

WEY VALLEY – WEEKLY CIRCUIT LETTER – 16 JULY 2025

Barrie Tabraham

‘Money, money, money’



I’m writing this whilst on a short break on the Suffolk coast. Nowadays, changed circumstances mean that I spend most of these occasions alone – though being solitary for a short time is quite different from being lonely. I’ve spent a few hours today listening to the sea, re-reading Chapter 16 in Luke’s Gospel with the help of Joseph Fitzmyer’s wonderful commentary, and musing on a number of recent events all of which seem to have the subject of money in common.

The events, not in any chronological sequence or order of importance, are:

- The purchase of twelve F-35A fighter bombers, specifically to add to Britain’s existing nuclear deterrent, at approximately £70 million per aeroplane;
- The recent vote in the House of Commons on the Welfare Bill which, even amended by Labour ‘rebels’, will cut benefits to many of the poorest and most disabled by nearly twice the total cost of the new aircraft (above);
- The wedding in Venice of Lauren Sanchez to Jeff Bezos, who is reported to be worth more than £150 billion (!), which cost about £41 million. Who knows what the eventual bill will be for jewellery, the honeymoon and sundries?
- The imminent eviction of the entire population of the small Dorset village of Littlebredy, because it lies entirely within an estate that has been sold by its corporate owners for about £30 million. The report of this sad tale summed it up with the comment, *‘This is the power of money’*.

The problem with money is that it can become a God-send or a curse. When my father died almost penniless over fifty years ago, I developed a phobia of poverty in old-age, and became obsessed with living within our means and saving for retirement. Thankfully, this has enabled Joan and I to find the eye-watering payments for her nursing care in Guildford House. Money, in this way, has ensured that she has the care that she deserves, and helps mitigate the awful effects of her Parkinson’s Disease.

But money is a two-edged sword. It can corrupt even the most honest of us. Any government has to balance how it both raises and spends money, so that the needs of the people it governs can be met – for security, health and well-being. It’s an unenviable task! On a personal level, I remember during one of our ministerial staff meetings in the 1990s, in what was then the Woking & Walton Circuit, my ‘associate minister’ at Trinity talked quite frankly about the subtle, insidious effects of money. Her father had been an agricultural labourer and she had had quite a deprived childhood, financially. At the time she was speaking, she was more than comfortably off, but worried that her comparative wealth had anaesthetised her and altered her perception of value. She was genuinely

afraid of becoming like those people (and we've all met them) who 'know the price of everything and the value of nothing'.

There's no simple answer to this, of course. Jesus' teaching in Chapter 16 of Luke's Gospel and elsewhere stresses the importance of keeping a balanced perspective. It is the love money which is the 'root of all evil'; it is when we let our possessions possess us, that our values become warped.

In one of Gene Roddenberry's *Star Trek* stories, Captain Jean Luc Picard explains to a woman from the 21st century that in his era (the 23rd century), people don't work for money, because the need for the acquisition of personal wealth has disappeared. Oh, were that to be true, one day!

Maybe so, but for the moment, each of us as Christians have to be 'good stewards of God's varied grace', to quote St. Paul. Whether we have one talent or ten, we have a responsibility to use all our resources – including money – wisely, because everything we have, even the air that we breathe, belongs to God and is ultimately a gift from Him.



A Prayer: Loving God, give us a true perspective on our possessions, so that we may never lose our sense of what is truly valuable. Help us to be good stewards of all your gifts, taking delight in the benefits that money can bring, but being ever mindful of the needs of others, particularly those less fortunate than ourselves. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Every blessing to you all,

Barrie Tabraham

Resources/Good News

Free Home Safety Checks Now Available for Vulnerable Residents in Surrey

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, in partnership with NHS Surrey Heartlands, is offering free Home Safety Checks to help reduce the risk of falls, fire hazards and cold homes among older or more vulnerable people.

The checks are being delivered by Ellie Hayes, a trained Home Safety Check Advisor from the SFRS, who works closely with local GP practices to support those most at risk.

The service is available to residents who are registered with GP practices in Godalming, Haslemere, Cranleigh, Guildford and surrounding areas.

[Free Home Safety Checks Now Available for Vulnerable Residents in Surrey | Surrey News](#)

South East District Welcome Service



Join us as we welcome our new Chair of District, Rev Conrad Hicks



Saturday 6th September

3pm, followed by refreshments



Redhill Methodist Church, RH1 1BP



And streamed online

visit www.methodistsoutheast.org in early September for streaming instructions



The **Methodist Church**
South East District



Inspire

Enable

Encourage

Saturday 19 July 2025 2.00-4.00pm

Knaphill Methodist Church, The Broadway, Knaphill GU21 2DR

(between Boots & the old Lloyds Bank)

Clothes4U

a clothes bank supporting the local community

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

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



3rd June

10th June

17th June

24th June

1st July

8th July

15th July

22nd July

29th July



Enjoy Coffee & a Chat, Coffee & a Game, or Coffee & a Book
The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!

