

Dear friends,

I came across a saying this morning that has struck me, but I'm still trying to parse. "Enthusiasm is a feeling. Optimism is a decision."

The context for this quote was in regard to a popular computer company and its future, but it got me wondering about how we look at optimism and enthusiasm in the context of our churches and their futures.

I'm on record for my belief that optimism is something that is lacking in modern denominations, at least here in the U.K. My own denomination, the United Reformed Church, seems to spend its denominational meetings talking about what to do with the leftover money when they eventually close. The Methodist Church as a whole, doesn't seem to be as gloomy, but I've definitely encountered that attitude in local churches.

Going back to the quote that started all of this, the author's implication is that enthusiasm is bad and optimism is good, because a decision is based in logic and a feeling is based on something intangible. That feelings are hopeless expressions of what we want and desire, rather than having a basis in reality. However, I have to ask, is that a bad thing? After all, God made humanity as both thinking and feeling beings. The trick seems to be balancing the two out.

I believe that we can be both optimistic and enthusiastic about the future of our churches. We believe that God is at work. We see the fruits of that work in ways large and small. Even when the world throws obstacles in our way.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – (Jeremiah 29:11)

Adam

Resources/Good News

How finding God helped this Ukrainian prisoner of war

Konstantin's wife and daughter left the city of Mariupol in Ukraine and travelled to the safety of Chemnitz in Germany. Konstantin stayed behind to help others flee but was captured by Russian forces and spent over three months in a prison camp.

Revd Barry Sloan, Partnership Coordinator for Europe and a mission partner, leads INSPIRE, a fresh expression of church in Chemnitz who have been supporting families from Ukraine. Barry interviewed Konstantin about his experiences.

[How finding God helped this Ukrainian prisoner of war](#)

Lent Reflections

Would you like a few quiet minutes to reflect at the end of a busy week?

Would you like to pause a while to ponder the meaning of Lent?

Would you like to get closer to God's heart of love for you?

LENT REFLECTIONS

might be just what you're looking for!

There are 3 Zoom sessions: on Fridays 28/3, 4/4 and 11/4,
from 5.30pm until 6ish.

Feel free to join any or all of these
and to have your camera on or off, as suits you best.

Rev Sam – Trinity Methodist Church

To Join the Zoom Meeting – Please follow the link or use the ID and Pass Code below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89733710859?pwd=9Rgf61MHiUxKZEoh7QM7KppNjbHaK6.1>

Meeting ID: 897 3371 0859 Pass Code: 885315

(These details will be the same for all three of the Reflections)

FINDING HOPE IN HARD PLACES

A SERIES OF LENT REFLECTIONS



ST MARY'S
QUARRY ST
GU1 3UP

12.30 – 13.30

THURSDAYS
13, 20 & 27 MARCH
3 & 10 APRIL

SAVE THE DATES!

FOLLOWED BY
A BREAD AND SOUP LUNCH

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER & Warm Space

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



4th March
11th March
18th March
25th March



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

The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!

Make the most of your Saturday mornings

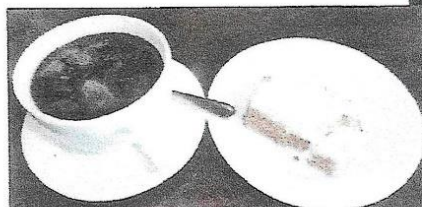
Addlestone Methodist Church

Coffee mornings every Saturday

From 10am to 12 noon

Enjoy a Coffee/Tea and Cake

for just £2



Coffee morning hosts each Saturday :
Addlestone Methodist Church hosts all coffee
Mornings except for the last of the month
Last Saturday of the month –
5th Addlestone Scouts

1st Saturday of every month-

Play **Fun Bingo**, donations to— **Sam Beare Hospice** or **Open doors charity**.

3rd Saturday **Quiz time**, test your mind.

2nd and 4th Saturdays, **Let us Sing**. Popular Hymns or Songs. Choir backing.

Check notice board for any changes





**The Christian Ministry of Reconciliation:
What we can learn from South Sudan**

A practical spirituality study morning in Guildford
Led by Canon Joseph Bilal, Episcopal University of South Sudan
St Mary's Guildford Saturday 22nd March 9.30am-noon

Saturday 22 March 2025, Knaphill Coffee Morning:



MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

AND SALE

**BOOKS, DVDs,
JIGSAWS, CAKES,
BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE**

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

4th Saturday every month (except December)

10am to Noon

Genesis Chorale presents

MASS IN C
BY LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Te Deum by Bizet
Ave Verum Corpus by Mozart
How lovely are thy dwellings by Johannes Brahms

Music Director:
Florence Price

7.30pm, Saturday
5th April 2025

St John's Church
West Byfleet,
KT14 6EH

Tickets: £18 Adults,
£9 students.

Order from website,
choir members and
on the door.

Genesis Chorale

www.genesischorale.org.uk



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