive reconstruction of the back rooms of our building, which we hope will greatly help our outreach to the village, where many new homes are being built.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has helped raise money for our 'project', not least our former minister, Claire, Stella Halloran and all members of the fund-raising committee, all individual donors, charities, Circuit and Connexion, without whom we would not have been able to begin this great undertaking. Our property expert, George Hammond, has been on the spot throughout, especially in these weeks at the beginning of the work, and the builders have managed to keep on schedule, despite inevitable problems which are always encountered when such large-scale works are undertaken. Stella has kept us up-to-date with progress reports!

While the building work is continuing, we of course are worshipping elsewhere! We have been fortunate to book Cranleigh Bandroom for most morning services, and the other churches in the village have been very helpful in offering rooms free of charge for essential meetings and occasional social occasions, such as Saturday coffee mornings. Our successful Harvest Service was held on October 14th in the beautiful new hall in Elmbridge Retirement Village, where we hope to return for our Christmas concert on December 19th. This service was conducted by Keith and the sermon was preached by Hilary. Residents at Elmbridge organised a display of people's gifts of fresh fruit, vegetables and tinned food, which was either taken to the Food Bank or to Rowley's Social Centre for distribution to people in need. A collection was taken for the Indonesian Disaster Appeal launched by Methodist charity, All We Can.

On the evening before the Harvest Service, we enjoyed a Supper in the Bandroom, organised by Hilary Strawson. The menu was 'ploughman's' plus dessert, and afterwards we enjoyed entertainment by Keith and Hilary – a solo by Hilary, then answers from both to questions we put to them about their lives and interests – which they readily answered!! (brave thing to do!) We look forward to further participation from them both in future entertainments.

On Saturday February 16th we are having a quiz with supper in St Nicolas Parish Room. 7.30 pm. Tickets £10. Proceeds to Christian Aid.

Glenda Sewell

Godalming Band and Godalming Youth Band
present an evening of festive music and cheer at a joint

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER, 7PM
at Godalming United Church, Bridge Street


Tickets: £6 for adults, £3 for under 16s
Available from Record Corner, Godalming, or the band on 01483 355129

Registered charity no. 1025290. www.godalmingband.org.uk

CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

10-2pm
Saturday 24th November



Addlestone
Methodist Church 
Station Rd.

Gifts tombola
 cakes
refreshments



Jewellery

You are invited to a

MORNING COFFEE

in aid of **Action for Children**



on **Thursday 13th November**
10.30am to 12.30pm

at Merrow Methodist Church



Coffee and home-made cakes
Christmas cards and Diaries for sale

Bring your family and friends



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

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

*Seasonal crafts & games for all the
family, based on the Nativity story.*

Party Tea

SATURDAY DEC 1st 3-5 pm

Admission free

Babies' play area

*Donation of £2 per
child welcome*



Alternative Worship

All are welcome to our alternative evening services (in addition to the planned evening communion and carol services) taking place:

Date	Church	Service
9 December	Knaphill	Café Church led by Dave Faulkner
13 January	Addlestone	Café Style Service led by Sydney Samuel Lake
27 January	Weybridge	Café Style Service led by Sydney Samuel Lake
10 February	Merrow	ATS led by Allan Taylor
10 February	Walton	Pudding and Praise led by Sydney Samuel Lake

Introducing Julia and Sam Monaghan

Rev Julia Monaghan joined the Wey Valley Circuit as a supernumerary in the summer.

She writes, "I am Julia, I'm 57 and have been a Methodist Minister for 12 years, having been stationed in Birmingham and more recently in Leigh on Sea. Before this I worked for 25 years as a social worker in mental health and child protection. I am married to Sam; mother to Beth and Andrew; and grandma to baby Leon, born in May. I love reading, walking, gardening and finding God in an art gallery. I fund raise for cancer charities having suffered from 2 different cancers. I continue to live with the disease, but through prayer and the expertise of the NHS, I'm still making a noise about those things that are important to me, believing God still has work for me to do. Amen."

Sam writes, "I'm Sam, likewise 57. In terms of church life, I've been involved as a worship leader and enjoyed working with children and young people over many years, including Boys Brigade for the past 11 years. In work, I've recently joined Methodist Homes (MHA) as their CEO and am very much enjoying the challenges of the new role, part of which is seeking to strengthen the charity's links with the church. Outside work and church, I enjoy cycling, the gym and the theatre."



Julia & Sam Monaghan

Godalming United Church

Over the quiet summer period our hall floor underwent major renovation. The Edwardian wood blocks which had succumbed to flood damage were replaced by an underfloor gypsum-based screed board topped with a vinyl surface similar to the other church rooms. This was a major project completed against tight deadlines, and is so much easier to clean! Thanks go to John Drake and his team.

A new venture in the school summer holiday was our participation in Godalming's annual Staycation – a nine-day event in which organisations around the town provide all-age activities for those **STAY**ing at home for va**CATION**. We did our bit with a Messy Church special on the theme of "loaves and fishes" concluding with a party lunch. Forty children (plus parents and carers) turned up, and the church (the hall was out of use) buzzed with Bible-based family fun.

Two more relatively recent initiatives that are proving popular are the monthly fellowship lunches at the Jack Phillips pub on the High Street (01483 423261) and "Qui" a monthly Friday afternoon discussion group (01483 820209).

In August the musical Rowling family (our equivalent of the von Trapps, and all keen members of Godalming Band) accompanied the National Methodist Youth Band (motto Fun, Faith and Fellowship) on their tour of the mills and moors of north-west England.

Harvest was marked by a rousing thanksgiving on October 14th – with the church splendidly decked out and a packed congregation, including over 30 youngsters from our associated uniformed organisations – not forgetting the sumptuous bring-and-share lunch that followed. The many generous gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs have been distributed by the Guildford Salvation Army.

At the end of October another container of supplies – mainly for schools – departed for The Gambia. One heartening annual contribution comes from St Hilary's School, where the Upper School children bring gifts of school stationery as their offerings to the school Harvest Festival.

On Sunday November 11th – the centenary of the 1918 armistice – we held no morning service at the United Church as we joined the town observances at the War Memorial and nearby Parish Church and stewarded the occasion.

Nights are drawing in, and preparations are already in hand for our winter pantomime – Pinocchio. Again it has been specially written by local lad Josh Dixon, with parts accommodating our various groups, ranging in age from 5 to "mature", making up a cast of approximately 50. Plenty of scope for everyone when the toys come to life!

