

# **The Wey Forward**

Issue 28 June - August 2023



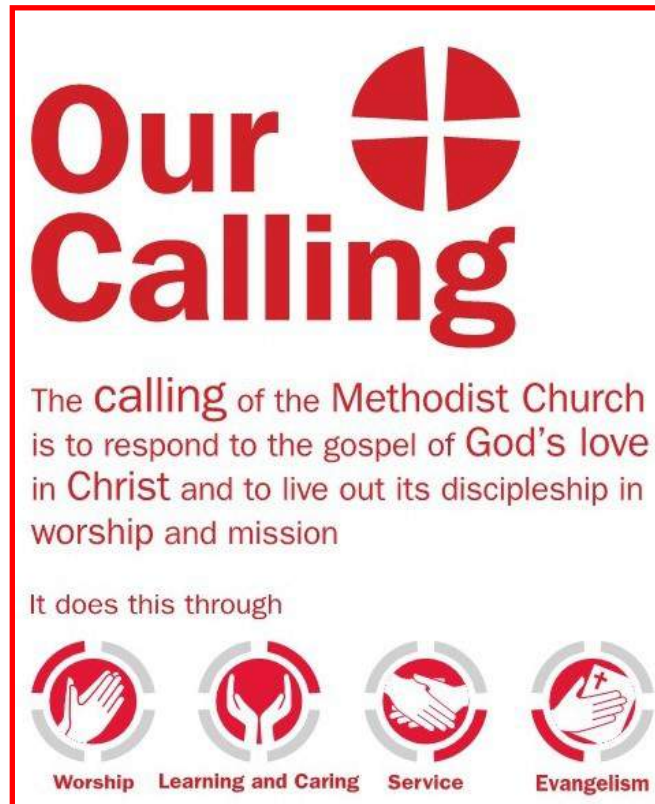
“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

# 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](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 Superintendent

Hello everyone.

There is a difference between blind optimism and a hope filled realism. I have spent a lot of the past few months since arriving in the Circuit trying to make sure that people feel encouraged in the work that they do. That is absolutely vital. Let's remember that.

And one of the greatest encouragements that I have found over the past few months is prayer. The act of bringing people, situations and Churches before God is hugely powerful. It unlocks extraordinary potential. Elsewhere in this edition of The Wey Forward you will see an advert for Thy Kingdom Come 2023. For those who have not come across it this international event runs from 18 - 28 May and invites each one of us to select five people that we commit to pray for each day for those eleven days.

Just five people every day for eleven days.

The Circuit will also be supporting 'Thy Kingdom Come' with daily Zoom prayers with more details and links to follow.

This is about us unlocking our God potential and allowing ourselves to be an encouragement to each other. In that process God will also encourage us if we allow that to happen. If there are answers to your prayers, you discover, do let others know so that we all might be encouraged.

John Wesley once said, 'I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it.' I love that! He was such a busy person - reading his journals is an exercise in breathlessness - but note - he underpinned everything with enormous amounts of prayer - rising very early every morning to do so.

Commit to prayer. Practice it, experiment with it ... be creative with it and you will find it an enormous source of strength and power. May we be a Circuit - may yours be a Church - that takes prayer seriously and that does nothing without it.

Let each one of us encourage each other in prayer and start that by selecting five people (perhaps those on the outside edges of the Church) that you will pray for from 18 to 28 May.

Just before I go I did also want to take this opportunity to give a huge word of personal and grateful thanks to Sue Howson. Sue has been Circuit Administrator for six years and her calm, efficient, wise words and work have been of immense value to so many across our Circuit Churches. This is her last issue of The Wey Forward. Sue ... we will miss you and we wish you well. We also give an incredibly warm Wey Valley welcome to Lucy Venmore who will be taking over the reins in the Circuit Office from May onwards.

*Rev Dr Paul Glass*  
*Superintendent Minister*





# News from around the Circuit

## Hello



Hello, I'm Lucy Venmore and I'll be taking over from Sue Howson as the PA to the Superintendent Minister and Circuit Administrator.

With a background in law, I've worked for more than 20 years as a Legal Secretary for a number of City of London law firms, but now I'm looking forward to a change in direction and a slightly slower pace of life (hopefully!) without the commute.

Originally from Maidstone in Kent, I moved to Woking 15 years ago. I live with my partner Frank (who works in IT at Salesian School in Chertsey) and Noah, my 12 year old son. Not to forget our house bunny Coco, who is very much part of the family.

In my spare time I enjoy bike rides along the Basingstoke Canal, preferably with a picnic. I also enjoy my weekly aqua aerobics classes and meeting up with friends for a natter and a coffee.

I very much look forward to meeting and working with you.

*Lucy Venmore*

## Goodbye

Having said goodbye in the Circuit Letter at the end of April I don't want to repeat myself but, for those who didn't read it, I just wanted to say a cheerio and a huge thank-you for your support and friendship over the last six years. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have served.

A new chapter is starting for me and I'm reminded of a saying that the past must be a springboard; not a sofa. This is true not just for me, as I launch myself off into retirement, but also for the churches and Circuit - I look forward to hearing about the new exciting ways forward!

