



Weybridge Methodist Church

Newsletter March 2019



'I will lift my eyes to the hills'

‘Calling Disciples: Cast-as-nets?’

Reflection: ‘Net-á-Peter’? – based on Luke 5:1-11

High and dry. That’s how he left me: high and dry .And not once. *Twice* – in the *same* day.

The first time was ... understandable.

It had been a long, frustrating night: out on the lake, *all* night – in perfect conditions.

And what had I caught? Nothing. *Nothing!* From the Sea of Galilee – a body of freshwater so abundant, it was literally *teeming* with fish!

Nothing.

It was unheard of! And, to make matters worse, my ‘home port’ is Bethsaida: it means “fishery”: “place of *nets*”. The shame!

Despite the lack of catch, the rest of the usual morning routine continued: boats beached,

as the sun began to rise, net-care commenced.

My costly linen threads were washed clean, so my lines would last longer, and be invisible to the fish. The entangled weed and pebbles were carefully picked out, so I would not be weighed down, and could hang freely in the water. The few new tears were skilfully mended, sewn so, my square mesh complete, I would be most effective in my task.

I was stretched out to dry, prepared, in readiness for service.

Then, about mid-morning, *He* came along. The stranger. The teacher. The *non*-fisherman.

He stood at the water’s edge. He got into the boat. He spoke to my master, Simon:

He wanted the boat put out a little from the shore. The crew obliged: the boat was rowed out into the shallows; the anchor was dropped. The Rabbi sat down. He talked to the crowd of people on the beach.

Whilst *He* talked, Simon took me down, carefully folding me, this way and that, as he did every day, arranging me for the following night’s fishing. Carrying me in his strong arms, he waded out to the boat, and settled me on the deck. At last, time to rest; to recuperate; to relax.

But, no. The stranger from the shore had other plans. I was rudely awakened by hands hauling me up, and heaving me into the sea. We were going ... fishing! But ...it was the middle of the day! What was going on? Everyone knows that fish descend to the depths during the day, and, in the sunlight, they’re more likely to see me coming. It was ...

unheard of! But the stone sinkers were pulling me down, a long way down, down into *deep* water.

I was being stretched taut as the weights dragged me towards the bottom, and the cork floats tied me to the surface. Suspended mid-water, I was set. Slowly, silently, I was pulled around into a circle. There was a tug against my twine. Then another. And another. Suddenly, the water was frantic, alive with fish, twisting, turning, tangling. I was encircling a whole shoal: enclosing so many fish that my threads strained to contain them. I was literally at breaking point.

The burden was too great: I couldn't hold on any longer; strands would snap; mesh would disintegrate; I would burst apart. Then I felt the yank of many strong hands dragging me upwards and dumping me down on supportive decks. Straddled over, and between, two semi-sinking boats I was pulled steadily towards the shore.

And the catch! Amazing! Astonishing! A great multitude of fish. It was unheard of! Biggest catch *I've* ever made. *The* greatest *day's* fishing! Before long, the boats were pulled up at the lakeside, and I was laid out. Eager hands worked nimbly, disentangling the fish, one by one. And then, for the second time that day, I was hung up: left high and dry. The stranger told Simon that "from now on" he would "catch men". *He ... would ... catch? How would that work? He was the fisherman. I was the net.*

'Catching' was *my* job! *How* was Simon like *me*? Was *he* made of delicate threads, needing constant care and attentions?

Did *he* need regular washing, to preserve the very fabric of his being? Did *he* need ensnared 'dirt' to be repeatedly removed, to free him and prevent him from being weighed down?

Did *he* have 'holes' that needed mending, to be able to fulfil his purpose? Was *he* prepared to be stretched, daily, to ready him for active service? Would *he* allow someone else to determine where he went, and when, and how he was deployed? Would *he* submit to difficult work, harsh conditions, and long hours, in the dark, and out of his depth? Would *he* hold on to what was precious, when he was at the point of being broken?

Was *he* willing to become a 'tool of the trade', in this 'catching of men'? I didn't know. I would never know. Because ... *he* followed the stranger, and left me, high and dry.