Looking ahead you are invited to join us for:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Sat Dec 1 | 3-5pm Messy Church – fun for all the family – "Christmas is coming" |
| Sun Dec 2 | 10.30am Advent Sunday Parade and Family Service; donation of toys, gifts – including the Ladies' Fellowship shoeboxes of goodies - for the less fortunate in our community (distributed by The Cellar Café) |
| Sat Dec 15 | 7pm Godalming Band Christmas Concert |
| Sun Dec 16 | 6pm Carol Service with Christingles |
| Mon Dec 24 | 4-4:45pm Christmas Eve Communion |
| Tues Dec 25 | 10am Christmas Morning Worship; children are invited to bring along a present to show |
| Sun Jan 6 | 10:30am Covenant Service |
| Sun Jan 20 | 10:30am Godalming Churches Together annual ecumenical service, which we are hosting |
| Feb 9-10 | Pinocchio pantomime – 4 performances (01483 421433) |

Nancy Wilks



Everyone has got a phone. Right?

Whether it's a mobile or a landline phones are essential for keeping in touch, yet to some they can be a source of anxiety and unexpected expense!.

If you are of an age where you can remember pushing button A or B like me, you know what I'm talking about. In the "good old days" If you knew the number you just dialled it. If you didn't you rang 100 and the nice operator gave you the number. Later you could use 192 for directory enquiries but sadly 192 is no longer available except on line, so what do you do? I know! What about those two nice helpful sporty guys on the telly in that quirky advert who jump out of your screen shouting 6 numbers at you? You know the ones. It couldn't be easier and it's not expensive is it? Or is it? Let's have a look at some options.

Number	Charge
118 118	£3.49 per call <u>plus</u> £3.49 per minute (minimum 1 minute call)
118 811	£1.00 per call flat rate
118 500	£2.75 per call <u>plus</u> £2.75 per minute (again minimum 1 minute call)
118 707	75p flat fee
118 226	£1.50 per call

Well I'm not stopping you using any of the above numbers; the choice is yours however if you want to save some money.....

0118 3733 **FREE CALL** - all you have to do is listen to few recorded adverts which don't take long,

And while we are at it, suppose you need to answer an advert or contact a company who have quoted their number on-line, in newspaper/magazine or maybe as their customer service number? How much is it going to cost me if I'm left hanging on the line for ages?

Press 1 for deliveries, press 2 for accounts, press 3 if you had cornflakes for breakfast!

Well take a look at these prices per minute. These prices were correct at time of enquiry and may have changed

Numbers beginning with:-

0843		
0844	Business rate numbers	Up to 7p and your phone company's access
0845		charge
0870		
0871	Business rate numbers regulated	Up to 13p and your phone company's
0872	by the Phone-paid Services	access charge
0873	Authority	
09	Premium rate numbers regulated	Up to £3.60 and your phone company's
	by the Phone-paid Services	access charge, plus 5p to £6 per call
	Authority	

All we can say is that the Good Lord has an open line 24/7, he always listens and it's totally free for life!

Ron and Rowena Willcox St. Michael's, Sheerwater

Guildford St Mary's

Watching and Waiting

Many readers will be of an age when the norm on ordering something was to “allow 28 days for delivery”. And it often took all of 28 days before something arrived.

How things have changed, as we are bombarded with adverts “order by midnight for delivery to store next day” or we pay an Amazon Prime subscription and expect a delivery to our home the next day. Patience is not the strong suit of 21st century people whether it be in delivery of goods, communications, making payments or even lining up a date.

Some things cannot be rushed and need to mature properly otherwise they lack quality (think cheese). Likewise, there's still something to be said, instead of ‘one coat’ paint for a traditional decorator going through the thorough process to make sure we get the best quality finish.

Advent still has 28 days of waiting and preparation and offers a helpful discipline to prepare us for Christ's coming. ‘Waiting’ is the theme speakers will be following in this year's series of Advent Reflections on Thursday lunchtimes, culminating in a lunchtime Carol Service on Thursday 20 December. Do join us for these reflections and discussion over bread and soup lunch – more details in our advertisement in this issue.

Of course, waiting does not always end in the result we have hoped for; during the summer we had the pleasure of entertaining some 30 US visitors for supper at St Mary's. They enjoyed supper with us, but much food was left over. Seven young Polish visitors to Guildford dropped in to look around as they saw the church lights on and were delighted to be offered an evening meal. We were debating how best to get the remaining food to homeless hostels for use that evening when a young woman who we'd previously seen at Night Vision dropped in and was overwhelmed to receive an evening meal. She spread the word about food being available and we were spared the problem of needing to distribute the leftovers! I recounted this tale and when we came to our Harvest Supper in October and had a little food left over one of our churchwardens was waiting expectantly, in the hope of a repeat of our feeding of the (not quite) 5,000 - unfortunately on that occasion she waited in vain.

Our Night Vision outreach initiative continues to be exciting and attracts people in from the streets of Guildford:

on 30 November we are planning an evening of live music with some great musicians booked in - why not join us for a while between 20.00 and 23.30?

If you're doing your Christmas late night shopping in Guildford on Thursday 20 December we will be having earlier evening opening for a special Night Vision from 18.30 to 21.00, offering seasonal refreshments and a chance to put your feet up. You could of course come to the lunchtime Carol Service, do your shopping then recharge your batteries at St Mary's before heading home!

At St Mary's we have continued to wait patiently for our property improvements to be implemented and hopefully we will be making a start in the coming weeks but we aim to keep all regular activities running throughout the works.

Watch and wait – and do some of it with us at St Mary's, just off Guildford High Street

Nigel Champion-Smith

Knaphill

As you can see from the list of dates below, we have a number of events and special services happening in our church over the next few months, notably our Christmas Bazaar on 24th November and the Christmas Tea on 9th December. We don't hold a monthly coffee morning in Nov or Dec because of the Bazaar and Christmas so thought that we would invite those who support our monthly coffee morning to a tea. The invitation is open to anyone who is lonely and would welcome some company.

24th Nov - Christmas Bazaar - Just a reminder that the bazaar this year will be on 24th November, usual time, 10.00am – 2.00pm

2nd Dec – Toy and Gift Service 10.00am. Salvation Army will be coming to collect the toys for less fortunate children and families.

9th Dec - Christmas Afternoon Tea with Carols from 3:00pm - 5:00pm

16th Dec – Carols by Candlelight. This will be held in the church at 6.30pm

24th Dec - Midnight Communion Service, 11.00pm

5th Jan - Children's Tea Party with Fun and Games from 2.30pm - 4:00pm (children must be accompanied by a responsible adult).

23rd Feb - Mission Supper with Mike Long, former minister at Trinity, and now minister of Notting Hill Methodist Church. He and his congregation have been heavily involved in the aftermath of the terrible Grenfell Tower fire. He is going to talk about the work they have been, and still are, doing, after supper.

Barbara Humphries

Merry Christmas Everyone

Rev Dave Faulkner is a published author!

He has a chapter in a devotional book for Advent and Christmas entitled, 'Merry Christmas, Everyone: A Festive Feast of Poems, Stories and Reflections'.

It will be a one-off print run, and he shall therefore only have one opportunity to order author copies.

The book will cost £8.99 and is available direct from him. Cheques payable to Dave Faulkner. If he sells enough to make a profit on the number he has bought he will make a donation to his favourite Christian charity, Tear Fund.

