

The Wey Forward

Issue 27 March - May 2023



Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before
the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

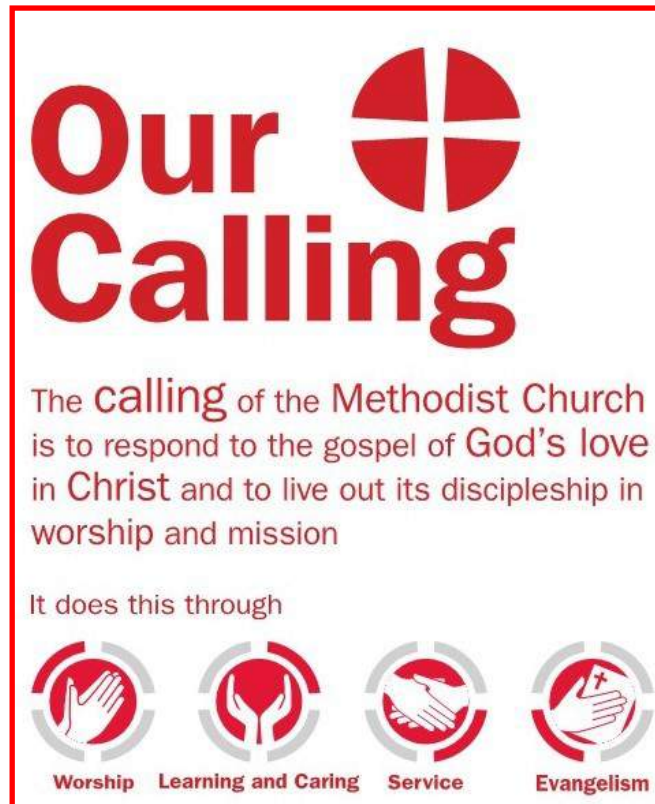
1 Chronicles 16:33

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

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

Our churches can be found in :

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



If you are a visitor or newcomer to the area, or living here and seeking a church for the first time, please use our website - www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk to find a church that meets your spiritual and pastoral needs. We have included links to the websites of all of our churches in the Circuit but you can also contact the Circuit Office for more information. The office is open each weekday morning from 9am to 1pm and Sue Howson, the Circuit Administrator, can be contacted on circuitoffice@veyvalleycircuit.org.uk or 07808 046451.

This quarterly newsletter aims to showcase what is going on around the Circuit, provide relevant information for the forthcoming quarter and offer some thought provoking articles.

Sue Howson

Editor

A Message From Our Superintendent

Greetings everyone,

It has been a busy time in the Circuit and I want to pass on publicly a huge word of thanks to all of you who have been taking part in the strategy and vision consultation process and particularly our Circuit Stewards who have worked incredibly hard. It is good for us from time to time to look at where we are.

I don't know about you but I find it very easy to give weight to the things that I wish could be better. There are always things that are not as we would like them to be. I find that sometimes my eagerness to spend time dwelling on the things that are not going as well as I would like means that I don't give anything like enough weight to the areas of success and new life.

I want to highlight two events that I have been to in the last month which were great times of celebration AND were also times of being aware of God being at work. Both events are given attention later in this edition. First was the Circuit service that admitted Dave Paterson into the order of Local Preachers within the Methodist Church. What a great sign of God being at work amongst us that occasion was as we celebrated Dave's call to preach and gave thanks for all he has already shared of God's love (and will share in the future).

The second was the lovely occasion of sharing in the lunar new year celebrations of the Chinese Congregation of the Methodist Church, Woking. I preached at their afternoon service and then a number of us joined the large numbers of this ever growing congregation to celebrate with a home cooked banquet of Chinese food.

There have been a number of other events across the Circuit that I have had the privilege of attending recently that have brought a smile to my face as I have witnessed acts of grace and hope and love. We need to make sure that we give them their proper weight. As we move through Lent to the season of Easter let's remember that we are an Easter people celebrating a God who glories in new life, new possibilities and new beginnings. Where are the signs of new life in your context and where might they take you?

Blessings - Paul

Rev Dr Paul Glass
Superintendent Minister



News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

As I write this we have only recently entered a new year. Where did the last one go to? COVID became less of a problem but with the cold weather, less money in our pockets and an NHS struggling to survive, we enter a difficult year ahead. We must never forget as we in the United Kingdom face these difficulties, people in many other parts of the world are suffering so much more.

It is important to remember that, if we let him, God will be with us to help and guide us through these difficulties.
PRAISE THE LORD.



We are thankful that the small team of active members at Addlestone are able to maintain the majority of our previous activities and are finding new ways to interest those in the community and bring more people into the church.



We thank the preachers who provide us with more informal Sunday services, this format together with screen presentation and music with a singer or choir backing being more suited to today's society. We continue to need to find ways to bring visitors in in the first place, but we are blessed to know that God walks beside us as we continue on this journey.

Our regular weekly Saturday Coffee Mornings continue and now include a popular Fun Bingo session once a month – these are not only popular but help us support the Woking and Sam Beare Hospice. Our thanks go to those who initiated these sessions and to those who run them.

The three main users of our hall and church, the nursery, Scouts and Addlestone Singers are still with us helping with our finances. We will step up our advertising to fill the few vacant evenings due to those no longer with us.

We continue to make a monthly donation to Grace, the girl now twelve years old, living in Ecuador. Her letters leave us in no doubt how this helps her schooling and her spiritual learning. Our thanks go to those who continue to support her.

As we face this year's challenges we remember that 'God will make a way' if we allow him to work with us. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Fred Rowe

Byfleet

As usual Christmas at Byfleet was very busy. I was delighted to go to the Carol Service and Christmas Sunday Lunch. Thank you Wendie and Cynthia, it was a first class meal.

At the end of October we enjoyed a concert by the very talented Susan Robinson School of Dancing. It was followed by afternoon tea which raised money, in memory of Susan (Sue) who passed away in 2020, for Shooting Star Children's Hospices and for our church. Sue was a long term member of our church and her school continues to use our premises extensively.

