



Weybridge Methodist Church

Newsletter December 2022



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.

Pastoral Message

Advent again! Was it really a whole year ago that we were all scratching our heads over what might be possible for Christmas; hoping, despite all mounting evidence, that our carols and Christingles would not go down the virtual pan in the way that Easter celebrations had? This year I'm sure I'm not alone in dreaming of Christmas presence. Much as worshipping zoomily has been a connecting blessing in a time of disconnection and isolation, I'm really looking forward to being gathered around the Table (Communion and dinner) fully present to one another in the flesh.

Even though our St Michael's pop-up nativity was (bizarrely) broadcast over ASDA FM up and down the country last year, I'd far rather be standing with a dodgy mic in the foyer of Sheerwater's store, seeing the puzzled shoppers, excited children and our hardworking shopkeepers singing along to old favourites; lips and sound completely in sync as we tell the story of the God who refused to remain virtual but insisted on bodily presence amongst us all.

I wonder how what we have been through will change our approach to Advent this year. Will our preparations for Christmas be more tentative? Will we carefully choose the few we wish to be present to? After all, we know that this pandemic is not over. Alternatively, will what we missed last year, drive us to aim for bigger, 'better' celebrations – everyone present around the table, even though, for many, grief will be the most unwelcome guest?

To add to the dissonance, it's at this time of year that the Church calendar seems most out of sync with the world we live in. Like some bad Zoom meeting, society is busy telling us to party while we're still trying to contemplate the serious implications of God-with-us, then just as we're ready to ring the bells and sing for joy and start the Christmas season, the rest of the world has peaked and is settling down to snooze off the excess in front of the telly. By the time we're ready to declare Christmas is over, the first Easter eggs will almost certainly be on the shelves, alongside hot cross buns.

Despite (or maybe because of) this out of 'sync-ness', there will undoubtedly be holy moments, found in unlikely places. Just as our Lord pitched up somewhat unexpectedly into a chaotic social and political scene for the first nativity, I know he will show up again and again in ordinary lives, causing discomfort and rattling our little cages, poking the

divine nose into places we'd rather God kept out of and proving once again that Covid 19 (or any other evil) is no match for THE Christmas presence. It's what God does. The problem is that in our busy, burdened lives, we might not notice. We might be too busy planning services or buying presents, digging out tea towels for shepherd-children or tracking down that turkey to notice that glorious moment when the Spirit spreads Pastoral Letter 24.11.21 Page | 2 her wings over us and whispers the truth that Jesus is here, right now, in the conversation you nearly didn't have, with the person you'd hoped to avoid, with the Big Issue seller or the slightly drunk colleague, the relative nobody wanted to host or the weary shop-keeper you barely registered. The warning from Hebrews 13 rings down the ages: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. It could be anyone but if we hear that whisper in the most inconvenient moment and can pause long enough for God to reveal it, we will know that this moment is a gift: that's why we call it the present.

Reverend Gillaine Holland Leader of the Bishop's Mission Order at St Michael's Shared Church



Worship in December

04 th December	Mrs Jane Briggs
11 th December	Mr Patrick Coad
18 th December	Rev Sydney Samuel Lake – Carol Service & short Communion
25 th December	Mrs Rosemary Lee – Christmas Worship
01 th January	Livestream Circuit Service from Woking <i>Zoom access will be available</i>

Refreshments will be served after the services, but not on Christmas Day.



Dates for your diary

2 December	Advent Reflections (via Zoom). Details on page 6
3 December	Cake Sale at Addlestone 10.30 onwards
3 December	Carol Praise at West Horsley 7-9pm
4 December	Post Bag available for church Christmas cards
9 December	Advent Reflections (via Zoom). Details on page 6
11 December	Post bag will be out for your cards to members of the church Family.
16 December	Advent Reflections (via Zoom). Details on page 6
18 December	Church Christmas Lunch
23 December	Advent Reflections (via Zoom). Details on page 6

Advance Notice

There will be a service for Mr Dave Paterson on Sunday 15 January 2023, 4.00pm at Walton Methodist Church. This to recognise Dave's full accreditation as a Local Preacher. It will be led by Rev Dr Paul Glass. Dave has been a very good friend to Weybridge all though his training and it would be good to support him on this occasion.