Please contact him direct or via the Circuit Office - circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk or 07808 046451





CHRISTMAS




Afternoon Tea

Sunday 9th December
3pm - 5pm
 at
 Knaphill Methodist Church



*If you would like to attend please
 contact Helen Brice 07443 582987*



A joyful start to Christmas

Carol Praise




Saturday Dec 8th
7.00pm - 9.00pm
Horsley Methodist Church
 (next to W. Horsley Village Hall)
**Come and sing your favourite
 carols with a break for
 refreshments and mince pies**

Phone requests to 01483 282474



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

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

**Thursday 24 January
 &
 Thursday 28 February
 2019**

10.30 am - 12 noon



Everyone welcome



Knaphill Methodist Church's

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
10AM TO 2PM
MANY STALLS
REFRESHMENTS
RAFFLE
FREE
ADMISSION






Christmas aid appeal

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.'
Matthew 5:9

Be a peacemaker this Christmas

Join us for an evening of carols and fellowship

**St. Mary's Church, Quarry Street
Guildford, GU1 3UA**

and meet Zeina, a psychologist, working to support child refugees in Lebanon

Tuesday 4 December 2018 at 7.30 pm

Light refreshments served from 7.00 pm



christian aid

Christian Aid is a registered charity in the UK, company no. 537525. Christian Aid is a member of the Christian Aid Network, a global network of Christian Aid organisations. Christian Aid is a member of the Christian Aid Network, a global network of Christian Aid organisations. Christian Aid is a member of the Christian Aid Network, a global network of Christian Aid organisations.


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AN ADVENT CAROL SERVICE



Merrow Methodist Church
Sunday 2nd December 2018 at 6.30 pm
Conducted by: Rev Barrie Tabraham

Tea & Coffee served afterwards




Walton Methodist Church

Sat 24 December: Christingle and what did Joseph think? 3 - 5pm

Sat 26 January: Joseph and trusting God in bad times 3 - 5pm

Sat 23 February: Moses and God's rescue 3 - 5pm



These meetings will take place in the Hall, Emmaus and Wesley rooms.

All families are welcome.

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

Do book the dates and come and join in.

If you can help in any way or want to know more do contact:
Jeannette 07773 639817, jeannettecurtis@gmail.com

NIGHT VISION

'looking at life through a different lens'

St Mary's
Guildford GU1 3TY

drop in on

- ❖ **Friday 30 November**
between 20.00 and 23.30
featuring live music
- ❖ **Thursday 20 December**
between 18.00 and 21.00
a festive welcome
during late night shopping in Guildford
- ❖ **Friday 26 January**
between 20.00 and 23.30



**Common Ground
Night Vision**
2017 • TOGETHER • 66

Knaphill—Clothing Bank

On the 20th October we celebrated our 1 Year Anniversary of Knaphill Methodist Church Clothing Bank and we would like to say a huge thank you to all those people who volunteer every month or just when they can. The Clothing Banks started up as we wanted to be more active with our 'Outreach Projects' within the community and it has now become the largest project the church has ever taken on.

We started out by collecting clothing and bed linen but soon realised we didn't have enough space for the bed linen too and carted that off to the local homeless shelter, who were very grateful to have received it.

We then contacted a few SureStart Centres asking them to put up posters and tell those less fortunate about our service. It was a very slow start, we had 1 family the first time we opened, no one the 2nd month but we then contacted around 25 venues in the area who were all willing to put up our posters, give out flyers and support us. Now we regularly see 5 -7 families each month from very different backgrounds.

Luckily we are still receiving donations from people on a regular basis and never say no to more. Please contact us at clothing@knaphill-Methodist-church.com if you have any items for us. We'll be very pleased to receive them.

Someone goes to the church in the morning to go through the clothing to make sure it's suitable, pulls out the clothing rails, children's are in one room and adult's in another and the volunteers come along around 1.30pm. Guests come along 2pm - 4pm and the volunteers help them while they are sorting through the new clothes. There is a wonderful atmosphere of chatting and laughing.

We offer tea, coffee, cake and pastoral care. Children can play games and decorate cakes or just do some drawing with us, while mum and dad look through rails and boxes of clothing.

We often have the same families come back each month and they in turn bring their friends along and clothing their children have outgrown is brought back to us. We have a dad, who has just regained responsibility for his daughter. She has challenges in life and going to a High Street shop can prove difficult. She is happy with us, she can pop in and out of changing area to her heart's content and always finds something to go home in. We have seen a number of new parents who have really been excited to go home with bags of clothing for their little ones.

We have a Syrian family, mum, dad and son, who fled to Lebanon, then onto Egypt and eventually are living with us in Knaphill. They are grandparents too who have had to leave most of their siblings in Egypt and only communicate on their phone. As well as helping them with clothing we have helped them get passports and are speaking to members of the Methodist Church to see if they can help other members come to the UK and be safe. In return they invite us to their home for fantastic festive meals as a thank you. We are now their new family. What more could we ask for?

We get requests for clothing too and have sent 5 black sacks of teenage clothes to the Syrian refugees in Guildford, 3 black sacks of baby clothes went off to The Gambia and we're always putting items to one side for The Whitechapel Mission too.

Jane Ing and Helen Brice

Merrow

As the clocks go back it is the time to reflect on a very fruitful Summer and look forward with anticipation to the Christmas season.

Our Holiday at Home initiative in August, with a seaside theme, originated from our Appreciating Church discussions. This was an event for the "young at heart" held at one of the quietest times of the year. Twenty guests attended on each of the two days and we were pleased that we managed to attract a mix of people - from the Church, the lunch club and people from the local community that we had not met before. The guests were very appreciative and almost all the volunteers, 30 in total including the community wardens, were very enthusiastic. A number of guests and volunteers have already expressed their keenness to take part again and we are now in the early stages of planning next year's event.

Another new initiative has been our Soup and Bread lunches which have taken place on the fourth Sunday of the month this Autumn. They have been designed to be as simple and informal as possible - a bowl of soup, a chunk of bread and some company, and we have again attracted a mixture of people from the church and the community including some who had come to Holiday at Home.

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service in September was in support of one of the charities we support at Merrow, Embrace the Middle East. Celebrating Harvest is one of the high points in the church year and as they gave thanks to God for the food they eat and for everyone who grows and produces it, the congregation were asked to keep remembering to pray for refugees across the Middle East, many who are struggling to provide food for their hungry families because of ongoing conflict and poverty. After the service, led by Asif, forty people sat down to a "taste of the Middle East" feast. Almost all the ingredients were familiar to anyone who enjoys cooking but, on this occasion, they were combined in ways which brought new and exciting tastes to some of the more usual food we eat. We enjoyed tasting a chicken tagine, a vegetable dish with potatoes and squash infused with herbs and lime, a salad combining tomato, cucumber, radish and red onion, with mild spicy chick peas for the adventurous, and chicken drumsticks, all accompanied by rice and Middle Eastern flat breads. To follow, again made following Middle Eastern recipes was a wonderful orange and almond cake, a pavlova and a variety of Middle Eastern sweets and fresh fruits.