My plans include some postponed trips both at home and abroad, finally getting on top of our garden and finishing the novel I've been writing for what seems like a hundred years. I'm going to catch up with old friends, reignite some old interests and do some volunteering work. I am looking forward to it all.

I'm sure you will welcome and support Lucy as you did me and I hope she enjoys the job as much as I have.

*Sue Howson*



## Addlestone

Spring, sunshine, flowers and a feeling that God is really with us. Can we see that light at the end of the tunnel?



Our endeavours to provide a more informal Sunday service, more suited to today's society, are at last having some effect. As well as two very welcome new members we are seeing a few more visitors attending our services. We thank the ministers and local preachers who provide those services for us. We know that God answers our prayers in his own time, could now be the time?

We are so fortunate that our active members are contributing so much to the church activities. Our contribution to helping the local community includes giving the local foodbank support, and raising donations for the Woking and Sam Beare Hospice through our Fun Bingo coffee mornings. Our overseas mission support also continues by the monthly donations given to Grace, the 12 year old girl in Ecuador and the donations for World Mission. Our thanks go to all our members involved in supporting these various activities.



Hope for the future. Whilst assistance is still needed to relieve some of the pressure caused by the demands put on our active members and guidance would help to identify where we can improve our services and activities still further, **we are confident that God is with us, which gives us the hope we have for the future.**

*Fred Rowe*

## Who Can Resist a Good Pun?

Bought a litre of Tipp-Ex yesterday. Huge mistake

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

I bought a dog from my local blacksmith. When I got it home it made a bolt for the door.

My wife told me I was a fool to build a car out of spaghetti. You should have seen the look on her face when I drove pasta.

Just watched a documentary on how ships are kept together. Riveting.

*Anon (for obvious reasons)*

## **A Brand Plucked From The Burning**

Part of early Methodist legend is when John Wesley nearly died at age six, when the parsonage burned down. The entire family had escaped except for John who was trapped upstairs in his bedroom with fire surrounding him. John climbed up to the window and neighbours formed a human ladder to pull the boy to safety just as the roof collapsed.

Wesley always felt he was providentially spared to fulfil his ministerial calling and took the phrase “a brand plucked from the burning” to remember the event. The phrase is taken from Zechariah 3:2. Early Methodists took the phrase and began to use it as a metaphor for evangelical conversion.

Although many people are aware of the story, few know its details. Fortunately, we have a vivid first-hand account from John’s mother Susanna, written on 14 February 1709, only five days after the fire.

Susanna wrote to her eldest son Samuel, Jr. about the fire and how they all escaped. Samuel was away attending school at Westminster. For some background, John was called “Jacky” by his family. After some introduction in her letter, Susanna informs her eldest son of the details of the fire:

“I suppose you already heard of the firing of our house by what accident we cannot imagine, but the fire broke out about eleven or twelve o’ clock at night, we being all in bed; nor did we perceive it till the roof of the corn chamber was burnt through and the fire fell upon your sister Hetty’s bed, which stood in the little room joining upon it. She waked and immediately ran to call your father, who lay in the red chamber, for I being ill, he was forced to lie from me. He says he heard some crying fire in the street before, but did not apprehend where ‘twas till he opened his door. He called at our chamber and bid us all shift for life, for the roof was falling fast and nothing but thin wall kept the fire from the staircase.”

“We had no time to take our clothes, but ran all naked. I called Betty to bring the children out of the nursery. She took Patty and left Jacky to follow her. But he, going to the door and seeing all on fire, ran back again. We got the street door open, but the wind drove the flame with such violence that none could stand against it. I tried thrice to break through, but was driven back. I made another attempt and waded through the fire, which did me no other hurt than scorch my legs and face.”

“When I was in the yard, I looked about for your father and the children, but seeing none, concluded ‘em all lost. But I thank God, I was mistaken! Your father carried sister Emily, Sukey and Patty into the garden; then missing Jacky, he ran back by the flame; then he thought him lost and commended his soul to God and went to look after the rest. The child (Jacky) climbed up to a window and called out to them in the yard; they got up the casement and pulled him out just as the roof fell into the chamber. Harry broke the glass of the parlour window and threw out your sisters Molly and Hetty, and so by God’s great grace we all escaped. Don’t be discouraged. God will provide for you.”

*Rev Allan Taylor*

# Byfleet

Rev Peter Hill's Lent course proved very interesting, thought provoking and an ideal commencement towards Easter. It was well attended and by popular request Peter will be carrying out a further course in the autumn entitled EXODUS. Further details will be given in the next Wey Forward.

Needless to say Easter proved to be a wonderful weekend, with our own Pam Bailey taking the Good Friday service and the Easter Sunday celebration led by David Ingoldby.

As normal, daffodils were placed on the cross by members and friends of the church in celebration of the resurrection of Christ and the knowledge of his love.



Our Tuesday Fellowship continued on Tuesday afternoons in the spring and we had a special afternoon tea to celebrate the Coronation. During the summer we will be meeting fortnightly.

Cynthia and Wendie continue to provide monthly Sunday lunches and coffee mornings, bringing us all together in friendship.