Birthdays

During December we say Happy Birthday to Jose, David Marjot, Caryl Ingoldby, Robert Lewis and James Bell



Damian Harrison- Miles is the new Rector at St James Weybridge. He will take up his post in January 2023. Damian comes to Weybridge from Thorpe. We wish him all the best in this new position and look forward to meeting him at some stage during 2023.

REVERSE ADVENT



Following a few years break due to Covid we will once again be supporting the 'Reverse Advent' programme to help the increased requirements at the Foodbanks during the Christmas season

The idea is that we place an item in a box every day during Advent. The boxes will be brought to church on Sunday 18th December – our Carol Service - when they will be blessed before being taken to the Foodbank on Monday 19th December in time for the

final Christmas push. Remember that in addition to items of food toiletries, nappies, washing powder, sanitary wear are all vital items.
(please no baked beans, pasta or soup)

Please give generously to those for whom Christmas may not be such a joyous occasion.

A joyful start to Christmas

Carol Praise



Saturday 3rd Dec

7.00 - 9.00 pm

**Horsley Methodist
Church**

(next to W. Horsley Village Hall)

**Come and sing your favourite carols
with a break for refreshments and
mince pies.**

Advent Reflections

Rev Sam Funnell is running a series of Advent Reflections for 30 minutes every Friday during Advent from 5.30 – 6.00pm. This is a time at the end of each busy week to re-focus on the meaning of Advent and put the hustle and bustle of secular life to one side for a short while. All are welcome to join in. Details below,

Topic: Advent Reflections

Time: Dec 2, 2022 05:30 PM London

Every week on Fri, 4 occurrence(s)

Dec 2, 2022 05:30 PM

Dec 9, 2022 05:30 PM

Dec 16, 2022 05:30 PM

Dec 23, 2022 05:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83895071644?pwd=dIZQOVA5eXhGL3F4d0hHS3p3VC9UUT09>

Meeting ID: 838 9507 1644

Passcode: 685259

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Over the years it has become traditional at Weybridge Methodist Church to post Christmas cards to members of the church family in the church post bag.

These will then be collated and distributed before the big day. The post bag will be outside the church vestry on Sunday 4 and 11 December. The cards will be distributed on Sunday 18 December.

*A reminder that it is not obligatory to send cards. We are aware that many choose to donate to charity instead.*

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With thanks to Stan and the Smiths, the Christmas tree will shortly be up in the church ready for the festive season. It may be that help is required to receive and erect the tree and possibly with decoration. Carol will let us know if that is the case.

We hope to receive all the Reverse Advent gifts under the tree on Sunday 18 December. The gifts will be taken to the Foodbank on

Monday 19 December.

Particular needs as we go to press include mixed tinned vegetables, tinned carrots, tinned salmon, tinned potatoes, tinned chicken breast, long life milk, washing up liquid, bleach, baby wipes.



Everyone is invited to a shared church family lunch on Sunday 18th December after the Carol Service.

Please let Pat or Linda know if you will be attending, what you are able to donate and whether you can assist with set up/clear away.

A reminder that there is no Service at our church on Sunday 1st January 2023. There is a Circuit Service at Woking led by Rev Dr Paul Glass to which all are welcome and this will also be live streamed – details to follow.



**All money raised will help
a disabled child in Surrey!**

7th March 2023
12pm for 12:30pm start

LADIES LUNCH & FASHION SHOW

Holiday Inn, Shepperton, KT17 8NP
Tickets **£37** each

In partnership with
John Lewis at Kingston and Rock Choir



Newlife the Charity for Disabled Children - Registered Charity Number: 1170125 in England & Wales.

