

Dear Friends,

I have a very clear memory of being present at an evening service led by a friend, Rev. Stanley Hall, one time missionary in Sierra Leone. Although it was many years ago, I still remember the text he preached from: 'A wandering Aramean was my father'. It's a text from the book of Deuteronomy 26:5. I felt then, as I feel now, that it is a simple but an intriguing text. It reminds us that the Christian-Judeo traditions are built on the stories of wandering and persecuted peoples. The full text reads: 'A wandering Aramean was my father who went down to Egypt and lived there with a small band of people.' The lifechanging experience of Abraham, the founding patriarch of the people of Israel, is one of leaving his home country at age 75 to seek out an unknown land that God will show him. Later, Abraham and his family have to escape famine and so travel on further to Egypt. It's a story that is echoed in the experience of Jacob and his sons, who also have to travel to Egypt to escape famine and where they are given work and a new home. And of course, the Holy Family also had to flee to Egypt to escape the murderous intent of Herod. Later, early Christian communities knew what it was like to suffer at the hands of hostile neighbours and unhelpful authorities.

This week is Refugee Week and Friday is World Refugee Day. According to the UN Refugee Agency there were 42.7 refugees in the world in 2024. So many men, women and children with no place to call home, reliant on the kindness and generosity of strangers, often desperately short of food and clean water, no chance to work, no proper medical care, no education for the children. We cannot even begin to imagine the horror of it all day after day, week upon week, months passing into years.

Anna Briggs, a long-time member of the Iona community wrote a hymn beginning:

We lay our broken world
In sorrow at your feet,
Haunted by hunger, war and fear,
Oppressed by power and hate.

Where human life seems less
Than profit, might and pride,
Though to unite us all in you
You lived and loved and died.

Words particularly appropriate for Refugee Week and words we might use as a prayer.

Blessings

Allan

[Refugee Week – 16 – 22 June 2025](#)

Resources/Good News

The Quiet Revival

You may have heard people talking about *The Quiet Revival* over the past few months, a report of some really encouraging survey data published by The Bible Society. The survey found an increase in churchgoing and in faith engagement over the past six years, particularly among young people. If you have a little time, you can [access the full report here](#)

The Contemplative Oasis

I run a short contemplative group each Thursday evening between 8.30 and 9pm called the Contemplative Oasis. I use the source material from the Methodist TakeTime resource which originated in the prison ministry at Send prison.

I run the meeting both in person and by Zoom and wanted to offer an invitation to anyone in the Circuit who would like to join in by Zoom if they want to try out the TakeTime Contemplative resource.

The Zoom link is here:

<https://zoom.us/j/94431865967?pwd=wdfznhYT53u9wvPii8B3zqdTWo8MDM.1>

Ross Richardson, Senior Steward at Walton

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!

GODALMING UNITED CHURCH

(Methodist and United Reformed)

Bridge Street, Godalming GU7 3DT

**Urgently needed: Men's Clothing, Toiletries and
Non-perishable Breakfast foods for**

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

A collection of these items will be held during the period

27th June – 7th July 2025

Please ask your friends, neighbours and colleagues to help as well!

Whitechapel Mission

The Whitechapel Mission has helped the homeless in London since 1876. Today, it is recognized as one of London's most effective homeless charities.

The cost-of-living crisis sadly means that the need continues to grow.

The charity provides showers, breakfast, lunches, training, advice and dignity to all who walk through its doors every day of the year. Clients are mainly men, although there are also services for homeless women.

The aim of the charity is to transform lives from homelessness to hope by helping clients reconnect to family, commit to sobriety, find a job and place to live and to be able to plan for the future.

Entirely dependent on public support, the Whitechapel Mission always needs donations of clothing which is in good condition and suitable for street dwellers, toiletries and non-perishable breakfast foods.

This appeal is being coordinated by Godalming United Church, between 27th June and 7th July 2025. For further information on the charity:
www.whitechapel.org.uk

Any queries, contact Ryan Kelley 01483 423261 or Janet Shaw
jrshaw15@yahoo.co.uk.