In November we were able to welcome the Woking People of Faith to our church to start their pilgrimage around Byfleet. The pandemic had postponed the event from 2020. Our church was the registration point so we were able to welcome the walkers with some refreshments. Then Vaughan Starkey and Ken Mears talked about Methodism and our buildings and showed them around. The pilgrims then set off to hear about St Mary's Church and finished off at the Village Hall for further talks on other religions and lunch.

More recently, Peter Hall began a Lent course starting on Thursday 23 February and finishing Thursday 23 March.

Our Fellowship continues every Tuesday when we have a selection of programmes with visiting speakers and quizzes. All are welcome to join us between 2.15pm and 4.30pm. Tea/coffee and biscuits are served after the programme.

It is with deep sadness that we have to report the death of a long standing friend and member of Byfleet Church, Frances Douglas. During her life Frances took an active part in both the church and Tuesday Fellowship. Our thoughts and blessings are with her family.

We are pleased to announce that the church has agreed to host free counselling sessions held by With You (previously Thinkaction). The charity www.wearewithyou.org.uk is offering free talking therapies, like counselling and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), in Surrey and Kent. They provide help for people suffering with one or more of a range of mental health problems, including stress, anxiety and depression.

You don't need a referral from your GP but you do need:

- to be aged 17 or over
- to be registered with a GP in Surrey or Kent
- complete a self referral form which can be found on their website www.wearewithyou.org.uk



A counsellor will be available at the church on Wednesdays between 12.30pm and 2.30pm to coincide with the hours of operation of the Foodbank and the Citizen's Advice Woking Team's drop-in advice sessions.

Margery Babb and Vaughan Starkey

withyou
in Surrey



SAVE THE DATES

MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE

A SERIES OF REFLECTIONS
FOR LENT

followed by a bread & soup lunch

Thursdays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 MARCH

12.15 for 12.30

St. Mary's, Quarry St, Guildford GU1 3UP

Cranleigh

A belated Happy New Year from all of us at Cranleigh!

In November and December, we opened our church on Tuesdays as a 'Warm Hub' space, serving soup and sandwich lunches, tea, coffee and cake to anyone who would appreciate warmth and company. These lunches have proved very popular and so continued throughout January and February. We would like to say a big 'Thank you' to Stella who organised this, to all her helpers and to a local shop which regularly donates bread, milk, and other much needed ingredients.

The Baby Bank continues to be well used in the community, providing clothes, nappies, and equipment to local families. The 'Time out Together' group which takes place at the same time as the Baby Bank, is well attended by young parents with babies and toddlers. All ages are welcome and again we are very grateful to the volunteers who organise this every week during term time.

We had our usual services over Christmas, fairly well attended but the outreach into Elmbridge Retirement Village nearby is definitely having a positive effect. We had over 70 people at the Remembrance Service we held with Godalming Band playing for us and then the carol service was attended by over 80 people who enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. Perhaps the free food and refreshments is what attracted them in but honestly, I think it was the piano playing by Canon Roy Woodhams from the local Church of England church, the choice of carols and our own Reverend Doctor Paul Glass who led the service! Our faith group in Elmbridge has had a Valentine's Day service and is already planning coffee mornings, and an Easter bonnet parade!

Cranleigh itself continues to increase its population and we need to expand our efforts to reach more people and just get them into the building. Once inside, it is not so scary! Our leadership team meets regularly, and we are trying to think outside the box to keep us motivated and increase our numbers.

Jane Briggs and Hilary Strawson



John Wesley

Do all the good you can,
by all the means you can,
in all the ways you can,
in all the places you can,
at all the times you can,
to all the people you can,
as long as ever you can.

Anazao's Work in The Gambia

I am proud to be a trustee of Anazao, a non-profit charity, where all donations received go to support communities in The Gambia and Uganda. Their mission statement is, *We partner with churches in Africa to spread the message of Jesus and support their communities with health care and education.*

I am also the Children, Youth, and Family Worker at Trinity Methodist Church in Woking.

It was three and half years since I last visited The Gambia and to be honest my emotions were very mixed, full of excitement, yet after Covid I had no idea what we would discover. After all, it has been tough for all of us. What would it be like in The Gambia? We were greeted with open arms, the warmth and welcome we received is indescribable. They certainly teach us hospitality. I always feel God's presence in The Gambia; it is messy, dirty and noisy yet He is in the middle of it.

Anazao is working alongside the Methodist Gambian Medical Board to enable four medical clinics to be supported with medication. While out there, we made sure the needs were still being met; after all these could have changed over the past three years. We found out the malnutrition centre wasn't functioning due to lack of food resources, some of which comes from government.



This beautiful little one in the picture came to the centre for help when she was born. Then she was a normal healthy weight of 4 kilos. She is now a year old and only weighs 8 kilos. Without the centre and the medical aid she might not be with us today. This really resonated with me, as I know that for many parents in the UK a food bank is vital to families, not only for food but for conversations, human support, education, and encouragement.

I was moved to ask questions as to how we can duplicate this in Marakissa, (the village we have always felt connected to) and how much would it cost to fund a project like this. The answer was almost too simple.

This is their hope:

- ♦ Children will be seen weekly on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. On the first visit they will be weighed and measured and only weighed on subsequent visits.
- ♦ Children with severe acute malnutrition with complications will be referred to the nearest health facility for stabilization and treatment of underlying infection.
- ♦ Those with severe acute malnutrition without complications will be treated at the Unit.
- ♦ Mothers will be taught the value of the 'Road to health card' allowing early detection and treatment of malnutrition and the importance of immunisation.

And during the visits:

- ♦ Breakfast and lunch will be given to the infants and lunch to the mothers
- ♦ The distribution of plumpy nuts (peanut paste), supplied by the government will continue.
- ♦ Health education will be given to mothers on how to cook with locally available inexpensive food ingredients, in a hygienic environment.

continued

In addition, the vegetable garden is to be revived. Children are most often fed with high carbohydrate foods such as millet or corn flour porridge. Often, foods that are rich in protein, vitamins and minerals are not included in the diet, so mothers will learn about vegetable gardening and develop better methods of selecting, cultivating, and preserving foods. The garden will also provide vegetables for the kitchen. Health talks will be given in the community, and mothers, husbands, and grandmothers will be encouraged to attend.