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Thank you

- To all those who assisted in the big tidy up day and helped to fill the skip.
- To all those who continue to help out at services by providing music, undertaking readings or prayers and providing refreshments.
- To those who allow us to share in their birthday celebrations.
- To those who have signed up to provide flowers on a Sunday morning. The wonderful displays created by Carol on a weekly basis provide a focal point for recognizing God's glory.
- To those who add prayers to the prayer tree

Thanks in advance:



On Sunday 3 March 2019 Pru and nine friends are doing a 10k run to raise funds for Ru, a little boy who has a rare form of childhood lymphoma. Whilst he is currently stable, but one knows what the future holds and much more research needs to be done. So far money pledged has reached just under £6,000. If you would like to sponsor Pru and 'team Ru' go to UK.VIRGINMONEYGIVING.COM and look for

Super Ru Running Crew or contact Pru directly



Remember that the clocks go forward by one hour on Saturday 30th March.

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Prayer Time:

The 'mobile' prayer group is open to all. Please add prayer needs as they occur to you. If you wish to be added to this group, contact one of the stewards.



Please pray for

- Brenda & Keith
- 6 year old Lia
- 3 years old Ruain
- Mary & Stan
- All those prayer needs hung on the prayer tree.



You may or may not have noticed that we have a new prayer tree which stands adjacent to the pulpit. Feel free to write your prayers on the gift tags and hang them on the tree. We will be asking preachers to include these prayers (generically) as part of the weekly intercessions

The fortnightly prayer group meets at Stan & Mary's home on alternate Thursdays. Please contact Stan or Jose for details of dates.



Happy Birthday

Adelaide

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Church Matters

Fire safety assessment

At the end of the summer the circuit funded a Fire Safety Assessment inspection for all of the circuit churches. The report of the assessment has been received and discussed with Paragon – the company who undertook the inspection. The recommendations are just that – recommendations- and we are not obliged to implement them, however if we do not, and there is a fire followed by a Fire Brigade investigation the church could be heavily penalized for ignoring this strong advice. Weybridge has come out fairly lightly in the scheme of things, especially compared to many of our sister churches in the circuit, but there is some remedial work to be done and weekly checks we have to implement. Thanks go to Claire who has volunteered to undertake the weekly inspection of the fire extinguishers- a tedious but necessary task. We are speaking with our Letts to ensure that no unnecessary paper is stored anywhere, including in cupboards and reminded them of the need to ensure that Fire Exits are kept clear at all times. We have undertaken this task ourselves.

We will be completing the installation of emergency lighting, boxing in the electrical switches plus many other smaller tasks in the coming weeks. Thanks to all those who are involved.

There are also some outstanding tasks from the last Quinquennial report to undertake which will be followed up after we have become compliant with the fire safety recommendations.

New PA system



We are aware that the state of our PA system is not ideal and a replacement is required. This is a very expensive task which will run into many thousands of pounds and at present we cannot deal with this as a priority. How can you help? We will start a fund specifically for this work. The 'post box' has been emptied and from 3 March it will be collecting funds for a new PA system. The monies raised at Addlestone at the monthly coffee morning will also be saved specifically for this work. Please give generously on a Sunday and come to a coffee morning on the second Saturday of the month 10 – 12 at Addlestone Methodist church.

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BYFLEET METHODIST CHURCH



INVITES YOU TO OUR **ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND**
FRIDAY 1st, SATURDAY 2nd and SUNDAY 3rd MARCH 2019

<p>FRIDAY AFTERNOON 2.00 pm</p>  <p>WOMENS' DAY OF PRAYER followed by TEA and CAKE</p>	<p>FRIDAY EVENING 7.30 pm</p> <p>A Talk by Jim Allen "THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL IN BYFLEET 1875 - 1939"</p>  <p>followed by the film "THE THREE VILLAGES" Inc. Interval Refreshment</p>	<p>SATURDAY MORNING 9.00 am – 12 noon</p>  <p>Hosted by the BROWNIES and RAINBOWS</p>
<p>SATURDAY LUNCHTIME 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm</p>  <p>PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH AVAILABLE</p>	<p>SATURDAY AFTERNOON 2.30 pm</p> <p>"SHOWCASE" A DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA by the Susan Robinson School of Ballet</p>  <p>followed by AFTERNOON TEA Tickets (free): M Watts 01932 343489</p>	<p>SUNDAY MORNING 10.30 am</p>  <p>MORNING WORSHIP with HOLY COMMUNION led by REV. CHRISTOPHER BISHOP</p> <p>12.30 CELEBRATION LUNCH Places limited: booking essential</p>
<p>SUNDAY AFTERNOON 3.30pm</p> <p>CELEBRATION WORSHIP led by REV. DR. PETER HOWSON and REV. JULIE UNDERWOOD</p> 	<p>Throughout the weekend, the Church, decorated with daffodils, will be open for you to enjoy the exhibition "THE HISTORY OF BYFLEET METHODIST CHURCH 1939 – 2019" together with examples of members' talents: knitting for charity, quilting, painting, writing, needlework, baking, etc. and information about some of the charities we support. Entry by Donation: there will be no charge for any of the events (exc. Sun lunch) but donation plates will be in evidence and we hope people will feel able to make a contribution to the ongoing work and mission of Byfleet Methodist Church. All enquiries: margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com 01932 343489</p>	

