

The Wey Forward

Issue 29 September - November 2023



“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

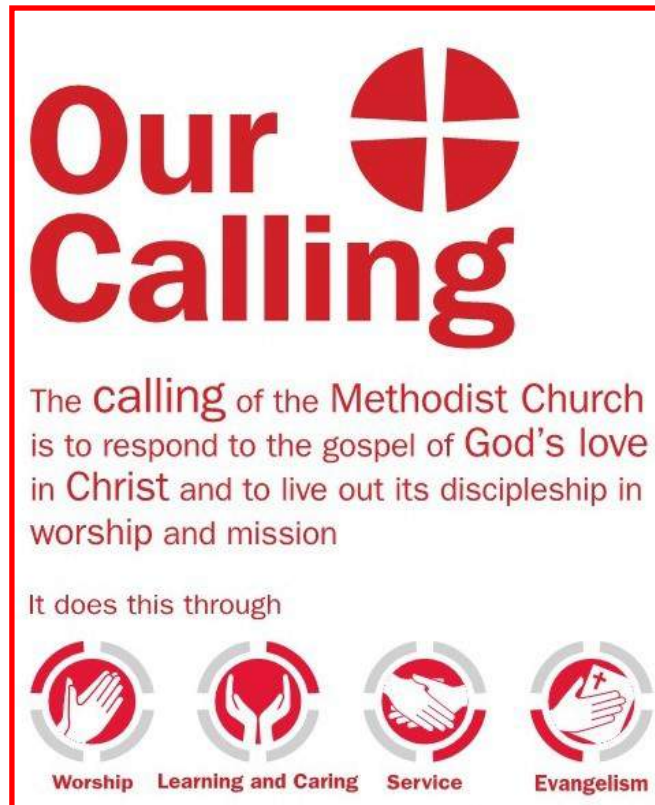
Genesis 8:22

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 Lucy Venmore, 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.

Lucy Venmore

Editor

A Message From Our Superintendent

Hello everyone,

I have been pondering the past recently for a number of reasons.

You will have heard the sad news that one of our lovely supernumerary ministers, Revd. John Goatley, died recently. In speaking with the family it has become clear (although we didn't know it at the time) that over the past 35-40 years our paths have crossed on a number of different occasions and we have certainly got a number of people that we know in common (it's a small world in Methodism). That has brought to mind some rich pictures and characters from my past 36 years in ministry.

I am a historian by training so the ways in which decisions taken in the past shape and dictate our present (and to some extent our future) have always held fascination for me. That ranges from the effect of carbon emissions on the climate to the effect of where a chapel was built and what kind of building was erected. We are constantly living with the consequences of decisions made in the past.

The wisdom that we need now is tied up with taking those decisions made in the past and applying them to the needs of the present to provide a future full of God's grace and hope. That is not always an easy task.

I rest in the comfort and the knowledge that it is God who holds the future, so that whatever role I play and however I feel that I have failed or succeeded, the words of the hymn are always true:

'Tis Jesus the first and the last,
whose spirit shall guide us safe home;
we'll praise him for all that is past,
and trust him for all that's to come.

Blessings - Paul

Rev Dr Paul Glass
Superintendent Minister



News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

We continue to provide our Sunday Service presentation that we hope will encourage new members to join us. We are trying to create additional interest to encourage more visitors to our Saturday Coffee mornings and any special events, BUT, in spite of these efforts the effect on our membership is still minimal (although we occasionally have visitors and recently welcomed new members to the church). A book 'One True Story- One True God - What the Bible is all about' suggests there may be one important part of our faith we are neglecting. One piece of the puzzle is still missing.

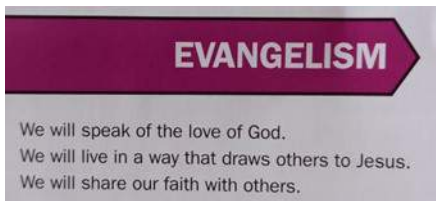


Mission - Evangelism

In all four gospels Jesus talks a lot about sending the disciples out on a mission, using terms like “into all the world” and “to the ends of the earth”, but he also promises they will experience the Holy Spirit's presence to help them. But the MISSION doesn't stop with the disciples. D Elton Trueblood, using the word Evangelism explains it -

Evangelism is not a professional job for a few trained men, but is instead the unrelenting responsibility of every person who belongs to the company of Jesus.

— D. Elton Trueblood —



How does Methodism guide us? Look at the booklet METHODIST WAY OF LIFE –

about EVANGELISM on page 5, it reads -

We speak of the love of God

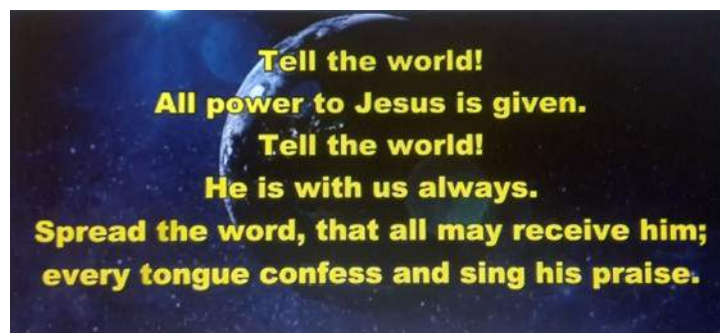
We live in a way that draws others to Jesus.

We share our faith with others.