Collection times at Godalming United Church will be:

Friday 27 June	12 noon to 1.30 pm
Saturday 28 June	10.30 am to 12 noon
Sunday 29 June	11.30 am to 12.30 pm
Tuesday 1 July	2 pm to 3 pm
Wednesday 2 July	6 pm to 7 pm
Friday 4 July	12 noon to 1.30 pm
Saturday 5 July	10.30 am to 12 noon
Saturday 5 July	2 pm to 3 pm
Sunday 6 July	11.30 am to 12.30 pm
Monday 7 July	7 pm to 8 pm

Items highlighted in **bold** are needed the **most urgently**:

BREAKFAST FOODS		
Peanut Butter	Cornflakes	Weetabix
Bottled water	Chocolate Spread	Brown Sauce
Nutella	Chopped tomatoes	Salt
Chopped Tomatoes	Plum tomatoes	Porridge
Baked Beans	Honey	Biscuits
Sugar	Squash	Coffee
Instant Hot Chocolate	ketchup	Tinned Fruit
Sugar	Honey	Black Ground Pepper
Peanut Butter		
MEN'S CLOTHING		
Winter Jackets	Winter Coats	Baseball Caps
Woollen Gloves	Woollen Hats	Woollen Scarves
T-shirts	Jumpers	Hand Towels
Bath Towels	Underpants	Boxers
Jeans 28-36"	Trousers 28-34"	Small Rucksacks
Men's Trainers	Men's Shoes	Socks
Blankets		
TOILETRIES		
Toothbrushes	Body Lotion	Body Wash
	Roll-on Deodorant	Razors
Hand Cream	Moisturiser	Shampoo
Spray Deodorant	Shower Gel	Shaving Foam

**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



WINTERSHALL

Experience the story



The Life of Christ

The greatest story of all time

17 - 21 June 2025
10am - 3.30pm

Our powerful, biblical, outdoor drama
takes you back to a time when
Jesus lived on earth.

See the remarkable events of Jesus' life
re-enacted as you follow the actors
around Wintershall's beautiful lakes
and ancient woodland.



BOOK NOW  wintershall.org.uk

admin@wintershall.org.uk

Wintershall, Bramley, Surrey GU5 0LR

Registered Charity Number 1167111



THE BRIGITTE TRUST PRESENT

Before I Say Goodbye: Workshops (FORMERLY COFFIN CLUB)



Come along to our **free end-of-life workshops**, where each week a professional will share valuable information on the different options available to you to plan and cost either your own or others unique end-of-life celebration.

When: Tuesday 10th, 17th and 24th June, 9:45AM - 12:00PM

Where: Clandon Wood Natural Burial Ground, Guildford
GU4 7FN

The course will provide you with all the information needed to plan a meaningful end-of-life celebration- a farewell that honours your values and brings comfort to loved ones. **Attendance is free but we kindly ask you to book a space for us to manage numbers and catering.**

For further information, please contact Sarah Pattenden on **07469 932192**, email sarah.pattenden@brigitte-trust.com or visit www.brigitte-trust.org/our-service/before-i-say-goodbye



WORLD CLASS CARE
FOR OUR COMMUNITY

NHS

Royal Surrey
NHS Foundation Trust

Royal Surrey Community Open Day



Royal Surrey County Hospital



28 June 2025
11am–3pm

Everyone's welcome to see

- ★ Our surgical robots in an operating theatre
- ★ How to save a life with CPR
- ★ Free face painting, games and competitions for kids
- ★ Your future as a healthcare professional
- ★ How to take an X-ray
- ★ Free health checks



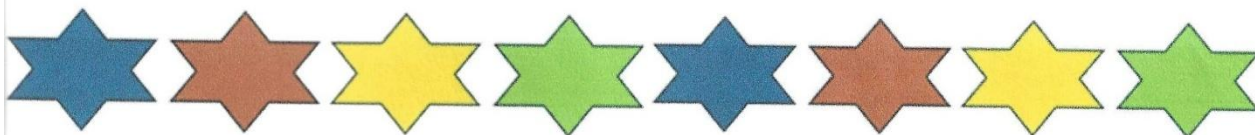
Scan for more info
and to book tours



Royal Surrey
Charity



★ Come and join us! ★ Egerton Road, Guildford, GU2 7XX ★ Free parking ★



**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

