

Dear Friends,

Holy Week has always meant a lot to me. Palm Sunday begins with the so-called Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, though for me it doesn't seem quite complete without the Passion narrative to follow: Palm Sunday is also Passion Sunday. There's something about 'Hosanna!' turning to 'Crucify him!' during the course of a single Sunday morning. The Entry is the beginning of the Passion, the climax of each of the gospels. The Passion gives its name in most countries to what our ancestors in Britain decided to name Easter – after a pagan Goddess. The church did not adopt a pagan festival, as is often claimed, but sought to transform it; hence adopting the name. Pity, though. I prefer Pascha: Passion. It says so much more.

Then Maundy Thursday, and the washing of feet, and the supper to which even a traitor was welcome; and Good Friday, which wrenched my heart as a child. Why did God not save his Son? And the sheer beauty of that conversation in a garden with Mary, a disciple from Galilee who had stayed with Jesus to the end. And the two – probably a married couple, though we can never know for sure – joined by a stranger on their way home that day, inviting him to eat with them and then recognising Jesus in the breaking of the bread. And dear Thomas, who did not believe what the others had told him – any more than they had, until, like him, they came face to face with Jesus. I never tire of hearing these accounts. I cannot watch *The Railway Children* or the last act of *La Boheme* without a tear in my eye; and so it is with the Passion.

But in this Holy Week, there is a challenge. One friend betrayed Jesus for money. Another, even closer to him, denied three times that he even knew him. The rest ran away, or nearly all of them. Betrayed, 'ghosted', to use a modern expression, and abandoned, and left to his fate: to abuse, false accusations, torture (I know how much a thorn hurts), flogging, and a painful public execution. What must Jesus have thought? Then I think to myself, what would I have done? Would I have fared any better than my namesake Peter?

I can understand how he and the others felt. Fear is something we all experience at some time. I'm afraid of heights, and remember a terrifying walk along a narrow ridge in Snowdonia in a thick mist. I have faced thugs, paramilitaries and a hostile crowd, mortar fire and snipers, driven inches from mines, and coming back covered in blood after a rock shattered my windscreen. Not perhaps typical of a Methodist minister, but I also remember, in my twenties, witnessing a robbery on a train and freezing. I cannot blame Peter or the other ten, or even Judas, for being afraid. Fear can turn a decent person into a concentration camp guard, a murderer, a drug courier, or a traitor. The bravest of the brave can reach a point when there is no more courage to draw on. Peter denied Jesus, and perhaps I would too. It is safer and easier to hold the spear of the one who bangs in the nails, than to stretch out one's own hands to receive them. As Peter was to do, some years later. Not the first Christian martyr, nor the last.

When you next walk past Westminster Abbey, look up at the West Door at the ten stone figures standing there: twentieth Century Martyrs. You may recognise some, and will know their names: Martin Luther King; Oscar Romero, killed at the altar in El Salvador; Maximilian Kolbe (who took the place of another prisoner in Auschwitz); Janani Luwum of Uganda; and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. But we see there too 15-year-old Manche Maseloma from South Africa,

murdered by her own parents for being Christian; Grand Duchess Elizabeth, a nun who died alongside other members of the Russian royal family; Esther John from Pakistan, brutally murdered at home in 1960; Lucien Tapiedi from Papua New Guinea; and Wang Zhiming, a pastor executed in China in 1973, aged 66.

Oscar Romero said this: 'I must tell you, as a Christian, I do not believe in death without resurrection.' Jesus said, 'Whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.'

Happy Easter!

Peter



### **Resources/Good News**

#### **An Easter Message from Trinity Methodist Church, Woking**

Enjoy this wonderful Easter multimedia message, created by Kay Kwan and Graham Warr.

<https://youtu.be/KLVhh6BBP58>

#### **A Journey through Holy Week**

The President and Vice-President of The Methodist Conference travel through Holy Week and share a short video reflection.

Each video will be available from 7am every day. Watch the whole playlist, as each video becomes available.