Even closer to home, turn to page 26 of the June Wey Forward Magazine under the heading of “A Methodist Way of Life”, the last 3 icons again reminding us to speak of, live out, and share our faith with others -



If still in doubt read the words of the 5th verse of StF hymn 21. A hymn chosen for a service at our church recently –



Let us respond now to that clear message, to God's purpose for us, his MISSION for us, and let us pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us and to complete the puzzle with that one piece that can make a difference. Hope for the future GOD WITH US.

Fred Rowe

Farewell

Dear Circuit Friends,

Debbie and I would like to thank you for the joyful occasion which was our circuit farewell service and tea at Byfleet on 16th July. It has been a privilege to be part of a circuit where the overwhelming majority of people have dealt in the currencies of kindness and Christian love. This has been a place of healing and growth for us as a family.

In particular, we want to thank you for the farewell gifts. Those of you who were at the service saw, I hope, how delighted I was with the photography book ('Genesis' by Sebastiao Salgado).

The next day a very generous sum of money appeared in my current account. We shall put that towards renewing some of our furniture, along with the equally generous gifts we received from Knaphill and Byfleet. If you come and visit us in Liphook, you will be able to road-test what we buy!

You will always remain in our affections, so please do stay in touch, whether that is by social media or more traditional methods.

God bless you all,

Dave Faulkner



Vice President Visit



The Vice President of the Methodist Church visited St. Mary's in Guildford in May. He attended the weekly vigil for peace in Ukraine and joined with well over 4,000 people over the last 12 months who have come in to the Church to light candles. He met the team and was impressed by all that is going on.

Paul

Circuit Mission Day

The Circuit Mission event will take place on Saturday 7 October 2023. The venue will be Knaphill Methodist Church, The Broadway, Knaphill, GU21 2DR.

Refreshments will be available from 9.45am and the session will commence at 10.00am. Maggie Dodd from the Anna Chaplaincy will talk to us about Spiritual Care in later life.

Whilst Maggie will finish at 1.00pm it is hoped that attendees will stay for a discussion over lunch (bring your own) as we try to determine what this means for us and our church situations/mission.

Whilst there is no charge for this session, a donation towards the Anna Chaplaincy will be much appreciated.

The Anna Chaplaincy prayer

Faithful God, you have promised in Christ to be with us to the end of time. Come close to those who have lived long and experienced much. Help them to continue to be faithful and, within the all-age kingdom of God, to find ways to go on giving and receiving your grace, day by day. For your glory and your kingdom.

Amen

<https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/>

(See poster on page 10)



SAVE THE DATES

Join us for this year's series of
Advent Reflections
followed by a bread & soup lunch

Thursdays
30 November
7, & 14 December

Carols at Lunchtime
21 December

12.15 for 12.30

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

Byfleet

When this is published our church will have entered a period of major change. David Faulkner will have moved on to a different Church in a different circuit, Sydney Samuel Lake will be adding us to his present churches for just a year and we will be joining the stationing process for a new Minister in 2024/25.

We were able to thank David after his last regular service with a church lunch in July and a little later again at a circuit service and tea at our church. Although I am biased, I believe these were successful and enjoyable events and our thanks go to all those involved in them. David's last service was made rather special when we recognised five new members of our church. They came by transfer so we cannot claim the start of a great revival, but it is good to know that people want to join us.



I was asked to write a leaving note about David for The Byfleet Community Newsletter. In doing so I tried to explain to a generally non Methodist readership that he had charge of the Knaphill church and lived in Knaphill, but was then asked to additionally take over a “church that for more than 80 years had had a minister who lived just around the corner and would be regularly seen walking around the village”. I was then able to say how well David had cared for us and also guided us through all the Covid openings and closures.

Sydney Samuel we know, and he has already been working with us to show how he will fit us in with the three churches he continues to look after. Hopefully it will be an easier baptism of fire than David's, but Walton, Weybridge, Addlestone and Byfleet will all have to manage with less ministerial time.

Our other big event should have been the 158th Byfleet Parish Day on the Recreation Ground where we would have been one of the 60 plus stalls and outlets, but it had to be cancelled at the last moment because of expected severe weather conditions. I mention it though because we have a “mainly books” stall at very cheap prices and no tombola or the like so people can just browse around and chat. Best of all is when people say “I did not know there was a Methodist church in Byfleet” and we can say “it is just over there” and talk about our activities.

Our premises continue to be used by a variety of users including the wonderful Susan Robinson School of Ballet who once more provided us with a special concert and we provided afternoon tea to follow. Our FoodBank, the Citizens' Advice Woking and Counselling Sessions held by the “With You” charity team also continue on a weekly basis and regularly provide assistance.

Ken Mears

Cranleigh

Here at Cranleigh we have had a busy summer. Our main event was our contribution to Cranleigh's Lion's Fair. We held our usual variety of stalls outside the Church which attracted many people throughout the day and this year we also decided to provide Ploughman's lunches. Both of these contributions required a huge effort on the part of Church members and friends and we are so grateful to everyone who helped with these events on the day, as well as before and afterwards with all the preparations and clearing up. The day was a huge success with many people entering our church and sharing time with us as well as raising much needed church funds.

The Baby Bank will restart on Tuesday mornings in September and has been continuing its work throughout the summer by appointment when needed. We are looking at more ways to advertise the Baby Bank in order to reach those who really need its services, so if anyone reading this knows of a need, please do contact us or pass on our details. (cranleighbabybank@gmail.com 07942346486). We can provide anything baby related including nappies, clothes, bedding and equipment, free of charge.

