

The Wey Forward

Issue 11, March - May 2019

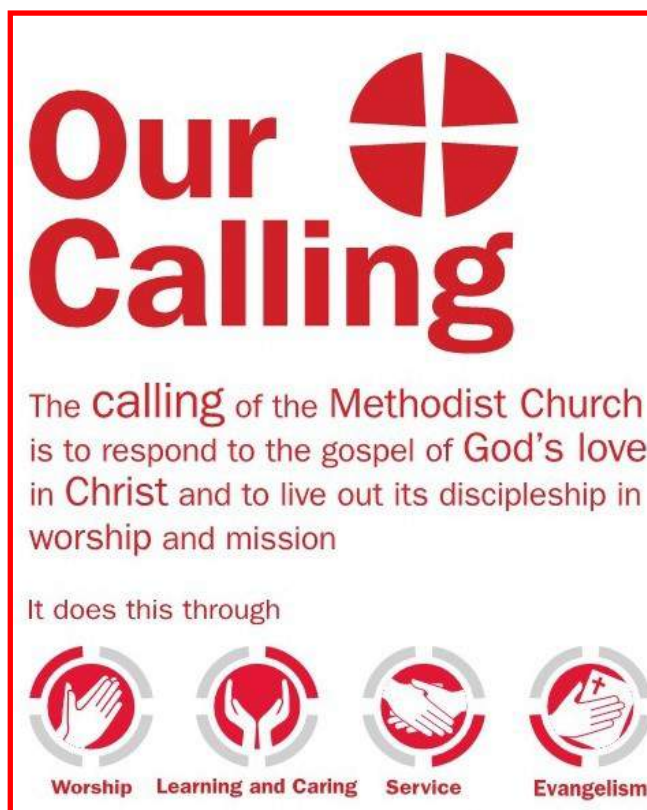


The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

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@veyvalleycircuit.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,

In writing my first Wey Forward pastoral letter of 2019 I am mindful that as a circuit we have much to be thankful for. So, I begin the year by encouraging positive thankfulness in myself and across the circuit. I am very thankful to Roger Stickland for his work as Circuit Treasurer, steering the difficult course of the first full audit of the Wey Valley Circuit. This has been a learning experience for all concerned and not without its difficulties, and we rejoice that we have now posted our accounts on the Charity Commission website and have a draft budget for 2019/20. I am thankful for answered prayers, in that David Paterson has accepted nomination as Circuit Treasurer and has been unanimously elected by the Circuit Meeting, thus allowing Roger to retire from the post.

I am also thankful to God for answered prayer concerning the appointment of a presbyter for Woking for 2019. My thanks extend to the church officers who have worked so hard at Woking during their period without a stipendiary minister, ably supported by Revs Tabraham, Taylor and Faulkner. Thanks are due to the Connexional Matching Committee, District Chair, our circuit stewards and Circuit Invitation Committee for their work over the festive season.

I thank God for the discussions with the URC over stationing arrangements for Godalming UC. I have been involved in a good discussion with URC colleagues, supported by James Strawson and I hope that the proposed amendment to the constitution will be acceptable to the Church Meeting, URC Synod, Methodist District and Churches Together who are the appropriate authorities in the church constitution. Please pray that this will open the way for a prompt appointment of a URC minister in the next connexional year.

We can thank God for the many evidences of missional thinking in the circuit and the new proposals and projects currently taking place in order to develop the Work of God through our local churches. I commend these to you for “prayer with thanksgiving”. As you read the many reports in this edition of The Wey Forward perhaps you might like to count how many reasons to be thankful you can find, and how many topics for prayerful support.

May God richly bless you,

Keith

Rev Keith C. Beckingham

Superintendent Minister



News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

Once again our Charity Christmas Fair in November was a popular event. As usual one table in particular was of special interest; the display of Daphne's wide variety of hand knitting. One lady came over and offered £10 for the Addlestone bus, and additional orders followed. Just one example of a successful day.



Our Café Style Services are now a regular event and are hopefully succeeding in their objective of 'Presenting the same Message of Jesus Christ in a way suitable for all ages in today's society.' Our 2019 programme started on 13 January led by Rev Sydney Samuel Lake and continues on 17 March led by Rev Barrie Tabraham (we welcome his return), followed by services on 9 June, 15 September and 1 December.



Our first Church Social Evening was held at the Taj Mahal restaurant in November. A welcome opportunity to have fellowship together in an enjoyable, relaxed environment. Our next social evening is already arranged.

Regular Saturday craft mornings started on 1 December when Cecilia demonstrated the very useful art of using a sewing machine – participants are encouraged to bring along their own sewing projects to complete. The coffee lounge with its selection of quality drinks and homemade cakes were of course on hand.

Our Forward Thinking Group had its first 2019 meeting in January looking at ways to make the above events and activities more effective and find still more ways of offering help to the local community and demonstrating the love of God in our lives and through the church in ways that will encourage others to want to learn more. With God's help we are optimistic

Fred Rowe

SYRIAN REFUGEE APPEAL

Children have the right to special protection and help as refugees. This month, **double your donation to our Refugee Appeal** helping children in Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan. Thanks to a generous supporter, **the first £5000 All We Can** receive **will be doubled**. All money received will be restricted to the Refugee Appeal.

Rev Claire Hargreaves, District Refugee and Interfaith Adviser, SE District, hopes to visit Za'atari in March to meet some of the vulnerable children being helped by you!

Email : claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk

Give now : via the website www.allwecan.org.uk

By telephone: credit or debit card, call 020 7467 5132. By post: send a cheque made payable to 'All We Can' to All We Can, 25 Marylebone Rd, London, NW1 5JR.

Byfleet

Last quarter started off on a high as we celebrated the beginning of Advent. The church, stunningly decorated, welcomed many visitors to view 56 nativity sets from all around the world. Thank you to everyone one who lent us their precious pieces to display. With a concert, special services, and coffees, lunches and afternoon teas available throughout the weekend, the looking forward to Christmas had well and truly started. Successive Sundays were equally busy: a Christingle Service; the Gift Service for the York Road Project followed by Christmas Lunch for around sixty five people and Carols by Candlelight, and then finally the Junior Church Nativity Play as we viewed the gift of the coming of Jesus from the perspective of a fir tree!

But don't think we are going to rest on our laurels! With thanks to a grant from the Circuit we have been able to appoint the firm of CPL Architects to prepare an Option Study to help us look at the way forward for our large, busy premises, cared for by an ageing and depleted congregation. The company's director has set aside a day in February to listen to all who are able and would like to come and talk to him - whether church members or from the wider community of Byfleet village. Are we destined to merely struggle on as long as we are able, or can the premises be regenerated in some way in order that we might retain a visible Methodist presence, witnessing to God's love in Byfleet, in premises more suited to the ways of the 21st Century?

And it just got better! The contract appointing CPL was barely in the post when we were invited to open a weekly Food Bank outlet. With some help from our Anglican colleagues up the road, hopefully this will be up and running shortly after you read this. And the following Sunday a new family with three young children came to join us, hot on the heels of a retired couple newly arrived from South Africa who have made us their spiritual home - and others are beginning to find us too.

Are Anniversaries about looking back, or looking forward? Come and find out with us! With a church decorated with hundreds of potted daffodils, on Friday 1st March at 2.00 pm we will welcome our Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford colleagues to share in the annual Women's World Day of Prayer service and tea. At 7.30 pm Jim Allen (Byfleet Heritage Society) will have something to say about "The Methodist Church in Byfleet" (Did you know a Wesleyan Chapel was opened here in 1875 - only to be superseded by the present Church which was opened in 1939, some 80 years ago).

Saturday 2 March will buzz from 9.00 am when our Brownies and Rainbows host a coffee morning; meantime exhibitions showing the church's history and highlighting some of the activities we currently undertake, accompanied by organ music, will take place in the Church and Narthex; this to be followed by ploughman's lunches and then a full show by our own Susan Robinson School of Ballet with afternoon tea included.

Sunday morning worship will be led by a former minister and Woking & Walton Circuit Superintendent, the Rev Christopher Bishop, who will then be joined by other previous ministers, church family and friends for a celebration lunch. And to round off the weekend, a thanksgiving led by Rev Dr Peter Howson culminating in the cutting of a birthday cake (with lots of candles, I'm assured!). Please keep the dates in your diary and come and join us as we look forward in faith to what the next 80 years may have in store for us.

Margaret Watts



If you would like to plant a bowl of daffodils in thanksgiving to be used to decorate the church please call Margaret on 01932 343489

Circuit Service

Sunday 24 March, Merrow Methodist Church

Thy Kingdom Come

The circuit is holding a Circuit Service at Merrow Methodist Church on Sunday 24 March at 3.00 pm. This will be followed by afternoon tea. It would be lovely if we could repeat the situation encountered at the service on 30 December 2018 when all thirteen circuit churches were represented. It will help with catering if some idea of numbers is available and a request for information will be issued nearer the time. The Circuit would like to extend their thanks to Merrow for hosting this event.



The speaker at this service will be Rev Canon Jean Kerr, one of the founding members of the 'Thy Kingdom Come' international prayer initiative. Some of the circuit team were privileged to hear Jean speak at District Synod in April 2018 and all agree that she is one of most inspirational speakers we have heard for many a long year. An event not to be missed!