The initial amount of funding solicited from local and UK Methodist Church to implement their project is £1,600.

Anazao is very excited about helping, it is a community project, it is about feeding, educating families, giving parents hope, it is sustainable and putting God's love in to action, but we need your assistance. It costs approximately £20.00 a year to support educate and feed a mum and a child is £70.00 a year. If this resonates with you as much as it does with me, you may be asking how you can help. You could donate directly to Anazao via www.anazao.org.uk or look out for our fundraising event at Trinity Methodist Church Woking

Please email me if you have any questions waddington.sue@gmail.com

Sue Waddington

Variation on a Theme

A priest, a minister and a rabbit walk into a bar. The rabbit says, "I think I might be a typo."

A rabbit and a priest walk into the bar. The bartender asks the rabbit 'What'll you have?'. The rabbit replies "I dunno, I'm only here because of autocorrect."

A nun, a priest and a rabbit walk into a bar.
"This is my typo place." says the rabbi.

A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walk into a blood bank. The rabbit says, "I think I might be type O."

Any more, for any more?



The First Religious Broadcast: Rediscovered

The BBC celebrated its centenary last November, and I joined in by touring a re-enactment of their first broadcast, in character as its first voice Arthur Burrows. This year I've got my sights on something similarly historical, but holier.

Exactly forty days into the BBC's existence (appropriate, as if Auntie Beeb was having a Lenten fast), Rev John Mayo of Whitechapel gave what historians have thought to be Britain's first religious broadcast. Hear Mayo's 1932 re-enactment of it at www.lnkiy.in/revmayo. He began: 'It is my privilege through the wizardry of Mr Marconi to speak, as I understand, to many thousands of people. Surely no man has ever proclaimed the Gospel from such an extraordinary pulpit as I am now doing.'

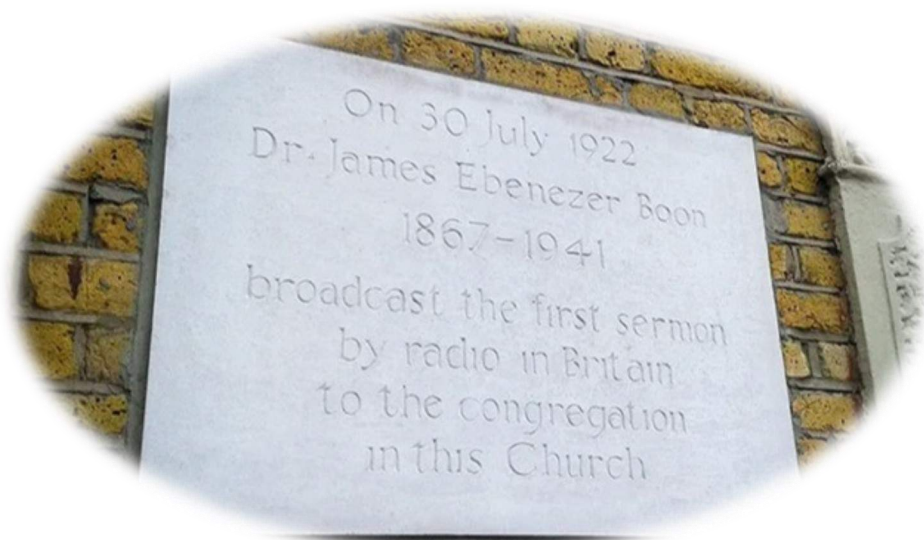
Well I've done a bit of digging, and it turns out that another *did* proclaim the Gospel from such an extraordinary pulpit, a few months earlier. America beat us to it by over a year; the world's first broadcast service had engineers dressed as choristers to not distract the congregation of the Pittsburgh church. But as for Britain, one lone pioneer preacher pipped the BBC to the post.

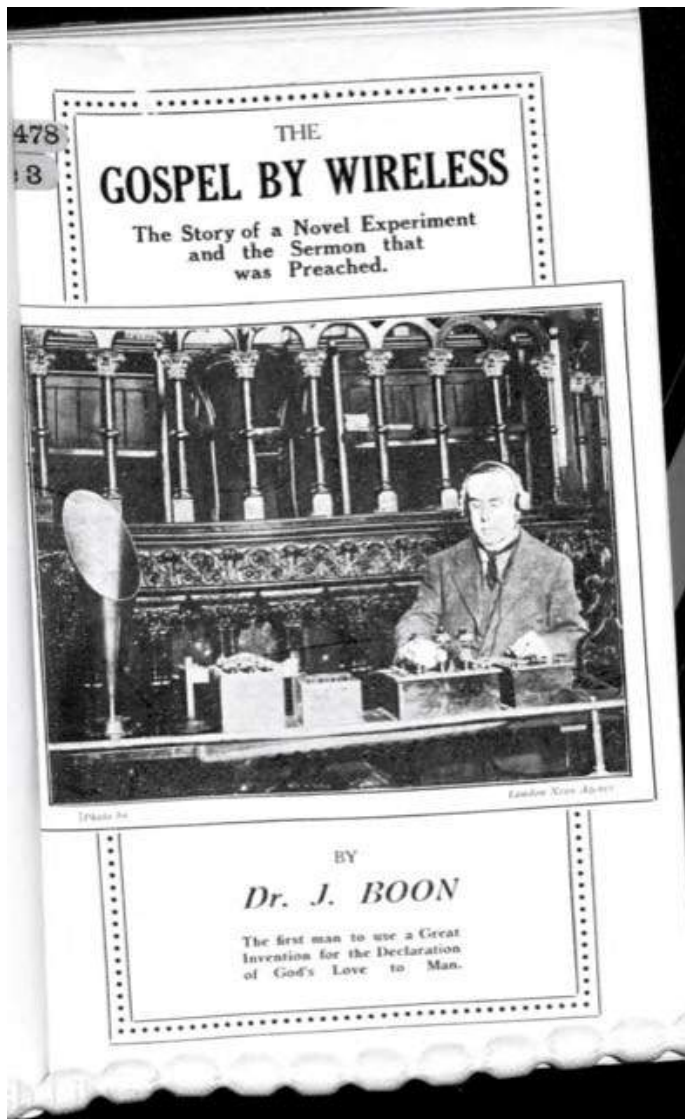
In June 1922, that future first voice of the BBC Arthur Burrows was The Marconi Company's Publicity Director, touring the land with radio demonstrations. One stop on the tour was Peckham Town Hall, and one attendee was local preacher Dr James Ebenezer Boon.