Our outreach at Elmbridge Retirement Village continues through forging closer links with the local Church of England Parish, taking each other's services when needed and presiding over communion as well. We have also encouraged the local Catholic priest and the Quakers to consider leading worship here later in the year. We hold quarterly coffee mornings on a Saturday and the last one in June attracted more than 20 people. The next one is on 2 September. Rev. Allan Taylor continues effectively as our Chaplain, talking with staff and residents when he is in the village on Tuesdays and Fridays and other times by appointment. At our Coronation service of thanksgiving, at Elmbridge, which included our own church congregations, we had almost 70 people attend - a brilliant turn out. We have planned a harvest service and supper on the evening of Tuesday October 10th. The Godalming Band will also support us again this year at the village Remembrance service on the afternoon of 12 November.

Our Church led the way for the Christian Aid week house deliveries in Cranleigh in May, and as a village we raised almost £2000 this year. Other members of the church are involved with other outreach schemes such as the local foodbank and the Hear, Here, hearing aid repair and replacement battery service.

Hilary Strawson and Jane Briggs

A tribute to Rev R. Martin Broadbent BD

It was with great sadness that I heard just recently that Martin had passed away, and although I only got to know him when he was my District Chair (in the days of the London South-West District), and then saw little of him when he moved to Bath, my memories of him in the years we worked together are quite clear.

This is not an obituary, but a short collection of thoughts in loving memory of a good servant of the Methodist Church, and a kind friend:

As the Chair of what was then (until September 2006 when the new London District came into being) the largest in the country, Martin seemed utterly unfazed by the magnitude of his responsibilities, and carried his burdens with remarkable equanimity, whether they brought him joy or sadness. He seemed to know everyone, but displayed a particular pastoral care for the ordained ministers and had an especial regard for his superintendents, with whom he met at regular intervals. He greeted us all as if we were long-lost friends and never failed to show a deep interest in the work in which we were currently engaged.

Martin was one of those people with a 'heart as big as all outdoors', and it was very moving when he shared some of his Chair's challenges with his senior colleagues, because we felt both involved and valued. Occasionally his heart would lead him into interesting directions – such as the time he pressed me hard to apply for a District Chair's post, his overtures which I found very difficult to resist!

I also welcomed the occasional informal meetings for the 'ministers of large churches', since I had come south to the Woking & Walton Circuit, and found myself looking after Trinity with a membership of well over 400, plus various chaplaincies, District and Connexional jobs. I needed the help and advice of ministers with similar responsibilities, and I thank Martin for creating the space where the six of us (if memory serves me correctly) could meet and discuss our peculiar challenges.

We all appreciated his sense of humour, and he never minded taking 'a hit', as it were, and laughing at himself. The time when he was teased at the welcome service of one of my colleagues because he was about three feet taller than her stands out in my mind – as also does the time when, faced with some very difficult pastoral decisions, his face was racked with pain and grief. He really did care for us.

Others will write different stories – those are just a few of mine. Our thoughts and prayers are with Teresa and the family, and I would simply conclude by saying, "Martin, God bless you, my friend. Thank you for helping to make the nearly impossible task of being a Superintendent Minister not only bearable, but enjoyable. Requiescat in pace."

Barrie Tabraham

"Royal Unveiling of John Wesley Statue"

Guided by chair of the trustees, Rev Martin Broadbent, Queen Elizabeth II prepares to unveil Westminster Central Hall's life-size statue of John Wesley, newly positioned in the entrance hall as part of the £7 million refurbishment programme.



Circuit Mission Day

Saturday 7 October 2023

10 – 1 *refreshments from 9.45am*

Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway,
Knaphill, GU21 2DR



Offering spiritual care in later life

Join us as Maggie Dodds from the 'Anna Chaplaincy' talks to us about how we can meet the needs of senior Christians.

Bring your own lunch and join a follow up discussion with circuit members based on what Maggie has described.

<https://www.annachaplaincy.org.uk/>

Verdi's Requiem

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 is available via the websites of the participating choirs – including epworthchoir.org

See the poster on the next page.

Jenny Burrows

Rainbow Service

Wednesday 20th September 2023, 7:30pm

St. Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford



Walking Together

A service for LGBTQIA+ people, friends and allies

For more information and to sign up for updates contact Jonathan Hedgecock:
jonathan@holytrinityguildford.org.uk

g
GODALMING
CHORAL
SOCIETY

epworth choir



oxshott
choral
society

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

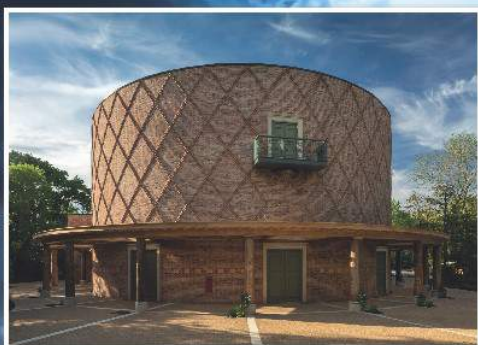


Photo Credit Richard Lewieohn

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

**making
music**

Godalming United Church

We marked Christian Aid Week in May with a month-long special collection, dedicated in our Christian Aid Service at the end of May. The service featured Esther from Malawi, with her Pigeon Peas – a story that caught the imagination across the land, with its resonances with the parable of the mustard seed. Esther not only sells her peas but dries them and turns them into flour to make a delicious bread that she sells on. Profits are invested in storage and equipment, education, start-up businesses and community projects. And now, inspired by the Pigeon Pea Recipe Book, we are able to sample Pigeon Pea Bread in Godalming - not quite compatible with jam or marmalade, but a nice alternative to a roll when mopping up stew or soup!

