

# **The Wey Forward**

Issue 21 September - November 2021

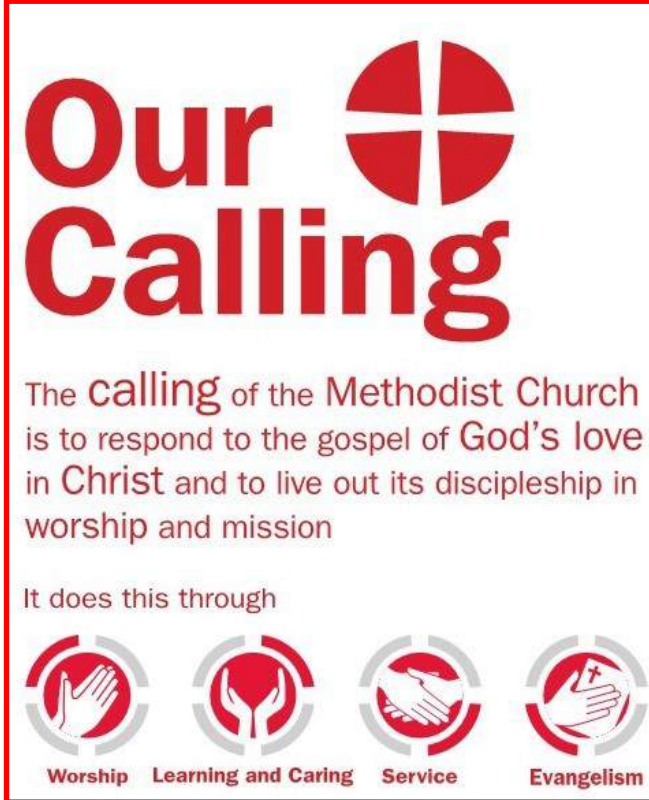


# The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

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

Our churches can be found in :





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



**Our Calling**

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

It does this through

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

If you are a visitor or newcomer to the area, or living here and seeking a church for the first time, please use our website - [www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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 Acting Superintendent

Dear Friends,

When I wrote the final guest pastoral letter for the Circuit before Keith returned from his sabbatical, I appealed for us all to give him a gentle re-entry into Circuit life. Well, I should have seen it coming but a few hours after emailing my text to the Circuit Office Sue Howson replied, suggesting that in the light of that perhaps I should write the lead piece for this edition of The Wey Forward, as it would be needed soon after he returned. I guess you have to practise what you preach.

At time of writing, practising what you preach has been a major issue in our public political life after Matt Hancock was caught on camera breaking his own social distancing rules.

Neither had he or his lover practised what they presumably proclaimed in their wedding vows: both had broken up their families. If you can lie to your nearest and dearest can you lie to the country? No wonder Boris Johnson, a man for whom the old words 'cad' and 'bounder' could have been invented, accepted Hancock's initial apology and considered the matter closed. As Shakespeare observed, there is something rotten in the State of Denmark.

Practise what you preach. Hmm. Some will say that's an impossible standard and that only those of us who are without sin should cast the first stone.

But let me suggest a difference. For those who flagrantly fail to practise what they preach we often use the word 'hypocrite'. I'm sure many of you have heard sermons where preachers have explained the origin of that English word is a Greek word for the mask that actors in ancient Greece held in front of their faces on stage. It's hypocrisy when we deliberately put on a mask to pretend we are someone we're not.

I'm not talking about being judicious in our public statements. I have learned to be careful what I share about myself on social media. I don't put many negative personal issues on Facebook because I have learned from bitter experience that they get twisted. And yes, that does include church members deliberately twisting them.

But there is a fundamental difference between the hypocrite and the person who seeks with the help of the Holy Spirit to live up to the high standards of the Christian faith, even though from time to time they fail, in which case they confess their sins and find forgiveness.

I believe that today it has never been more important for the Church to practise what she preaches. That's why the child abuse scandals are so devastating for our witness, and why (like it or not) we must take issues like safeguarding seriously.

That's why too, we who preach cannot stand in a pulpit proclaiming the love of God and then tear people off a strip over coffee afterwards. I think of the elderly Local Preacher in my home circuit whose catchphrase was, 'I never challenge you without first challenging myself.'

Today, people need to see our faith lived out as well as proclaimed. And frankly, since fewer and fewer people are literate on Christian claims anyway, the first way they may encounter the Gospel is by how we live and how our actions match our words. I hope they will be so impressed that they ask us why we live this way.

Incidentally, I've been advocating this approach for some years



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now, but only recently did I discover it's been given a name: 'permission evangelism'. The idea is that our lifestyles are positively provocative that people are so curious they effectively give us permission to share the Gospel with them.

All this works with one particular assumption: that the Christian life is distinctive, and that while we may want to be relevant to our culture we don't win disciples for Christ by watering down the Gospel so that it's indistinguishable from the values of the world.

It was this distinctive lifestyle, closely matching their proclamation, that meant the Graeco-Roman world commented with some astonishment on the activities of the early church. The Christians looked after babies who had been rejected and left exposed to die. They buried the dead for those who were grieving, rather than leave their bodies to rot. (That's why we still offer to take funerals for people of faith and no faith.) Later, they invented the infirmary, the precursor of the hospital. No wonder they made an impact, and no wonder the powerful didn't always like them.

Let's find ways to follow in their footsteps today, taking what we proclaim about a God of mercy and love and putting that into practice.

God bless you all so that you may be a blessing to others,

*Dave Faulkner*

*Acting Superintendent*

## **Goodbye from Asif**

Dear Friends,

As you may know, I am sitting down (retiring) at the end of this Connexional Year. However, I will be moving out of the Circuit towards the end of July. This will give the Circuit a little time for re-decorating the manse before the arrival of the new minister.

I want to express my gratitude for being able to get to know you over the past nine years. Without your friendship, support and collaboration, my time in the Circuit here would not have been the same. I hope to see you before I leave, but if not; I wish you every blessing for the future.

I will cherish my time here and all that we did together to further the Kingdom of God. I will always hold you in my prayers and thoughts. For your information my new address will be:

Top Flat  
85 Reigate Road  
Reigate  
RH2 0RE

Wishing you every blessing in Christ Jesus,

*Rev Asif Das*



# News from around the Circuit

## Addlestone



We understand that Jesus Christ named the church His chosen agent for bringing the good news of His Kingdom to the world. Our mission therefore is to do all we can to bring that good news to today's society in a way that is meaningful to them. It is essential for the future of our Methodist church in Addlestone.

Our church reopened for Sunday services on 6 June. No doubt like some other churches we are unsure how many of our pre-Covid regulars will be back with us. Some sadly have passed away, others have moved to be closer to their families or moved into a care home. For some we do not yet know the reason they have not yet returned.

Younger members of our society no longer attend the church so what are our plans for introducing new ways to encourage younger members of today's society to come to know Jesus Christ and worship regularly with us?

As part of a more modern approach, so many churches now provide the hymn lyrics and other service information on a screen and we are in the process of providing this. We are also hoping to obtain assistance from our preachers to present some of our services in a way that younger, non-Methodist regulars, can understand, find interesting and enjoyable and so will want to come back again. Presenting the same message but in a new way.

Most of our preachers currently present the service based on a long established procedure, understood and accepted by our congregations of long serving Methodists. Yet for many years Methodism has agreed that some changes are necessary and we hope that we can agree a way ahead so that our church can continue to be one of God's chosen agents.

Time however is not on our side.

God is with us and He will make a way if only we help him to put it into effect. Please pray with us for his guidance.