Boon was an early adopter of wireless, smitten with Dutch concerts he'd picked up on his amateur crystal set. Inspired, he decided to try broadcasting out for himself – by transmitting an entire service *into* his church, at Christ Church, McDermott Road. Thankfully he left us a wonderful little pamphlet telling the story, even including the text of his sermon (very handy for someone wanting to re-enact it in 2023). Boon said it was 'the largest and most unique congregation ever man had'.

First he wired up the building, inside and out: a radio set at the front of church, an aerial on a rickety clothes prop on the church roof. On Sunday 30 July 1922, Boon drove his Chandler Six motor car five miles to Burndept Factory in Blackheath. He had no idea if the church would be full, or if the technology would work.

It was and it did. A baffled congregation listened as his ghostly voice emanated from the box by the altar. Many had neither heard radio nor heard *of* radio. Boon played hymns via gramophone record, including *O God Our Help in Ages Past* and *The Church's One Foundation*, then gave a twenty-minute sermon, packed with metaphors, biblical defences and the odd joke.





Of course it's broadcasting not narrowcasting, so Britain's first wireless service didn't just reach his Peckham church. Eager radio 'hams' heard too, for miles around. Less than 0.01% of the population had radios at this point, and there were no listings to tell you what was on. Enthusiasts would sit in their spare time with headphones on, listening out for whatever came through on the ether. Congratulatory postcards arrived from places including Coventry ('Your sermon reached here quite clearly'), Eltham ('It enabled me to concentrate much better than in a building') and Godalming ('I shall be glad to know if there will be another broadcast sermon next Sunday?'). Boon soon echoed that last comment: 'It does not matter a brass farthing to me whether I preach a sermon by wireless again or not. All my aim is that one sermon, at least, should go out each Sunday by wireless.'

Five months later he got his wish, courtesy of the new BBC boss, Presbyterian John Reith. From Reverend Mayo's Christmas message onwards, the BBC has broadcast blessings every Sunday since – feeding us for just over five thousand weeks in a row.

Dr Boon was first, even if he may have broken some ecclesiastical rule by leaving no minister physically present! It's odd to consider that the exact opposite happened a century later, with pandemic lockdowns meaning ministers present in church but congregations absent, again bridged by the latest technology.

It was during the lockdown that I began my broadcasting history project, chronicling early radio's landmark moments in a podcast (*The British Broadcasting Century*) and a novel (*Auntie and Uncles*). But stories like Boon's aren't in the history books. At an academic media history conference last year, I again heard the erroneous claim that Reverend Mayo gave Britain's first religious broadcast. Poor Dr Boon.

His story came to me via Dr Jim Harris, a colleague of mine. We're both present-day BBC religious broadcasters, doing 'Pause for Thoughts' on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show. Jim happened to cycle past that church, saw a plaque on its wall, and kindly sent me a photo. Much digging later, I'm glad to spread this tale of Boon's forgotten role.

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I'm hoping to spread it further by re-enacting his sermon and its story in some churches this year, including that Peckham church where Boon first was, or wasn't. If your church might be open to such a sermon/performance/re-enactment, do get in touch.

I'll be recording it too via podcast – because like Boon's original vast congregation, we don't need to be there in person to hear such a message. We may instead be like the St Albans listener who wrote to Boon. Listening intently to his headphones, he alarmed his wife. She asked: 'What's the matter with you? You're so quiet!'

He held up his hand to ask for quiet and said: 'I am listening to a sermon.' (The first.)

'Good for you,' she replied. 'I'm glad to think you're listening to something that will be for your good.'

Paul Kerensa

For more information on the re-enactment of the first religious broadcast, contact Paul via his website paulkerensa.com, where you'll also find details of his forthcoming novel *Auntie and Uncles: The Bizarre Birth of the BBC* and *The British Broadcasting Century Podcast*.





CIRCUIT MISSION SUPPER

Venue Trinity Methodist Church Woking on
4 March 2023, 6pm for
6.30pm.

Ticket price £10.00

Profits after expenses to
Care4Calais.

Bring own crockery &
cutlery.



Pictures from social media

No Abiding City

Is a 'refugee' the same as an 'asylum seeker'? Why do people try to get to the UK? And what happens when they do? Why has our Methodist South East District appointed a 'District Refugee, Displaced Persons & Migrant Officer'?

Speaker

Rev Hazel Forecast was appointed in November 2021. Her role is to provide advice, encouragement and support across the District in this area of work and ministry. She will be offering some statistics and definitions on refugees and migration; Biblical perspectives both on the experience of people on the move and on those taking them in; and information on what is happening around the District and possible next steps.



Picture provided by
Rev. Forecast

Godalming United Church

There was no morning service at GUC on Sunday 22 January for the best of reasons – meeting up with our brothers and sisters from across the town in the annual Godalming Churches Together New Year Service. It was again hosted by St John's Church, Farncombe, and our tech-team led by Richard August arranged an "outside broadcast" of the occasion.

2023 marks 40 years of GUC's charitable link (and 64 shipping containers!) with The Gambia. In December Sylvia and Ryan Kelley paid the country their first visit in three years. They were heartened to find that projects established pre-Covid were flourishing. A highlight was a meeting with the Gambian President, Adama Barrow. He has placed education at the forefront of his plans for the country and has given his support to the introduction of free compulsory education to School Year 12.