Our annual Church Anniversary service and meal in June was blessed by good weather – an ever-popular combination of BBQ, strawberries & cream, and family entertainments - all set against the backdrop of the Wey Lammas Lands.

GUC is a stakeholder in the Trinity Trust Team – TTT - Godalming's ecumenical Christian youthwork project. In June we were delighted to join in celebrating their twentieth anniversary of working alongside young people in the local community, schools and churches.

The annual collection of clothes and foodstuffs for the Whitechapel Mission for the Homeless was massively supported as ever, with donations coming in from other churches and the wider Godalming community. In June a group of seven from GUC travelled up to visit Whitechapel and came back deeply impressed. The Mission provides not only food, clothing and a hot shower but advice, counselling, and access to computers to help untangle the complications of modern life that are often the root cause of homelessness.

Meanwhile a shipping container has been filled for dispatch to Gambia – packed with furniture and educational & medical supplies, and including a dentists' chair from Southampton!

Across August Adam ran a well-attended Bible study on the book of Revelation – its symbolism and significance for early Christians and its resonances with today's world. A less daunting prospect for us now!

And during the school holidays, we continued to provide packed lunches for children on free school meals in one of Godalming's hidden areas of need – distributed when the community food bank is open.

A brief history of the GUC Panto (20 years old this season– oh yes, it is!)

It all began in 2003 with an "Edwardian Music Hall" production sparking the idea of involving the GUC Brownies – later the Rainbows too – in a mixed-age production. February, when nothing much else happens, seemed to be a good month. And so the format was born. Our first production was Cinderella in 2004 and at first we used commercially available schools' scripts by Kaye Umansky, But we soon discovered a local lad and script-writer, Josh Dixon, who could produce tailor-made scripts for our mixed bag of performers ranging in age from 4 to "mature", with lots of small speaking parts, dances and songs.

The cast now typically includes about 40 children and 15 adults, 4 backstage crew, a keyboard-player and media operator, costumier and numerous other helpers/supervisors – altogether about 100 people across "Panto weekend".

By now our early performers are young adults! But all have happy memories of this wonderful community event inspired and staged by the Keenes. Malcolm is, sadly, no longer with us, but Barbara keeps the flame burning and is well into preparations for next February's production of Snow White. The Anniversary Party in September is a unique chance for cast, helpers and supporters past and present to meet up before schools and colleges return.

Looking ahead

Sat Sept 2nd 2:30-4:30 pm - Cream tea on the lawn in support of our ongoing commitment to The Gambia opthalmic unit.

Sun Sept 3rd 2:30-6:00 pm – Pantomime celebration and reunion - a chance to reminisce over video clips and party food. More info 07506 719046 or thekeenes@btopenworld.com

Sat Sept 30th 3-5 pm – Messy Church Autumn planting messy.church@guc.org.uk 01483 414778

Sun Oct 8th 10:30am – Harvest Festival followed by Bring and Share Lunch. Gifts of non-perishable foodstuffs welcome - for the local foodbank. More info and lunch booking contact frymaile@gmail.com For other future events, please visit www.guc.org.uk for a constantly updated rolling calendar.

Nancy Wilks



COFFEE MORNING



IN AID OF

KSSX

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

Registered Charity No: 1021367

AND

SALE #2



TEA
COFFEE
BISCUITS
BACON
BUTTIES

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

Guildford St Mary's

As we approach autumn, we look forward to a range of events and activities at St Mary's. In September we always draw on the history of the building to participate in the annual Heritage Weekend (marked this year in Guildford on 9-10 September). Whilst the history draws people in, our aim is to demonstrate that the Church is a living community relevant to today.

This year Heritage Weekend coincides with an exhibition we are hosting **'Proud to be Surrey - Students of Faith'** - a major photo exhibition exploring the wide range of faith stories and perspectives that are represented within the student body of the University of Surrey. The University has one of the most diverse and cohesive Chaplaincy Teams in the country and is used as a model of best practice by groups around the world. This exhibition celebrates the multi-faith nature of the student life of the University and the stories that come from that richness of experience. The exhibition will be at St. Mary's from 24 August through to the second week in October.

As we approach Harvest, it's a joy to share the pleasure of some young refugees from various countries as they harvest their crops in our churchyard. Some local gardeners responded to a desire from these young men accommodated in Guildford Town Centre to get involved in growing and we've been pleased to let them use part of the churchyard for this.

Sadly, there seems no prospect for an early end to the conflict in Ukraine which means our weekly **Vigil for Peace** will be continuing on Friday evenings. By July, over 5,000 people had attended since February 2022, with numbers each week ranging from 50 to over 100. It is a great privilege to have them all demonstrate their concern for those involved in the conflict. Most attending have not planned to include visiting a church during their Friday night out. They all leave expressing gratitude.

We have had many moving moments, especially with Ukrainian visitors, and some lighter ones. One evening some youngsters came in at around 10:45pm, one of whom left with the comment 'This is a cool project'. When this was reported in the following Sunday morning's service, a worshipper who was being welcomed into membership was pleased to say she was joining a cool church!

We were sad to say goodbye in May to the Parish Rector, Robert Cotton, who first invited us to come to St Mary's and was instrumental in supporting the changes to the building and encouraging the development of our mission. We are in an interregnum at the moment but we're grateful for the opportunity to participate in the appointment process for the new Rector – quite a contrast to the Methodist system. The outcome is the appointment of Rev Canon Simon Butler who will become Rector in January. Simon has been Rector of St Mary's, Battersea for some 12 years and we look forward to welcoming him to share our continuing journey.