COFFEE AND CAKE

AT ST. MARY'S

QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP



**JUNE – AUGUST
2025**

Thursday 26 June

Thursday 24 July

Thursday 28 August

10.30 – 12.00

- each month features a different charity

Everyone welcome

Weybridge Male Voice Choir

Conducted by Jonathan Kilhams
Accompanied by Thomas Kelsey

Registered
Charity
No: 1038624



Present a

Summer Concert



With Special Guest



Charne Rochford

Friday 18th July 7.30pm
St James' Church, Weybridge KT13 8DN

Adults £15 U12's go Free

Retiring collection
in aid of



COMMONWEALTH
WAR GRAVES

Foundation

Tickets from Choir Members, or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/weybridgemvc





We have space for a few more stands with activities and also more volunteers on the day would help. If anyone can help with either of those, could they please contact ROCwoking@gmail.com

You are warmly invited to join us at...

Merrow Methodist Church Family Picnic

Bring your own picnic and come
and enjoy a relaxing afternoon in
the church garden with your family
and friends!

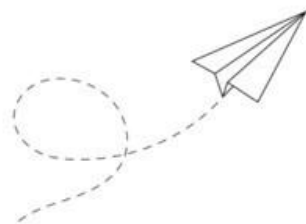


*Craft activities for
children and adults*



*Toys and games
– bring your
favourites*

Bubbles



*Free ice
cream!*



Saturday 2nd August 2025

2.30pm – 5.00pm

Merrow Methodist Church



Bereavement Support Group

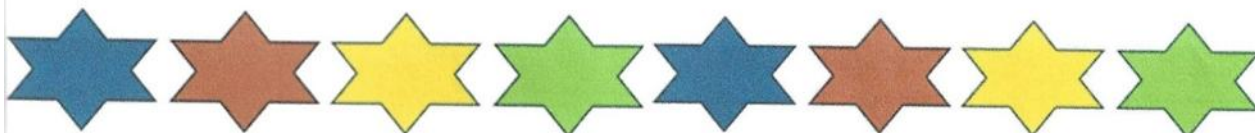
The Brigitte Trust is running **free** structured 8-week bereavement programmes run by a professional facilitator for anyone in Surrey struggling with their own grief and bereavement.

The aims of the programme are to:

- provide support with focus
- encourage mutual support
- share experiences
- learn new coping strategies
- develop some altered thought patterns

The sessions are limited to a maximum of 12 people and offered in different parts of Surrey according to need.

For more information or to book a place contact **Sarah Pattenden** on **07469 932192** or email **sarah.pattenden@brigittetrust.com**



**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***

**1st Saturday of each
month – Fun Bingo**

*Donations to Sam Beare Hospice
or Open Doors Charity*

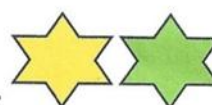


**2nd and 4th Saturdays – popular
hymns & songs to sing to or just
listen to.**

3rd Saturday – time for our Quiz



Check notice board for any changes



Surrey Churches Preservation Trust

Explore the Glories of Parisian Sacred Architecture

Join the Surrey Churches Preservation Trust's

Parisian Churches Weekend

26–28 September 2025

Discover the splendour of five of Paris's most celebrated churches on this unforgettable weekend break. Travel by Eurostar from London to Paris and immerse yourself in the beauty, history, and spiritual richness of the French capital's sacred spaces.

Highlights include: guided visits to Sainte-Chapelle, Notre-Dame, Saint-Louis-en l'Ile, Saint Etienne du Mont and Sacré Coeur.

What's included:

- Eurostar return travel
- Entry to all five churches
- Professional guide
- Dinner and Seine cruise
- Donation to help preserve churches in Surrey


COST:

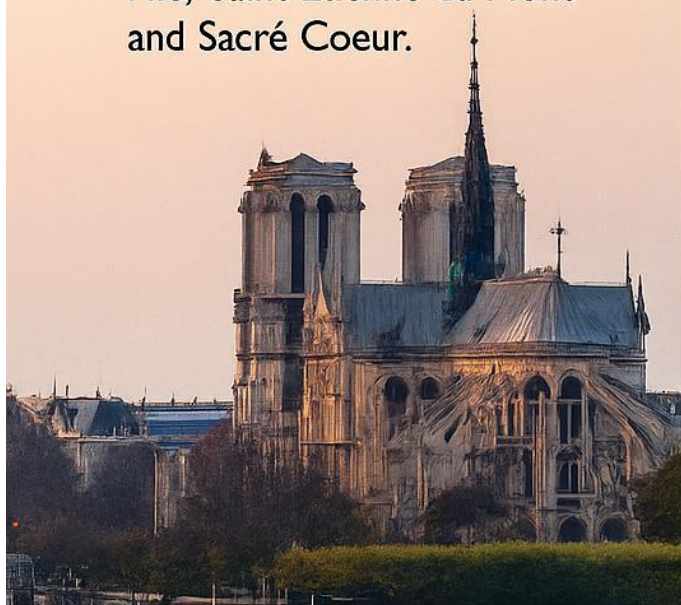
£275 (SCPT Members)

£300 (Non-members)

Booking deadline:

22 August 2025

 Limited to 20 places – first come, first served!



Accommodation is self-booked, and Saturday lunch is a casual picnic by the Seine.

To reserve your place or ask questions, contact **Andrew** at plumridge@architect-uk.com or call **07484 062333**.

Don't miss this inspiring and culturally rich weekend!