David Faulkner's book is mentioned elsewhere but we are proud at Byfleet to have an author in our midst and send him our warmest congratulations.

We also want to record our gratitude to Rev Peter Hills who is caring so well for us during David's sabbatical.

*Margery Babb*



## Cranleigh

Greetings from Cranleigh! We are pleased to say that we are seeing a rise in the number of people attending Sunday morning services and we have welcomed some new faces as well as returning friends.

The Tuesday morning group which is open to all ages, is thriving, as is the use of the Baby Bank. It is a sad reflection on the current times that so many people have need of the Baby Bank, but we are delighted that we are able to support many local families at this difficult time for so many.

Cranleigh is looking forward to the Cranleigh Lion's Carnival on Saturday 24 June. Here at Church we will be running our usual stall as well as serving Ploughman's lunches. So if you are in the area do please come and join us.

Our outreach mission at Elmbridge Retirement Village picked up its pace earlier in the year. We hold regular coffee mornings on a Saturday about once every three months and the last one was well supported. The village chaplain, Rev Allan Taylor, has been asked and has taken the Church of England services now and again and presided over Holy Communion. Rev Dr Paul Glass took our fourth Tuesday service in January with Rev Allan Taylor taking the fifth Tuesday in January, Vivien Gerhold led February's service, and Rosemary Lee preached at the Mothering Tuesday service in March. Attendance at every Tuesday service ranges between 20 - 35 but we had over 50 people, all residents living in Elmbridge, of all denominations, attending the Good Friday service at 11.00am. which Rev Allan Taylor led with Ernest Lucas speaking. On Sunday 7 May Jane Briggs led worship in a thanksgiving service for our newly crowned monarch, his consort and family.

Rev Allan Taylor visits Elmbridge every week, usually Tuesday and Friday mornings to be available, as chaplain, to any of the residents or staff desiring of a friendly face, pleasant conversation and pastoral support where necessary.

*Hilary Strawson and Jane Briggs*





# Thy Kingdom Come



Join the daily Novena of Prayer  
on Zoom or in person  
20 minutes at 12 noon each day  
18 to 27 May

Zoom details:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87159824959?  
pwd=K3UxRnk0WE9RWS9HdXM3ejZDSDZYdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87159824959?pwd=K3UxRnk0WE9RWS9HdXM3ejZDSDZYdz09)

Meeting ID: 871 5982 4959

Passcode: 441072

Dial-in: 0203 901 7895

Check the Circuit website for physical locations



## Circuit Mission Supper



Paul and Rev Hazel Forecast

The ever-popular Circuit Mission Supper took place in early March. A great spread of food was provided and we are enormously grateful to the team which organised everything.

Our speaker was Rev Hazel Forecast who is the Methodist South East District Refugee, Displaced Persons and Migrant Officer.

From helping us to grasp the terminology in an area where language is often misused to giving an enlightening and moving talk on an issue which is of real importance Hazel helped us to deepen our knowledge and identify things that we are already doing and could do in the future.

Not only that, but well over £700 was raised for the invaluable work of All We Can - the Methodist Relief and Development Charity as well.

If you haven't been to one of these events before please do watch out for next year's date. They are great evenings of learning and fellowship.

*Rev Dr Paul Glass*

# Save The Date

Trinity Methodist Church in Woking has been the rehearsal (and often concert) home of Epworth Choir for many years and several of the congregation sing in the choir.

Epworth Choir are delighted to have been invited to join with Godalming Choral Society, Oxshott Choral Society and Horsley Choral Society on Saturday 23 September 2023 (4.30pm) for a special performance of Verdi's Requiem at the iconic Theatre in the Woods at West Horsley Place. It will be a concert not to be missed in a venue that is usually the home of Grange Park Opera, so do please consider coming along for this exciting event.

Ticket information will be available soon via the websites of the participating choirs – including [epworthchoir.org](http://epworthchoir.org)

See the poster on the next page.

*Jenny Burrows*

# Circuit Prayer Diary

Every month Jean Normington kindly puts together the Circuit Prayer Diary as a resource for everyone in the Circuit.

There are several ways you can access it.

It appears on the Circuit website in three different places!

- It has its own calendar <https://www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk/calendar.html> - just choose Circuit Prayer Diary in the drop down box
- It appears in Publications <https://www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk/publications/circuit-prayer-diary.html> and can be downloaded here
- And it also appears as a news item on the home page when it is first available - <https://www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk/>

If accessing the Circuit website isn't for you then don't forget, it is also distributed to your church in Word and pdf format, so you can get a paper copy there.