The Methodist Connexion will be urging all churches to join Thy Kingdom Come's eleven days of prayer which runs from 30 May (Ascension) until 9 June (Pentecost) 2019. Last year our churches were not given very long to consider how they could best take part but the Circuit Mission Group are actively trying to source the 2019 material to allow for early distribution, allowing time to plan their involvement.

In the meantime much is available from the website www.thykingdomcome.global

I cannot remember in my life anything that I've been involved in where I have sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit.
- Archbishop Justin Welby

Circuit Mission Group

Circuit Prayer Vigil

We encourage all our churches to embrace this initiative as a Circuit Prayer Vigil, and as soon as we have information about the resources developed by Thy Kingdom Come organisers we will pass them on, so that individual churches can choose the options which best suit their community and circumstances.

Did you know that the colour most often associated with Pentecost is red, representing the tongues of fire which the Acts of the Apostles describes appearing above the heads of the disciples as a sign that they had received the Holy Spirit?

Circuit Mission Group

Cranleigh

We hear very good news from our 'reporter' Stella (Halloran) that things are going well with our church's refurbishments. However, I did point out that we haven't yet had any snow, or indeed any substantial rainfall to hinder our excellent workmen. Seriously, optimistically, we are hoping to be back in our own home by Easter, with beautiful new back rooms, ready to welcome new customers, and hopefully returning former ones – particularly Blossom Nursery, which is at the moment closed. With the addition of new toilet facilities and a much-needed re-furbished kitchen, we hope to cater for several different groups at the same time during the week. Much local interest has been shown in what is happening on our site (clearly visible from the High Street and the Stocklund Square car park).

Apparently, some hadn't even realised that there IS a Methodist Church in our village! They know now, most certainly thanks to large notices, produced by the Strawsons which are on the front and back fences.

Meanwhile, we continue to worship in the Bandroom, next to the Leisure Centre, with free parking on a Sunday. Many have commented on the warmth and intimacy of our temporary location, but we miss the amplification and the screens – not to mention our organ. Our friends in the other churches have continued to offer their premises free of charge (including heating in these chilly winter months). Our refugees from Syria and other foreign visitors have been meeting on Tuesday afternoons in the beautiful new Catholic meeting room, to practise their English in our Friendly Voices Group. Our Leader, Pamela Newman-Horwell, organised a fun Christmas party for them all in this room, in which Muslims and Christians joined. The Choir Vestry at St Nicolas Parish Church proved a useful venue in which to practise carols for our Christmas concert at Elmbridge Village. The additional St Andrew's Parish Room will continue to be provided for our Saturday Coffee Mornings. What would we do without the generosity of our good friends? (I hope you will all have seen my poster advertising our Quiz for Christian Aid, on 16 February which is again making use of Parish Room facilities: please try and support this).

Christmas now seems a long time ago, but I was especially grateful to our own choir members, our long-term helpers, a new member from Elmbridge and Keith and Hilary, who made the Elmbridge Christmas concert one of the best we have done. We couldn't unfortunately perform this concert at the Community Tea, as dates clashed and in any case our own church, the usual venue, was unavailable this year. We collected over £100 for Action for Children at the Elmbridge concert, which was as usual added to the money raised at the Christmas Day Collection for the same charity. (Incidentally, numbers at our Christmas Day service were greatly increased by members of the Beckingham family.

Congratulations to Keith and Hilary on the birth of grandson, Arthur, a new generation footballer!

Glenda Sewell

Circuit Directory

Everyone will, no doubt, be very relieved to hear that this year we won't be asking for a completed, signed form from everyone who appears in the Circuit Directory. Only additions, changes of details and deletions will need to be documented.

The deadline for these is 30 June and although it sounds a long way off it will be here before we know it. If you are aware of any changes which have occurred since September please let Sue Howson in the Circuit Office know via circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk or 07808 046451.

Alternative Worship

All are welcome to our alternative evening services taking place:

Date	Church	Service
17 March	Addlestone	Café Church 6.30 pm led by Barrie Tabraham
18 April	St Mary's, Guildford	Tenebrae Service 6 pm led by Common Ground
18 April	Merrow	Tenebrae Service 8 pm led by Barrie Tabraham
18 April	Woking	Tenebrae Service 8 pm led by Graham Horsley
19 April	St Mary's, Guildford	Stainer's Crucifixion 5.30 pm
12 May	Merrow	ATS 6.30 pm led by Barrie Tabraham
12 May	Weybridge	Café Church 6.30 pm led by David Ingoldby

Circuit Mission Group



This group aims to facilitate mission across the Circuit and would be happy to hear your ideas and stories about the challenges and successes of your church's mission initiatives. Exciting future events include the **Mission Supper** on 23 February, **Circuit Service** on 24 March based on "Thy Kingdom Come" Pentecost event and the **Circuit Prayer Vigil** leading up to Pentecost.

Some positive mission news from the churches - the Foundry Project at Woking, the new weekly Drop in for refugees at Knaphill, and don't forget the Circuit Prayer Diary on the website! (www.weyvalleycircuit.org.uk).

Next meeting : Thursday 28 March 2019 7.45 pm Woking. Contact : Rev Claire Hargreaves

Email : claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk or 01483536638.

Rev John Hellyer

South East District Chair 2009 – 2019



Most of you will know our District Chair, Rev John Hellyer. Even if you haven't spoken to him you will have seen him lead many services in our circuit churches over the last ten years. He acted as a superintendent for a while in the former Guildford Circuit and assisted the former Woking & Walton-on-Thames Circuit with some difficult situations. John is stepping down as the South East District chair in August and will be taking up the post of superintendent of the Gloucester Circuit in September 2019.


A farewell service for John (and Mary) will be held on Sunday 7 July 2019 at Redhill Methodist Church. Tea will be served at 4.30 pm followed by the

service at 6.30 pm. We are invited to send greetings and photos to be included in a book of memories and these must reach the Synod secretary by June so please ensure any contributions reach our circuit office by 1 May. The Circuit team will endeavour to get a large card which will be available for signature at the Circuit meeting on 21 March and the Circuit Service on 23 March.

Please send any financial contributions to the Wey Valley circuit office (cheques made payable to the Wey Valley Circuit) by 1 May to enable us to pass on one consolidated contribution from our circuit in a timely manner.

Please pray for John as he enters this new stage in his ministry.

Circuit Leadership Team



WERE YOU THERE?
...inspired by African American Spirituals

Join us for this year's series of
Lent Reflections
followed by a bread & soup lunch

Thursdays
7, 14, 21 & 28 March
4, 11 & 18 April
12.15 for 12.30

at
St. Mary's, Quarry St, Guildford

Godalming United Church

In January we hosted the annual Godalming and District Churches Together Ecumenical Service. This twenty-first century custom in our town was initially devised to mark the new Millennium, but such was the inspirational fellowship of worshipping together that it has now become an annual event. It coincided with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, this year's theme being, "Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue ..." (Deuteronomy 16:18-20).

Our charitable link with West Africa is still very much alive, and in January another bursting container was shipped off with supplies for schools and community centres in The Gambia.

Our annual February pantomime – specially commissioned to accommodate the many children's groups involved - was again a sell-out for all four performances. Pinocchio was the perfect choice for the varied cast (it has been described as "a metaphor for the human condition"!) and provided good clean fun for all. Another polished production from Barbara Keene and her team.

Looking ahead we have two more Messy Church sessions this spring. Family fun for all ages – crafts, games, songs, story, party tea – and Mess! Just turn up:

Sat 23 Feb 3pm - 5pm Temptation in the Desert
Sat 13 April 3pm - 5pm Egg trail and more

Meanwhile, we are making plans for the appointment of a new minister when Paul Hulme departs in the summer. Paul has been an inspirational leader and has richly earned his retirement, but he will be much missed. As we are a Methodist - URC partnership church our next minister will be appointed from the URC - please read Sylvia Kelley's item opposite, outlining the procedure.

Nancy Wilks



Methodist Internship Programme

The Methodist Internship Programme is a creative opportunity for 21-26 year olds to experience a year of exploring their faith alongside a paid placement in a highly professional organisation across a variety of sectors. Combined with ongoing training and mentoring throughout the year, the Methodist Internship Programme will develop individuals professionally, personally and spiritually. Not only will it provide valuable skills, learning opportunities and relevant references but it will also help add value to CVs and be valuable to any organisation post internship. It is a paid internship – this is not just a placement or a year out - it's a job; paid at least the living wage and will include other travel expenses associated with the placement.

Please note that accommodation is not provided – should relocation be needed it may be possible to provide some contacts to help in searching to secure housing.

*The Methodist Internship Programme runs from mid-September 2019 – 30 August 2020 but interviews will be in **March 2019**.*

For full details of the scheme please go to the Methodist website — www.methodist.org.uk and then click on *About Us, Connect, Jobs and Volunteering, Methodist Internship Programme*.

Calling a Minister

In January Rev Alan Wickens took up the role of Interim Moderator for Godalming United Church to which he had been appointed by the United Reformed Church Wessex Synod. An Interim Moderator is not to be confused with a Synod Moderator who is roughly equivalent to a District Chair in Methodism. It will be Alan's task to guide us through the process of calling a United Reformed Minister to follow when Rev Paul Hulme retires later this year.