**For more tickets/info call
01932 243521**



Feeding the Need

in Woking and surrounding areas

NEWS AND UPDATES

Queens award for Voluntary Service



On the 8th of November we were delighted to welcome HRH the Countess of Wessex to The Lighthouse and Foodbank to present our recently acquired Queens award

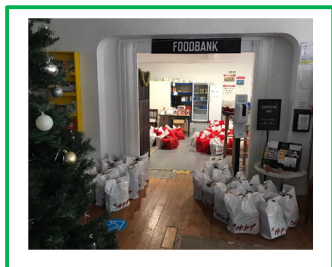
for Voluntary Service. This prestigious award is equivalent to the MBE for Voluntary groups. We know that we could not run our service without the many hours that are given by our Volunteers.

During her visit, she also announced that she is now a Patron of The Lighthouse, and we are all very privileged to receive this support.



Christmas goodies

Before we know it, Christmas will be upon us, and we are busy planning what we can do for our Foodbank visitors. This year, as in



previous years, we will be giving out a bag of Christmas goodies, and we will be doing this on the weekend of the **17th and 18th December**. Further details will follow shortly.



We can only make this possible if we have a telephone number for your client to organise the collection or delivery, so please make sure you add this when creating a foodbank referral. We are also hoping to give out a Supermarket monetary gift card, so an extra reason to make sure we have all the details!

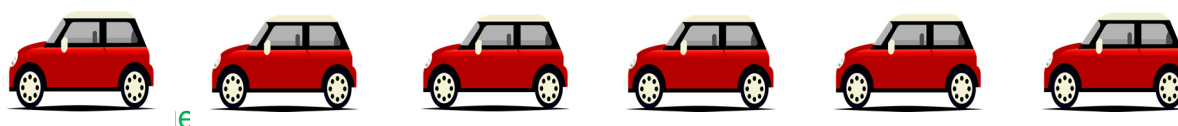
The Brookwood Campaign

We would like to thank Trudi Fletcher who is running the Brookwood Campaign again this Christmas. Trudi has now done this for the last five years. Last year she collected 1.5 tonnes of food from the residents and raised over £3,085, an amazing achievement. Trudi used the money she collected to buy food for us throughout the year and she purchased the last supplies a few weeks ago, so it has plugged gaps all year.



Foodbank Donations

Of course, we could not run the Foodbank without donations of food from the community, and during October 2022, our warehouse received the largest volume of food donations we have ever received, which amounted to over 10,000 kilos of food. That equates to about ten metric tonnes which is the weight of 7 Mini cars!



As part of our follow-on signposting and wellbeing support, Woking Foodbank are able to offer help with prepayment meter fuel costs and these are offered to our visitors by phone call. The amounts are £30 during the summer or £49 during the winter months which arrives as a code to the Foodbank visitors mobile and this can then be used when topping up the fuel prepayment meter. If you think that your client could benefit from this, then please add a note on the Foodbank referral and please make sure we have the Clients mobile number.



Signposting and Wellbeing support

Since we started this initiative in April 2021, Helen has been talking to our Foodbank visitors to try and help support them or signpost them to other help available, to help with their crisis. Sometimes it can be obtaining practical items to help their situation, topping up their prepayment fuel meter or just actively giving them time in listening to their problems. This continues to be well received and with numbers of people being referred to the foodbank going up, with support from the Trussell Trust, we have now been able to welcome Zahrah to the Signposting and support

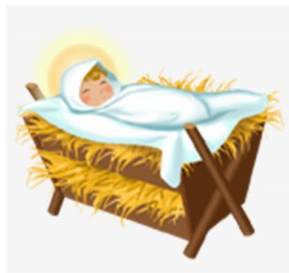
team. Zahrah is a generalist adviser with Citizens Advice Woking and works alongside Helen mainly at The Lighthouse. Either can be contacted by email: zahrah.salim@wokingcab.org or Helen at signpostingsupport@woking.foodbank.org.uk

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And Finally:

Last, but by no means least, a massive thank you to our wonderful Volunteers. We could not do it without you!

Thank you so very much.



Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you