*Sue Howson*







# VERDI REQUIEM

Saturday  
23 September 2023  
at 4:30PM

Conductor : Sam Hayes



Godalming Choral Society with Epworth Choir and the Horsley and Oxshott Choral Societies

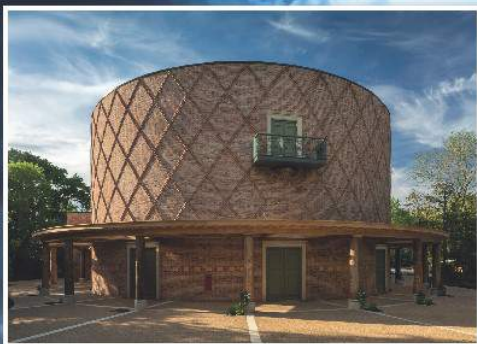


Photo Credit Richard Lewisohn

at The Theatre in the Woods, West Horsley Place, KT24 6AN  
*the home of Grange Park Opera*

Tickets £25, £35 & £15 for under 18s, all including a drink  
Available from 5 June at [www.thelittleboxoffice.com/gcs](http://www.thelittleboxoffice.com/gcs)

**making  
music**

# Godalming United Church

Easter weekend began for us at GUC with Maundy Thursday evening Communion – celebrated in our own upper room overlooking the Wey River bathed in the golden glow of a glorious sunset. Adam focused us on an “Evening of Love”. On Good Friday we joined the town’s midday act of witness (provided by the Trinity Trust Team – Godalming’s ecumenical youthwork project) outside Wetherspoons in the town centre.

And on Easter Sunday, early risers took part in the town’s Churches Together Sunrise service at the Ladywell Shrine – Godalming’s oldest known Christian site. The welcome hot cuppa afterwards at nearby Ladywell Convent allowed for a further exchange of greetings with friends from churches around the town.

Some comments from our Easter Messy Church in March:

*“Both my girls always have the most wonderful time at your events. The arts & crafts are a highlight along with each story time session which helps to bring the stories from the Bible to life. We really enjoy the songs. It’s such a joy to see the children together and everyone just being together as a community.”*

*“Had a fab time!! X”*

*“I loved the donky-ears and the story and the choklat”*

In May Messy Church took up the challenge to “Dare to be a Daniel”.

We celebrated the Coronation in style in with a Bring-and-Share Coronation lunch on 14 May after morning service, followed by entertainments, quizzes and singing from Music Kids. Good company, good food and good conversation!

## Looking ahead:

**Sunday 11 June - Church Anniversary** followed by lunch; a BBQ with strawberries and cream for afters. Our guest preacher will be **Rev Paul Hulme**. Book the lunch at [frymaile@gmail.com](mailto:frymaile@gmail.com) £8 adults, £4 children.

**Friday 30 June – Thurs 10 July - Annual Collection for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless** [www.whitechapel.org.uk](http://www.whitechapel.org.uk) Bring your contributions to the trailer in the church car park. We urgently need non-perishable breakfast foods, men’s clothing, toiletries, blankets and small rucksacks.

**Saturday 15 July - Messy Church** 3.00pm-5.00pm [messy.church@guc.org.uk](mailto:messy.church@guc.org.uk)

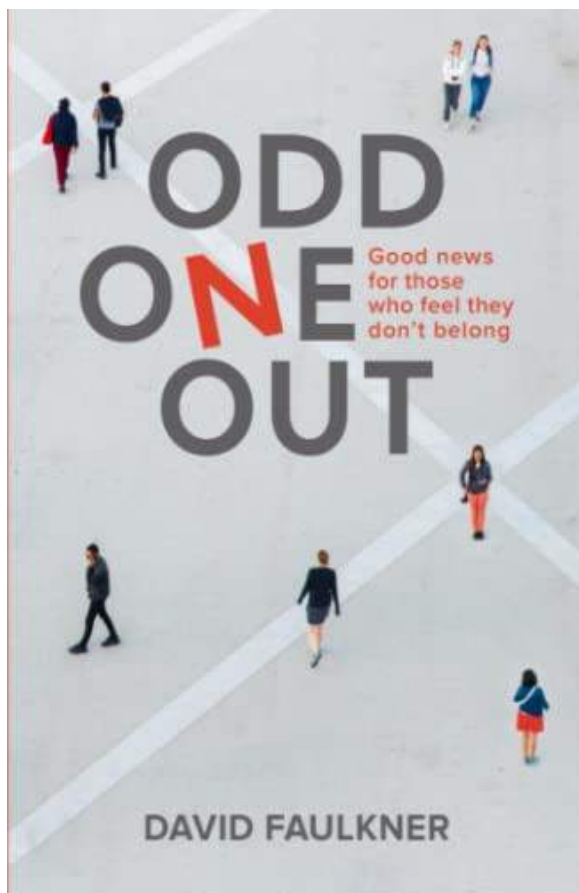
For other future events, please visit [www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk) for a constantly updated rolling calendar.

*Nancy Wilks*





## Rev Dave Faulkner's New Book



Our very own Rev Dave Faulkner has just had his book "Odd One Out" published.

Do you feel like you don't quite belong?

This has been Dave's experience, even when people thought he was a respected member of society. But he has found that Christian faith brings hope, inclusion, and resilience for the tough times.

Read "Odd One Out", and discover the reality for yourself.

Dave's book is available to purchase via Amazon; Kindle edition £5.99 and paperback £9.99



# COFFEE MORNING



IN AID OF

# KSSX

**AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY**  
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

Registered Charity No: 1021367

# AND

# SALE #2



**Bacon Butties!**



There will be various stalls including:

Cakes, Body shop, Raffle, Tombola, Bric - a - Brac.