The initial introduction between a prospective minister and us will be through the Synod Moderator who meets monthly with the other Synod Moderators. At the moment we, at Godalming, are composing a church pastorate profile. This is a far more extensive document than its Methodist counterpart consisting of many pages and including details about the area, schools, transport links, etc. as well as information about the church e.g. its vision, its style of worship, its activities, etc. A summary of this profile will be sent to the Synod Moderators' meeting and it will then be placed on the URC website. Any minister who is interested will communicate with the Synod Moderator who will inform us.

If, following the minister having read the profile and we the minister's CV, both parties wish to explore further the minister will meet with the church council. This gives both parties the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification of anything written in either document. The church council will then decide whether to proceed or to end the process. If the latter we would then have to wait for another minister to show interest.

If the former, the minister would be invited to Godalming for a couple of days (usually the weekend) when the person will have the opportunity to meet with members of the church community and wider church. On the Sunday the minister would conduct the morning worship or "preach with a view" as it is known. As soon after this visit as possible, a church meeting will be held. If at least 75% of that meeting are in favour, then a call will be issued to that minister. If not, we start again!

We would ask for the prayers of the Circuit that we will be open to God's guidance as we embark on this process of calling another minister and all the uncertainties that entails.

Sylvia Kelley





Coffee & Cake at St Mary's

Take a break from your shopping & meet up with friends

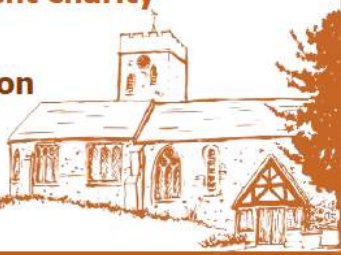
Thursday 28 February

Thursday 25 April

Thursday 23 May

Each month showcases a different charity

10.30 am - 12 noon



Everyone welcome



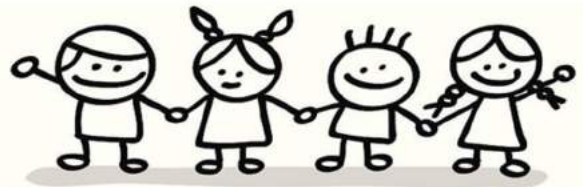
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
Crafts, games, songs, stories, food! Just turn up

SATURDAYS 3pm -5pm

FEBRUARY 23rd Temptation in the Desert

APRIL 13th Egg Trail and More

GODALMING UNITED CHURCH,
Bridge Road, GU7 3DU



MERROW Methodist Church



SERVICE OF THE

TENEBRAE

Maundy Thursday

8.00 pm, 18th April 2019

Please join us for a Coffee Morning
In aid of Cancer Research UK

Celebration Coffee Morning

Knaphill Methodist Church
Broadway, Knaphill. GU21 2DR

Saturday 30 March 2019
10am to midday

There will be variety of stalls, including homemade
cakes and preserves



www.cruk.org

Cancer Research UK is a registered charity with the number 247482. It is a company limited by guarantee with registered office at 379, Strand, London WC2R 0AL. Registered in England. No. 247482.



Church Reviews

In The Wey Forward (Issue 10 - December 2018) the CLT gave an update and feedback on the work reported by all the churches to the Circuit Meeting in July 2018. On-going review does not necessitate a never-ending process but should be a mindset in which we continually seek God's calling in our respective situations. The Circuit can play a role in assisting individual churches (e.g. through the Appreciating Church model) and in sharing good practice (e.g. through the medium of the Circuit Meeting).

The Mission Statement of the Methodist Church in Great Britain ('Our Calling') is as follows:

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 - *The church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love.*

Learning and caring - *The church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care.*

Service - *The church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice.*

Evangelism - *The church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ.*

Taking this as a starting point, the CLT has framed three questions which we hope churches will bear in mind as they proceed with reviews:

Listening to God's calling, what do you hope your church will have become in five years' time and how would that differ from what it is today?

[This is about mission - think in terms of worship, witness, people, relationships, premises]

What resources are needed to achieve your goal?

[What attributes does your church possess which are particularly valuable on the journey? What might be discarded? What is lacking?]

What practical steps do you need to take to make real progress towards your goal?

[How could the Circuit assist?]

These questions are relevant to the ongoing mission of each church and the Circuit as a whole. They are not intended to replace or cut across the work being done already but we believe that the review process should enable each church to be able to answer them. It is proposed to use our Circuit Meeting on Tuesday 16 July 2019 for a further discussion on these issues and we hope that each of our churches will have had meaningful discussion around these questions, either formally at Church Council meetings or informally over coffee and be able to contribute feedback at this Mission focussed Circuit meeting.

Circuit Stewards on behalf of the CLT

Guildford St Mary's

How would you feel about going into a betting shop?

On the assumption that many readers' experience of such establishments might well be as limited as mine (nil, apart from walking through one 30 years ago to attend a meeting), despite them looking more appealing on the High Street than they used to be, how comfortable would you be going into one? Would you be reasonably confident of what to expect inside and what would be expected of you or would you be somewhat apprehensive? Some weeks back someone used that as an illustration of how many non-churchgoers might be similarly apprehensive about coming into a church and that set me thinking about how we view mission.

At a recent meeting of the Circuit Mission Group we were reminded that mission is for all of us – not something that we can leave to 'missionaries' – it is a fundamental part of our calling individually to seek to show Christ's love in word and action. Just being welcoming and making people feel comfortable is the first step in that. Expecting people to conform to our idea of a traditional Sunday morning service is generally unrealistic as the experience may well be quite alien to them; indeed, looking at numbers attending services (nice though increased attendance is) is hardly an appropriate measure of mission impact these days.

Most of the population is so far from understanding what the church is about, that our normal 10.30 am services are a long way from offering them what they need at this stage. But if they do make that big step of venturing in, are we making them feel welcome even if they don't arrive on time, don't conform to our expectations of behaviour and just don't understand what's going on? If they've made that bold step of venturing across the church threshold we owe it to them to make them feel truly welcome, rather than tut-tutting about their failure to conform - and that is mission each one of us can engage in without even going outside the building!

Getting that welcome right – whether in services or not - is key to what we're seeking to do at St Mary's, both as a combined Methodist/Anglican fellowship and with the invaluable support of the other ecumenical participants in our Common Ground missional community, working closely with our Town Centre Chaplaincy. Our medieval building is a God-given magnet for visitors so we have an enormous advantage in many people having an interest in engaging with it, and hopefully us. We have lots of scope to 'reach out' using the building.

Our building improvements are designed to make St Mary's more welcoming and fit for 21st century purpose, and to restore it to its historic role at the centre of the life of the town. Work has started but paused while we wait for the gasman to reroute the incoming gas main before the porch can be replaced with our new Welcoming Area and facilities. Hopefully progress on that will have been made by the time this edition of the Wey Forward is in circulation.

Meanwhile our programmes continue, many of which are aimed at reaching out and engaging not just with existing Christians or those with some past connection with churches but also with those who really have little idea why the Church exists and what it stands for. There's lots going on for everyone, with Lent and Holy Week being a major focus. Do look out for:

The monthly Friday **Night Vision** when we're open from 8 pm to 11.30 pm for the usual friendly mix of chat, reflection, music and refreshments, engaging on the street with those out and about on a Friday night in Guildford

Our weekly lunchtime Lent Reflections under the title **Were you There?**, inspired by African American spirituals
Our daily opening during **Holy Week** when we'll be unrolling our Easter Pathway again, helping to understand the path Christ trod from Palm Sunday, through Good Friday to Resurrection, and supplementing it with prompts to reflect on that journey

A **Tenebrae** service early on Maundy Thursday evening and professional musicians and a large choir singing **Stainer's Crucifixion** on Good Friday at 5.30 pm

Special events for **Thy Kingdom Come** between Ascension and Pentecost

Please come along when you can and pray for us when you can't!

Nigel Campion-Smith

Knaphill

Christmas Events: In December, we hosted a very successful afternoon tea party, attended by more than 50 people. This was inspired by hearing about a similar tea in Cranleigh and was in line with our aim to increase our outreach locally. We welcomed members of our own church and guests from the community, many of whom are regulars at our monthly coffee mornings. A good time was had by all with a delicious spread kindly donated by church members, Christmas quizzes and carol singing led by our own Music Group.



In January we held a children's party, again outreaching to families in Knaphill. An entertainer taught juggling skills to children, their parents and church helpers and some of us displayed hidden talents and learnt new skills! After a fun-filled afternoon and party tea, the children all went home with balloons and party bags filled with 'goodies'.

Following the success of both ventures, reviews of the events have been undertaken so we can build on what we have achieved and do even better next time.

Clothing Bank: After an increasingly successful first year of operation with more and more visitors from very different backgrounds arriving each month, the KMC Clothing Bank has adopted a new name - **Clothes 4U – preloved clothing with TLC**. It is hoped that this new name will imply not only an opportunity to find some free, much needed clothing for all the family, but also will reflect the warmth of the welcome folk will receive when they drop in, and the scope of the services we are seeking to offer via greater integration with other support agencies, e.g. the CAB or Woking Borough Council. **Clothes 4U** sessions are usually held on the third Saturday of each month between 2 pm and 4 pm and volunteers to serve refreshments, help our guests, or just offer a listening ear would be most welcome.