*Fred Rowe*

## Circuit Books of Faith Group

If interested please contact:

Rev J. Allan Taylor on 01483 200464



## Byfleet

We move gradually back to normal at Byfleet. It may have to be the new normal but some things will be the same or very similar. We were able to meet for communal worship on Easter Sunday, socially distanced and masked, with music and no singing but we were back in our church with real people. Since then we have had regular Sunday services with singing by two of our church family and wonderful live preaching. We have also been able to have Holy Communion together, slightly different because it has to be self-service but equally a moment of individual personal contact. Our preachers have had to stay apart but I believe we have been able to extend welcomes and exchange greetings.

Other church activities have also started up, our Tuesday Fellowship for example, and we are setting dates when others like coffee mornings may be possible. We have even managed a couple of socially distanced church meetings.

The Food Bank has been able to operate with two of our members taking food parcels to those in need, and at the time of writing we plan to re-open on 5 July. It is possible that some deliveries will continue. The presence of Citizen's Advice is under consideration.

We have also had the gradual return of the various organisations that use our premises. A joy to see our building being used again but perhaps a greater joy for our Treasurer when the rents start coming again.

A major change for our building was that the International Community Church asked to use our sanctuary for their Sunday worship – the building they were using was needed as a vaccination centre. This had to be considered all the way up the Methodist hierarchy to the Connexion and agreed at every level. So now every Sunday afternoon the ICC meets for worship in Byfleet.

(Please see page 8 for a note from Senior Pastor, Rick Andrew on the work of the ICC).

One final historic note for our church is that towards the end of the last century we had some locals who delighted in throwing stones at our stained glass windows so we had them protected with polycarbonate guards which have served us very well for 20 plus years. Unfortunately the polycarbonate misted up over time and our windows became invisible. Now thanks to a gift in memory of Barbara Gahagan we have been able to replace the polycarbonate and our windows are on display again. For information the young Indian lady in the yellow sari is age 21 this year while all the rest are 83 years old.

*Ken Mears*



## Cranleigh

Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the speed with which time is passing? You say 'O, I'll have time to finish that tomorrow' or 'people won't need that yet – that meeting isn't on till the 26th' and so on. Whereupon, an important deadline passes and you have failed to complete a required task and caused trouble to other people. It is a well-known fact that time certainly seems to fly so quickly that you say 'I don't know where today has gone' or 'I've hardly done any of the jobs I meant to do'. The one consolation about these feelings is that most people, particularly the elderly, admit to having them and I suppose that is some comfort, but not when your lack of organisation causes problems to those who are efficient!

The preceding lines are a kind of apology for making our very efficient circuit magazine editor ask me if Cranleigh intended to contribute an article for 'The Wey Forward' as the deadline had passed for these to be submitted. I certainly had intended to contribute, and am now doing so – with a proper apology and no excuses for being late. Thank you for allowing me still to contribute.

The great news for our church is that we re-opened on 23 May with about 25 attending, suitably masked and seated two metres from each other, unless from the same 'bubble'. Many thanks are due to those who worked hard to set up the sanitisers and who made a list of everyone who came, together with their details, in case any infection was subsequently reported. It was good that Rev Claire Hargreaves, our former minister, had been planned for this Communion Service, and her husband also came, in case we needed an organist (he has helped in this way many times before and we are very grateful to him). The children participated as well, but the only sad part was that we were unable to sing. However, Wendy Berrevoets, our expert projectionist, sorted recordings of hymns and to this day is still doing so. We are fortunate to have several skilful people who are very good technicians with the sound system also.

We have continued our services up to the time of writing, and hope that soon we may even be able to sing, though some of us fear the lack of practice may have removed what little voice we elderly singers had left! We still adhere to the original rules about talking after the service and leaving by the back door, having entered by the front. It is difficult to ensure people do not converse within the building, although people do sometimes forget! How can you not speak to someone as soon as you see them when you haven't seen them perhaps for months? However, people are trying hard to remember all the advice. I am as guilty as anyone for forgetting the rules!

Rev David Faulkner has looked after us very well during Keith's Sabbatical and has chaired committee meetings over Zoom. We are very grateful for all his help. He must have been very busy with his own church and of course also with looking after Circuit business. Many thanks, too, to Rev Allan Taylor, who helped us and any others who had personal problems, until he sadly was indisposed – although now happily almost fully recovered, though still sadly finding walking difficult.

We welcomed Keith and Hilary back on Sunday 18 July, when we had a Communion Service, followed by the postponed AGM.

*Glenda Sewell*



# The International Community Church



International  
Community  
Church

Hailing from various points in the UK and around the globe, members of the International Community Church count it a privilege to be part of the community of churches in north Surrey. More recently, we are grateful to enjoy the hospitality of Byfleet Methodist Church.

In some respects, we do not quite fit into typical categories. Rather than a parish church, we are a church community for people from many nations. In 1982, six families from the American Church in London started a mission church in their adopted home of Surrey. Initially the "American Community Church," we eventually changed our name to reflect evolving membership and in recognition that God's kingdom is for all nations. We are about half North American and British, but also have members from Africa, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Although many of us are locals, many others are living in the UK for a few years for career reasons. With a 30% annual transfer rate, it sometimes feels like a university church. Finally, we call ourselves, "interdenominational." Even while ICC has become "home," many still identify with some particular denomination.

Never owning a building, our location has moved around a bit. Since beginning on the American Community School campus in Cobham, we have subsequently met in Walton, Virginia Water, Thorpe, and Chertsey. In 2017, we felt led to reach out again to the Cobham community and started an additional worship service there. Since then, we have been two communities gathering for worship on Sunday mornings in Chertsey and on Sunday evenings in Stoke D'Abernon. As a result of the pandemic, we were not able to use either hired venue but worshipped entirely online for just over one year. In a welcome answer to earnest prayer, we were able to gather and resume worship in person at Byfleet Methodist on Easter Sunday. What a joyful celebration that was!

Perhaps because we have all come from so many different backgrounds, we are reminded to keep the main things the main things. As an orthodox evangelical, local church, we strive to remain faithful to the Word and the gospel, even when we find ourselves going against the flow of current cultural trends. We love Jesus, and believe that He is the only "way, the truth and the life." In focusing on our core beliefs, we enjoy a wonderful sense of unity.

Through everything we do — worship, youth and children's ministry, home groups, community service, and missions — our aim is to grow together as apprentices of Jesus. We love God, and we love each other. Some families move away every year, but we want to build them up and send them out stronger than when they came. We want to love and serve our community. Together with all churches, we look forward to the day when this community, this nation, and indeed the whole "earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

*Rick Andrew*

*Senior Pastor, International Community Church*



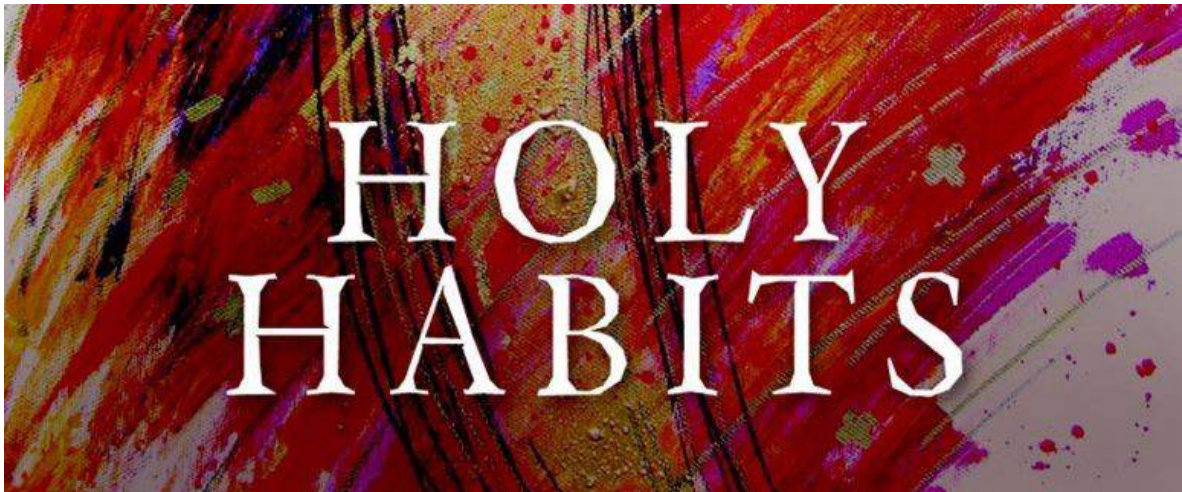
# Circuit Mission Event

**Save the date**

Saturday 16 October 2021

10.30 am

Trinity, Woking Methodist Church



A day to explore how the holy habits of discipleship that Luke explores in Acts 2:42-47 can equip and sustain us in mission today.