We have now held three of our planned "Big Question" Sunday Morning Cafe Style Worship Services. Although this is not a style favored by everyone, it has been welcomed by most of the congregation and the relaxed layout of the Church has enabled easy, friendly discussion and much food for thought as well as light refreshments to sustain us through the services. Our service on Sunday 28th October coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the first service in our "new Church building" which took place on October 26th 1968 and the congregation were treated to a special celebration cake. Previous to 1968 worship had been held in the Church Hall.

Our fourth Big Question Service will take place on Sunday November 25th at 10.30am when Barrie Tabraham will address questions around "Heaven and Hell".

We have been helped in our ability to trial new alternative forms of worship by the arrival of fifty new lighter chairs which are so much easier to move around and give us much greater flexibility.

Looking forward to Christmas we are very pleased to again being hosts to our local Junior School for their Christmas Carol Services.

We are also taking part in a Carols on the Green celebration outside our local community centre on Saturday December 15th and on the next day will be holding our own Carol Service at 4.30 at which everyone will be obviously welcome to join us. We are of course also looking forward to seeing everyone at Merrow on the morning of Sunday December 30th when we are hosting the Circuit Service which will be led by Keith. There might even be some mince pies left over from all our Christmas celebrations.....

Hugh Bradley

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR
CHRISTIAN UNITY
18-25 January 2019**

'Together in Christ' United Service
at
Merrow Methodist Church
Sunday 20 January 2019
at 6.30 pm



**"Justice and only justice
you shall pursue"**
(Deut. 16 vs. 18-20)

**Practical Aspects of
Spirituality**



St. Mary's
Quarry Street
Guildford
09.30 – 12.30
on
Saturday
8 December

Peter Wilkinson
on
Literature as a Source of Spirituality

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



**Words
Music
Stillness**

A time for reflection

St. Mary's Church
Quarry St, Guildford

12.00 – 13.00 on Mondays

3 December 2018, 7 January,
4 February 2019

Coffee will be served from 11.45

Further details from: anna_jeffery@btinternet.com



**Delicious puddings and
great Praise**

**If you like a good
pudding come and
taste some**

**Want to be uplifted by
great praise songs**

**FEBRUARY
10TH 6.00 PM
PUDDING AND
PRAISE**

The theme for this month will be
planned by

Rev. Sydney Samuel Lake

Come and have some delicious
puddings at 6.00 pm and then settle
down to some great praise at 6.30 pm

**WALTON METHODIST
CHURCH**
Terrace Road
KT12 2SR
Telephone
01932 429184

<http://www.waltonmethodist.com>
Sunday February 10th 2019

Circuit Organ Workshop

A dozen of us from around the Circuit gathered around the organ console at Stoughton Methodist Church on the sunny afternoon of 20th October. The workshop was led by Gillian Lloyd, Director of Music at Guildford URC. Gillian is a very experienced organ teacher and a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, so she certainly knows what she is talking about. She brings a very encouraging approach to all those of us who are getting-by playing for services and giving confidence to those who would be prepared to. The age range of the participants spanned seventy years and a great range of experience.



The first part of the session was about accompanying hymns. Many of the participants were keen to know more about how to choose the best registration for different circumstances. One lady commented that this was the first time she had heard anyone explain it in English! People felt they had a much better understanding of these things.

We went on to choosing voluntaries that would be effective and achievable. Gillian had brought along a number of books as examples of suitable pieces. Participants were invited to play pieces they had brought along, and Gillian coached them on the choice of registration and on the playing style.

Finally we turned to the last area that people had said they would like to cover: how best to play modern hymns and worship songs on an organ. Many of the group had found this challenging. Gillian



started off by explaining that we did not need to feel bound by what was printed; the music itself is the important thing and there is no need to use an accompaniment that was written with other instruments in mind. There are many songs that are drawn from different cultures, and these need to be played with a sensitivity to that. We experimented mixing percussion with organ and found it very effective.

All in all we found the afternoon very helpful; people were feeling more confident and inspired to try new things.

Phil Beastall

Circuit Mission Day - 6th October 2018

We have two reports about the Circuit Mission Day.

Adrian Roux led a stimulating, challenging, and encouraging Circuit Mission Day for us on the theme 'Build Your Church'. He was careful to show us that there is no such thing as a 'church building' in the Bible. The nearest was the Jerusalem Temple, but even that was a second-best to the portable Ark of the Covenant, which demonstrated God's presence wherever his people were, and not just in one special, fixed place.

He argued that when the Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire, he gave the church buildings in order to keep it quiet and neutralise its radical edge.



John Nelson, David Lander and Joyce Nelson

Thus, buildings are not holy in themselves. We can only refer to 'holy places' because holy things happen there, not because the locations or premises themselves have some inherent holiness.

He backed up his case from Methodist history and teaching as well. Given this, he set us several group exercises in which we sketched out our possible future mission, remembering that our buildings are servants of God's mission, and we must never allow them to become our masters.

Now all we have to do is remember this important principle and put it into practice!

Dave Faulkner

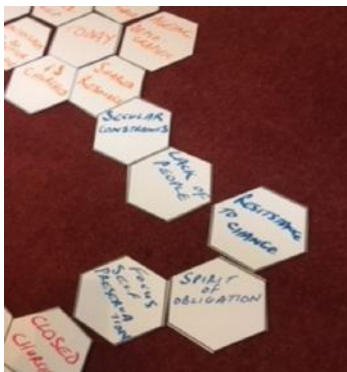
Members of the circuit met together on a wet miserable day at Byfleet Methodist Church. The weather outside was not inspiring but the atmosphere inside was warm, friendly and full of anticipation.

Rev Adrian Roux led a day which challenged us to think about many things pertaining to the modern church including:

- how we use our church buildings?
- is the church the building or the people in it?
- do we use our church buildings in a Godly, missional way?
- are we making good use of Appreciative Enquiry or similar tools?

The building should support, complement and help the churches Mission and outreach, it should not be the millstone which prevents

these things from happening; the focus should be outside of the building.

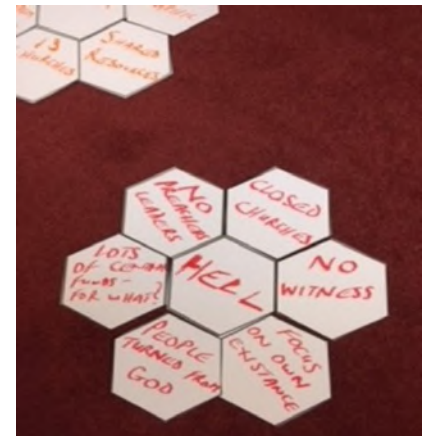


We did a group exercise where we looked at 1) what the church looks like today, 2) what 'heaven' would look like for the churches, 3) what 'hell' would look like and 4) what is the road between them. This exercise was extremely though provoking and challenging.