Guess the Weight of the Cake, Guess the Name of Teddy, Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar & Model Railway.

*Offers of help and donations of items welcome! Contact Tarina Berry*

To be opened by **Keith Smith** from **KSS AIR AMBULANCE**



**KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL**

**Saturday 9th September 2023**

**10am to Noon**

**[www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk](http://www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk)**



## Guildford St Mary's

Apart from a little use of items from the Methodist Modern Art Collection, I have to confess that until recently art featured little in the life of Guildford Methodist Church. Since our move to St Mary's, that has changed dramatically, partly because we are so much more involved in seeking ways to engage with a wide range of people and partly because of the opportunities the building itself offers. You will have seen before invitations to some of the exhibitions we have hosted and to some of our Reflections which use the creative arts as an inspiration and have enriched our consideration of faith issues.

Leading up to Pentecost we are taking part alongside several other churches in the Guildford area in a Pilgrim Art Walk - but you don't have to walk between the churches if you prefer not! Our contributions at St Mary's include five paintings by artist Stephen Kinder, including one symbolising Christ washing the feet of a disciple which absolutely grabbed people's attention during Holy Week. We will also be sharing a wood carving of a mother and child created by the late Stanley Weddle, a Methodist local preacher.

The building itself contributes some fine artwork in the form of stained-glass windows; again not something Methodist Churches typically major on. The window we brought with us from the 1960s Methodist building, symbolising the Crosses of Calvary, obviously has a high place in our affection but is only one of a great collection of windows spanning several centuries and a range of different styles. The most recent window was dedicated only in March, having been donated and installed in late 2022 in memory of a past worshipper. It signifies the Tree of Life and features key phrases from Lord of the Dance. To be honest, when I saw the artist's paper mock-up beforehand, I was a little lukewarm but now I have seen how her skill translated from paper to glass, and speaks to those coming into the church, I am thrilled. It is the second window in the church created by artist Mollie Meager. Do come along and see it when you can. (Photo on page 22).

Life at St Mary's continues apace. We are developing the Pop-Up Play Cafe concept and are really pleased by its progress. Having started with Saturday sessions, it was suggested by one of our ChitChat attenders that a weekday morning in school holidays might encourage greater attendance and that has certainly proved true. There was a real buzz at our Easter Week one, with the church full of children, parents, a very grateful grandfather and a number of other guests unaccompanied by children. These are open to all ages and our next one is due on Wednesday 31 May - we'd love you to drop in for a coffee.

Sadly the continuing war in Ukraine means that we continue our weekly Friday night Vigil which has now been attended by over 4,000 visitors, with some very moving stories we could tell. Most touching are the visits by Ukrainians themselves who are so grateful the suffering in their country is not forgotten. The Vice President of Conference is due to visit on the evening of 19 May as part of his visit to the SE District.

*Nigel Campion-Smith*



# Sainte-Mère-Église

Sainte-Mère-Église is a village in the north western area of Normandy in France.

The village played a significant part in the World War II Normandy landings because of its position in the middle of route N13, which the Germans used to counterattack the troops landing on Utah and Omaha Beaches. In the early morning of 6 June 1944 mixed units of the U.S. 82nd Airborne and U.S. 101st Airborne Divisions occupied the village making it one of the first villages liberated in the invasion.

A well-known incident involved paratrooper John Steele of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, whose parachute caught on the spire of the village church. He hung there for two hours, pretending to be dead until the Germans took him prisoner. Steele later escaped and re-joined his regiment. The incident was portrayed in the 1962 film *The Longest Day* by actor Red Buttons. Today you will find a dummy parachutist, as a memorial, dangling from the church spire.



Inside the church you will find this stained glass window, which was replaced after 1946. It is dedicated to the troops, particularly the parachutists, who liberated the village in 1944.

My photograph isn't great but if you look hard you will notice that the window depicts some parachutists. Fresh lilies are placed in a vase under the window at all times as constant Thank you.

The memorial outside, facing the main door of the church, has the famous John Maxwell Edmonds epitaph inscribed in it

*When you go home  
Tell them of us and say  
For your tomorrow  
We gave our today.*

*Linda Weedon*



# POP-UP PLAY CAFÉ

Wednesday 31 May 9.30 – 11.30

... call in at  
**ST. MARY'S**

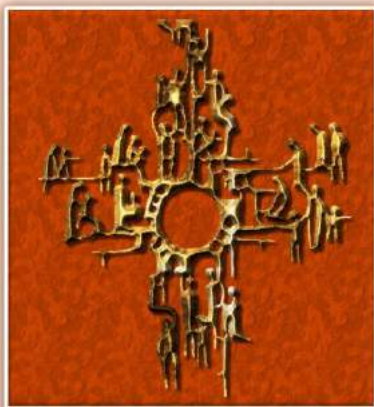
Quarry St  
Guildford GU1 3UP

- space to play
- time to relax
- coffee and cake

All ages welcome



## Practical Aspects of Spirituality



**St. Mary's**

Quarry Street  
Guildford

09.20 – 12.30

Saturday

10 June

**Andrew Wheeler**  
on

*The Spirituality of Iona - from St Columba until Today*

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

If you would like to attend  
please email [community@commongroundguildford.org](mailto:community@commongroundguildford.org)