Led by Rev Andrew Roberts

## By Way of Knowing Us

Dear Friends,

What an honour to be invited to work and serve in the Wey Valley Circuit. As we start this new and exciting relationship, I suppose you may like to know a little about us, the Quarm family.

Anyway, if you are under forty years of age call me “Uncle George” and above forty years call me “King George.” I will be sincerely happy if you will do that.

I was brought up in the life of the Methodist Church in Ghana, West Africa; therefore, I cannot remember a time when God was not around. It seems I did not understand the “activities” of the Christian faith. They were simply social or entertainment gatherings hence I was a “nominal Christian”. I came to the Christian faith by accepting Christ into my life on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1975 through the Scripture Union (SU) Organisation in Ghana. The SU activities through my middle and secondary education changed my life from a “rascal” to “a living saint” (as I’m affectionately called by friends and family) .



I became a Local Preacher at the age of sixteen and a Sunday School teacher from 1976 to 1980. I felt the call of God and offered myself as a prospective candidate for the Methodist Church ministry in Ghana in the autumn of 1980. I attended Trinity Theological Seminary in Accra, Ghana from 1984 to 1987. I served as a Probationer for three years (normal procedure for Ghana Methodism) and Ordained in August 1990. I had the privilege of serving the church as a Circuit Minister for 13 years before opting to be trained as a Healthcare Chaplain in Birmingham University, and later in Luton University, and the School of Counselling and Psychotherapy. Following further training in Birmingham, I served as a Healthcare Chaplain for five years in one of our prestigious teaching hospitals in Accra, Ghana.

In the year 2000, the family re-located to the United Kingdom where Ama, my wife, had already settled. I took a Circuit appointment in Ealing Circuit for 9 months in 2000-2001, as a minister without appointment, before being accepted as a Recognized and Regarded Minister, posted to the then Herts and Beds District, Luton, in September 2001. I have worked as a Circuit Minister in the following circuits: Luton, Brixton, Lewisham, Bromley, The Fens, Lesnes Abbey and currently with the Battersea and Wandle Valley Circuit. My ministry is focused on pastoral care and counselling, evangelism, seminars, retreats, visiting of the elderly and the hospitalised.

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I consider myself to be a “gentle charismatic”. I also have a sense of enthusiasm and humour which I have carried through my ministry. My ministry has brought me into contact with people of Orthodox, Evangelical, Pentecostal, and Charismatic faith. This was made possible through organised retreats and conferences in many countries (home and abroad) - Newfoundland, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, France, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Canada, Yellowknife, (an extremely cold place -20/-35° C in Northern Western Territory of Canada) USA, and many other places.

I am a family person and mindful of individual family needs which is enriched by love, care, concern for their physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. I have been married to Ewurama (Ama), a nurse by profession, since 1986. Ama is also a Local Preacher. We have been blessed with three adult sons and a daughter in-law (Michael, Anthony, Sir-Folliott and Bianca).

The family has a passion for football and support three Premier League teams - Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal so you can guess for yourselves the stress and division when weekends come. This creates anxiety whenever these teams play each other. I trust somebody in the circuit could help us heal this rift in us. “It’s guys just kicking a ball” (laugh it off).

We love the Lord and are committed to the things of God and the community in which we live and serve. I love singing and like to listen most of the time to people and contribute where appropriate. My homilies, sermons, exaltations are brief and under 13 mins from the pulpit. The Holy Spirit, the power of God does the work, for He leads, I will never go astray with His word.

I conclude with my favourite two Biblical verses - Isaiah 26:3 “I will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on me because he trusted in me” and “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God” Matthew 5:8.

It is my prayer that you will help us to work together as a family, as we come to you with our gifts and talents.

Now friends, let me share my humour with you:

A young man just got his driving licence and asked his father (Reverend Minister) if they could discuss the use of his car. His father took him to his study and said to him, I will make a deal with you son, but first you need to work hard to achieve higher grades in school, study the Bible and get your hair cut - then we will talk about it.

After a month, the young man asked his father if they could discuss the use of the car. They again went to the study and his father said, “Son, I am proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you have studied your Bible diligently, but you did not cut your hair”.

The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair and Jesus had long hair...." To which his father replied, "Yes and they walked everywhere they went”.

Your Servant in the Ministry,

*“Uncle George”*



Rev George Quarm will be welcomed to the Circuit on 2 September 2021.

He will have pastoral care for Methodist churches at Merrow, Stoughton and West Horsley and St. Michael’s Ecumenical Church, Sheerwater.

## **Bio-Optic Organised Knowledge – a device for the future?**

Introducing the new Bio-Optic Organised Knowledge device, trade-named BOOK.

BOOK is a revolutionary breakthrough in technology: no wires, no electric circuits, no batteries, nothing to be connected or switched on. It's so easy to use, even an adult can operate it! Compact and portable, it can be used anywhere – even sitting in an armchair by the fire – yet it is powerful enough to hold as much as a CD-ROM disc.

BOOK is constructed of sequentially numbered sheets of paper (recyclable), each sheet capable of holding thousands of bits of information. The pages are locked together with a custom-fit device called a binder, which keeps the sheets in their correct sequence.

Opaque Paper Technology (OPT) allows manufacturers to use both sides of the sheet, doubling the information density and cutting costs and size. Experts are divided on the prospects for further increases in information density; for now, BOOKs with more information simply use more pages. Each sheet is scanned optically, registering the information directly into your brain. A flick of the finger takes you to the next sheet.

BOOK may be taken up at any time and used merely by opening it. The 'browse' feature allows you to move instantly to any sheet, and to move backwards and forwards as you wish. Many come with an 'index' feature, which pinpoints the exact location of any selected information for instant retrieval.

BOOK never crashes or needs rebooting, though, like other devices, it can be damaged if coffee is spilled on it and it may become unusable if dropped too many times on a hard surface.

You can also make personal notes next to BOOK text entries using optional programming tools: Permanent Entry Nib (PEN) or Portable Erasable Nib Correctable Intercommunication Language Stylus (PENCILS).

*Deidre Morris*

*(Association for Church Editors member)*



## **Dial a Prayer**



FREE phone lines for prayers, reflections and news from the Methodist Church

Listen to a prayer: 0808 281 2514

Listen to a pastoral message from the President and Vice President:  
0808 281 2695

Listen to our Podcast: 0808 281 2478

Prayer updated every Thursday, Presidential message updated every Monday,  
Methodist Podcast updated on first and third Thursday of the month.

Please share these numbers locally with people who are not online and may feel very isolated and in need of spiritual comfort.