Refugee Drop-In Centre: Further to Rev Claire Hargreaves article in the last edition of The Wey Forward, a new Refugee Drop-In Centre has now been established at KMC to enable Syrian refugee families living in the locality to come for advice or help, if needed, from a native speaker. Operated by representatives from the Woking Borough Council Refugee Focus Group, the Centre is open each Thursday afternoon from 1.30 pm - 3.00 pm.

The Group is also seeking to set up "Conversation Cafés" to provide additional, less formal help with "day-to-day" language skills to encourage independence and is currently seeking volunteers from other Churches in the local community.

Cancer Research UK: KMC will be hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research UK on Saturday 30th March 2019 from 10 am to 12 noon. There will be a variety of stalls including home-made cakes and preserves. Bacon butties will also be served.

Linda Todd and Liz Funning

Merrow

A very busy but enjoyable Christmas season was “wrapped up” at Merrow with the hosting of the Circuit Service led by Keith on the morning of Sunday 30 December. We were slightly unsure how many people to expect at this hectic time of the year but were absolutely delighted to welcome 130 worshippers with all churches in the Circuit represented in the congregation. We managed to squeeze everyone in with the provision of additional seating and despite some technical hiccups with our AV systems we all enjoyed a very uplifting service of fellowship which many said should be repeated in the future! The offertory raised £485 for the Methodist Ministers’ Housing Society. After the service most took the opportunity to catch up with friends from other churches over tea, coffee, cakes and (as promised in the last Wey Forward!) some mince pies especially saved for the occasion. Although technically falling in 2018 it was a great start to the New Year.

Indeed at Merrow our thoughts have now turned to the opportunities and challenges of 2019 building on our experience of the past twelve months. We are continuing with our programme of events on Thursday mornings. On the first Thursday of the month from 9.30 am - 10.30 am we have a time of open prayer focusing on the needs of the Church led by different members of the congregation. On the second Thursday we will continue to run our Charity Coffee Mornings with lots of cake! Proceeds go to a different charity each month and the next three to benefit are Migraine Action, the Guildford No 5 Project, and then Christian Aid in May. On the third Thursday we hold a short Communion Service led by Asif or one of our retired ministers from 9.45 am - 10.15 am, followed by coffee. Finally, on the fourth Thursday in the month we are going to continue our Soup and Bread Lunches from 12.00 noon to 1.15 pm for all those in the local community who would welcome a bit of company as they try our homemade soup and bread.



We would encourage you all to “Think Thursdays” and come and join us for any of the above. Everyone is extremely welcome.

On Thursday evenings from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm we are continuing to run our Youth Club hosted by the Matrix Trust with the support of a small group of volunteers from the Church and are also looking for further ways to cement our relationship with our local school.

Looking further ahead we are delighted to be the chosen venue for the Thy Kingdom Come Circuit Service and Tea on Sunday 24 March at 3.00 pm when we will be welcoming Jean Kerr, an inspirational speaker who works with the Archbishop of Canterbury as a founder member of the “Thy Kingdom Come” initiative.

We look forward to again sharing similar fellowship to that enjoyed on 30 December. As they say doesn’t time fly when you are having fun.....

Hugh Bradley

OneSound

OneSound is one of the UK's leading Christian music ensembles for young adults 16 to 26 years. Founded in 1974 under the umbrella of the Methodist Association in 2007, OneSound became an independent ecumenical group open to all young adults who have a love for music.

OneSound provides a great range of music from classical to popular hits and contemporary worship to traditional hymns – whatever floats your boat, they do it! They perform at up to eight public gigs a year which gives them a unique opportunity to realise dreams and aspirations whilst working with leading Musical Directors and Conductors. Their gigs may be held regionally or nationally so this gives them great opportunities to increase their experience performing to national audiences.

The Trustees of OneSound (formerly MAYC Orchestra & Singers) are currently promoting their “friends” scheme. They are now at a major turning point and to really get going, have developed new and exciting opportunities. Over the next three years they want to recruit up to 100 young adults by inviting them to join them at one of their

OneSound: Get Vocal sessions, led by Artistic Director, Matt Beckingham. Yes, Matt is my son and I'm proud that he has worked with many organisations including London Symphony Orchestra, London Symphony Chorus, London Philharmonic Choir, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Radio Choir, Opera North and Chorus of Royal Northern Sinfona – to name a few!



In 2019 they are holding their Summer School from Wednesday 31 July to Saturday 3 August 2019 at Dearne Valley, Denaby Main, Conisbrough, South Yorkshire, DN12 4EA for 30 young musicians aged 11-18.

This year's gigs included Victoria Methodist Church, Bristol from 10 – 13 January, going on to Park Avenue Methodist Church, Northampton from 25 - 28 April.

The trustees are **seeking new members and new venues** for gigs in 2019 and are really planning to grow OneSound. If you know a young person who enjoys music, or if you think your church might host a OneSound event please contact Martin Sykes OneSound Chair at chair@onesound.org.uk or check out their website, <http://www.onesound.org.uk/>

This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a missional music group for young people.

Keith Beckingham



ARTSERVE



In recent years there have been significant changes in ways of worshipping, and as a preacher and teacher for nearly fifty years I have always tried to keep up to date with changes and new ideas, new songs and styles. It has been a concern for a couple of years but I have never been able to find a way in. That is until the formation of our Wey Valley Circuit. It was here I met Lyn McKay our Local Preachers' Secretary. We both responded to a request to try a joint service. We were planned to team preach at Trinity. As we worked on the service Lyn introduced me to the hymn-writings of Marjorie Dobson who Lyn had met at something called ArtServe. It became clear to me that Lyn had gained some real insights from ArtServe magazines and the Annual Conference. As we had similar musical tastes and an interest in developing Creative Worship she suggested I might enjoy going to the next conference in October this year.

I discovered that ArtServe evolved out of the Methodist Church Music Society, which, had expanded to cover many other Christians and denominations and was looking at ways to worship through creative arts. After some thought and exploring the material that came out of their quarterly publication I decided, somewhat nervously, to go and give it a try.

'Wow!' What an experience.

The friendship and fellowship from a variety of Christians from different churches and denominations; the open support for those, like me, who were doing things for the first time; the quality and immense spirituality of the various worship opportunities was astounding. The accommodation and food at High Leigh, Hoddesdon was good too!

The first event was a get together and a concert from the Christian flautist Simeon Wood whose outstanding talent was revealed through playing classical, folk, modern, worship and fun music on a variety of flutes and whistles, and unforgettably, on an NHS metal walking stick and an old-fashioned bicycle pump. This was followed by evening prayers; the tone was set for the rest of the weekend.

Saturday morning prayers were focussed on 'The Cross around the World'. This was thought provoking and challenging, prompting positive discussion over breakfast.

Our first session was to meet the various leaders of the workshops available. We could choose three sessions from various forms of dance, drama, creative arts to psalms, stone painting/prayers, music, singing, journaling, prayer walk or song writing. For me dance of any kind was not on, I know my limitations!

The first session I chose was to explore creative responses to the Psalms. Art is another subject where I have, according to my School Report when I was twelve, 'no aptitude for this subject'. I didn't know what to expect and I was stirred by the opportunity to produce a Lindisfarne style illustration. I chose the first few verses of Psalm 24. It was a very challenging experience but there was lots of advice and support. However, if I had been an Anglo-Saxon Monk I don't think I would have made the Scriptorium, more likely in the kitchen preparing vegetables!

The second workshop was one that interested me as I had heard of a Prayer Walk but never been on one. We spent about an hour and a half following a two-and-a-half-mile route around Hoddesdon stopping at salient points to read prayers about the location e.g. town centre, school, churches, industry, allotments, river, etc. It was an interesting and informative session. Spiritually I could see ways in which a Prayer Walk could be used at all the Circuit churches around the local area e.g. town/village centre, other churches, schools/playgroups, parks/playgrounds, hospitals/health centres, foodbanks, etc. Perhaps even a **Circuit Prayer Walk Week** when on a chosen day a group from each church could have their own local prayer walk and lift thousands of people to God in prayer!

As for my third option, I have harboured a secret ambition to write a hymn/song but I am not competent enough as a musician to be able to compose a tune. When I heard of the Hymn/Song writing workshop I was very interested. Having heard the leaders give their synopsis of the content I still felt unsure. Consequently, I went to speak to them and explained that I have good skills in drama, preaching, public speaking and storytelling but am not a natural writer. I have tried to write poetry and only really produced something for my teacher training induction course and very little else. But I had a real desire to have a go. They joyfully informed me that I was the type of person they were looking for. So, I signed up.

Within five minutes I knew God wanted me to be there. The first hour was about the music and the meter, it was totally absorbing. Then we were put into groups of three; a musician leader and two prospective writers. There were three groups of us and we had to choose a theme each from, 'The World around Us,' 'The Beatitudes' or the 'Emmaus Road'. Within seconds a rhyming couplet came into my mind,

'Lost and confused. Distraught and bemused,'

I immediately volunteered our trio to write a song about the Emmaus Road, and the other two members of the group readily agreed. We went away for forty-five minutes and came up with lyrics, largely provided by me, from the Holy Spirit, with key suggestions and encouragement from Jenny and Rob and a tune from Rob. The experience was amazing.