This was another great event which benefitted all who attended.

Thanks go to Byfleet Methodist Church for their generous hospitality.

Mission Group Team



The Big Read Continues

On 1st September 2018 the Wey Valley Circuit celebrated its second anniversary. This year Linda Weedon is suggesting that we celebrate our second, third and fourth anniversaries by reading the entire Bible from cover to cover, one chapter a day.



So commencing on 1st September 2018 this will keep us all busy until 2nd December 2021. How are you getting on? It's not too late to catch up and 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.

Contact Linda linda_weedon@hotmail.com or the Circuit Office if you would like a copy of the spreadsheet sent to you.

Remembrance Concert on behalf of ssafa

The Epworth Choir which was founded 60 years ago at Trinity Methodist Church, Woking by the late Walter Deakin (a Trinity member) will be performing Mozart's Requiem and other pieces at Guildford Cathedral on Saturday 24th November at 7pm.

The choir will be sharing the platform with Islington Choral Society, the Philharmonia Orchestra and special guest, the violinist Chloe Hanslip.

All profits will go to ssafa (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association).

Tickets are available from the Epworth Choir Box Office on 01483 768136 or on line at <https://epworthchoir.org/category/concerts/future-concerts/>

Barbara Phillips

Epworth Choir
Islington Choral Society
Philharmonia Orchestra
Chloë Hanslip *violin*
Michael Waldron *conductor*

**Mozart
REQUIEM**

Saturday 24th November 2018
Guildford Cathedral, 7pm

Kim-Lillian Strebel *soprano*
Anna Harvey *mezzo-soprano*
Nick Pritchard *tenor*
Matthew Durkan *bass*

Tickets £25, £20, £5
Available from epworthchoir.org
01483 768136

ssafa the Armed Forces charity
Lifetime support for our Forces and their families

Wey Valley Circuit Mission Supper and Talk

Saturday 23 February 2019 6pm for 6.30pm

Trinity Methodist Church, Woking



Photograph: Antonio Olmos for the Observer

We are delighted that Rev Mike Long will be the speaker at this event. Mike is the former superintendent minister of the Woking and Walton Circuit and is currently minister of Notting Hill Methodist Church.

Having only been in his new post at Notting Hill for a few weeks, Mike received a call from a church member shortly after 4.30am on 14th June 2017, to tell him that Grenfell Tower was on fire.

He quickly went to the scene to help and Notting Hill Methodist Church rapidly became the hub of the community response.

'Over the next few days, his impromptu team battled to keep on top of the situation, developing disaster-response systems on the fly and working punishing hours amid the dust, heat and confusion – Long was getting two hours' sleep a night'. The Guardian 10.6.18

From the horror of the night itself, through the frustrations and challenges of the immediate aftermath, Mike will be able to bring us up to date with how the residents of Grenfell are doing now and what further help is needed.

Tickets are available through your Church representative.

£7 a ticket. Please book your ticket as soon as possible to help plan for the catering.

Action for Children

The new CEO of Action for Children is called Julie Bentley and she joined AFC at the beginning of August. Julie was the former CEO at Girl Guiding where she led the organisation from November 2012 and championed the voices of young women and girls. With a not-for-profit career spanning over 20 years, Julie has also held CEO roles at the Family Planning Association and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

Julie commented "I am delighted to be joining Action for Children and being part of one of the biggest UK charities that supports children, young people and families. The work that you all do is crucial and it is a privilege to be chosen for the role. I am very much looking forward to joining in August and to working alongside all of you to take the charity forward"

Suzanne Burnham
Circuit AFC representative

Circuit Prayer Vigil

The Circuit Mission Group invites all churches and church members to take part in a 24 hour Prayer Vigil which will take place over the weekend of 24 - 25 November 2018 commencing at 8.00am on Saturday 24 November and finishing at 8.00am on Sunday 25 November. It is hoped that all those preaching in circuit churches on Sunday 25 November will include a conclusion to this act of worship as part of their services.

This an event in which all may partake because it can be done from the comfort of your own home if you so wish. Each circuit church will be allocated some hours across the 24 hour period and they can decide how best to ensure that prayer takes place during that period. There is no prescriptive format or content although it is hoped that during each hour prayers will be said for our churches, circuit and the changes happening across our area of the district. It should not interrupt the busy Christmas activities of Fayres, Christmas shopping etc as this act of worship can fit around other activities.

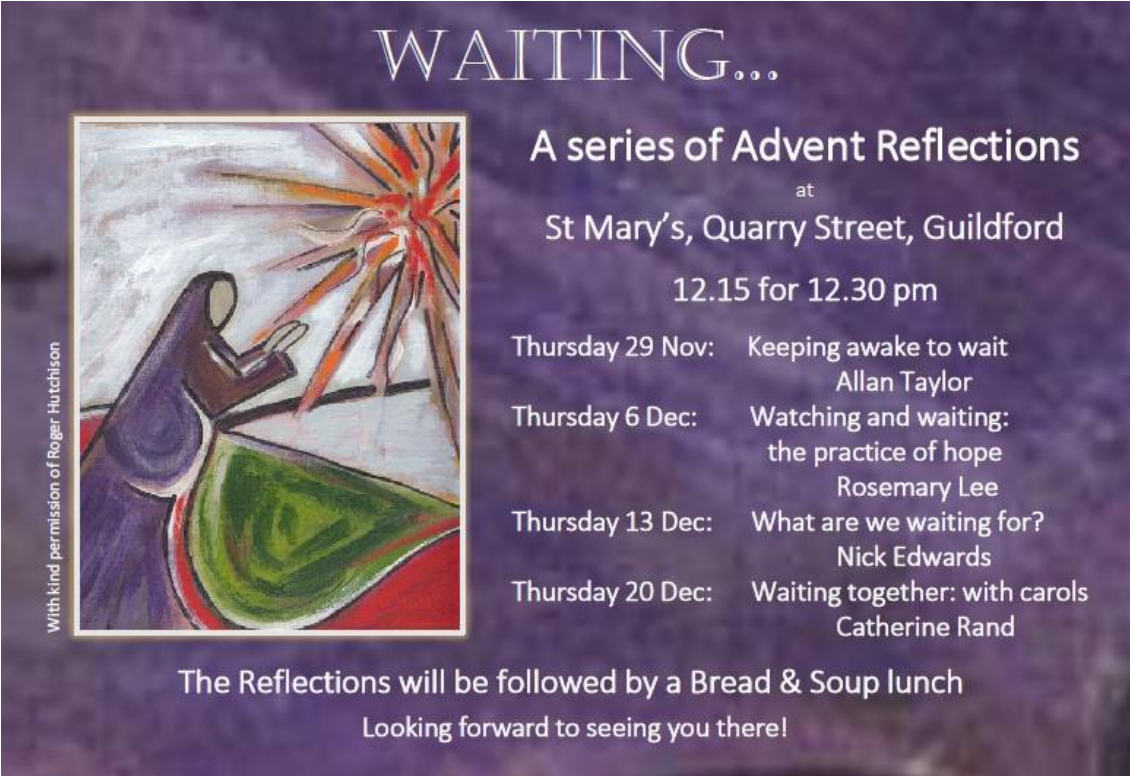
Those praying can get together to pray, either at their home church, someone's house, a coffee shop or even out doors at a local beauty spot (weather permitting).