## Artaban

# ARTABAN THE MUSICAL



*The Story of the Fourth Wise Man*

A while ago I wrote in Wey Forward about Artaban, the rock musical which Daphne and friends have created. It tells the story of the fourth wise man who failed to make the journey to Bethlehem with the others because he was repeatedly waylaid by deeds to help the needy. Down-hearted by having to give away the gifts that he had intended for the baby Jesus (three gemstones – sapphire, ruby and pearl) he nevertheless perseveres, fired by a conviction that there is to be a new king who will bring light back into the world. Ultimately he reaches Jerusalem at the time of the crucifixion and comes to realise that, far from failing in his quest, he has achieved all that God could ask of him by the kindness and care he has shown for others.

It is an uplifting story (originally written by an American author Henry van Dyke over a hundred years ago). Daphne has written the libretto with song lyrics and music by two friends. A short workshop event was held in Pimlico in 2019 and now, delayed by lockdowns, the team are staging a showcase production at the Actor's Church in Covent Garden in November with a professional cast and director. Needless to say it would be great to see friends from the Circuit in the audience. It may be a long way off but as there won't be another issue of Wey Forward before then here are the details:

Tickets £20 - <https://actorschurch.ticketsolve.com/shows/873618294>

The music and more information is available on the website [www.artabanthemusical.co.uk](http://www.artabanthemusical.co.uk)

*David Lander*

## Time to Smile

What birds spend their time on their knees?

Birds of prey.

# Godalming United Church

We re-opened for face-to-face morning worship on Sunday 11 April. Following subsequent easing, we have been able to increase permitted attendance by pushing the chairs nearer to the walls and arranging for groups of up to six sitting together. Masks are worn, we still – at the time of writing - can't sing indoors, and spaced entry is via the foyer.

Sunday services will continue to be streamed and can be accessed at <https://guc.online.church>. Recordings (audio and video) are available through our website ([www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk)) or our YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>) after the services.

The events of Christian Aid Week (May 10-16 and beyond) raised over £3,800 - a magnificent total, thanks to the enthusiasm of our CA organiser, Muriel Clark, and the generosity of our members.

Also in May GUC hosted the Godalming Churches Together Pentecost service outside on our patio, with the incomparable backdrop of the River Wey and Lammas Lands. The weather was threatening, but all enjoyed a good (and permitted) sing!

In June the Whitechapel Appeal for clothing and non-perishable foodstuffs for the Mission for the Homeless in the East End was, as ever, massively supported - by not only church members but the wider community.

A number of community groups who use our premises during the week resumed their sessions during the summer term. And from September most church groups will resume following whatever Covid-restrictions are in operation e.g. pantomime rehearsals, Tuesday Fellowship.

During the pandemic our online services have been a vital part of GUC's ministry and connectedness. Live-streaming began in March 2018, thanks to a pilot scheme funded by the Joseph Rank Trust and operated by CTVC. During the second lockdown the average number of 'connections' to the online service was around 55, and, with an average connection of around 1.5 people watching, we had an estimated online congregation of around 80 people each Sunday. Since we have returned to worship in the church building, the number has unsurprisingly reduced slightly, with about 30 connections (approx. 45 people). The recorded services retained on YouTube (<https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>) typically report 60-80 views (with some services having up to 250 views). This includes people from our local area (including those who would usually attend other churches that had not yet reopened), and from Sussex, Lancashire, Italy, The Gambia and USA. The Service of Thanksgiving for Rev Norman Edsall had 91 connections to the live stream during the service, and more than 600 views of the recording on YouTube. This is now such a vital part of our mission and outreach to the local community and wider that we are stepping forward independently, rather than continuing with CTVC. Consequently the church audio-visual provision is being extended and upgraded – thanks to the Rev Norman Edsall Memorial Fund and other generous donations. For all this we are indebted to the expertise of our resident IT guru Richard August.

Looking ahead, Adam, our Minister, has plans for the autumn:

- A Membership Service to welcome new church members
- A post-Covid Community service - remembering and celebrating the lives of those lost to Covid or during the pandemic, combined with a thanksgiving for the return to normal life. Dates to be arranged.

For the longer term and the renewal of church life, he proposes to focus on:

- Relationships, particularly in small groups
- Christian Education: Bible study. This could connect with the above. Regular weekly sessions could be limited to 4/6 weeks with a break, and might be in various formats e.g. "in person" or online.

*Nancy Wilks*



# Gwennap Pit



For a period in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Cornwall was the world's leading producer of tin and copper and Gwennap was dubbed "the Copper Kingdom of the Old World". It's now part of the Cornish Mining World Heritage site. Gwennap Pit is an impressive feature believed to be based on a "natural" depression probably caused by earth falling into an abandoned mine below. The fact that the pit does not collect water to this day, probably adds credibility to the truth of this. John Wesley described the pit as being about 50 feet deep and two hundred by three hundred feet across the top and described it as "the most magnificent spectacle this side of heaven".

The first use of Gwennap Pit for preaching was on 6 September 1762 and the occasion was marked by John Wesley himself, who wrote: 'The wind was so high that I could not stand at the usual place at [the village of] Gwennap; but a small distance was a hollow capable of containing many thousands of people. I stood on one side of this amphitheatre towards the top and with people beneath on all sides, I enlarged on those words in the gospel for the day Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see....hear the things that ye hear.' It is said that up to 2,000 people can be seated comfortably on the grass 'seating' around the sides and it is even claimed that in 1773 Wesley preached to his largest congregation ever, a staggering 32,000.

John Wesley preached here on 18 occasions from 1762 to 1789. After his death the Pit continued to be used for religious gatherings and it was remodelled in his memory into today's terraced amphitheatre. The 12 circular terraces that form the seats were cut by local miners between 1803 and 1806 and now stands as a memorial to the Methodist movement across the UK in the 18th century, and is also in full use as a place of worship. It is regarded as a place of spiritual, historical, and global significance.

It is still used for services - in particular for the annual gathering on Whitsun - but also with services all through the summer months.

*Sue Howson*

# Guildford St Mary's

## A Guildford Community Recipe

**MIX:** St Mary's, Common Ground, Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy, Guildford Borough Council, Guildford in Bloom, Experience Guildford, the Town Rangers and Guildford Baptist Church

**ADD:** very large planters, much compost, yellow plants and herbs for Remembrance, pink plants to say Thanks and blue plants for Hope together with artwork from local schools

**PREPARATION TIME:** 4 weeks

**PRODUCT:** A Garden of Hope

**LOCATION:** St Mary's Churchyard, just off the High Street, in the heart of the town - GU1 3UP

**SERVE** up to Launch event on 26 June attended by the Mayor and other Civic leaders, NHS and emergency service representatives and Church leaders

**SHARE** with the people of Guildford and beyond (and a few antisocial slugs – uninvited) through the summer

**PARTICIPATION:** spend time reflecting amongst the garden, write a short message on a lolly stick and plant in the Garden. When the church is open, see more artwork, write a longer message, reflect, pray, all in the deeply spiritual atmosphere of a building which has been at the heart of the community for around 1,000 years and seen countless wars, plagues and other challenges

**TIPS:** Don't be precious about colour schemes – someone has engaged enough with the project to source and plant some 20 high quality bright red plastic poppies, around the perimeters of the containers



Photos from the launch of St Mary's  
Garden of Hope

Looking further ahead, we think it's time to restart **Night Vision** as nightlife returns to the town – our first should be on Friday 30 July and we're looking to tie this more closely to the work of Street Angels as they're now operating out of St Mary's. We're also going to host a new monthly inclusive late-evening worship drop-in led by and for young people – working title **Open Friday** - target start date early September. Prayer support for these initiatives would be valued, please.