Before then, our journey this year will again include lunchtime Advent Reflections on Thursdays 30 November to 14 December. More details will be posted on the Circuit website nearer the time but please note the dates – we'd love to see you.

Nigel Campion-Smith



You are invited to a

Circuit Service in aid of All We Can

(the Christian international relief and development movement
Formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund)

On Sunday 22nd October
At 6.30pm

At Walton Methodist Church
With Guest Speaker Alex Akhurst

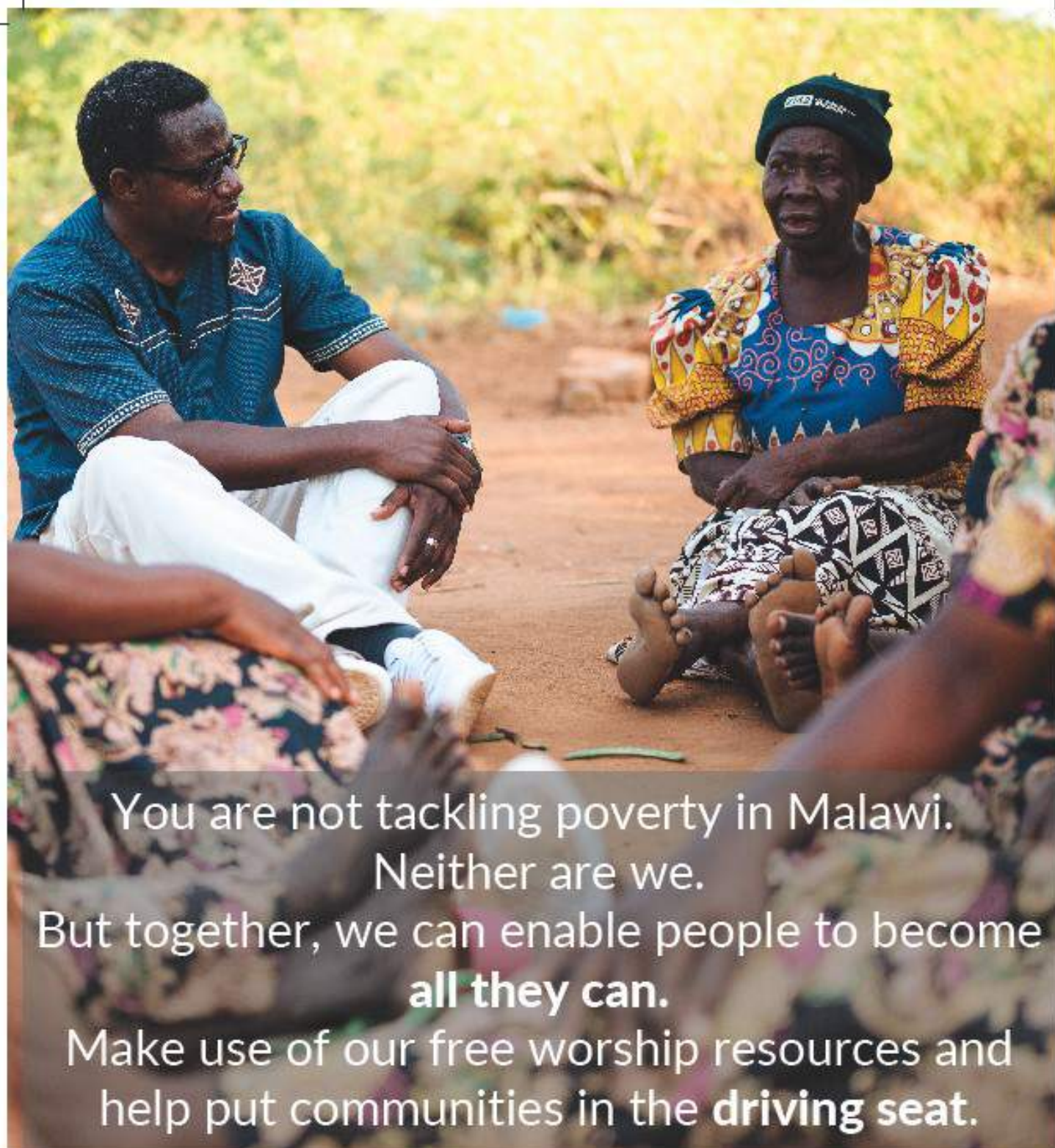
Tea and cakes afterwards, Free Parking available

Come and hear more about the amazing work of this charity with
the poorest and most vulnerable people around the world

More info : Jeannette Curtis (Circuit All We Can Co-ordinator)

01932 221562/jeannettecurtis@gmail.com

Reverend Claire Hargreaves 01483 536638/claire.hargreaves@methodist.org.uk



You are not tackling poverty in Malawi.
Neither are we.

But together, we can enable people to become
all they can.

Make use of our free worship resources and
help put communities in the **driving seat.**



allwecan.org.uk/resources

@allwecanuk



All We Can is the operating name of The Methodist Relief and Development Fund, a charity registered in England and Wales, number 291691

Knaphill

We have held our usual events over the past few months - Clothes4U every 3rd Saturday in the month (1.30-4pm) and Coffee Mornings on the 4th Saturday (10am-12 noon). C4U is a most valuable outreach which has enabled many families to obtain good quality clothing without spending much needed cash. There were more people at the July C4U than ever before, which may reflect the financial difficulties many families are experiencing.