Our New Year pantomime in early February was another huge success, attended by upwards of 400 people. "Cinderella" – was specially written for GUC with parts accommodating our various groups, ranging in age from 5 to "mature", involving a cast of around 50. With 26 musical numbers – dancing frogs, mice, cutlery, snowflakes, maids, sunflowers - there was plenty of scope for everyone. Adam, our Minister, proved himself a dab hand at pressing the sound-effects buttons, but wasn't persuaded to tread the boards. All good clean fun – and another triumph for Barbara Keene and her team.

Anyone attending a service or watching online will have been struck by our improved projection and display system, installed in December in time for Christmas. The tired projector has been replaced, and a modern screen (like a giant TV screen) takes the place of images-on-the-wall. The congregation generously funded the project, and the bright, crisp words and illustrations are a huge improvement!



Messy Church in January saw David meeting Goliath!
Our 2.7m tall giant was based on the height of the tallest recorded individual, US citizen Robert Wadlow.

**We are open as a WARM SPACE on Fridays 12. noon - 3.00pm.
Free hot drinks and biscuits. Very reasonably priced lunches
available 12.00 noon - 1:30pm.**

Looking ahead:

Our Lent appeal this year - relief to Ukraine, will be channelled through Médecins Sans Frontières.

Fri 3 March 10:30am Godalming Churches Together World Day of Prayer
hosted by GUC

Sat 25 March 3.00—5.00pm Messy Church Easter Egg Trail

Nancy Wilks



And we are looking forward to more Messy Church Easter fun here at GUC
Here are some pictures from last year. messy.church@guc.org.uk



Lo and behold, a donkey!

(or maybe an Easter bunny?!)

The ever-popular biscuit-icing



Making palm-fronds for the
procession around the
church

Guildford St Mary's

Something Much Bigger

We're busy making preparations for our Thursday lunchtime Lent Reflections (do come along – you'll have seen the advert on page 6) which we're basing around a book 'Meeting Jesus at the Table'. One reviewer describes the book as "like going on a glorious progressive dinner. At each stop we gather at a different table with Jesus, learning how to love, serve and expand the hospitality of God's grace to others".

The Introduction reminds us that when we share at the Lord's Table, we are part of something much bigger than our local congregation. Although there are still frustrating rules amongst churches hindering full inter-communion, Christ is above that and through him we are sharing with Christians of all shapes, sizes, races and denominations.

Our witness is so much stronger when we are working with other Christian churches, as we witness when visitors to St Mary's are often amazed to learn that our building is home to Anglican, Methodist and Orthodox worship and, pre-Pandemic, a weekly Roman Catholic Mass. That we can work together says more than words.

And working together doesn't necessarily mean being close in practices – in Guildford the Anglo-Catholic St Nicolas is a neighbour to the URC and they have forged a partnership including sharing a Youth and Families worker. When we came to St Mary's we merged with a congregation whose natural preference would be a Prayer Book service, but building relationships and working together have moulded us into one.

As I write this in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a prime example of non-denominational Christian witness – Traidcraft - has sadly decided it can trade no longer and has entered Administration to try to manage its wind-down. In mourning its passing, we should also give thanks that, working through many churches and its campaigning, Traidcraft was a leader in advocating Fair Trade which has now become mainstream on many products on supermarket shelves.

Another bit of bad news concerning a different Christian enterprise emerged around the same time – this time relating to Christians against Poverty. Demand for their debt advisory services has never been higher (nor the need) but apparently funding cuts will force CAP to make many staff redundant. CAP has been another demonstration of how Christians working together can be a real force for good.

My final sadness is that our weekly Vigils for Ukraine are still needed as the brutal invasion continues. Right through the winter, the blue of the Ukrainian flag has shone through our stained glass windows to passers-by, our ecumenical welcoming team have been on gate duty whatever the weather and hundreds of people out on a Friday night have taken time to express their concern for the people of Ukraine and surprised themselves by coming into a church.

Christian Unity is best seen in action rather just being spoken of – and the Lord's Table is symbolic of our unity in and through Christ. It is a privilege to be part of "something much bigger".

Nigel Campion-Smith



Knaphill

Since the last edition of Wey Forward we have held several events at KMC. Our Coffee Morning on Saturday 26 November was Christmas themed, with decorations and Christmas music in addition to the usual attractions of toiletries, jewellery items, ornaments, cards, books and jigsaws, delicious cakes and bacon rolls. We raised a magnificent £786 for church funds, as well as enjoying a lovely social occasion. This was the best ever total for our regular coffee mornings, only exceeded by the even more amazing total raised at the coffee morning for the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Service on 8 October. It was masterminded by Tarina Berry and raised a fantastic £830.

A fortnight later, on Sunday 11 December, we held our Community Christmas Tea for elderly people in Knaphill, and people who would like some company. It was admirably organized by Helen Chamberlain and Liz Funning, with around 40 people attending, all of whom enjoyed the sandwiches, cakes, tabletop quizzes and carol singing (led by the KMC Worship Group).

Thankfully, this year we were able to hold our Carols by Candlelight Service, at 6.30pm on 18 December, after cancelling in 2021 owing to concerns about the new Covid variant. Numbers were not back to pre-Covid days but, nevertheless, it was an uplifting service and seasonal refreshments were enjoyed afterwards.

At the start of yet another new year, our regular outreach projects will continue as previously, with Clothes 4U open between 2.00pm and 4.00pm during the afternoon of the third Saturday of each month and coffee mornings between 10.00am and 12 noon on every fourth Saturday.

We still have concerns about attracting more hirers to use our halls, so prayers for the future of KMC would be very welcome.

Lynda Shore

Did They Really Mean That?



Out of dozens of malapropisms (*the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar-sounding one, often with an amusing effect*, for example, 'dance a flamingo' instead of flamenco) sent to *The Times*, two seem to be appropriate for church magazines, suggests Sally Churchus:

His mother implied her eye problem was a gift from God since she always spoke of having 'immaculate degeneration'.

Dr Peter Moore was asked by relatives of an elderly patient to assess him for 'power of eternity'. Some things, Peter says, are beyond the NHS.

From an article by Patrick Kidd in *The Times* 29 September 2022.

Sally Churchus

Merrow

It was lovely to see all our 'normal' Christmas activities resume again after the Covid lockdowns and since then we have had a very busy couple of months.