[A journey through Holy Week - The Methodist Church](#)



Stay for FREE tea,  
coffee & a chat

## Clothes4U

Pre loved clothes with TLC

from

**Knaphill Methodist Church**

Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2DR



**Saturday 19 April 2025 2 - 4pm**

To claim your FREE clothes, collect a voucher from 30+ places in Surrey.

Email us to find out where they are: [clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk](mailto:clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)



[www.knaphill-methodist-church.com/clothes4U](http://www.knaphill-methodist-church.com/clothes4U)

[clothes@knaphill-methodist-church.com](mailto:clothes@knaphill-methodist-church.com)

**DONATIONS - NOT NEEDED!**

Due to huge generosity lately from the residents of Knaphill and beyond, clothes donations are not being accept at all for the time being.

## STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

### COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



1<sup>st</sup> April

8<sup>th</sup> April

15<sup>th</sup> April

22<sup>nd</sup> April

29<sup>th</sup> April



Enjoy Coffee & a Chat, Coffee & a Game, or Coffee & a Book

The choice is yours!

**Everyone welcome – bring a friend!**



**SUNDAY  
27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
4.00pm**

# **PUDDING AND PRAISE**

This will be led by

Ross Richardson and Dave Paterson

Come and have some delicious puddings at 4.00pm and then settle down to some great praise, worship and contemplation at 4.30pm

**Delicious puddings and  
great Praise**

---

**If you like a good  
pudding come and  
taste some**

---

**Be uplifted by great  
praise songs  
led by 'Breeze'**

---

## **WALTON METHODIST CHURCH**

Terrace Road  
KT12 2SR

Telephone

01932 429184

<http://www.waltonmethodist.org>

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025 4pm



## **Circuit Service**

**In 2025/2026 we celebrate 60 years since  
the admission to the Order of Local  
Preachers of**

**Revd. Allan Taylor and Revd. Peter Hills  
and 70 years since the admission of  
Roland Hamon**

**This service will celebrate the significant  
milestone of 190 years of preaching, and give  
thanks to the faithful ministry of those who lead  
our worship.**



**Refreshments will be served after the service**

**Sunday 11 May 2025 3.00pm**

**Merrow Methodist Church  
Bushy Hill Drive, Guildford, GU1 2SH**

# COFFEE AND CAKE AT ST. MARY'S

QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP

APRIL - JUNE  
2025

10.30 – 12.00



*Everyone welcome*

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**Thursday 24 April**

**Thursday 22 May**

**Thursday 26 June**

# Songs of Praise



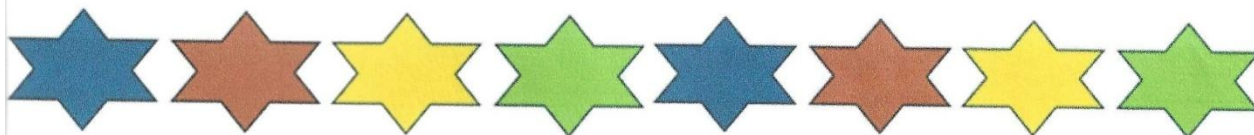
**Saturday May 17th**  
**Horsley**  
**Methodist Church**

(next to W.H. Village Hall)

**7.00p.m.**

Come and sing a selection of favourite hymns.

Phone 01483 282474 to make requests.



**Saturday morning events at the  
Addlestone Methodist Church café  
on Station Road**



***Come along between  
10am and 12 to enjoy  
tea/coffee and cake and  
join in with activities***

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each  
month – Fun Bingo**

*Donations to Sam Beare Hospice  
or Open Doors Charity*

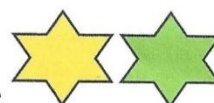


**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays – popular  
hymns & songs to sing to or just  
listen to.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – time for our Quiz**



*Check notice board for any changes*





# PET SERVICE

**Sunday 8th June**  
**15:30**

Walton Methodist Church,  
Terrace Road, KT12 2SR

Do come along to this short act  
of worship where our pets will  
be blessed.

Coffee, tea, biscuits and cakes  
served afterwards.

**[www.waltonmethodist.org](http://www.waltonmethodist.org)**

Charity No. 1174524