*Nigel Campion-Smith*



# General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR



The Annual Data Protection Checklist has been/is being completed by churches across not only our Circuit but right across the country. At its heart is the need to keep everybody's information safe. This is about people, not data. Whether the personal information (data) of individuals belongs to Church members, their families, employees or third parties who use church premises it is in the interests of all of us to ensure that the information is looked after carefully and kept safe.

There is a focus note of do's and don'ts which gives a useful summary of how we all can keep information safe. It is on the Circuit website (click on GDPR on the home page) along with many useful documents.

A big part of keeping information secure means using emails in a safe way. It can be easy to unintentionally disclose a person's email address to someone who otherwise wouldn't know it. If you are sending an email to more than one person you should choose the BCC function (blind copy). This is especially important when an email might be being sent to people not in your Church or the Circuit Directory.

And that brings me on to another reminder. While you can use information you hold personally to email people about campaigns etc. in your personal capacity, you should not use the information in Church/Circuit directories, etc. That information has been collected and is held for Church business. If you do contact someone in a personal capacity which is separate and distinct from Church business, you should make it absolutely clear in the communication that the email is being sent in a personal capacity and has not been sent on behalf of the Church Council or Circuit. It just keeps things clear and distinct so there is no chance of confusion or people being upset.

I'm sorry if you think this is all a bit heavy handed/unnecessary but the Methodist church takes data protection very seriously (as it should) and we have a duty to try our best to comply. As ever, if you have any queries then please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Sue Howson*

# A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

## led by Rev Claire Hargreaves and Helen Belsham (organised by McCabe Pilgrimages)

Monday 9 – Monday 16 May 2022

We invite you to come on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Experience for yourself the sites where the most important events of Jesus' life and ministry took place - in Galilee, Jerusalem and surrounding areas. Whether you have been before or you are new to the Holy Land, you will be moved and enriched as we journey, pray and learn together. Reading the gospels will never be the same again!

The cost will be in the region of £1,900 per person sharing an en-suite room on a full board basis (flights included). We will stay in hotels in Tiberias and Jerusalem and be visiting Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Come and find out more at our information meeting without obligation on

**Sunday 19th September at 12 noon at Merrow Methodist Church.**

Coffee/tea provided. Please feel free to bring your own lunch if you wish

Enquiries : [helenebelsham@icloud.com](mailto:helenebelsham@icloud.com) or [claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk](mailto:claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk)



Inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre,  
Jerusalem

Preparing for Holy Communion by the Sea of Galilee





# **Circuit Day Outing to Oxford**

## **Saturday 4 September 2021**



**Payment required now**

A CIRCUIT DAY OUTING TO OXFORD will take place on 4 September. This will include an opportunity to visit some of the historic locations associated with John and Charles Wesley, who were both undergraduates at Christ Church, with John later becoming a Fellow of Lincoln College.

Travel will be by luxury coach (Gastonia of Cranleigh) with on-board toilet and complimentary hot drinks.



Wesley Memorial Methodist Church -  
our base for the day

**COST £27.50 per person**  
***includes tea/coffee biscuits on arrival in Oxford***  
**GUIDED WALK OF OXFORD LOCATIONS**  
**ASSOCIATED WITH THE WESLEYS £4 on the day**  
**PICK-UPS in Cranleigh, Godalming, Guildford,**  
**Merrow, Woking and Walton-on-Thames**

If you would like to join us please send a cheque\* payable to **WEY VALLEY METHODIST CIRCUIT**  
to **JAMES STRAWSON, 5 FORTUNE DRIVE CRANLEIGH GU6 8DH**

Please include the following details with your cheque -

- ◆ Your address
- ◆ Names of those travelling
- ◆ Where you will join the coach
- ◆ Do you want to take part in the walk? (*about 2 hours level walking*)
- ◆ Mobile contact number for use on the day of the outing
- ◆ Usual contact number *if different from contact number for the day*

***\*Cheques will not be paid in until mid-August just in case there are any changes to government regulations which mean that unfortunately the trip has to be cancelled.***

If you have any questions please contact James Strawson on 01483 276075 or by email  
[strawsons@hotmail.com](mailto:strawsons@hotmail.com)

*James Strawson*

# Knaphill



We reopened for regular Sunday services on 16 May. Prior to that we had been receiving a weekly video from Rev Dave Faulkner (also available in printed form for those without computer technology) and we had also held a number of Zoomed “Coffee and Chat” sessions and Prayer meetings. These aspects are all continuing, as they enable members to have contact with each other or follow services, albeit virtually.

We have two special services in July - a baptism and a wedding. It is lovely to be able to provide a venue for these very special events.

We have also taken some further steps towards returning to “normal” and to try to serve our local community again. On Saturday 26 June, we held a table top sale on the pavement in front of the church. Part of the pavement is church property, so we are free to use it, and being outside made everyone feel more Covid-secure. We have a bench alongside, a memorial to former stalwart member Jack Rutter, and we brought out a few chairs, so that anyone who wished to could sit and have a chat. We chatted to many people who had been regulars at our monthly coffee mornings, prior to Covid, plus some folk who were new to us. We were pleased to make £84, but even more pleased to be able to speak with so many people and to let the community know we are still active. At the time of writing, we intend to repeat this on Saturday 31 July (9am -12 noon) when we hope to add drinks and possibly other refreshments, depending on what the regulations are at the time and what helpers and visitors feel safe with. After that, we will see what more we can do. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the picture will be clearer.

We are also working towards re-opening the clothing bank, Clothes 4 U, in August. Plans are still being worked out to enable us to do this in the safest way, but we feel it is very important that this valuable service is again offered to the community.

*Lynda Shore*



Credit: Rene "Dikko" Dikkenberg

Free Christian Cartoon Comic Strips by Dikko can be found at [freechristianillustrations.com](http://freechristianillustrations.com)

# Palestine

This is one of a series of essays penned by my father, Gwylim Alan Davies when he was on active service in Palestine during the First World War. He was a sapper (No. 165281) in a signal section of the Royal Engineers during the period 1917 – 1919.

*Gareth Davies*



I was brought up immersed in Welsh Nonconformity and so, when I was drafted to Palestine, I expected to be familiar with the places and settlements I would encounter during my army service. However I found that army life restricted encounters with the country and its inhabitants and what I learnt was mainly from chance encounters.

One such encounter was in my early days of active service when I had been posted to signal work with the 60<sup>th</sup> Division. My first assignment was to take part in the capture of Jericho and the removal of the Turkish forces from the Jordan valley. We could not take our signal lines direct to Jericho as the distance was too great so a substation was established in a remote wadi away to the east. I was one of a small group detailed for this task and we were there for some weeks.

In our spare time we could wander about on the hillsides and on one of these walks we came across a hole in the rocky ground. The hole was about two feet across and it led down some 10 feet to a chamber about 8 feet wide. Further investigation showed it to be cut out of the solid rock to provide a cistern to catch the rainwater from the surrounding area. There was no water in it as the cistern must have leaked. I imagined that this must have been the place where Joseph had been thrown in by his brothers while they decided what they were going to do with him (Genesis 37 verse 24).

Later I found that such cisterns were fairly common in the rocky hills. One we found had a rock to cover the hole so as to prevent a goat or some such animal falling in. The cisterns demonstrate how important water was to the inhabitants. Wells as we know them in Britain were very unusual although Genesis 26 refers to wells reopened by Isaac in Gerar after they had been blocked up by the Philistines.

Later in the campaign we were crossing the plain of Sharon and ran short of water. We came across a marsh with some stagnant green pools and some of the soldiers in desperation drank the water with ill effects. Then we had a stroke of luck, we found a well! There was nothing to indicate it in the level plain as it was simply a hole about 2 feet wide in the ground. It went down about 10 ft and the projections in the stone walls enabled a man to climb down. We had a canvas horse bucket which when filled provided us with plenty of clear, slightly brackish water. I drank two pint mugfulls and I shall never forget the renewal of strength that it gave me. It enabled us to march a further 25 miles across the plain to our next camp in good order.