The carol service on 18 December was extremely enjoyable and very well attended. This had been rescheduled from its original scheduled time of 4.30pm to 11.00am in order for it not to clash with a certain World Cup final. It was a joint service with the Chinese Church (Guildford Church of the Holy Word) who meet at Merrow on Sunday afternoons. The Chinese children sang songs, a Chinese carol and also Silent Night in Mandarin which was delightful. We also had musical accompaniment (saxophone and violin) from two teenagers from George Abbot School. All told, it made a lovely start to the Christmas week.

In December, we opened our Warm Hub on Thursday mornings between 8.45am and 11.45am under the heading 'Warm Space – Warm Welcome'. Free tea/coffee is provided, papers are available if anyone wishing to simply come and read. If anyone just wants company and a chat – that is fine too. We hope it will become more well known with more people coming in to take advantage of our warm welcome.

On 22 January, we had our annual games afternoon. The games afternoon is for everyone – and not just for children. (Indeed, we even have some who have created the new game of group talking!) There are games for all ages and interests – table tennis, Connect 4, Jenga for those of a more energetic nature, word games (for those who like to tax their brains), strategy games and card games. This year, we were joined by the Chinese children (from the Chinese Church) so there were games like 'Pass the Parcel', Musical Chairs etc as well!. Tea and cake was served!

And looking forward, we have started planning our Easter Services (I still find it strange planning Easter immediately after Christmas!). We are hoping to have a 'bring and share' lunch on Easter Sunday – possibly 'picnic' if weather is nice enough. I have to remind myself to be optimistic – yes – weather at Easter can be lovely and warm!

Julie Wallis



Recently Fred Rowe asked the Addlestone congregation if they recognised the oldest building (15th century) presently used for Methodist worship anywhere in the world.

Do you know where it is? See page 25 for the answer.



Pause For Thought

Trying to tidy up the 'office' recently I came across a small book I had been given, back in 2004, to celebrate several years in business. It contained a quotation on every other page and reading through them again made me think - some of them might go down well, particularly those that reflect our Christian values, being serious yet at the same time relatively light-hearted. I've listed 24 below (out of a total of 31!) and not in any order of preference. Some, I'm sure, will make you smile!

1. No one ever minds being thanked.
2. All things are easy, done willingly.
3. Possibilities are infinite.
4. Great things are done more through courage than through wisdom.
5. The day is lost on which one has not laughed.
6. There is nothing permanent except change.
7. Success, happiness and quality are journeys, not destinations.
8. Never do things by halves.
9. Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you sit there!
10. Whether you think you can, or you can't, you're right.
11. Dreams can become realities through persistence.
12. Get a move on and your luck will change.
13. A smile takes only a moment, but the memory can last forever.
14. Nobody can do better than their best, but many can do better than they think is their best.
15. One life to live, no time to waste.
16. A mistake is evidence that someone has tried to do something
17. If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else.
18. The best way to predict the future is to invent it.
19. Be like a postage stamp and stick to one thing until you arrive.
20. He who walks in tracks leaves no footprints.
21. For things to get better, we have to get better.
22. Today is a gift, which is why it's called a present.
23. Lost time is never found again.
24. Dream as if you'll live forever, live as if you'll die tomorrow.

John Phillips



Stoughton

By the time we receive this edition of our circuit magazine we will have already left Christmas far behind as we prepare for Lent and Easter. After celebrating the coming of Jesus at Advent and Christmas services George led our Covenant service at the beginning of the new year. We gave thanks for all that God has done for us, and affirmed that we give our lives to Him.

From a suggestion by our Superintendent we began a monthly community initiative of "Prayer for a Road" in November. Cards were delivered to a road in the local area with the message that prayers would be said for residents of that road at our next Sunday service. Details were offered for contact if anyone was in need of prayer as well as an invitation to come to the service. I will give an update on the response in the next edition of Wey Forward.

A dance group has provided another weekly evening hiring to add some much needed revenue.

I am sure, like me, you will be sad to lose the support of Sue Howson when she retires in April. She has been a constant source of information during her time as Circuit Administration Officer. Nothing has ever been a trouble for the numerous tasks asked of her and answering my many questions, to which I probably should have known some of the answers! Many, many thanks Sue. God Bless and all good wishes for a very happy retirement.

Linda Macbeth

How good is your church magazine?



The search is on for Britain's best church magazine. Entries are now invited for the annual competition run by the Association for Church Editors (ACE), which is an independent, not for profit organisation.

"Judging from the number of brochures and leaflets that land on our doormats and the array of magazines in newsagents, other organisations still value printed material" says Sally Churchus, Chair of the national organisation, "so we are keen to encourage church editors everywhere".

For the coming 2023 competition, which closes on Monday 3rd April, **awards will be made for any size of magazine using just black and white printing**. The Gold Award winner will receive the John King Trophy, to be held for one year, while Silver and Bronze Awards will receive an inscribed trophy to keep, together with a Certificate of Excellence for display.

A panel of judges assesses each magazine, giving points for various aspects including cover design, headlines and clarity of the Christian message. The prize-giving in the autumn is open to everyone, and will include a lecture by a Keynote Speaker and talks on various ways to improve your magazine. The date and venue will be announced in due course.

Details of how to enter with a copy of the entry form can be found on the Circuit website.

Sue Howson

Dave Faulkner is on Sabbatical

Since I am on sabbatical (plus some holiday) from 3 March to 18 June inclusive, I thought the circuit might like to know what I am planning to do during that time. There will be little opportunity to report back fully when I return, as I have just a few weeks back on duty when I shall be tidying up and saying farewell before we move in August to the East Solent and Downs Circuit in the Southampton District. (More on farewells soon.)*

As you may know, Methodist ministers in circuit work must take a sabbatical every seven years. It is a valuable and refreshing gift to us after a sustained period of working six days a week, including inconsistent and unsocial hours. The sabbatical allows us the chance to engage in some study and participate in some restorative activities.

I am not doing any *formal* studies, but I do plan to catch up on some major theological reading. I had planned to do this during my last sabbatical, but some of you may remember that time was taken over by my late father's declining health.