Fortunately, however, our Coffee Mornings continue to do well, usually raising over £300 each time. The one on 27th May, which included a plant sale, was amazingly successful, raising a wonderful £702.50 for church funds. In addition to these regular events, Tarina Berry is organising a second Coffee Morning in aid of Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust, on Saturday 9th September (see below and flyer on page 14 for details).

We worked hard collecting during Christian Aid Week in May. With help from members of other churches in the area we managed to cover a few more roads than has recently been possible. That, together with some exceedingly generous donations, meant we raised the best total since 2010 – a magnificent £2951.23!

We would like to thank Claire Hargreaves for all the support we received at KMC while Dave Faulkner was on Sabbatical. We had our final service with Dave at Knaphill on 9th July, followed by the Circuit Farewell Service at Byfleet on 16th. Both were lovely services, followed by great food and fellowship. We thank Dave for all his hard work at Knaphill and wish him, Debbie, Becky and Mark all the very best.

We welcome Paul Glass as our Minister in Pastoral Charge and look forward to our Covenant Service, led by him, on 3rd September and Harvest on 24th. We are also pleased to be hosting the Circuit Service at 6pm on Sunday 10th September to formally welcome Paul to Knaphill and Sidney Samuel to Byfleet. In October, KMC will be hosting the Circuit Mission Day between 10am and 1pm on Saturday 7th.

On a less positive note, we are still struggling to attract enough substantial, long-term lettings to stabilize our finances at KMC, so would welcome continued prayers for our future.

Coffee Morning

On Saturday 9th September 2023, Knaphill will be hosting a Coffee Morning from 10:00 until 12 noon, organised once again by Tarina Berry in aid of the Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance - with Keith Smith from KSS opening the event.

There will be a variety of stalls providing something for everyone, including Cakes, Preserves, Tombola, Bric-a-Brac, Guess the Weight of the Cake, the Name of Teddy and How Many Sweets in the Jar, and more..... as well as a Raffle and Bacon Butties!

Please come along and support this very worthwhile event in aid of a Charity which any one of us may need to call upon in the future. Last year we raised the magnificent total of £855.20 – let's see what we can do this year!

Offers of help and donations of prizes greatly appreciated. Please contact Tarina on thecakeshop2020@gmail.com Thank you.

Lynda Shore

Merrow

It has been 'all go' at Merrow. There seemed to be a lot going on (coronation parties, church anniversaries, summer teas) – and all of them involved lots of cake!

Our Church Anniversary on the 25th of June was enjoyable – but didn't quite go to plan (plans – what are they?). We had invited Rev. Nick Holt and his wife Linda back to lead our service – as we hadn't seen them since 2005. The pandemic had prevented them coming back for earlier Church anniversaries. Unfortunately, they were trapped on the A3 for 2 hours due to a traffic accident and missed the service. Hugh Bradley and Gillian Varley led us in a very special time of worship and fortunately both Nick and Linda were able to arrive at Merrow in time for lunch! We were then able to 'catch up' on all their news over the past 20 years.

Our Thursday morning 'Warm Welcome Coffee Morning' is now a regular weekly fixture with a group of regulars who come to meet up and chat.

The 'Holiday at Home' afternoon tea this year was held on 22nd August. This event aims to give elderly/housebound (or perhaps those who are unable to go away for a holiday) a chance to go out and have an afternoon tea served to them. Last year's comments consisted of 'The food was delicious and just kept coming!'.

We have started planning our Harvest Festival. This will be on the 17th of September and will be led by our Uncle George. It will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. I'm trying to decide what to bring (and whether I will be brave enough to actually 'cook' anything!).

We are looking forward to our first (for a while) sectional service with West Horsley and Stoughton on the 26th of November. It will be lovely to share fellowship together.



Julie Wallis



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

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

**Thursday 28 September
Thursday 26 October
Thursday 23 November**

*Each month showcases
a different charity*

10.30 am - 12 noon

Everyone welcome



**The first ever
Cordless Phone
was created by
God.
He named it
"Prayer" ...
It never Loses its
Signal and U never
have to Recharge it.
Use it Anywhere...!**



St. Michael's, Sheerwater

When we last updated you all, St Michael's was to become the new Community Hub for Sheerwater. We had hoped the building work would start after Easter, but with the results of a government review of Woking Borough Council's debt and a now planned mid-term review by WBC on the whole Sheerwater Regeneration, everything that is not being worked on has been put on pause. What does this mean for the Church? We have had meetings with members of the Council who are keeping us updated and have encouraged us to apply to Your Fund Surrey for a grant.

Update on this below from Simon Perkins:-

YOUR FUND SURREY

This is the £100m fund Surrey County Council administers. WBC are keen we progress an application. They stressed that this should illustrate what new or additional benefits this would provide to the Community over and above what is already provided via Mascot and St. Michael's. (I attended St. Michael's ECC meeting on 13th July and was authorised to set up the project on the Commonplace website to gather "likes" but not yet to proceed with an application).

<https://yourfundsurreymap.commonplace.is/comments/64be8deca8c8710008799d86>

Our Pop-up café remains popular with our families from the community with crafts/games and healthy refreshments. With the support from Freedom Leisure, we have a sporting activity – Boccia – twice a term which is enjoyed by all ages.

All children that attend receive a holiday activity pack, including a puzzle/colouring book, pencils, and a game.

Tots Praise ended the term with a Teddy Bears picnic.