*Gwilym Davies*



# Looking Forward - Planning For The Future

Dear Friends

The pandemic has forced us to make quite radical changes to the pattern of our Sunday worship, and we believe that God will enable us to address the continuing and future challenges that will face us. As a resource group, we want to make it possible for every church in our circuit to develop patterns of worship that will be best for their own members and local communities. The Circuit Mission Committee has collected information about our current practices, but because the work of the Worship and Mission Groups are so closely linked, we would like to build on this in order to maximize our potential to the glory of God and the benefit of our people.

We would be grateful therefore, if you could respond to the questions below as fully as you can, in order that we may best help each other:

**How do you think we can combine ‘traditional’ worship of gathered congregations with some of the new ways in which those who are unable to attend church in person (perhaps through age, illness or simply distance) can share in Sunday worship?**

**What would you consider to be **your greatest needs at the moment**, in developing the worship at your church? This could be technical resources (e.g. to develop on line, zoomed or streamed services) or human expertise (e.g. people who are experienced in IT etc.)**

**What resources do you have in your church that could usefully be employed in helping other churches in the circuit?**

**What thoughts have you about the ways in which worship in our circuit can develop, using the best of that which is ‘traditional’ and the best of that which is ‘new’?**

You may wish to discuss some or all of the above questions in meetings such as Church Councils or Stewards meetings, or perhaps respond individually. Rev Sam Funnell has asked me to co-ordinate this exercise, so if you could **come back to me by the beginning of October**, this would be very helpful.

Many thanks for helping in this important work.

Shalom,

*Barrie Tabraham (on behalf of the Circuit Worship Group)*

[barrie\\_tabraham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:barrie_tabraham@hotmail.co.uk) 01483 453090

# Merrow

...When sitting down to write this quarterly article I quite often look back to see what I said in the last issue for inspiration. I started that one off by saying “ we are still not sure what the “new normal” is going to look like but almost certainly, barring any unforeseen developments, it will include gathered worship at Merrow this Spring/ Summer with all systems go for our planned reopening.....” Well, as we know, the government delayed the final step of its Road Map out of lockdown but we still managed to recommence Sunday Morning Worship on Pentecost Sunday, and every Sunday since. Everyone seems to be greatly missing the opportunity for the congregation to sing (apart from those who normally sit in front of this tone deaf author!) but as I write it seems we might only have a short time to wait. So worship will return to normal. Or will it?

We have been opening the Church every Wednesday morning for Silent Prayer from 10.00am - 11.00 am. On the anniversary of the first COVID-19 lockdown we issued a special prayer sheet which, among other prayers, contained the following:

## ***Trust and Hope.***

*Father God, the COVID-19 virus is presenting new challenges with its new variants. The emotions within our church family are varied. Some are more cautious than others. Lord, give us wisdom and encourage us to keep us strong in our faith in you in this testing time. Help us to offer hope to those who are anxious and in need. Show us fresh ways to keep our Church family connected. We praise you that we live in a time with technology that allows us to stay connected, yet we know many of our members still feel isolated and alone. Lord give us eyes to see their needs clearly. We pray that you would use your church to advance your kingdom, to be examples of your great love. AMEN.*

It has been wonderful to see many of our members return to our church for the first time in fifteen months over the past few weeks. However we realise that many still feel nervous about venturing back to gathered worship and we are doing everything we can to make that journey as easy as possible for them. As Asif recently wrote in his farewell message “The huge impact of COVID-19 on the life of the church means an even greater deal of thought and prayer needs to go into discerning the way forward.” We are increasing the number of seats from the 35 we reduced to as part of our risk assessment but not to the crowded level we once enjoyed. We have reintroduced our monthly Thursday coffee mornings in aid of specific charities but initially we are hoping to run a Zoom coffee morning concurrently to enable those at home to attend.

We hope to recommence our Monday meetings of our Women’s Fellowship Group in September. We are also talking to Matrix Trust about the possibility of the Youth Hub resuming use our premises on Thursday evenings. And our lettings activity is returning to something approaching pre-pandemic levels.

By the time you read this Asif, Martha and family will have left Merrow, an occasion marked by a celebration Anniversary Service followed by a buffet lunch (closely following the existing COVID protocols!) They left with our heartfelt thanks for nine year’s service at Merrow and with our very best wishes for a trouble free move and a very happy future as Asif moves on to a new phase in life and ministry.

Merrow will be hosting the Welcome Service for our new Minister, Rev George Quarm, on 2 September and we are currently looking at the possibility of live streaming this as the numbers available to attend from other churches will be limited. We greatly look forward to welcoming George, Ama and their family to Merrow and George will be leading our Harvest Festival Holy Communion Service on Sunday 3 October.

From September we are planning to hold a morning Holy Communion Service on the first Sunday in every month, an evening ATS service on every second Sunday and a Holy Communion evening service on the fourth Sunday in the month apart from on Sunday 28 Nov when we look forward to Barrie Tabraham leading our Advent Carol Service - when hopefully we will all be singing our hearts out!

*Hugh Bradley*

# St Michael's, Sheerwater

We are delighted to be meeting in person again at 10.30 am every Sunday, even though we remain socially distanced and attempt to maintain groups of no more than six after services and only hum, not sing, unless part of the music group... We have been meeting in person since Easter, with some members continuing to join through Zoom.

We were thrilled to be told by the Bishop of Guildford at the end of 2020 that the Bishop's Mission Order would be renewed from June 2021 along with the re-licencing of Gillaine, our Anglican Priest in charge. We celebrated this in person at Pentecost with Archdeacon Martin Breadmore presiding and preaching, with Danny Wignall (the Bishop's visitor) praying for Gillaine and her ministry.



We have a "Pop up Café" once a week for children and their families from the local primary school. During lock-down we delivered activity bags to these families. Currently our pop up families are crossing over the road to see us on a Tuesday afternoon to receive their activity bags. This term the theme has been mini beasts.



Cally said her goodbyes in June as she has completed her three years of training with us. She was ordained Deacon on 4 July at Guildford Cathedral before beginning her curacy in Fleet. We continue to pray for her and her family and give thanks to all she contributed to life of the church.

continued.....



Regeneration work continues apace in Sheerwater as the first phase of houses and apartments are in their final fit-out stage, and look very smart! See photos at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wokingboroughcouncil/albums/72157712913044778>

Please pray for the ongoing work, and the people moving onto and off the estate due to it. Please continue to pray for our Church rebuild plans and for the key people supporting it (Gillaine, Tracey Francis, Simon Perkins), so we can continue to minister in the best way we can to the changing estate.

Exciting things are in prospect at St Michaels. As part of Woking Borough Council's regeneration of the Sheerwater estate a new hub has to be found for community activities displaced from their existing premises. Some time ago the Council expressed an interest in St Michaels housing the new facility and provided funds for an architect's feasibility study. Having analysed their needs and ambitions the Joint Church Council agreed a plan to redevelop the premises to include enhanced community facilities. The Council has indicated a potential willingness to fund the scheme but this will inevitably be subject to various conditions which are currently being worked through. On top of the agreement to extend the Bishop's Mission Order for a further five years with Rev Gillaine Holland as resident priest the congregation at St Michaels have much to look forward to.

Our fortnightly prayer walks around Sheerwater are continuing, we combined it with a community litter pick on a lovely sunny day in June.

We pray for our much loved church member Mike who recently passed away after a long period of chronic illness.