We do hope that you will all feel able to participate and sign up to this initiative: after all you can never have too much prayer! Your church Mission Group representative will have more details closer to the time plus the sign-up sheet for your allotted time slots. As in previous years an "Aide Memoire' will be circulated for those who wish to refer to it.

Church reps for the Mission Group:

Byfleet – Liz Swift, Cranleigh – Glenda Sewell, Godalming – Janet Shaw,
Guildford St Mary's – Nigel Campion-Smith, Knaphill – Lynda Shore, Mellow – Joan Tabraham,
Sheerwater – Carole Steele, Walton – Jeannette Curtis, West Horsley – Celia Chapman,
Weybridge – Linda Weedon, Woking – John Nelson

Circuit Mission Group



WAITING...

A series of Advent Reflections
at
St Mary's, Quarry Street, Guildford
12.15 for 12.30 pm

Thursday 29 Nov: Keeping awake to wait
Allan Taylor

Thursday 6 Dec: Watching and waiting:
the practice of hope
Rosemary Lee

Thursday 13 Dec: What are we waiting for?
Nick Edwards

Thursday 20 Dec: Waiting together: with carols
Catherine Rand

The Reflections will be followed by a Bread & Soup lunch
Looking forward to seeing you there!

With kind permission of Roger Hutchison

CIRCUIT PRAYER VIGIL
24/25 NOVEMBER 2018



**ALL ARE ABLE TO PRAY
WHEREVER IS CONVENIENT.**



Tales of a Travelling Preacher

In the first of a series Graham Warr looks back on his life

I was brought up in a Christian home and dedicated to God at the Salvation Army in Bromley, Kent. In the summer of 1956 we moved out of Bromley and went to live in a large manse attached to a small Congregational Chapel in Dorset, near Fordingbridge, on the edge of the New Forest.

My Dad was unwell suffering from the results of a V2 Flying Bomb exploding nearby and the doctor recommended we move away from stressful London. The chapel no longer had a Minister and the manse was part of an offer for a large family to live there rent free and to act as caretakers to the chapel. So, we all; Mum, Dad, Jenny, Geoff, Mike, Paul, baby Sue and I packed up and moved. Only big brother Ken didn't come as he had just joined the RAF. It was idyllic for a young family from smog ridden London – clean fresh air, wide open spaces and to be part of a farming community.

Mum and Dad were happy, and we enjoyed life to the full. Sundays could be a bit tedious, for a child, as we had morning and afternoon Sunday School plus morning and evening services. We made up a large part of the Sunday School and were often the only children at the evening service. It gave me a great introduction to the Bible and on a Sunday evening we used Sankey's Sacred Songs and Solos – they were some wonderful hymns.

As time passed the afternoon Sunday School was dropped and one Sunday afternoon when I was about nine or ten my younger brother and I put on a 'service' for Mum and Dad. I clearly remember my first sermon, as I preached it then. I randomly took a text, that I have since discovered was Colossians 2:2, about being knit together in love and my punchline was 'but not with knitting needles'. My parents collapsed into laughter and I suppose that could mean it was a happy ending.

When I was thirteen I joined the local Methodist Church Youth Club and loved it. We were encouraged to take part in the District Youth Festival in Salisbury. Many of us, me included, took part in the table tennis tournament. Sadly, I got knocked out in the second round. I also sang in the tenor solo competition, the mixed voice folk song competition and the public speaking competition. I was the only entry in the tenor solo and gained enough marks to be credited as first. Two of us took part in the folk song and I came second; the other lad was good though and deserved to win. I took as my subject for the public speaking – railways – as it was, and still is, my hobby. Incredibly I won with extremely high marks and some very complimentary comments.

A couple of weeks later the Youth Club Leader, who was a Local Preacher asked me if I would like to accompany him and help with some services, announcing hymns and reading the Bible. I declined as it didn't appeal to me, and I took the 'Wild Horses' approach. I remember Dennis with fond memories and thank him for planting the seed.

Life changed dramatically when Dr Beeching closed the railway line I used to travel to technical college in Salisbury and where Dad worked as a signaller. Fortunately, he got a transfer and promotion to Brockenhurst and those of us who were still at home moved to Sway. It had a lovely little Methodist Chapel and a new, young, Minister. I settled in and enjoyed it. Mike, Paul and I became members of the Methodist Church. Shortly afterwards Dad was accepted as a tenant in the Station House at Lymington Town station and we moved there.

Lymington Methodist Church was only five minutes' walk away and I quickly became involved in helping to run the Youth Club and becoming an active member of the choir.

To be continued.....

Graham Warr



A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

2nd – 3rd March 2019

**Byfleet Methodist Church's
80th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

Further information in the New Year. Meantime, if you would like to plant a bowl of daffodils in thanksgiving, these will be used to decorate the church. (01932 343489)

Being Church – reflecting on the July Circuit Meeting

The Circuit Meeting in July provided an opportunity for each of our churches to share with others something of their life and their vision for the future. This came out of a desire from the Circuit Leadership Team, once the new Circuit had established itself, to look strategically at our opportunities for mission, and the challenges we face.

The CLT wants to encourage everyone, within the differing contexts of each of our churches, to think more about what it means to be 'church'. A number of different approaches had been taken in preparing the presentations. For some churches reviews had recently been carried out (e.g. using the Appreciating Church principles) or were underway; for others this was a new initiative requiring new thinking.

Shortly after the Circuit Meeting the CLT had the opportunity to reflect on what we had all heard. As a result we identified some specific avenues to follow:

We want to encourage our churches to understand local community needs and what resources are needed to meet these.

We need to encourage our churches to equip for, and engage in, faith sharing.

Where churches identify a need for support, we believe there is scope for circuit-wide initiatives to be offered – whether centrally or in sections – such as courses and workshops.

We need to foster the importance, and the nurture, of prayer in our churches and the Circuit as a whole.

The CLT also recognises that there are lessons to be learned from the July Circuit Meeting. Although the format adopted for the presentations was felt to be the only practicable one, it had changed mid-stream and this had caused understandable hurt and frustration. So the CLT acknowledges the need for better communication and closer engagement with our churches going forward.

The CLT is in no doubt that the work of the reviews needs to continue if we are to be effective in our mission and responsible stewards of our individual and collective resources. We need to discern the opportunities we have, and be prepared when challenging decisions are needed to realise them. The CLT will be continuing our consideration of this at forthcoming meetings. Meanwhile we encourage all the churches to continue their process of review through prayer and conversation, and we will welcome updates from the churches as their work progresses.