I hope to do at least one online church leadership course devised by the Canadian church leader you are probably fed up with me mentioning by now – Carey Nieuwhof. His courses are high quality but the cost of them would make me baulk from taking them if there were no help from grants or expenses.

I shall also take a shorter online course to help me learn better how to use the video editing software I use for my weekly videos. Although the numbers watching these are now far lower than at the height of the pandemic, I still receive regular messages from people who appreciate them. Often these are housebound Christians or others in an area where it is hard to find a good church.

Pastorally, the issues of doubt and disappointment are increasingly relevant to people as we get older and also more experienced in the faith. So I shall be spending a week at the Lee Abbey community in north Devon exploring that at a conference.

For my personal benefit, I am attending two one-day photography courses run by the camera manufacturer Nikon. One is at the British Wildlife Centre near Lingfield, and the other is at a hawk conservancy near Andover. Wildlife photography isn't perhaps my main interest, but learning about a different style of photography from what I generally do should be beneficial and creative.

Finally, as the late Steve Jobs used to say just when you thought he'd ended a presentation: One More Thing. In April, my first book is due to be published. Entitled 'Odd One Out – Good news for those who don't belong', it looks at what the Gospel says to people who feel like they don't quite fit in with the majority of society. I shall be sending out some publicity, and maybe running a launch event, so that is one point during the sabbatical when you will hear from me!

See you in a while ...

Dave Faulkner

As we went to press Dave's farewell service has been confirmed as being on 16 July , 3.00pm at Byfleet followed by a tea (or bunfight as Dave described it!). Make a note in your diaries.



Walton-on-Thames

At Walton, we were very pleased to receive two more of our youth into membership through confirmation in November, a joyful day. We also made contact with a community choir and were delighted to host a concert for them in November which raised money for Action for Children. December was peppered with Advent delights, including a Messy Christingle and a candlelit carol service in the church with 9 Lessons, solos and some different carols.



2023 got off to a busy start, as we were delighted to have the circuit service at Walton to welcome David Paterson as a local preacher. It was a thoughtful, vibrant, uplifting service and it was good to be able to catch up with others in the circuit afterwards.

We are very pleased too, that Sam Monaghan has come on trial to be a local preacher, and we look forward to supporting him on his journey through it.

Wits, our women's group also managed to have an evening out.

It was good to get together after such a long time and with new members we had a lot to talk about.

We were grateful to Linda Weedon for letting us use the Weybridge car park on the evening.



In February we had a local arrangement, and we were delighted that Maggie Dodd was able to come to Walton to tell us about the Anna Chaplaincy which is an organisation which helps provide spiritual and social care for older people.

We have realised that we need to run a crèche regularly and are working on that. We are also looking for help with learning appropriate ways of dealing with neuro diverse young children. Later in the year we are hoping to delve deeper into Holy Habits looking at five of the topics through the year.

So, we have a few plans and we would ask the members of the circuit to keep us in your prayers as we seek to find God's plans for us and the community in which we live.

Ross Richardson

Bible Cake

Here is a Bible cake recipe that has been around for several years, but in case you have not come across it before why not give it a try. The ingredients can be deciphered in the King James AV Bible.

Ingredients

1. ½ lb of Judges 5:25 (the last food in the list)
2. ½ lb of Jeremiah 6:20
3. 1 tablespoon of 1 Samuel 14:25
4. 3 of Jeremiah 17:11
5. ½ lb of 1 Samuel 30:12
6. ½ lb of Nahum 3:12 chopped
7. 2 oz of Numbers 17:8 blanchd and chopped
8. 1 lb of 1 Kings 4:22
9. 2 Chronicles 9:9
10. a pinch of Leviticus 2:13
11. 1 teaspoonful of Amos 4:5
12. 3 tablespoons of Judges 4:19



Method

Mix 8, 9, 10 and 11, and put them aside.

Beat 1, 2 and 3 to a cream.

Then beat in 4, one at a time.

Add 5, 6 and 7 and beat again.

Add 12.

Bake in a low oven for 1½ hours

Answers to Bible cake clues can be found on page 25

Church Editor Ideas Forum

Circuit Books of Faith Group

If interested please contact:

Rev J. Allan Taylor on 01483 200464



West Horsley

Thank you to all those who came to support our Carol Praise last December, it was such a success that we ran out of space for chairs in the chapel! If you enjoyed that one, then please come to our Songs of Praise evening at 7.00pm on Saturday 22 April, which will be part of our Chapel Anniversary celebrations. For details, please see page 27. We are delighted that our superintendent minister, Rev Dr Paul Glass, has agreed to lead our Anniversary Service on 23 April.

Our regular Thursday coffee morning has been registered with the local community as providing a warm hub. We held a 'soup and pud' lunch on Monday 13 Feb as part of this initiative and invited people from the village. Now we are thinking about how to mark the Coronation with an event in May.

It is our church's turn to organise the open-air ecumenical service on Good Friday this year. This takes place in the grassed area between the shops in East Horsley and is always very well attended.

We found the discussion with the circuit stewards helpful as we reviewed our current position and looked to the future. We have seen an increase in the numbers attending our services recently, and in the number of people willing to do the tasks required on Sundays. So a lot of positives but our resources might be a bit stretched in five years time as we all get older!

Margaret Faulkner



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.



Genesis Chorale

Genesis Chorale Spring Concert

featuring

Handel's Coronation Anthems

Saturday 22nd April 2023 at 7:30pm

St John's Church
West Byfleet, KT14 6EH

Musical Director: Yvette Murphy

Tickets £15, Students £8

Buy tickets from the website,
genesischorale.wordpress.com
and collect them at the door on the night.

Alternatively, you can buy tickets either from
Brittens Music in New Haw, choir members
or at the door on the night.

Where Was I?

Hawkshead village in Cumbria. The chapel is open every day to visitors and there is a weekly service at 10.00am on Thursdays.