Saturday Evenings' Prayers were based on the Office of Compline. I had not experienced this since attending Bishop Otter College between 1970 and 1973. In its simplicity it was calming after the excitement of the day, spiritually comforting and renewing.

Sunday mornings prayers were on the theme of Healing with lots of time for quiet reflection. The rest of the morning was set aside for preparing the closing worship after lunch. At the service each Workshop presented or performed their results in a dynamic, sensitive and spiritually rewarding act of worship closing with Communion. The experience of singing a song you have written as part of that worship was thrilling, spiritually uplifting and humbling. God had led me there and I felt renewed.

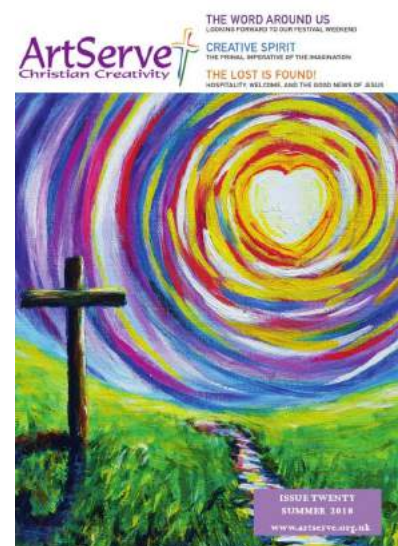
Before leaving I joined ArtServe and am looking forward to next year's conference at Swanwick, Derbyshire. I would thoroughly recommend others, not just preachers, but worship leaders and musicians, to come and join us.

Having returned re-vitalised and buzzing with ideas for the future I became aware that the song lyrics were missing an important part of the Emmaus Road story. I have rewritten the song as a poem. See overleaf.

Graham Warr

To find out more about ArtServe why not visit their website
<https://www.artserve.org.uk/>

You can become a member and receive their magazine three times a year or sign up for their free e-newsletter which is produced every other month.



Report from the Circuit Worship Resources Group

The group met in October and will meet again in March. Twelve people, aged 10 - 80+, had attended the Organ training, as reported in the November edition of The Wey Forward. It was very helpful and it was agreed that this should become an annual event. Due to a very low uptake, the prayer training at Knaphill did not take place and has been rescheduled for Sunday afternoon 7 April 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm at Merrow. Please email Lyn McKay lynwen.mckay@gmail.com by 24 March to reserve a place. Posters will be sent to each church. Projectionists were all invited to Godalming to see how their system works and the meeting was very informative. We hope that all churches are happy with the Vine resources being financed by the Circuit. These should provide very good support for anyone leading a Local Arrangement service.

We look forward to a wonderful opportunity to hear the testimonies of district ordinands at Trinity Methodist Church Sunday 19 May.

Lyn McKay

THE ROAD TO THE LIGHT IS REVEALED On the Road to Emmaus

*Lost and confused, distraught and bemused,
How did it happen and why?
To Emmaus they walked, together they talked
It went so surprisingly wrong!
It started so well, how could they foretell?
Jesus, denied, crucified and died!*

The road to the light unrevealed.

*A stranger appeared and talked to their fears,
Don't you understand? God had it all planned,
The prophets and scripture foretold
His love through the stories of old,
Messiah would come to bring people home,
God loved them so, the Son to the cross had to go.*

The road to the light part revealed.

*They asked him to stay, please don't go away,
Breaking bread clarified, Christ was there.
Risen indeed, from sin all are freed.
No longer confused, distraught or bemused,
They ran back to share the good news!
That's how it happened and why.*

The road to the light now revealed!

Graham Warr ArtServe 2018

Friends International

Each year Surrey University has the privilege of welcoming over 6000 international students to Guildford. Many of these students come from countries where talking about Jesus, or meeting together as Christians, is restricted, or even forbidden.

We have volunteers and supporters from across the spectrum of churches in Guildford who partner with the Guildford Branch of Friends International, a Christian charity operating in over 40 university towns throughout the United Kingdom.

Our aim is to show, in practical ways, the love of Jesus in two main ways: 1) through offering them hospitality with a local family and planning events and trips and 2) through equipping the local church to grow their own international student ministry.

With regards to hospitality, 23 students joined different families on Christmas Day, and others will be invited to share a meal on a one-off basis during the year. Often a relationship is formed and many students return to the same home during the rest of their time in Guildford.



The last term, from October through to the New Year, was a particularly busy period. At the start of the term we have a stall at Tesco's where we seek to establish contact with students. We give out information of the term's events, and then we have a Welcome Party when this year over 130 turned up for a meal.

Other events include an autumn walk (even in poor weather!), a celebration of bonfire night, enjoying the Christmas Lights and sharing the truth behind the traditions of Christmas and an advent party in a 550-year-old restored farmhouse.

During the events we aim to introduce students to national and cultural events whilst highlighting the Christian message that underlies much of our cultural heritage. All of this is possible due to the close partnership of churches across Guildford as All Saint's hosted students after the autumn walk, St Saviour's hosted us for bonfire night and Guildford Baptist hosted us for the Christmas lights switch on. We are grateful to God for blessing us with so many faithful believers and churches in the town and the local area willing to help make disciples from all nations!

There are three ways to be involved practically:

1) Open up your home to students. They normally come with a friend which can help the conversation. 2) Join us at one of the events to see what goes on. 3) Support the work financially.

For information on how to get involved or partner with us, please contact me, full-time staff worker Phil Duncalfe on 07877 092673, or at phil.duncalfe@friendsinternational.uk

To get our monthly prayer bulletin:

Email Riz Mohammed at riz.mohammed@friendsinternational.uk

Phil Duncalfe

night vision

... 'looking at life through a
different lens'

St Mary's
Quarry St, Guildford GU1 3TY

drop in between
20.00 and 23.30
for

calm, reflection
& refreshments

- ❖ Friday 22 February
- ❖ Friday 29 March
- ❖ Friday 26 April
- ❖ Friday 31 May

 Common Ground
Night Vision
PRAY • TOGETHER • GO

Songs of Praise



Saturday April 6th
Horsley

Methodist Church

(next to W.H. Village Hall)

7.00pm

Celebrating the Chapel Anniversary
Come and sing a selection of favourite hymns.
Phone 01483 282474 to make requests.

QUIZ EVENING

SATURDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2019

7.00 PM

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR



**ST NICOLAS ROOM, CRANLEIGH,
GU6 8AS**

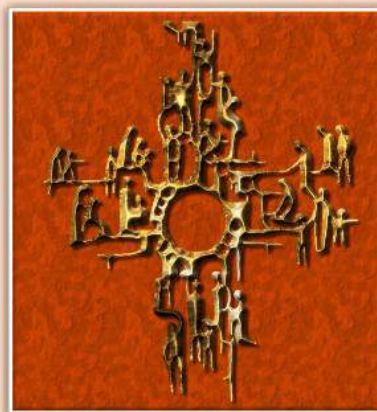
Teams of 6 - £10 per person
To include soup, ploughmans and dessert

Selection of Prizes

*Please bring your friends along to
make up a team*

For more information please contact
Glenda on 01483 273037

Practical Aspects of Spirituality



St. Mary's

Quarry Street
Guildford

09.20 – 12.30

**Saturday
9 March**

**Andrew Wheeler:
The Face of God**

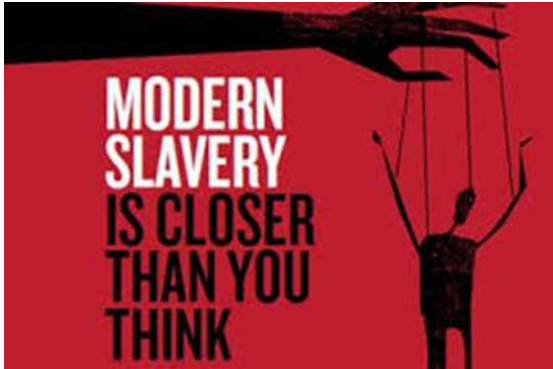
This stand alone Saturday morning
session is open to all who want to take
their spiritual life deeper.

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

 Common Ground
Guildford
PRAY • TOGETHER • GO

Modern Day Slavery

I recently spoke to Steve Wise, a Methodist from Hastings who works with the homeless and those who are trapped into modern day slavery. Did you know that there are thought to be thousands of potential victims of modern slavery in the UK? They are in every town and city. Recently the exploitation of workers in some car washes and some nail bars has been in the news but people are also trafficked into forced labour in agriculture and construction, and women and girls are often tricked into working in the sex industry or as domestic servants.



The Guardian newspaper recently reported the case of Elvira, a Filipino woman who arrived at Heathrow in 2014, thinking she was going to a good, well paid job in London. The 50-year-old was taken to a luxury flat in Kensington, where she was made to work 20 hours a day, allowing her only one piece of bread and no wages. She was trapped in a life of servitude, while metres away central London bustled with shoppers. Elvira managed to escape but others are still enslaved.

Stop the Traffik (<https://www.stophetraffik.org/>) is an organisation that seeks to raise awareness of human trafficking and prevent it from happening. Signs of modern slavery might include inappropriate clothing for the job, long hours, little pay, sub standard accommodation, & scared behaviour.

If you think someone may be a victim of modern slavery call the 24/7 modern slavery helpline on 0800 0121 700.