Dates for the diary

Friday 1 March 2019, 2.00pm	Women's world day of prayer	Hosted by us.
Saturday 2 March 2019	Anniversary activities – see poster for details	Byfleet Methodist Church
Sunday 3 March 2019	10.30 am Morning Worship	Mr John Oborn <i>Steward – Linda</i> <i>Music – Jose</i> <i>Refreshments - Paula</i>
Sunday 3 March 2019	3.00pm Anniversary Service led by Rev Julie Underwood and Rev Peter Howson	Byfleet Methodist Church
Saturday 09 Feb 2019	10.00 am Coffee Morning	Run by us at Addlestone
Sunday 10 March 2019	10.30 Morning Worship	Mrs Jane Briggs <i>Steward- Pru</i> <i>Music – TBC</i> <i>Refreshments - Lili</i>
Saturday 16 March 2019	Bedding & Clothes Bank 11.30 – 1.30pm	Church Hall
Saturday 16 March 2019	'A trip round Indo- China' , 7.00pm	Stoughton Methodist Church
Sunday 17 March 2019	10.30 Morning Worship & Holy Communion	Rev Peter Hills <i>Steward – Carol</i> <i>Music – Adrian</i> <i>Communion - Paula</i> <i>Refreshments -</i> <i>Adelaide</i>
Tuesday 19 March 2019	'All our Yesterdays' service 2.30pm	St James Parish Church
Thursday 21 March 2019	1.45 – 4.00pm Weybridge Centre	Weybridge Old Folks Club
Sunday 24 March 2019	10.30 am Morning Worship	Rev Claire Hargreaves

		<i>Steward – Linda Music – Mark Hargreaves Refreshments -Carol</i>
Sunday 24 March 2019	3.00pm Circuit Service and talk on Thy Kingdom Come followed by tea	Merrow Methodist Church Rev Jean Kerr
Sunday 31 March 2019	10.30 am Morning Worship & Communion General Church meeting	Rev Sydney Samuel Lake <i>Steward – Jose Music – Adrian Refreshments - Linda</i>
Advance Notices		
Thursday 18 April	Tenebrae Service at 8.00pm	Trinity Methodist Church, Woking
Friday 19 April 10.00am	Good Friday Walk of Witness	Further details to be announced



Rest in Peace

It is with sadness that we report the death of David Jones just before last Christmas. David, his late wife Marion and children Stephen, Simon and Sarah worshiped with us during the late 60's, 70's and early 80's until they moved to Shalford following David's retirement. After Marion's death due to cancer, David remarried and spent his last years in South Africa. Those who remember the family will be saddened to hear the news. David leaves a legacy of remembrance to the church. He and Marion donated the lovely table, which stands at the front of the church as our Alter, when the church re-opened after the fire of 1977.



World day of Prayer

'Come, everything is ready'

The world day of prayer (formerly the Women's world day of prayer) takes place around the world on Friday 1st March 2019. This is a worldwide movement of Christian women that began in the U.S. and Canada in the 19th century, and became worldwide in 1927. The continuing motto for this very special day is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action".

This day is no longer celebrated only by women; many men and children participate, too. Each year, on this day, Christians of many cultures, traditions, and races, in over 170 countries around the world unite in prayer. Of course, all people are always welcome and encouraged to participate.

Program materials for the 2019 have been put together by the women of Slovenia. The theme for 2019 is "Come, Everything is Ready"

This year our church will play host to all the churches in Weybridge on Friday 1st March at 2.00pm. Please put the date in your diary and come and join us.

Help will be needed to set up the refreshments before and after the service and with the preparation and serving of refreshments. Please let Carol know if you can help.

FOOD BANK.