The Circuit Leadership Team

Save The Date

THY KINGDOM COME

Circuit Service and tea

Sunday 24 March, 3.00pm

Venue tbc



Jean Kerr, an inspirational speaker who works with the Archbishop of Canterbury as a founder member of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' initiative, will be visiting our circuit for an afternoon event on Sunday 24th March 2019.

**ADDESTONE METHODIST
CHURCH**

WELCOME
THIS
Christmas

Christmas Fair, 10am-2pm
Saturday 24th November
Carol Service, 10-30am
Saturday 15th December
Christmas Day Service,
Walton – 10am

West Horsley

A very warm invitation to join us for our Carol Praise event at 7.00pm on Saturday 8th December. This has proved to be a very popular way to start the Advent season leading up to Christmas.

Please join us and if you would like to choose a carol in advance, please let Celia Chapman know on 01483 282464.

We were delighted that Asif could lead our Harvest celebrations in September and also that he and Martha were able to join us for a church lunch afterwards. We raised £127 for All We Can's Harvest Appeal. Asif is gradually meeting everyone by coming to some of our meetings and to our Thursday Coffee Mornings when he can. Why not join us, any Thursday from 10.30am-12.00 noon?

We had a very interesting talk from Paul Hulme at our House Group in September, when he related some thoughts from his sabbatical; particularly about the current appeal of cathedrals to people seeking spirituality.

We have a number of intrepid travellers in our congregation and one of them, Celia Chapman, organised a tea party to share photos of her recent holiday in Uzbekistan – "On the Silk Road".

My optimism last time about the roadworks was misplaced – they lasted well into August, but access has now been fully restored.

Margaret Faulkner

Weybridge

Our new Minister, Rev Sydney Samuel Lake, made his first appearance in the Weybridge pulpit at our Harvest Festival service. This was followed by a lovely hot lunch when congregation members had more time to get to know Sydney Samuel, Hawa, Sydney and Grace.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, the church was able to donate 78.6 kgs of groceries to the local food bank depot after the Harvest service plus donating all the fresh produce to the Old Folks daycentre. The old folk are able to help themselves to fresh produce without buying in the quantities sold by the supermarket – they might take two potatoes or one onion or half a cabbage. A collection tin is left for voluntary donations which are then passed to charity so everyone wins.

The Clothes and Bedding Bank continues to thrive. Over the summer a car full of blankets and sleeping bags was donated to the Whitechapel Mission but new donations arrive at Weybridge on a monthly basis and the stock of items on offer to those in need holds up.

The initiative was originally started by Churches Together in Weybridge but rapidly became the sole responsibility of the Methodist church. CTIW are trying to enthuse more volunteers to come and help. The clothes bank 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 church continues to assist with the Weybridge Old Folks club with two church members on the organising committee and two very regular volunteer helpers. The club is always looking for interesting speakers so if you can help contact weyofc@hotmail.com

The church will once again support the 'Reverse Advent' initiative during December – where we each donate one item of food every day during Advent. These gifts will be taken to the Food Bank in time for their big Christmas distribution.

Our 'virtual' prayer group using the WhatsApp application available to all smart phone users, has grown in numbers. In this way any member can post prayer requests and respond to others at a time suitable to them.

Weybridge continues to host a monthly coffee morning on the 2nd Saturday of the month (10/11, 8/12, 12/01) on the Addlestone Methodist church premises. This allows Weybridge to take advantage of the Addlestone Church prime position on the high street but also assists AMC's aim of having the church open every Saturday without calling on the AMC members every week. We have found that advertising this event on various Facebook sites has been helpful to the attendance figures

We look forward to welcoming Rev Sydney Samuel Lake to Weybridge for a Café Church service on 27 January 2019 to which all are welcome.



Weybridge Stewards

Woking

Refugee Update

I recently attended the Woking Refugee Focus Group held at Woking Borough Council. Woking has pledged to take in 12 refugee families per year for 5 years under the government's Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the council is expecting several new refugee families to arrive in the next few months. They will be placed in homes in the Goldsworth Park and Knaphill areas. Two families have been resettled recently – a young couple and a family of five.

Some of the Syrian families have been in Woking now for three years. They are wondering what their residential status will be at the end of the five year period of Indefinite Leave to Remain Refugee permission granted to them by the government. There are no special measures in place yet for these families and this is a source of anxiety for refugees, as many do not see any future in returning to their devastated homeland of Syria.

Among the many community initiatives for refugees in the Woking area, Knaphill Methodist Church's clothing bank was mentioned as a source of help which is much appreciated.

Reverend Claire Hargreaves

Neighbourhood Parties

For well over 25 years Neighbourhood Parties have been held at Trinity Methodist Church, Woking. The parties are organised by the church for housebound people in the local area. The parties are held twice a year on the first and last Sundays of British Summer Time (BST), such that the guests can get home in daylight. The mayor and mayoress of Woking have been honourable guests on a special occasion.

The formula of the parties has matured over time, although each party has its distinct character because of the different entertainment.

A party typically starts at 4pm and finishes at 6pm. The guests are offered a lift to/from the church by Community Bustler or by private car. The first 45 minutes are taken up by the main entertainment. In the past this has been supplied by the Chinese Dancers and the Cremona Ballet, more recently by the Bisley Ladies Choir, the Sing Gold Community Choir and the Divine Community Singers. Last October the Salvation Army Band made their party debut (see picture). Their contribution was very much appreciated by the guests, who even could enter their special requests. The band played 'Abide with Me', 'Amazing Grace' and 'Ave Verum' amongst other hymns, some secular music, and finished off with 'How great Thou art'.



During the next 45 minutes High Tea is served. Homemade sandwiches and cakes accompanied by a "cuppa" are followed by dessert, jelly and ice cream being one of the favourites. The activity in the final 30 minutes usually requires some participation from the guests: a quiz or a sing-along. This time it was a postcode quiz: given a postcode (e.g. GU), name the postal town (Guildford).

Continued.....

The guests are allowed to take the table flower decorations home as a gift, with any left-overs. They appreciate the parties and are always looking forward to the next one.

The number of guests at the parties has varied between 35 and 65. Each party relies on the help of at least 50 people. These parties bring groups of different people together. People with different gifts: helpers, guests, musicians, bakers, hosts. But also people of different ages: teenage guides, middle-aged drivers, mature guests.

So it is fair to say that these parties involve and inspire everybody.

Henk Innemee

Exciting times

There can be no doubt that over the last 5 years, God has been leading Trinity Methodist Church in a new direction. We have been slow to recognise this but now that we see it, it is so exciting! We are striving to move forward in faith where God leads. This is bringing challenges and hard work, but we know that His grace will see us through, so long as we faithfully keep moving forward in the love of Jesus.