Reverend Claire Hargreaves

Refugee and Interfaith Adviser SE District the Methodist Church

Food Cuts to Gaza and West Bank

The World Food Programme (WFP) will be cutting food aid to Palestine due to insufficient funds. Around 190,000 Palestinians will be affected. The WFP attributed this selective deprivation to the US withdrawal of humanitarian aid.

In a recent report the WFP stated that 22.5% of Palestinians suffered from food insecurity. It identified lack of mobility and economic restrictions as part reasons. Before the occupation local populations lived in relative abundance.

Humanitarian aid is currently necessary because of Israel's occupation. However, aid cannot be seen as a long-term solution. Many view it as little more than a veneer that maintains the current state of political violence. Nevertheless, this funding crisis ought to become a call to accountability, not only to the State of Israel, but also to the so-called international community. Who is being held to account for this insecurity is a question that needs to be asked. The question is unlikely to be answered any time soon.

Article from 'URC's Commitment for Life' provided by Claire Hargreaves.

Publicity, Marketing and Communications

It was last summer when the Publicity, Marketing and Communications Group last met to enjoy Laura Treneer's presentation on social media and how we can use it to the best advantage for our churches. Notes from the day and a copy of Laura's presentation are still available to anyone who didn't previously receive them.

We would like to find out if there is enough interest to run another session on publicity, marketing and communications so if you have a particular topic you would like more information on, or indeed if you are knowledgeable in a particular area of this wide subject and would be happy to talk to the group then please let Sue Howson know. We are probably looking at a date in early summer. If there is no appetite for more meetings then I will continue to keep in touch with the group via email with any interesting items.

There have been a lot of changes across the circuit over recent months so this is a call for all webmasters and newsletter editors to check that all published information is up-to-date. And if you notice something that isn't quite right on another church's website or newsletter, don't be shy, let the relevant person know so it can be corrected. A fresh pair of eyes often spot something that has been previously missed.



I can be contacted on **07808 046451**, circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk or weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk

Sue Howson

Stoughton

Our Gift service in December provided gifts for Shooting Star Chase and we welcomed their representative who received them and also told us something about the inspiring work done at St. Christopher's Hospice.

After celebrating the birth of Jesus at our Christmas services Asif led our Covenant service at the beginning of the year. We gave thanks for all that God has done for us, and affirmed that we give our lives to Him.

Our bible study group continue to meet regularly and are currently following the book of Isaiah. We are grateful to Hilary Fletcher for leading this group.

We had a very special birthday to celebrate in January when Frances Roberts celebrated her 90th birthday. She didn't have a quiet birthday at home – she went to Melbourne, Australia, with other family members for a party with her grandson and his family. She had not seen her great grandson who was born 9 months ago, so it was a very special birthday indeed.

Linda Macbeth

Are you due Advanced Safeguarding Training?

Safeguarding training has been updated over the last couple of years and this includes the Advanced Module Safeguarding training (which was formerly called The Leadership Module).

Training consists of about an hour and a half of 'Essential Preparation' which is carried out before you attend the training session. This can be done individually or in small groups if preferred. This is followed by a Core Learning training session, organised by the District, after which you will be given a handbook to take away for further study.

We have been fortunate enough to secure a date for the District to come to our Circuit to deliver this training. This will take place on:

Wednesday 10 July 10 am to 3 pm at Merrow Methodist Church.

Those required to attend include:

- ◆ All presbyters, with an active preaching or pastoral ministry
- ◆ Local Preachers
- ◆ Worship leaders
- ◆ Lay people who has been appointed to exercise pastoral leadership within a local church.
- ◆ Church Safeguarding Officers
- ◆ Circuit Safeguarding Officer

Please note that the Foundation Safeguarding Training Course should have been undertaken before attending the Advanced Training Module. Also Conference in 2016 decided that the frequency of attending Safeguarding training courses should change in 2017, from 5 years to 4 years to ensure that training keeps pace with changes in legislation and safeguarding practices. If it is 4 years or more since you attended the old Leadership training and you remain in the same role you will therefore need to undertake the new Advanced Training programme.

Our Presbyters and Supernumeraries are already booked onto courses in Farnborough and Eastbourne, together with Maggie Woolcock and Catherine Heffernan.

We are anticipating that the training course at Merrow, being so nice and local, will book up quickly as we have many people due this training and there are only 30 places.

If you would like to secure your place - please email Catherine Heffernan on:
circuitoffice@virginmedia.com

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact your Church Safeguarding officer or any of the Circuit Safeguarding team. More information is also available on the Methodist Church website under *Safeguarding Training*

Maggie Woolcock (Circuit Safeguarding Lead)
Catherine Heffernan (Circuit Safeguarding Administrator)



Tales of a Travelling Preacher

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

Lymington Methodist Church's youth club frequently joined the youth club at Brockenhurst for joint activities and our Minister persuaded us to form a small group to take Film Services to the small chapels out in the New Forest on a Sunday evening. We quickly established a routine – my friend Mike was a wizard with the projector, Clive played the piano which left me to lead the service and read the prayers, we shared the bible readings around. It worked well and we had fun.

Then one evening at Wootton the film broke and Mike could not repair it. I filled in time by choosing a hymn and then told the story of the film – we had taken the same film to three or four chapels so I knew it well. The service finished and we all went our separate ways.

A few days later I was very surprised to see Frank, the Minister, at the front door. He asked Mum if he could speak to me. Then he asked me what happened at Wootton and I explained. He then told me that the projector was broken and there were no funds to replace it. Sadly, the film services would have to end. Then out of the blue he said, 'You did very well on Sunday, one of our Local Preachers was at the Service and he thought you had the makings of a Local Preacher. This time there were no 'Wild Horses' for God made it clear it was His call. I had to reply, 'Here am I, use me'

In 1967, I became a Local Preacher on Note. My mentor was an 'A' Level RE teacher from the Grammar School and he really put me through my paces. In 1968, I was on my own as a Local Preacher on Trial in the New Forest South Circuit. It was truly as a travelling preacher. I may not have had a horse but I did have a 175cc BSA Super Bantam motorcycle and together we travelled to pretty villages with tiny chapels with small, mainly elderly, congregations.

One summer evening I was planned at Thorney Hill, 10 miles away across the open Forest. The weather was beautiful when I left but about half way a violent thunderstorm blew up and it rained – very heavily. I was wearing some rain gear but even so I was soaked to the skin. When I arrived, there was a congregation of two and I led the service and preached whilst squelching in my shoes. We had no organist and I thanked God that he had blessed me with the ability to sing and I led the singing too. The ride home was good and the warm breeze began to dry me out.

I don't know if John and Charles Wesley had problems with their horses but I know they both fell off a couple of times. Not wishing to upstage them, but so did I. Bransgore had a busy church and in the winter a Youth Fellowship. They met after the evening service. One frosty, misty, November evening we had a very good service and I stayed for a coffee and cake with the young people. I left about half an hour later than usual and by then the mist had come down thickly and it was freezing. I rode carefully and knew that the lane I was on met another where I had to turn left. At the junction, there was a five-barred gate opposite which was a helpful navigation point but I couldn't see it. Then suddenly it appeared out of the mist straight in front of me, fortunately I was travelling slowly. I hit the brakes but the bike skidded on the frozen leaves in the gutter and I knew I was going to hit the gate post. I remember saying 'Lord, I'm going to hit that gate post!' - and in what seemed like slow motion I did. I was pitched off into the road and the bike fell over. The engine kept going with the rear wheel still going around. I was afraid fuel might spill onto the hot engine and catch fire. I turned off the engine, and managed to pick the bike up, got on and rode very gingerly back to the chapel where I could get light to check the bike out. It was OK, so was I, unhurt, but a bit shaken. On the way home, I started to shake and changed right down to bottom gear and crawled, safely, all the way.

I was following my Old Testament Studies by distance learning and was finding it difficult with working as well. However, I had the opportunity to apply to Cliff College in Derbyshire a well-known Methodist Lay Training Centre, but I couldn't get a grant as it didn't fit Hampshire County Council's criteria. So Mum decided to go back to teaching to help provide the funds. God moves in a mysterious way as she had been toying with the idea for a while and this provided the impetus.

To be continued.....

Graham Warr

The Most Popular Bible Verse

YouVersion is a Christian ministry with the mission of helping people engage with the Bible. They believe the Bible has the power to transform people's lives when they read or listen to it in their own language and then meditate on what its words mean to them. Offering 1,800 versions of the Bible in 1,250 languages, the YouVersion Bible app has now been downloaded more than 350 million times globally since its launch a decade ago. Founder and pastor, Bobby Gruenewald said: "This year's data shows people worldwide are continuing to turn to the Bible in search of comfort, encouragement, and hope.

The most popular verse in 2018 was Isaiah 41:10 which says: "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." It overtook Joshua 1:9 ("This is my command: be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go") which was the most popular quote in 2017.

The Big Read



At the official start date of this edition of *Wey Forward* (1 March 2019), those of you taking part in this project to read the Bible from cover to cover will be reading Deuteronomy Chapter 29. Is anyone else out there taking part? No one has notified me that they are 'walking' through the bible with me, whether or not they have done it before – as indeed have I. However I do know that I am not alone due to one of those circumstances which must be attributed to the guidance of the Lord.