**Coffee  
&  
Cake**  
at  
**St Mary's**

*Take a break from your shopping  
& meet up with friends*

**Thursday 22 June**  
**Thursday 27 July**  
**Thursday 24 August**

*Each month showcases  
a different charity*

**10.30 am - 12 noon**

*Everyone welcome*





# Knaphill

At the time of writing this, we are gearing up for Christian Aid Week at KMC. This year, CAW takes place between 14 and 20 May and we will be doing our best to raise funds by a church collection, house to house collecting and a box collection at the Goldsworth Park shopping centre on Saturday 13 May, as we have done for many years now.

We marked Easter in several ways in Knaphill. At KMC, we held a simple Maundy Thursday meal accompanied by a prayerful reflection. On Good Friday, we joined with members from the other Knaphill churches in a silent Walk of Witness through the village. We started at St Hugh's Roman Catholic Church, with a bible reading, then set off to walk to Holy Trinity Parish Church at the other end of the village, stopping at KMC and Knaphill Baptist Church on the way for further readings. Two volunteers carried a large wooden cross as we walked.

A short ecumenical service then took place at Holy Trinity, after which we gathered for refreshments – hot cross buns, naturally. It has been good to be able to resume this witness after an enforced break during Covid-19 lockdowns. On Easter Sunday Rev Peter Hills came to KMC to celebrate Holy Communion with us.

Clothes4U has continued to operate on the third Saturday afternoon each month and has been well attended on most occasions. This generates mixed feelings. We are, of course, very pleased that we can help people obtain good quality, attractive clothing without cost, but are very aware that more people coming probably reflects a greater number of people in need. At least when they come to us they are in a warm space and can enjoy browsing for items that appeal. They can also enjoy a drink, a biscuit or two and a chance to sit and chat, or play, according to age. The next session is 2.00pm - 4.00pm on 17 June.

Coffee Mornings have also continued successfully, with bacon butties being a magnetic attraction for many! We thank Linda Todd for being able and willing to produce them. The next ones will be 10.00am - 12 noon on 24 June and 22 July.

Another big event will be Tarina Berry's next Coffee Morning in aid of Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust. This is to be held on Saturday 9 September, between 10.00am - 12 noon, and will have a variety of stalls and some lovely raffle and tombola prizes.

A regular event at KMC is our monthly prayer meeting by Zoom. These take place at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of the month and last about an hour. Although not everyone is comfortable using Zoom, this method has enabled us to meet easily in spite of very cold, dark evenings and has made it possible for some members who can no longer manage to get to services to join in.

Our church magazine was produced in time for Easter, thanks to the hard work of editor Robin Spice and his helpers. It is a super, bumper edition and is also on the KMC and Circuit websites should anyone wish to take a look.

We are very grateful for the support we are receiving from the Circuit while Dave Faulkner is on sabbatical. We hope he is benefitting from a change of routine and is achieving his aims. We also wish him every success with his new book – "Odd One Out" .

We would welcome continued prayers for our future as we work to attract enough substantial, long-term lettings to stabilize our finances at KMC.

*Lynda Shore*

# Merrow

A pride of lions, a pack of wolves – a benchmark of benches? What are groups of benches called – and what do benches have to do with Merrow you are asking?

Well, after our joyful Easter Service led by our own Uncle George, two new benches were dedicated for Church and community use. The first bench was given to the Church by the Vinall family in memory of Roy Vinall, who was a much loved Merrow member. It has been placed in the garden as Roy loved his gardens and also loved playing football with the children in the Church garden. A second bench was purchased by a Church colleague and has been placed at the front of the Church. It has been inscribed with the passage “***Come to me all of you who are tired and I will give you rest***” Matthew Chapter 11 Verse 28. It is hoped that it will be appreciated and used by weary passers-by and church members alike.



Over the winter, Merrow has been running a Warm Welcome Space on Thursday mornings between 8.45am and 11.45am. With the advent of better weather this has changed into weekly coffee mornings running from 10.30am to 12.00pm with the hope that we can build on the number of guests we welcome.

The Matrix Youth Club which meets after school on the last Monday of each month has definitely returned ‘with a bang’. At the last session, 25 young people were running to get into the building which was lovely to see.

Women’s Fellowship had a Coronation event on 1 May and plan a Summer Tea in July. Indeed, many summer events are planned and in the planning. Our Church Anniversary set for 25 June, and our charity coffee mornings are now regular events.

Coffee Morning for AFC (Action for Children) - 15 June

Coffee Morning for Migraine Trust - 13 July

There is always something going on at Merrow.

*Julie Wallis*

the  
migraine  
trust



## Stoughton



Following a reflective Eastertide we look to celebrate another year of witness on 11 June with the 128th anniversary at Stoughton. We are looking forward to Rev Claire Hargreaves leading our service of thanksgiving.