We were rather concerned at the beginning of the year to find out that the Foodbank we support was giving away food and not to the registered recipients. This is because they received so many donations that they had nowhere to store the food. Whilst we understand the issue, we were concerned that the organisers had not asked the churches to help. We could have provided some short term storage here as could other churches.

Our friends at Byfleet Methodist church are starting up a Foodbank in conjunction with Woking Borough Council, commencing in April. After a discussion at Church Council it was decided that this church will support their efforts. So no donations in March but donations will be received on Easter Sunday for the work of the Byfleet Foodbank.

This Foodbank will open on a Wednesday from 12 - 3



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

**Tuesday 19th March
at 2.30pm**

A 30 minute service of favourite hymns and readings followed by tea and cakes and a chance to socialize.

If you are living with Dementia

If you are a carer

If you are living alone

If you have some spare time

This is the event you've been looking for and we look forward to seeing you.

**ST. JAMES CHURCH
CHURCH STREET
WEYBRIDGE**

stjamesweybridge.org.uk

Parking available in Churchfields Car Park

PRESS RELEASE:

25 January 2019



LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS WORKING TOGETHER - ELMBRIDGE RENTSTART AND TRANSFORM LAUNCHES 'COME IN OUT OF THE COLD WINTER HUB' FOR THE BOROUGH'S HOMELESS, LONELY AND VULNERABLE

Supported by Elmbridge Borough Council and Walton Charity, the 'Hub' will open daily Monday to Friday 10am – 2pm until the end of March hosted by Transform

Homeless charity Elmbridge Rentstart opened the borough's first 'Winter Hub drop-in' service at premises in the borough managed by Transform Housing & Support on Thursday 24 2019. The Hub will be open until at least the end of March, initially Monday to Friday, run and manned by trained Elmbridge Rentstart staff.

Funded by grants from Elmbridge Borough Council and Walton Charity the Hub will offer attendees refreshments, hot freshly prepared food, areas to relax, watch TV, use computers or play board games, access to shower facilities and the premises also offers the ability to do laundry.

As well as a facility giving respite for individuals from the street, Elmbridge Rentstart staff are experts in assisting attendees with looking for suitable housing, identifying entitlement to benefits and opportunities for training or employment.

Transform Chief Executive, Lawrence Santcross said, "This is a great example of local partners working together and we are thrilled that Transform can provide the facility to house the Hub."

Elmbridge Rentstart Chief Executive, Helen Watson said "We are really proud to have been asked to organise and run this really important new hub for the homeless or vulnerably housed community of Elmbridge who so very much need a safe and warm place to spend time across the coldest months of the year." Continuing "we hope that the whole community, who are very aware of the increase in homeless, lonely and isolated individuals, will support us by volunteering time and donating food to support the team at the Hub."

In providing funding Jackie Lodge, Chief Executive at Walton, agreed "sadly having seen a rise in rough sleeping across the borough, it was very easy to agree to fund this very important and potentially life changing project."

Councillor Andrew Kelly, Portfolio Holder for Housing at Elmbridge Borough Council said "Elmbridge Borough Council is supporting a number of projects aimed at tackling homelessness in general and rough sleeping in particular. The Council is pleased to support this project as it will help some of the most marginalised and vulnerable people in our community and as well as meeting their basic needs, we see it as a means of helping them to move off the street for good".

The Hub will make use of recent donations of non-perishable food from local foodbanks and toiletries collected by children from the North West Surrey Synagogue Sunday School. There will also be an opportunity for attendees to select items of clothing, including winter coats, trousers and workwear which have been donated by members of the community.

Initially open from 10am until 2pm each day the Hub will need volunteers to help support specially trained members of Elmbridge Rentstart staff, so the charity has set up a specific schedule* for individuals to offer their time in two or four hour blocks.



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Four Countries and a Wedding

or

Around Indochina by Bus

an illustrated talk by Philip Beastall



Stoughton Methodist Church
GU2 9PT

7pm Saturday 16th March 2019

light refreshments

All welcome

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Lent Study Course

mission shaped into 2 (msi2)



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

March 12th Rediscovering Mission

March 19th Mission and Church

March 26th Church and Community

**April 2nd Discipleship, leadership
and mixed economy**

April 9th 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 7.30pm and will last around 90 minutes.

Trinity Methodist Church Brewery Road Woking GU21 4LH

 **Woking Methodist Church**



SERVICE OF THE

TENEBRAE

Maundy Thursday

8.00 pm, 18th April 2019

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