In September 2018, just after I suggested that we start this project, I was lucky enough to go on holiday with a girl friend. She was brought up a Methodist but hasn't been to church, except for weddings and christenings, since her teens. As our holiday included a flight and I had to consider the baggage allowance I didn't want to take a bible with me (and one can no longer guarantee that there will be a copy in a hotel room) so I photocopied the chapters I would need whilst away. Towards the end of the week my friend finally asked me what I was doing with these sheets and I explained the reason. She looked thoughtful and then said 'I think I will join you, I have never read the whole of the bible'.

When we returned, she went rummaging in her loft and found her bible; despite at least six house moves in the 25 years I have known her she still had a copy! It was the RSV version and she has now updated to a NIV version on her i-pad which is easier to read but she is still with us. Occasionally she will call or text me with an observation.

Is there anyone in the circuit reading with us? Please let me know via linda_weedon@hotmail.com or 01932 846597

Rev Asif Das has kindly said they if anyone has any challenges with any thing they read he will be willing to try and answer any questions. Email Asif or give him a call on asifdas@hotmail.com or 01483 575432

Linda Weedon

Walton - on - Thames

We enjoyed our Christmas services. It was good to have Rev Sydney Samuel take the Candlelight carol service and to have his two children, Grace and Sydney, singing solos. At Messy Church on Christmas Eve, thanks to Rev Julia Monaghan, we had an amazing live Christingle, which ended with some thoughts for those less fortunate than us. On Christmas Day we celebrated the birth of Jesus in style with a good service and a very entertaining ad hoc Nativity play.

Our carol singing at Walton railway station and other carol services over Christmas will mean that we can send nearly £800 to Action for Children.

This year we are pleased to be continuing with singing hymns in residential homes and we are very grateful to Ruth Evans for keeping up the bookings. In February we will have had an away day on Appreciating Church, so hopefully, through next year, we will be taking on new challenges.

We have now advertised for a youth worker and wait to see what comes of the adverts. On 17 March we will be having our Gift Day, Annual Church Meeting and Anniversary and a delicious lunch to share with each other.

So there are a lot of things happening here and we would appreciate your prayers for the outreach that we are doing in Walton.

The Stewards

West Horsley

It was lovely to see so many people from local churches and the circuit at our Carol Praise event in December. The church was nearly full and we all enjoyed singing advent hymns and carols to prepare for the Christmas season. Although we had not regarded this as a fund raising event, £60 was given which we donated to the *No 5 Project* for homeless men in Guildford. If you enjoyed this event, or if you missed it, you will receive a very warm welcome at our Chapel Anniversary Songs of Praise at 7.00 pm on Saturday 6 April. If you would like to choose a hymn in advance, please let Celia Chapman know on 01483 282464. We are delighted that Rev Paul Hulme has agreed to take our Anniversary Service on the Sunday – the chapel will be 142 years old.

Nationally, The Women's Institute has an initiative to tackle the problem of loneliness. Our local WI in West Horsley responded by holding an afternoon "Link In" event on Saturday 19 January. All the local clubs and societies were invited to have a table to display their activities and an excellent free tea was provided. We had a table and a team of helpers to talk about our church and invite people to see inside the building, as it is next door. We had a rewarding level of interest and it was a good opportunity to make ourselves known in the community. We are grateful to Asif and Martha for making the time to attend this event.

We will be hosting the World Day of Prayer Service on 1 March, joining the other churches in the locality. We will also come together for the Unity Service in January and the open air Good Friday service. Ecumenical Lent house groups are resuming this year with discussions based on a film.

Margaret Faulkner

Weybridge



Since the last edition of Wey Forward there has been a new arrival at Weybridge. We treated ourselves to a Christmas present such that now we have a lovely prayer tree in the church. We had a temporary one, which lasted seven months! , for 'Thy Kingdom Come' in May 2018 when we placed our prayer 'strings' on the tree and subsequent to that we have been encouraging church members to add their prayer requests regularly. With our new tree we have re launched the regular addition of prayer requests and we are asking local preachers, or whoever leads the prayers of intercession, to include (generically) all the prayers hung on the tree in the weekly service. This lovely tree provides a focus for people to remember their own prayers, plus those placed by others, as its stands bright and glowing adjacent to the pulpit.

The choir, which used to meet regularly on our premises but which out grew our space, was back for a few weeks after Christmas and several members asked about the tree and, after the explanation, asked if they could add

prayer requests to it. Seems like it is working!

All other regular church activities continue as the Bedding and Clothes bank occurs monthly on the third Saturday, support for the local Foodbank continues, our monthly coffee morning (held at Addlestone) takes place on the second Saturday of the month and church members support the Weybridge Old Folks club on a weekly basis.



We welcome our old friend David Ingoldby to lead our Café Church on 12 May at 6.30 pm and all are welcome to come and join us for this service.

We are also looking at the possibility of a Café Church service on our church lawn, which is adjacent to the main road, during the summer. Watch out for more news next time.

Linda Weedon

The Foundry @ Trinity Woking

“We need to attract more young people” – the mantra of many churches where the average age exceeds 60 and the ‘active’ members are feeling increasingly less so. Sometimes we refer back to ‘the good old days’, searching for a clue in that fading history as to how we can regenerate the church.

The problem is that the world is changing beyond recognition. Look at the skyline from Trinity Woking and we see cranes building 34 storey apartment blocks – and this is just the start. This is the new Woking – 1000’s of mainly younger people living in the town centre. All this within a few minutes’ walk of *our* church. If we want to attract people, we don’t need to look far. Our challenge is to engage with them. The Foundry Project is where we believe God is leading us.

Core values of The Foundry Project

To worship God for what he has done for us in Jesus;

To grow our understanding of God in Jesus, and reflect that in our lives;

To maintain sufficient engagement with the local community so we can serve its needs;

To encourage each other to gently share the gospel of Jesus;

To increase the people accepting Jesus and wanting to join us in worshipping God;

To sustain all we do through prayer

What style of worship will we adopt?

We do not expect everyone to want to worship God in the same way. We will have as many styles of worship as demand, practicalities & doctrine permit. Our traditional Methodist service will remain. Messy Church may evolve into a family service. We have recently added Foundry Worship – sharing, contemporary songs, prayer and ministry. We also anticipate closer working with the Chinese church that meets at Trinity. It has been suggested we re-instate a mid-week service for those who struggle to get out on a Sunday morning.

How will we better engage with the community?

By talking to them! This sounds flippant, but most weeks we have circa 800 different people passing through our premises, many unchurched or non-Christian. Most will have no meaningful relationship with anyone from the church. During lent we plan a study series to help us address this – Mission Shaped Intro (from Fresh Expressions). This will be led by Graham Horsley. An underpinning principle of The Foundry is to encourage and equip members to gently share the gospel when opportunity arises, and it won’t arise if we don’t talk to people!

Is that all?

Far from it. Some other initiatives below:

We are planning to be centrally involved in a ‘Community Conversation’. This is facilitated by ROC (Redeeming our Communities). ROC brings local faith communities together with social services, the police, local authorities, etc. It is a celebration of the good that goes on, but also an opportunity to identify unmet or anticipated needs. See <https://roc.uk.com/about/> for more information. Through this process we will build strong local relationships.

Action groups will be formed alongside other churches, faith groups & agencies to address some of the priority needs identified. With our property having scope for redevelopment, this could inform the direction that this will take.

Subject to grants, we will employ a Community Missioner. The role will be to understand the needs of and link to those living in and around the town centre. Some suggestions as to how The Foundry could engage with people include: Welcome to Woking events; job clubs; games nights; delivery collection point; coffee shop; pairing young/old people; workshops for “flat un-friendly” hobbies!

We'd like the church to have a continual 'buzz' about it – it is a place to be – a destination. This needs the presence of people. The building therefore needs to work to bring people together. Redevelopment would offer scope to achieve this, and also provide a number of offices and meeting rooms. We envisage counsellors and professional advisors being based at The Foundry, but serving the local community.

Is this all an excuse for a major building project?

No. Trinity planned a £900k building project. This would have updated a 'tired' building, but would not have addressed congregational decline. The Foundry is all about growing the church. We would only undertake a major property redevelopment from a position of spiritual and numerical growth.

How long will The Foundry project take?

We are thinking in terms of 5 years. Arguably it is only then that The Foundry actually begins!

Why “The Foundry”?

Two reasons:

John Wesley set up his first London HQ in an old foundry. The faith, actions and energy of the early Methodists transformed this country, something to try and copy.

A foundry takes something at the end of its useful life, melts it down, and then re-casts it into something with a new purpose - a good analogy for what we are doing.

. . . . and finally

It is easy to turn a project of this nature into a series of plans and actions and for it to become a work of people. It would only be appropriate, therefore, to note that we see God's hand very much at work. Numerous 'coincidences' are feeding into our plans. Not to conclude this article by giving God the glory would be wrong. We do not pretend to fully know the way ahead, and with every opportunity comes a dozen questions that we don't have the answers to. Yet with prayer (and sometimes patience), the answers seem to come. So please pray for The Foundry, and yes, give God the Glory.



Hugh Bowerman

Woking

Lent Study Course

It is true to say that all churches in the Circuit are striving to discern just what is God's mission for them, wherever they are. That is common to most churches and the Fresh Expressions team is working hard to help.