We look forward to welcoming Rev George Quarm to the circuit and to our Church in September. We thank Rev Peter Hills for all of the support he has given to our church. We pray for an easy move for George and his family, and for more relaxation time to come for Peter.



*Tracey Francis, Naomi Belli Borovicka and David Lander*

## **Stoughton**

We were so very pleased to re-open for gathered worship at the beginning of June with the Church Anniversary service led by Asif. Sitting socially distanced, wearing masks, and not singing hymns felt very odd, but just being able to sit with other members of the church family was a blessing in itself. We were also able to listen to 'live' music courtesy of Philip - thank you!

We have said our goodbyes to Asif and Martha reflecting on the nine years of Asif's ministry here in this Circuit, although when he first came it was still just Guildford Circuit. We ask God's blessing on them and wish them both a happy retirement.

At this time of the Methodist year there are changes for many ministers and their families and we remember them in our prayers. We now look forward to welcoming Rev George Quarm and his family and hope their time with us will be richly blessed.

*Linda Macbeth*

## Walton - on - Thames

So far this year has been almost as challenging as the last. However, we have learnt a lot over the last year and have been able to put some of the lessons learnt into practice. We have continued to meet over Zoom each Sunday afternoon, and had gathered services at Easter, on 6 June and 4 July. We are fortunate at Walton to have several good singers and organists, so at these services we had a choir of six who were accompanied by the organ.

In refugee week in June, we showed a clip from All We Can about the refugee work that they do as part of their mission. This was to support the work that Rev Claire Hargreaves has been doing for the last three years in her District role which will end later this year.

As we move out of lockdown, we will keep some of our Zoom services each month as this creates an opportunity for people to meet up from outside of Walton. We will increase our number of gathered services to weekly from September, and really look forward to the day when singing will be allowed in service. We are fortunate to have some public space at the side of our church which is tree lined, grassed and has a bench, which makes it a good place for people to meet and have a socially distanced chat after the service.

We also have the ability to live stream services and with these it is possible to combine video recordings with live readings and sermons. This has allowed us to record the services, and either send or take them to people who are housebound.



This picture was taken during the commissioning of the pastoral workers, on 6 June here are some of them standing to give their promises.

After the service we stood outside and had a chat.



Then we went home

In September and October, we are planning for Harvest and All Souls, and hope to stream these services to reach those who cannot be with us. We continue with our campaign to appoint a Youth Worker to support our work with our youth, and continue to pray that God will guide us and show us His plans and purposes for our Church so that we can continue to show the love of God in practical ways in the church community and in the town as well.

*Ross Richardson*

## Children and Youth Worker at Walton-on-Thames

Since our talented and inspiring Youth Worker, Megan, left some years ago now, we have endeavoured to recruit but to no avail. We rebooted our efforts in September 2020, when I took on the role of chairing the Children and Youth Worker Committee. Of course, Covid restrictions posed huge problems but my committed and hard-working team persevered, and by March all the necessary paperwork (and there is plenty!) was completed and sanctioned by the District Lay Employment Secretary. Our proposal was taken to the March Circuit meeting for approval, and we were given the go-ahead to proceed.

Charged with renewed energy and optimism, we drew up a time plan for recruitment, feeling hopeful that there would be many people who would be eager to gain the experience, salary and fulfilling work that we felt our post offered. With Covid restrictions beginning to ease, we could see a way forward.

In the meantime, Christopher Heffernan maintained contact with a group of our young people. We thought the children might be fed up with Zoom, but not a bit of it. All the sessions Christopher ran had almost 100% attendance. The children seemed to really appreciate getting together and had many ideas for what to do on future Zooms. When Christopher returned to work on the Isle of Wight, the children were so disappointed that their sessions had come to an end. His work proved that the need is there, and we are so grateful for Christopher's valuable work and commitment.

We began to advertise in April through a variety of platforms and, although we received interest and numerous CVs, no-one took the next step of filling in our application form. Our deadline passed. We extended it. Back to the drawing board. Our committee met again on June 23rd, in person for the first time since this new committee was formed, in a lovely garden location – and not on Zoom! Perhaps what we set out to do was not what God wanted for us. We decided that we need to discover why those who expressed an interest did not actually apply and to engage with individual potential applicants. Perhaps more research was needed on a local level, communicating with those churches who have youth workers or active programmes of work with young people. The anonymous and faceless advert is perhaps less powerful than personal contact? So, disappointed, but still hopeful, we still seek to find someone to work with the children and youth at our church. We would be most grateful to our fellow Circuit churches if you could offer us any advice. Do you have recommendations for the best places we could advertise? Do you know anyone who is looking for employment in a church as a Children and Youth Worker? Any thoughts would be gratefully received. Please do email our church secretary, Catherine, if you have any bright ideas or contacts.\*

We pray that God blesses our efforts, guides our thinking and that with His help we shall find a suitable Children and Youth Worker.

*Val Barker*

\*waltonmethodistchurchsecretary@virginmedia.com

# **Circuit Mission Supper**

**Save the Date**

**Saturday 5 March 2022**

**Trinity, Woking**



## **West Horsley**

We did it! We resumed services at Pentecost and have continued each Sunday since. A few more of our congregation have returned and we hope that when all the restrictions are lifted, our numbers will be back to usual.

The big advance we have made is to install screens and the equipment for projecting services. It will be great when we are allowed to sing and all the hymns are clearly displayed. We are gradually learning how to make the most of the equipment, but it's early days and the church doesn't have Wi-Fi access yet, so there are some limitations. But, we did manage to show the MHA video last Sunday. We are very grateful for the advice we've received, particularly from Glenys at Merrow.

We have really appreciated the three years that Asif has given us. His Bible-based preaching has given us much food for thought and he made a particular effort early on to meet the people who come to our coffee mornings and lunches. It has been a delight when Martha has accompanied him. We wish them both a long and happy retirement, not too far way. We are looking forward to working with George when he arrives in September.

*Margaret Faulkner*

## Weybridge

Weybridge resumed gathered worship on Sunday 2 May when our service was led by Rev Adam Payne. It was lovely to welcome Adam and his family on their first visit to Weybridge. We followed this service with refreshments outside which gave us the opportunity to get to know them all. It also gave us the idea of actually worshipping outdoors. We have been fortunate to hold several weeks of worship outdoors which of course permitted us to sing. The weather only caught us out once when 'rain stopped play' and we had to make a quick move inside.

The weather may not have beaten us but nature did for us in the end. Unfortunately the big oak tree which overhangs our outdoor area had an infestation of the oak processionary moth caterpillars so we had to block off that area and return indoors. We missed the opportunity to sing so are looking forward to being able to sing all together again indoors once all restrictions are lifted.

For those of you who know Weybridge members Lili & Jose, the church said a sad farewell to them on 18 July with a lunch (held according to Covid guidelines). Jose is taking up a position at the German University in Egypt so they moved to Egypt on 25 July. We give thanks for the eight years they spent with us at Weybridge and all the time they devoted to the church: Jose's huge musical contribution, playing at many services and his time as a steward. Lili looked after lettings for a while and was a regular on the refreshments rota. It was lovely to welcome back some former church members to this event; so good to see them and get up to speed with their work with the Boaters Christian Fellowship. We will miss Lili and Jose greatly but send our love and prayers with them as they face this next exciting step on their life's journey.

When one door closes, a window opens. Weybridge are delighted to welcome David & Caryl Ingoldby into the congregation. They will be an asset to the church and Dave will be resuming local preaching duties – so an asset to both Weybridge and the circuit.

Life is gradually returning to normal. By the time you read this the Byfleet foodbank will have re-opened and the regular Saturday morning coffee sessions at Addlestone should have resumed – Weybridge folk assist with both of these. Work at the Woking Foodbank depot continues.