We are grateful for all the support and prayers from local churches and our working relationships and links with our community partners.

We are taking the summer to refresh and prepare for the new term ahead in September.

Tracey Francis

When you pray for your car to get fixed but forget that Jesus was a carpenter, not a mechanic.



Don't worry. When you sing praises to the Lord, I'm pretty sure Jesus "auto-tunes" it for you.



Walton-on-Thames

Here in Walton, following the success of the knitted Last Supper, we decided that our Narthex window was a useful way of showcasing what we do and what is important to us as a church. We had noticed that many passers-by, particularly children, were stopping to look at our display, so this summer we have a holiday theme. Various church members have kindly loaned seashells of all shapes and sizes, and we have added beach toys, all displayed on a colourful beach towel. Our hope is that we may again attract attention and that our posters will be read, drawing all our neighbours to think about the comfort of our Christian message.

At various times, we have looked at Holy Habits, resources that explore and encourage the practice of ten disciplines, or 'holy habits', that Luke presents in Acts 2:42–47. Last year, we used it as the basis for our Lent studies. In August, our LA was based on the holy habit of Fellowship, and we will continue to explore this during our Tuesday afternoon fellowship group which meets once a month. So, a few new ventures for us.

As autumn draws on, we are preparing for our harvest festival, when the uniformed organisations will join us for the service and help us to celebrate. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and they have some interesting ways of telling us about the charity that has been chosen for the occasion. They educated and inspired us last year, and this year we look forward to hearing more about the brilliant local initiative in 'Building Bridges Eco Hub Update' on Harvest Sunday in October.

Following the success of last year's trip, a group of our young people will be travelling to Birmingham for 3Generate (the Methodist Children & Youth Assembly) at the NEC in October. Christopher, Naomi, and Ross will be going with them. We are so grateful for their commitment and generosity in giving their time for this and are most fortunate to have a bus driver in our congregation who will be driving the coach for them!

On October 22nd at the start of One World Week, we have a Circuit evening service here in Walton at 6.30pm. If anyone is coming from a distance, there is parking at the Day Centre which is just a five-minute walk from the church. Alex Akhurst from All We Can will be speaking at the service, where he will tell us all about the work of All We Can, the international development and relief organisation. Please put the date in your diaries.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Christopher and Naomi when they left us at the end of August. We have been truly blessed to have them as such active members of our church. We wish them well in their new home and jobs in the Bristol area, and we pray God's blessing on them as they begin this exciting new chapter in their lives.

The Stewards at Walton

Circuit Prayer Vigil - December 2/3 2023



It is some years since our circuit held a 24 hour prayer vigil. The Mission group believes that it is time we held another one which will take place from 8.00am Saturday 2 December finishing on Sunday 3

December when we trust that all those leading Worship on that day will bring the session to an end during their services.

As ever a timetable will be issued along with an 'Aide Memoire' ahead of the date.

In a circuit of 700 people across 13 churches we should be able to cover 24 hours, including the wee small hours, with ease.

The hour long slots for each church could be covered by a group or an individual. It could be split into 15 or 30 minute sessions. People may choose to gather and pray as a group or pray on their own. People may choose to go to their church to pray, pray at home or whilst on holiday. Indoors or outdoors, maybe whilst walking the dog or just strolling in the country or along the river/canal.

Our churches, circuit, country and world are all in need of prayer and there can never be too much.

Please join us for this event.

Rev Adam Payne and the Circuit Mission team

West Horsley

We had a very good celebration weekend for our chapel Anniversary in April and were pleased to welcome many of you to our Songs of Praise evening. We hope you will be able to join us for our 'Carols for All' evening at 7.00pm on Saturday 2nd Dec - see separate poster.

We were very lucky that Sam Monaghan was planned to take a service with us in June and we asked him if it could be our MHA Sunday. He gave a very moving account of the work and his personal encounters - as well as preaching an excellent sermon.

You may remember that our church charity was to raise money for George to take a laptop back to his church in Ghana for use by the young people there. This was achieved, George took it with him when he went back and we had a very grateful letter from the church leader. At the moment we are raising money for Cherry Trees as Graham England is a volunteer there. Cherry Trees were the chosen charity for the Horsley's 'Big Day Out' at Horsley Towers on 2nd June and some of our church members volunteered to help out there.

Our next 'effort' will be at our Harvest Festival on 24th September when we will be asking for gifts for our local food bank at Cobham.

Don't forget to come and sing at our 'carols for all' evening on 2nd Dec. Poster on page 26.

Margaret Faulkner

FRIDAY NIGHT VIGIL



**PRAY
FOR
UKRAINE**

**Call in to St. Mary's on Friday evenings
between 21.00 and 23.00
to light a candle, pray and reflect.**

Weybridge



We look forward to the autumn with optimism. During the summer we have welcomed many visitors and our Sunday congregations have been very respectable. We pray that some of these people will become regular attendees. It was also lovely to welcome Lili and Jose back from Egypt to worship with us on a Sunday in July.

Weybridge hosted the consultation meeting for stationing in July and the pre work we did for that session has given us a very useful SWOT analysis to help us as we look to the future.

We maintain our support to the food bank and the Old Folks Club to the best of our ability and continue to look for other opportunities to serve the community with our limited resources.



Over the summer we extended use of our building to a group who work with children with additional needs. Our Welcome Wall, painted so many years ago by the youth group, most of whom now have children of their own, apparently proved a useful 'calming' place when behaviour needed calming. We are sure that all those involved in the project, so long ago, will be pleased to hear that their work continues to be a tool for welcome and peace.