By the time this issue of Wey Forward is shared we hope to have had confirmation of a new nursery using our premises. We continue to welcome the local Brownie group and a community based dance group on a weekly basis.

We have also recently welcomed some new faces to our congregation and we hope this trend continues as we go through the summer months. It is always good to have conversation with new people sharing in stories of how they come to live in the area and what future plans they have.

We ask God's blessing on Rev David Faulkner and his family as they make their move to the Southampton District and thank him for his ministry in Knaphill and the wider Circuit.

*Linda Macbeth*

## A Senior's Version of Facebook

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them 'thumbs up' and tell them I 'like' them. And it works, just like Facebook. I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

*Ruth Shepherd*





## Walton-on-Thames

We know Sue Howson always encourages us to look forward in our articles for The Wey Forward. This isn't always easy as we like to reminisce about what has happened. However, we are going to try and make her happy for her last edition of the Wey Forward! First may we say, on behalf of Walton Methodist Church, how wonderful it has been to have Sue in the Circuit Office. Her efficiency and dedication have been amazing and we will really miss her. We wish her all the very best for the future and look forward to working with Lucy Venmore as her replacement.

During Lent we had two study groups following the Cover to Cover study on "The Prayers of Jesus". This led to many interesting discussions and was a good lead into Holy Week as we looked more closely at the topic. Before Holy Week we set up a knitted version of the Last Supper in our "shop front window" onto Terrace Road in Walton. This had been knitted by one of our members many years ago, and there was a lot of interest in it from those passing by. One of our stewards spotted a family counting the disciples to ensure that we had them all present and correct...



(We have ensured that all in this image have consented to having their image published...)

We had a good Gift Day in March and three of our local charities have benefitted from donations from it. One of the charities was *Elmbridge Can* who work to support local refugee communities and we are hoping to get a speaker from this charity to take part in our service on 18 June, ahead of the start of Refugee Week. We are looking forward to Rev Claire Hargreaves leading this worship. We hope that the service will focus our minds on the desperate plight of refugees and that it will inspire us into finding ways to help.

Our Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship (TAF) group is restarting and will meet fortnightly. This is a good time for prayer and fellowship which is greatly valued. And following on from the reformation of our creche, we are pleased that one of our recent Baptism families has started to regularly attend and so sometimes our creche has five children, and our Sunday School regular attendance of six has another addition.

On 8 May we had our Coronation Tea, where we raised funds for the Prince's Trust. A great success which helped our outreach into Walton.

Mental health has been something that Walton has felt needed more attention for some years, and we have regularly discussed how we might do more in this field. We recently saw the Mental Health First Aid courses advertised in the SIGN, and so we have been in touch with James Devenish and are hoping that we will be able to host a course in the autumn. This is exciting for us, as we have previously set aside money from our Gift Days to spend on mental health, and we hope this course will provide us with valuable information and ideas.

In the autumn we are planning take a group of our young people to 3Generate again. Our young people thoroughly enjoyed their 3G adventure last year, so we would value your prayers for this group as they plan the travel, accommodation and activities.

*Ross Richardson and Catherine Heffernan*



St Mary's new Tree of Life stained glass window by artist Mollie Meager.

Do go along and see it when you can.

## **Circuit Books of Faith Group**

If interested please contact:

Rev J. Allan Taylor on 01483 200464



## West Horsley

We've had a busy time at West Horsley this spring.

It was our turn to organise the open air ecumenical service on Good Friday. This is held on the grassy area by the shops in East Horsley. We were blessed with fine, sunny weather, which meant that a lot of people attended (see photo below).

Our thanks go to Janet England and Heather Spackman, who prepared the service of hymns, readings and poems. Members of all the local churches participated and our minister, George, gave the welcome, introduction and the blessing.

Then on Easter Day we had a splendid service, with Holy Communion, led by Rev Allan Taylor.

We celebrated our Chapel Anniversary on the weekend of 22 - 23 April. It is 147 years since our foundation stone was laid. There was a Songs of Praise evening on the Saturday and a special service with Rev Dr Paul Glass on the Sunday. It was lovely that many of you were able to join with us.

The Coronation Weekend in May was marked by floral decorations in the chapel and a tea on the Sunday afternoon. Invitations were delivered to our neighbours and the residents of new houses in the village, to encourage them to visit us. And at the end of the month, Rev George Quarm celebrated Pentecost with us.

*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.



## Weybridge



On Good Friday Weybridge hosted a service of 'The Stations of the Cross' to which Addlestone and Walton Methodist churches, plus members of 'The Place' (a church who use the Weybridge premises) were invited. A full church enjoyed a service, both inside and outside led by Rev Sydney Samuel Lake.

Both Sydney Samuel and myself have been fortunate to visit Jerusalem within the last year and have personal experiences of the stations along the Via Dolorosa (The Way of Sorrows). Sydney Samuel was able to bring his personal experience of this route to the service adding a poignancy to it.

In recent weeks Weybridge welcomed Verna Kadyamadare into the church family as a transfer from her previous church. The congregation are delighted to welcome Verna to our worship and pray that she will be happy with us.