Cake Ingredients

1. curd (butter)
2. sugar
3. honey
4. eggs
5. raisins
6. figs
7. almonds
8. flour
9. spice
10. salt
11. leaven (baking powder or yeast)
12. milk



The Vigil

Nine-o'clock on Friday night, it's winter, cold but dry, and people have come into Guildford for a night out. The last thing on their mind is going to Church but as they pass the gate to St Mary's someone offers them something - a night-light - and invites them to go into the church to light their 'candle' and pray for peace in Ukraine and for the people of that devastated country. Many say 'No thank you' and pass on but some are curious and stay to talk; they may accept the invitation and go into the church. The lighting is low and there are already many candles shining all round. They will be welcomed and their candles will be lit which they will then take to place with others on the low flight of steps leading up to the chancel. Some will leave immediately, others stay a while to watch a video about conditions in Ukraine; a few will sit in meditation for quite a long time.

The Vigil took over from a monthly Night Vision on the same week that Russia invaded Ukraine and St Mary's has been open from 9.00pm to 11.00pm every Friday night since then, except for the Friday in Christmas Week. A record is kept: typically between sixty and seventy people come in to place a candle each evening, twice there were over one hundred. All together several thousand visitors have lit their candles over the past year. Most, but not all, are the younger people who are out and about in Guildford looking to enjoy themselves on a Friday evening. They are all sorts: conventional couples; young women, scantily dressed despite the cold, say they could not go into church dressed like that; young men admit they have been drinking and are between pubs, they feel could not go into church; there are soldiers who have come over from Aldershot and are doubtful; a taxi driver with a strong Pakistan accent asks that his prayers be added to ours – 'There is only one God'; a rather older lady asks if she can take her dog in. The answer is always the same: 'All are welcome'.

There is no overt 'evangelising' but there have been many conversations, some quite deep, on the gate and in the church with people who are not church goers or have no religious faith. Donations are not sought – or refused. The Vigil is run by a small team of Methodist and Anglican volunteers from St Mary's and the Common Ground ecumenical group. They may take turns on the gate, longer or shorter depending on the weather; or they welcome the visitors and talk to them in the church, light peoples' candles as they come in (an essential duty for one of the team), keep count etc. etc.

The Vigils will continue for at least as long as the war in Ukraine continues. And all, of faith or none, will always be welcome.

Peter Youngs



Songs of Praise



Saturday April 22nd
Horsley
Methodist Church

(next to Village Hall)

7.00pm

**Come and sing a selection of favourite
hymns**

Phone 01483 282474 to make requests

Trinity, Woking

Uniting for Christmas and New Year

The English and Chinese speaking congregations at Trinity joined together for a number of seasonal events, a couple of which stand out.

One was our combined Carol Service. As well as singing carols and hearing readings, our respective choirs sung additional songs according to their tradition. The Chinese offering included some magnificent trumpet playing. Rev Sam Funnell led in English, whilst Simon Sze Du translated. The highlight for me was the nativity by some of the Chinese children. They mimed the story to words that had been pre-recorded in their own voices. I've never seen that done before, and it was excellent. This was a service that captured the two traditions, and perhaps created a new one.

The second was the Banquet to celebrate Chinese New Year. Trinity's morning congregation were invited to share in the celebrations. (A photomontage from the day can be seen opposite). I don't know whether I've seen so much food in one place – catering for 250+ people. The hospitality and friendship offered will stay with me for a long time. My personal highlight was realizing how many members of the Chinese Congregation we have come to know, whether it be through maintaining the building together, loading The Gambia containers, meeting families at messy fun church or just casual chatting as separate activities start and stop. I hope this sense of belonging with each other continues to grow. As a long time member of Trinity, it is a real privilege to be able to support our Chinese friends.

As I write, it is the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Banquet we enjoyed clashed with the Churches Together in Woking Service that marked the occasion. However I can think of no better way of celebrating Christian Unity than by the gathering we had – Christian Unity in action. Long may it continue.

Hugh Bowerman



Rev Dr Paul Glass and Simon Che, lay leader of the Chinese congregation





DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO TURN?

Financial, health and welfare
support is just around the corner.



We can point you in the right direction
at the Health and Welfare Hub
surreycc.gov.uk/welfare

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 28 of The Wey Forward
is midnight 20 April 2023**

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 29 5 July 2023

Issue 30 27 September 2023

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sue Howson

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 2023			
Every Tues	2.15pm - 4.30pm	Fellowship Programme—speakers, quizzes, etc	Byfleet
Every Weds	12.30pm - 2.30pm	With You counselling, Foodbank, CAB drop in session	Byfleet
Every Fri	9.00pm - 11.pm	Vigil for Ukraine	St Mary's, Guildford
2 March	12.15pm for 2.30pm	Reflections for Lent, Meeting Jesus at the Table	St Mary's, Guildford
3 March	10.30am	Godalming Churches Together World Day of Prayer	Godalming UC
4 March	6.00pm for 6.30pm	Circuit Mission Supper with speaker Rev Hazel Forecast	Trinity, Woking
9 March	12.15pm for 2.30pm	Reflections for Lent, Meeting Jesus at the Table	St Mary's, Guildford
16 March	12.15pm for 2.30pm	Reflections for Lent, Meeting Jesus at the Table	St Mary's, Guildford
18 March	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes 4U	Knaphill
23 March	12.15pm for 2.30pm	Reflections for Lent, Meeting Jesus at the Table	St Mary's, Guildford
25 March	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Messy Church Easter Egg Trail	Godalming UC
25 March	10.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
30 March	12.15pm for 2.30pm	Reflections for Lent, Meeting Jesus at the Table	St Mary's, Guildford
April 2023			
3 April	-	Deadline for Church Editors' Competition (page20)	-
15 April	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes 4U	Knaphill
20 April	Midnight	Copy deadline for The Wey Forward (Edition 28)	
22 April	7.00pm	Songs of Praise	West Horsley
22 April	10.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
May 2023 (and beyond)			
6 May		Coronation Day	
18 - 28 May		Thy Kingdom Come	
20 May	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes 4U	Knaphill
27 May	10.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
16 July	3.00pm	Dave Faulkner's Farewell Service, followed by tea	Byfleet