Our vision is that in say 5 years, perhaps 10, we will:

Be providing opportunities for people to worship as and when they can. That means different styles, different languages and different times.

Have created an outward looking and caring church community that confidently shares its faith with those around them, be that in the work place, the local neighbourhood or in the town, striving to help more people come to know Jesus.

Create a 'hub' of Christian support and activity in the local community so that Trinity becomes part of that community, not just situated within it.

Having learned from whatever develops, we will remodel our premises to better support that activity.

To provide a name for this long term project, we have borrowed a name that John Wesley used at the very beginning when his first church was in a disused foundry. This project is known as '**Trinity Foundry Project**'.

We have learned that the success of this will be about us growing in confidence in our own faith so that we as individuals have the courage to intentionally talk about Jesus. Simply letting out our rooms so that the building is even busier will not work. The building has been busy enough for many years but without a true, constant and overwhelming Christian presence, this busyness has not helped to bring people to know Jesus.

So, as a start, we are meeting to worship and pray on every other Sunday afternoon. The music is contemporary, the atmosphere very informal and we are getting used to talking about our faith and praying aloud with one another. It is a great start and anyone would be welcome.

The character of Woking is changing rapidly as high rise apartment blocks are constructed to accommodate the anticipated population growth and whilst we are exploring the local needs that this cultural change will bring, and planning how we might meet them, we are also pledged to continue supporting all that is already going on at Trinity, pastorally, spiritually and yes, commercially.

So it is a very busy time for us, particularly as we do not currently have a minister in the normal sense, but we know that God will not expect us to tackle anything that is beyond our capabilities and He will provide all that we need. We are grateful to the other ministers who are giving support as they are able and we ask everyone in the Circuit to support us prayerfully.

Leadership Team, Trinity

A note to contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of The Wey Forward, in its pdf format, on the Circuit website. The Wey Forward is an important source of information about the life of the Circuit and what is going on in each of the churches across it. We want to share it with others.

However, we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable with a mention on the internet. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so. Please advise at the time of submitting the copy.

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 11 of The Wey Forward
is midnight 20th January 2019**

Submissions to the newsletter are accepted at any time but we can only guarantee a submission **will be considered** for a particular issue if it is received by the corresponding deadline listed below. Pop them in your diaries now.

Issue 12 7th April 2019

Issue 13 7th July 2019

Issue 14 20th October 2019

Issue 15 19th January 2020

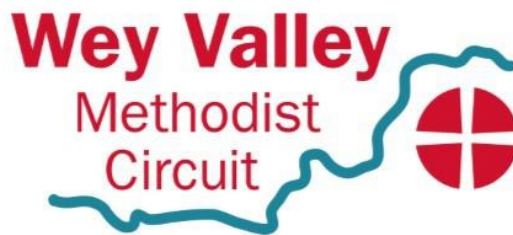
**Please send your items (and photos) to
weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk**

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sue Howson

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
December 2018			
1 December	7.30pm	Wey Voices Concert	Byfleet
1 December	10am - 4pm	Nativity sets from around the world	Byfleet
1 December	3pm - 5pm	Messy Church, 'Christmas is coming'	Godalming
2 December	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service	Merrow
2 December	3pm	Afternoon tea followed by Songs of Praise at 4.30pm	Byfleet
2 December	10.30am	Advent Sunday Parade and Family Service	Godalming
2 December	10am	Toy and gift service with Salvation Army	Knaphill
3 December	12 noon - 1pm	A Time for Reflection	St Mary's, Guildford
6 December	12.15pm for 12.30pm	Watching and waiting; the practice of hope	St Mary's, Guildford
8 December	7pm - 9pm	Carol Praise - carols with refreshments	West Horsley
8 December	10am - 12 noon	Coffee morning hosted by Weybridge Methodist Church	Addlestone
9 December	3pm - 5pm	Christmas afternoon tea with carols	Knaphill
10 December	10.30	Carol service	Addlestone
13 December	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning supporting Action For Children	Merrow
13 December	12.15pm for 12.30pm	What are we waiting for?	St Mary's, Guildford
15 December	4pm	Carols on the Green	Merrow
15 December	7pm	Christmas Concert with the Godalming Band	Godalming
16 December	TBC	Carol Service	Merrow
16 December	10.30am	Gift service with Carols by Candlelight at 3.30pm	Byfleet
16 December	6pm	Carol Service with Christingles	Godalming
16 December	6.30pm	Carol Service led by Sydney Samuel Lake	Walton
19 December	3pm	Christmas Concert at Elmbridge Retirement Village for AFC	(Cranleigh)
20 December	12.15pm for 12.15pm	Waiting together: with carols	St Mary's, Guildford
20 December	6pm - 9pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
21 December	TBC	Longest Night service for those who've lost loved ones	Sheerwater
23 December	10.30am	Junior Church Nativity Play	Byfleet
24 December	4pm - 4.45pm	Christmas Eve Communion	Godalming
24 December	11pm	Midnight Communion service	Knaphill
24 December	6.30pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve Communion Service	Stoughton
25 December	10am	Christmas Morning Worship	Godalming
January 2019			
5 January	2.30pm - 4pm	Children's Tea Party with fun and games	Knaphill
6 January	10.30am	Covenant Service	Godalming
7 January	12pm - 1pm	A Time for Reflection	St Mary's, Guildford
10 January	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning supporting "Essubi"	Merrow
13 January	6.30pm	Café Style service	Addlestone
18-25 January		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Merrow
20 January	10.30am	Godalming Churches Together annual ecumenical service	Godalming
20 January	6.30pm	Together in Christ service for Christian Unity week	Merrow
20 January	midnight	Deadline for copy for Issue 11 of The Wey Forward	
24 January	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
26 January	8pm - 11.30pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
27 January	6.30pm	Café church led by Sydney Samuel Lake	Weybridge
February 2019 (and beyond)			
4 February	12pm -1pm	A Time for Reflection	St Mary's, Guildford
9 - 10 February		Pinocchio pantomime 4 performance (01483 421433)	Godalming
14 February	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning supporting TRAI DCRAFT	Merrow
16 February	7.30pm	Quiz with supper in St Nicolas Parish Room. Tickets £10 for Christian Aid	(Cranleigh)
23 February	6pm for 6.30pm	Circuit Mission Supper with Rev Mike Long	Woking
28 February	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
2 - 3 March		80th Anniversary Celebrations	Byfleet
14 March	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning supporting the Migraine Trust	Merrow
24 March	3pm	Circuit Service—Thy Kingdom Come with Jean Kerr	TBC



Circuit Mission Supper
Saturday 23rd February 2019
6pm for 6.30pm, cost £7



The circuit will welcome Rev Mike Long, former superintendent of the Woking and Walton circuit and current minister at Notting Hill Methodist Church.

Mike will speak to us about his church's involvement in the Grenfell fire disaster and the ongoing work in the local community.

Trinity Methodist Church

11 Brewery Lane, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4LJ