We continue with our activities at the Food Banks and Old Folks club plus the regular coffee mornings.

*Linda Weedon*



### St Mary's Easter Garden

This little garden made in a wheelbarrow just shows how much can be achieved in a very limited space.

# Trinity, Woking

## To stream or not to stream . . . .

At Trinity we stream all our morning services (search for Trinity Methodist Church Woking on YouTube). This requires an enlarged technical team – not always easy to resource. Periodically we challenge ourselves whether we should continue. The argument against is that it takes effort and discourages people from coming to church. The argument for is that in terms of the total effort that goes into a service (think musicians, stewards tasks, preacher, readers, sound, refreshments etc.) the effort is relatively low, and that many who watch the stream are unlikely to come to the ‘live’ service anyway but can watch later. The YouTube stats tend to endorse this. In round numbers perhaps 10 people watch our services live, but after a week there have normally been 50+ hits. That 50+ makes our ‘streamers’ one of the largest congregations in the circuit! And at a time when ‘LA’ (local arrangement) increasingly appears on the preaching plan, we should not lose sight of the fact that one church can stream its service into another. With discussions going on about the future direction of the Circuit, perhaps we need to recognise these possibilities – a very real way that churches can help one another.

Below you will find a wonderful prayer from Enid Burman, one of Trinity’s newer members. There is a connection to the above - we first got to know Enid through streamed services and Zoom!

## Psalm 23: A prayer through grief and covid

Dear Lord, my Heavenly Father, You are my Shepherd, giving me all I need for life.

During covid, You held my hand as I walked through the woods and meadows,  
and You sat quietly with me by my garden pond.  
You brought peace and calm until all was well with my soul.

I thank you for showing me Your way of faith and Your will for my time on earth.

When I walked through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I felt no fear of evil,  
for I trusted You completely and knew that You were with me, watching over me.  
Through your Spirit, I feel your presence always comforting me.

You prepared your communion table for me as I emerged from covid lockdown.  
You anointed my head with oil, pouring Your love into me until it overcame my grief,  
And now I overflow with joy for You.

I am assured of Your goodness and mercy being with me all the days of my life,  
Leading me home, to dwell with my beloved in Your Kingdom of eternal love,  
Forever and ever.

Amen

*Enid Burman*

*Hugh Bowerman*

# A Methodist Way of Life

God loves you unconditionally, no strings attached. That's the good news.

In response to this gift, there are **twelve things** that we do individually and together as we grow as followers of Jesus, which help us to worship God, serve others, be evangelistic, and learn and care together. None of this makes God love you any more - but they may help you realise how deeply you are loved by God. As far as we are able, with God's help, we:

			
<b>Pray</b> We pray daily	<b>Worship</b> We worship with others regularly	<b>Notice</b> We notice God in Scripture and the world	<b>Care</b> We care for ourselves and those around us
			
<b>Learn</b> We learn more about our faith	<b>Open</b> We practise hospitality and generosity	<b>Serve</b> We help people in our communities and beyond	<b>Flourish</b> We care for creation and all God's gifts
			
<b>Challenge</b> We challenge injustice	<b>Tell</b> We tell of the love of God	<b>Live</b> We live in a way that draws others to Jesus	<b>Share</b> We share our faith

To download A Methodist Way of Life Resources go to:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life/a-methodist-way-of-life-resources/>



## **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 Lucy know and she 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 29 of The Wey Forward is midnight 2 August**

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 30    1 November 2023**

**Issue 31    1 February 2024**

**Issue 32    1 May 2024**

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

Lucy looks forward to hearing from you soon.

*Sue Howson*

# Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>June 2023</b>			
10 June	9.20am - 12.30pm	Practical Aspects of Spirituality	St Mary's, Guildford
11 June	10.30am	Church Anniversary with Rev Paul Hulme	Godalming UC
15 June	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of AFC (Action for Children)	Merrow
17 June	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
22 June	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
24 June	tbc	Stall and lunches at Cranleigh Carnival	Cranleigh
24 June	10.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
25 June	10.30am	Church Anniversary	Merrow
30 June – 10 July		Annual Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless collection	Godalming UC
<b>July 2023</b>			
13 July	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of The Migraine Trust	Merrow
15 July	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
15 July	3.00pm - 5.00pm	Messy Church	Godalming UC
16 July	3.00pm	Dave Faulkner's Farewell Service, followed by tea	Byfleet
22 July	10.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
27 July	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
<b>August 2023 (and beyond)</b>			
2 August	midnight	Copy deadline for The Wey Forward (Edition 29)	
19 August	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
24 August	10.30am - 12 noon	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
26 August	10.00am - 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
9 September	10.00am - noon	Coffee Morning in aid of KSSX	Knaphill
18 September	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
23 September	10.00am -- noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
23 September	4.00pm	Verdi's Requiem (see pages 11 and 12 for details)	W Horsley Place

## And Finally .....

I thought my wife was joking when she said she'd leave me if I didn't stop singing 'I'm A Believer'.  
Then I saw her face.

I used to be addicted to the Hokey Cokey, but I turned myself around.  
And that's what it's all about.