Autumn is a lovely season and we always enjoy our Harvest Festival weekend. All the Harvest gifts will be donated to the Food Bank. The autumn also sees us celebrate the Church Anniversary – 123 years in the current building.

We pray that Weybridge Methodist Church continues to offer worship and fellowship to the community.

Linda Weedon

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

Trinity, Woking

Foundry Worship & Waymaker Groups

Students of the Wey Valley preaching plan will see LA/FW appear every other Sunday evening against Trinity. FW for Foundry Worship. So, what is it?

Foundry Worship is a different style of worship. We seat Café style with refreshments available. We have a band that leads a time of praise - varied but predominantly contemporary songs. A leader each week introduces the theme and delivers a short message. We take opportunity to share thoughts and stories relating to the theme – it is amazing the power these have on each other.

What is now Foundry Worship (FW) started 6 years ago. A small group of Trinity people met every other Sunday evening for a time of informal, contemporary worship. We would share together our joys and our concerns and pray for one another. We were rarely more than a dozen people. It was all very simple, trusting the Spirit to lead us.

We often discussed and prayed about how FW should evolve. This was necessary, but it diverted our energy. Commitment to and attendance at FW struggled - for a while we even questioned whether FW was sustainable. Yet there remained a real sense of God being in what we were doing, so we stuck to our fortnightly worship pattern. We persevered in prayer and in time more people started to attend, including some musicians. Hope grew.

Then Covid struck. This could have ended FW for good, but a quick switch to Zoom enabled us to continue our fortnightly services. These were very different but helped preserve our identity. As a result, when we were allowed to start meeting in person again, FW resumed. More people started to attend, and more musicians joined until today we are a diverse group with about 30 people attending each service – and growing. Attendance is split roughly 50:50 between Trinity members and those from other churches, or none.

We always wanted to start smaller group meetings on the back of FW. In early 2022 we had a series of FW's based on the Methodist Way of Life. This led to our first Waymaker group – a name 'borrowed' from the title of one of the worship songs we sing. The group meets fortnightly. We usually pick an aspect of the theme from the previous FW, exploring it from a different perspective. The first group is now getting quite large, so we are hoping to start a second group soon.

So, what is our theological emphasis? Our vision is to create a place where diversity in all its forms is welcomed. We see Jesus as the model of righteous living, and we are careful not to overlay our prejudices onto that. Empowered by the Holy Spirit within us, we seek to be the means by which God's love is experienced around us. And we remember that God is the arbiter of who is saved, not us. To me this theological emphasis seems very Methodist.

What of the future? We hope FW will continue to grow. This is already creating challenges – the human dynamic between a dozen people is different from that between 30. Our prayer is that we will continue to evolve a pattern of worship where all who worship with us feel free to be themselves and express as such. And of course, a few extra Waymaker groups wouldn't go amiss either.

Finally, an open invitation. If anyone wants to join us for Foundry Worship, you would be most welcome. If you email me (hugh.bowerman@gmail.com) I will add you to our Foundry Worship mailing list which sends a reminder of when we meet and what our theme will be.

Hugh Bowerman

Carols for All



Saturday Dec 2nd

7.00- 9.00 pm

**Horsley Methodist
Church**

(next to W. Horsley Village Hall)

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

**Phone requests to
01483 282474**

A Note to Contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of The Way Forward, in its pdf format, on the Circuit website. The Way 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 Way Forward' both interesting and useful. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the articles. 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 30 of The Way Forward is midnight 1 November

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 31 1 February 2024

Issue 32 1 May 2024

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

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Lucy Venmore

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
September 2023			
2 September	2.30pm to 4.30pm	Cream Tea on the Lawn	Godalming
3 September	2.30pm to 6.00pm	Pantomime celebration and reunion	Godalming
9 September	10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of KSSX	Knaphill
9 September	-	Annual Heritage Weekend (see page 15 for details)	Guildford
10 September	10.00am	Circuit Service	Knaphill
14 September	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of the Church Taxi Fund	Merrow
16 September	1.30pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
20 September	7.30pm	Rainbow Service	St. Mary's Guildford
23 September	10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
23 September	4.00pm	Verdi's Requiem (see pages 11 and 12 for details)	W Horsley Place
28 September	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee and Cake at St. Mary's	St. Mary's Guildford
30 September	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Messy Church Autumn Planting	Godalming
October 2023			
7 October	10.00am to 1.00pm	Circuit Mission Day	Knaphill
8 October	10.30am	Godalming Harvest Festival and Bring & Share lunch	Godalming
12 October	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of the Bible Society	Merrow
21 October	1.30pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
22 October	6.30pm	Circuit Service in aid of All We Can	Walton
26 October	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee and Cake at St. Mary's	St. Mary's Guildford
28 October	10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
November 2023 (and beyond)			
9 November	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning in aid of the Turning Point Trust (Kibera)	Merrow
18 November	1.30pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
23 November	10.30am to 12 noon	Coffee and Cake at St. Mary's	St. Mary's Guildford
25 November	10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
30 November	12.15pm	Advent Reflections	St. Mary's Guildford
2 December	7.00pm to 9.00pm	Carols for All	West Horsley
2/3 December	8.00am on 2nd	Circuit Prayer Vigil (see poster on page 22)	Circuit
7 December	12.15pm	Advent Reflections	St. Mary's Guildford
14 December	12.15pm	Advent Reflections	St. Mary's Guildford
21 December	12.15pm	Carols at lunchtime	St. Mary's Guildford