Weybridge are planning to re-launch the bedding and clothes bank as an on-line service shortly however we are not quite ready to do so as yet.

We give grateful thanks that all the Weybridge folk remain Covid free and have been in reasonable health throughout these challenging months.

*Linda Weedon*

## True cuttings from British Newspapers

- Commenting on a complaint from a Mr Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said: 'We agree it was rather high for the time of year. It's possible Mr Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house'. (*Daily Telegraph*)
- Police are being handicapped in a search for a stolen van because they cannot issue a description. It's a Special Branch vehicle and they don't want the public to know what it looks like. (*The Guardian*)
- A young girl who was blown out to sea on a set of inflatable teeth was rescued by a man on an inflatable lobster. A coastguard spokesman commented: 'This sort of thing is all too common'. (*The Times*)
- At the height of the gale, the harbour master radioed a coastguard on the spot and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff. (*Aberdeen Evening Express*)

## Our (hidden) Chinese Church

There are 13 constituted Methodist churches in the Wey Valley Circuit, but there is another Methodist fellowship that meets regularly. You will find little reference to it, yet it would rank as one of our larger congregations. So let me introduce you to the Chinese Congregation Methodist Church Woking (CCMCW). This first met at Trinity in 2014 as a "Circuit project". It is now well established meeting at Trinity every Sunday. It is Cantonese speaking (with Mandarin and English translation), fast growing - 10 new families in the past few months – and full of vision and passion to share the love of Jesus Christ, especially with those arriving from Hong Kong with British National (Overseas) BN(O) visas.

Most of us will be aware of the situation in Hong Kong as their legislature 'obeys' the Chinese Government. Many HK citizens are not happy and have challenging life decisions to make. Those with BN(O) passports are entitled to apply for a visa to live in the UK. It is estimated the number who will come over the next 5 years is between 300,000 and a million. Whilst few will be destitute, and technically they are not refugees, they will never the less share the same spiritual, emotional & practical challenges that refugees face. For example, I was surprised to read that it is not certain whether in years ahead they will be able to return 'freely' to HK to visit family & friends. This sounds like "refugee" in all but name.

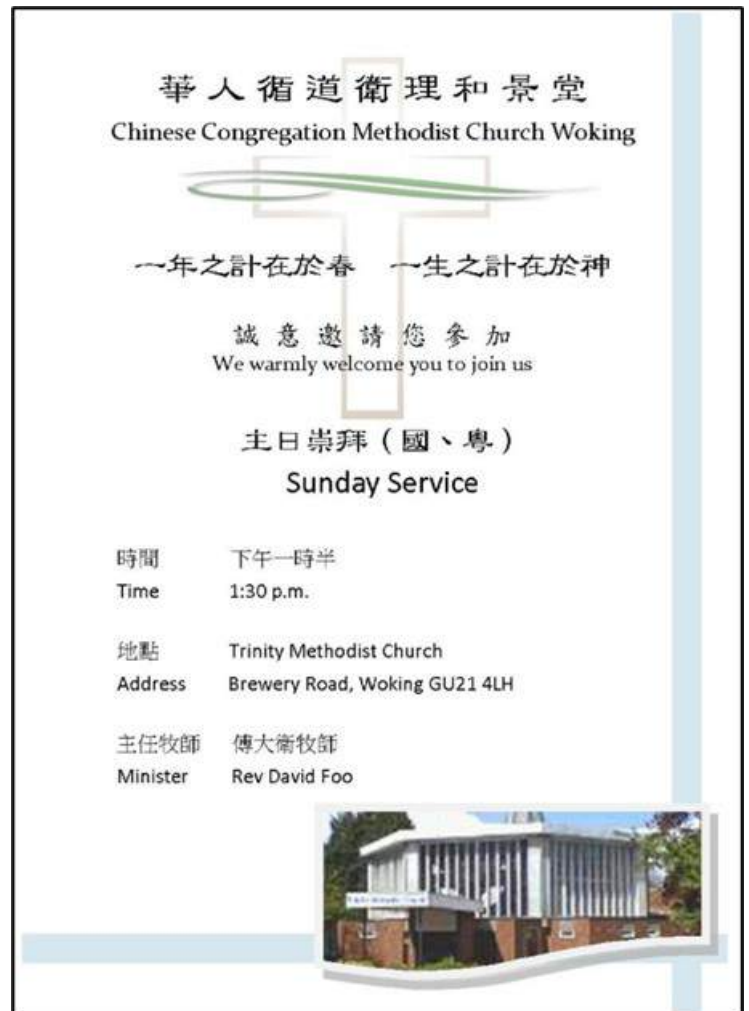
It is these people that CCMCW seeks to help. As a Cantonese speaking church, many of their members come originally from HK. Simon Che, the Co-ordinator for the church, came 25 years ago as part of the exodus when HK was returned to Chinese sovereignty. He knows first hand the stresses and strains such a move creates. If ever there is a Christian Community well placed to help the displaced of HK, it is CCMCW.

We know God will be using CCMCW over the next few years. Just as they will be praying for and reaching out to new HK arrivals, so I hope we of the '13' will pray for and support CCMCW. We may not be well placed to provide the kind of support required by BN(O) arrivals, but through our Methodist links we are well placed to support our CCMCW brothers and sisters who can.

Finally, if you know of anyone who might appreciate being put in contact with CCMCW, then please contact Rev David Foo, who is their minister ([david.foo1939@gmail.com](mailto:david.foo1939@gmail.com)) or Simon Che ([chewaikwan@yahoo.com](mailto:chewaikwan@yahoo.com)).

*Hugh Bowerman*

*on behalf of Chinese Congregation Methodist Church Woking*



華人循道衛理和景堂  
Chinese Congregation Methodist Church Woking

一年之計在於春 一生之計在於神

誠意邀請您參加  
We warmly welcome you to join us

主日崇拜 (國、粵)  
Sunday Service

時間 下午一時半  
Time 1:30 p.m.

地點 Trinity Methodist Church  
Address Brewery Road, Woking GU21 4LH

主任牧師 傅大衛牧師  
Minister Rev David Foo



## **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 22 of The Wey Forward  
is midnight 27 September 2021**

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 23** 17 January 2022

**Issue 24** 6 April 2022

**Issue 25** 5 July 2022

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

*Sue Howson*

# Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>September 2021 (and beyond)</b>			
tbc	tbc	Night Vision	St Mary's Guildford
Early September	Late evening	Open Friday—late evening worship drop-in led by and for young people	St Mary's, Guildford
2 September	7.30pm	Welcome Service for Rev George Quarm	Merrow
4 September	All day	Circuit Day Out to Oxford — contact James Strawson (19)	Oxford
19 September	12 noon	Information meeting about Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, May 2022	Merrow
27 September	midnight	Deadline for copy for The Wey Forward Issue 22	
Early October		Deadline for responses to Worship Group Questionnaire (P22)	
16 October	10.30 am	Holy Habits (P9)	Trinity, Woking
29-31 October	Various	3Generate 2021	NEC, Birmingham
23 November	7.30 pm	Artaban, The Musical (P13)	The Actor's Church
24 November	3.30 pm & 7.30 pm	Artaban, The Musical (P13)	The Actor's Church
5 March 2022	tbc	Circuit Mission Supper	Woking
9-16 May 2022		Pilgrimage to Holy Land - contact Helen Belsham or Claire Hargreaves	

**2021**

# GREAT NEWS!

We're over the moon to let you know that 3Generate will be going ahead from 29 - 31 October 2021 at the NEC in Birmingham!

**3GENERATE 2021**  
Methodist Children & Youth Assembly

FIND OUT MORE:  
[www.3Generate.org.uk](http://www.3Generate.org.uk)