The Fresh Expressions team offers *mission shaped into 2 (msi2)* as a course for small or medium-size groups. *msi2* is intended to provoke discussion, and whilst there is also input from the facilitator, it is vital that group members are able to spend time in conversation. We hope that discussions will continue outside of the group during the days between sessions.

Graham Horsley, the Methodist Fresh Expressions Missioner, is presenting this course at Trinity over 5 weeks during lent.

- 12 March Rediscovering Mission
- 19 March Mission and Church
- 26 March Church and Community
- 2 April Discipleship, leadership and mixed economy
- 7 April Where do we go from here?

This is an open invitation to join us at Trinity either as individuals or small groups from your church.

The sessions will start at 7.30 pm and will last around 90 minutes.

John Nelson

**JOIN US FOR A
MAD HATTERS
Tea Party**

11TH MARCH 2019, 12PM FOR A 12:30PM START
HILTON HOTEL, COBHAM

TICKETS £30 EACH

INCLUDES AFTERNOON TEA AND A GLASS OF PIZZ
FABULOUS RAFFLE PRIZES TO BE WON
WEARING A HAT IS NOT COMPULSORY
FOR MORE DETAILS CALL PAM ON 01932 243521
IN AID OF

newlife
THE CHARITY FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

ALL MONEY RAISED WILL HELP DISABLED CHILDREN IN SURREY

APPLICATION FORM

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
POSTCODE: _____
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
EMAIL: _____

AFTERNOON TEA INCLUDES:
• SANDWICHES • CAKES • POCRUS WITH CREAM AND JAM
• CHOICE OF TEA OR COFFEE • GLASS OF PIZZ

GUEST NAMES
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SIT TOGETHER

NAME: _____	NAME: _____
DISTRY NEEDS: _____	DISTRY NEEDS: _____
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
DISTRY NEEDS: _____	DISTRY NEEDS: _____
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
DISTRY NEEDS: _____	DISTRY NEEDS: _____
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
DISTRY NEEDS: _____	DISTRY NEEDS: _____
NAME: _____	NAME: _____
DISTRY NEEDS: _____	DISTRY NEEDS: _____

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE ARE AWARE OF ANY DISTRY REQUIREMENTS

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO NEWLIFE AND SEND WITH COMPLETED FORM
AND SAE TO: PAM LONG C/O 12 HOLLY AVENUE, WILTON ON THAMES, SURREY, KT12 6AT

Woking Chinese Congregation

The Chinese congregation meet at 1.30 pm at Trinity, Woking, under the pastoral care of Rev David Foo, a retired Methodist minister from Malaysia. Sunday service is conducted in Chinese, both Mandarin and Cantonese, with English translation when native preachers are present.

The congregation conduct regular ministry and activities such as Sunday service, communion, choir, Sunday school, youth work, Bible study groups, prayer meeting, fellowship, pastoral visit, baptismal service etc.

The spark of the ministry first started as a family Bible study group among Chinese Christians in Woking and Guildford area in the early 2000's. In early 2008, Rev KM Ho from Chinese Overseas Christian Mission (COCM) led a mission team to Woking and Guildford to advance evangelical work in the area. The timely arrival of Rev David Foo in Woking acted as the catalyst to start the Woking-Guildford Christian Fellowship, meeting at Old Woking Community Centre on Saturday morning. Members then still attended local churches on Sunday.

The next step of development came in early 2013 when Rev Bob Sneddon of Trinity and Rev David Foo shared a vision of the Chinese congregation meeting at Trinity on Sunday afternoon. With the support of the Trinity Church Council to approve the application of the then fellowship to meet at Trinity, and eventually at the Circuit meeting in July, approval was given to the group to meet at Trinity. The outcome was a series of meetings with Trinity leaders to work out practical arrangements. All went well. The first Sunday service of the Chinese congregation took place on 4 January 2014 at Trinity at 1.30 pm.

It has been five years since the launch. The care and support from ministers, leaders and members of Trinity to this young congregation is a manifestation of Christian love and hospitality. The Trinity Council invited the congregation to have representatives at their meeting, and welcomed their Chinese friends to participate in various Trinity services and functions. Likewise, the congregation would take every opportunity to participate and contribute to Trinity functions. The spirit of fellowship and church family has become a common goal.

Gospel Sunday has been the highlight of Christmas season for years. On 23 December 2018, Gospel Sunday service gathered a congregation of more than 150, with Choir and message from Chinese Congregation Methodist Church Epsom. Trinity family offered unfailing support to the event to make it happen. This is another testimony of joint efforts of Church family, local and beyond.

The Chinese congregation have been prayerfully journeying forward with the vision : strengthening and consolidating Chinese Christians to build up the body of Christ, and spreading the gospel to the communities in general, and Chinese in particular.

Simon Che



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 12 of The Wey Forward
is midnight 7th April 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 13 7th July 2019

Issue 14 20th October 2019

Issue 15 19th January 2020

Issue 16 5th April 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
March 2019			
1 March	tbc	World Day of Prayer Service—united service	West Horsley
1 - 3 March	various	80th Anniversary Celebrations	Byfleet
2 March	9 am	Coffee Morning hosted by Brownies and Rainbows	Byfleet
3 March	4 pm - 5 pm	Taize—Music and Reflection	St Mary's, Guildford
9 March	9.20 pm - 12.30 pm	Practical Aspects of Spirituality with Andrew Wheeler	St Mary's, Guildford
12 March	7.30 pm - 9 pm	Lent Study Course 1—Rediscovering Mission	Woking
14 March	10.30 am - 12.30 pm	Coffee Morning supporting 'Migraine Action'	Merrow
16 March	2 pm - 4 pm	Clothes 4U	Knaphill
16 March	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Bedding and Clothing Bank	Weybridge
17 March	6.30 pm	Café Church led by Barrie Tabraham	Addlestone
17 March	10 am	Gift Day, AGM and Anniversary	Walton
19 March	7.30 pm - 9 pm	Lent Study Course 2—Mission and Church	Woking
23 March	10 am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
24 March	3 pm	Circuit Service - Thy Kingdom Come with Rev Canon Jean Kerr	Merrow
25 March	6.30 pm	AGCM with supper	Merrow
26 March	7.30 pm - 9 pm	Lent Study Course 3—Church and Community	Woking
29 March	8 pm - 11.30 pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
30 March	10 am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research UK	Knaphill
April 2019			
2 April	7.30 pm - 9 pm	Lent Study Course 4—Discipleship, leadership & mixed economy	Woking
6 April	tbc	Mission Social Event	Knaphill
6 April	7 pm	Songs of Praise	West Horsley
17, 14, 21, 26 April	12.15 pm for 12.30 pm	Were you there? Lent Reflections	St Mary's, Guildford
7 April	7.30 pm - 9 pm	Lent Study Course 5—Where do we go from here?	Woking
7 April	Midnight	Deadline for copy for Issue 13 of The Wey Forward	
7 April	2.30 pm - 4.30 pm	Intercessions Training	Merrow
11 April	10.30 pm - 12.30 pm	Coffee Morning supporting 'Guildford No 5' project	Merrow
13 April	9am - 12.30 pm	Coffee Morning	Byfleet
13 April	3 pm - 5 pm	Messy Church—Egg trail and more	Godalming
18 April	8 pm	Service of the Tenebrae led by Barrie Tabraham	Merrow
18 April	6 pm	Service of the Tenebrae led by Common Ground	St Mary's, Guildford
18 April	8 pm	Service of the Tenebrae led by Graham Horsley	West Horsley
19 April	5.30 pm	Stainer's Crucifixion	St Mary's, Guildford
20 April	2 pm - 4 pm	Clothes 4U	Knaphill
20 April	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Bedding and Clothing Bank	Weybridge
25 April	10.30 am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
26 April	8 pm - 11.30 pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
27 April	10 am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
May 2019 (and beyond)			
4, 11, 18 May	12.15 pm for 12.30 pm	Were you there? Lent Reflections	St Mary's, Guildford
9 May	10.30am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning supporting 'Christian Aid'	Merrow
11 May	9am - 12.30pm	Coffee Morning with plant sale	Byfleet
12 May	6.30 pm	ATS led by Barrie Tabraham	Merrow
12 May	6.30 pm	Café Church led by David Ingoldby	Weybridge
18 May	2pm - 4pm	Clothes 4U	Knaphill
18 May	11.30 am - 1.30 pm	Bedding and Clothing Bank	Weybridge
19 May	6 pm	District Probationers' Testimony Service	Woking
23 May	10.30 am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
24 May	3 pm	Thy Kingdom Come—Circuit Service	Merrow
25 May	10am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
30 May - 9 June		Prayer Vigil - Thy Kingdom Come	
31 May	8 pm - 11.30 pm	Night Vision	St Mary's, Guildford
9 June	6.30 pm	Café Church	Addlestone
10 July	10 am - 3 pm	Advanced Safeguarding Training	Merrow



Prayer Training

You are invited to attend a sequel to the training session on leading prayers of intercession



The training will consist of three elements:

- Prayers with small groups (Rev Claire Hargreaves)
- Prayers with children and young people (Mr Graham Warr)
 - Theology of prayer (Rev Barrie Tabraham)

Refreshments will be served

Sunday 7 April 2019
2.30pm - 4.30pm

Merrow Methodist Church

Plenty of free parking

To book a place please contact Lyn McKay
on lynwen.mckay@gmail.com by 24 March