

Dear Friends,

I don't know whether you will recognise the names of Adam Dalgleish and Simon Serrailler. They are both fictional detectives. The first the creation of P.D. James who became Baroness James, and the second the creation of Susan Hill who is now a Dame. In the first, James' novel Dalgleish is a Detective Chief Inspector who eventually reaches the rank of Commander in the Metropolitan Police at New Scotland Yard. Serrailler is also a DCI who becomes a Detective Chief Superintendent in the English Cathedral city of Lafferton. Both men are so much more than senior police officers. Dalgleish for example is also a poet.

I tell you all this because James and Hill are my favourite detective novel writers, but also because Professor Alister McGrath suggests that detective stories and murder mysteries hint at how to make sense of our world. I'm sure that like me you want to understand – and I'm quite often perturbed because I don't understand – how and why certain things happen. At the moment I don't understand why and how the world is watching thousands of our fellow human beings getting killed and their homes laid to waste, and we are seemingly powerless to stop it. Human beings are always seeking meaning, but the meaning is so often elusive.

So, back to the detective stories, these stories appeal to our underlying belief in the rationality of the world and our capacity to uncover its underlying patterns. Meaning is something we uncover by following clues and discovering where they lead us. P.D. James once remarked that 'what the detective story is about is not murder but the restoration of order.' Likewise religious belief is about attempting to make sense of the clues we observe in the world and experience within us. Alister McGrath comments that 'nature is studded with clues to our true meaning and destiny and fingerprinted with the presence of God.'

Finally, the familiar words of William Cowper:

Blind unbelief is sure to err,
And scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter,
And he will make it plain.

Blessings,

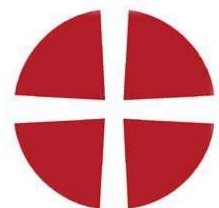
Allan

Resources/Good News

Stories from the Methodist Church – Waterways Chaplaincy

Rosie Bryant is a Waterways Chaplain who works in the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist District. In this [video](#), she shares how she supports those who use and live on the canals locally, offering companionship and a listening ear to individuals and businesses, on and alongside the water.

<https://waterwayschaplaincy.org.uk/>



Andy Warhol Exhibition, 19 July to 2 November

The Lightbox Gallery in Woking is hosting an exhibition of paintings, screenprints, drawings and photographs by the internationally renowned American Pop artist, Andy Warhol.

The gallery is open Wednesdays to Sundays [Andy Warhol 1 | Lightbox Gallery](#)



Thursday 26 June

- - -

Thursday 24 July

- - -

Thursday 28 August

10.30 – 12.00

- each month features a different charity

Everyone welcome

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



St Mary's Church Quarry St

Guildford GU1 3UP

Heritage Open Days

12 – 14 September

Friday & Sunday 12.00 – 16.00

Saturday 10.00 – 16.00

**also open 16 & 18 September 11.00 – 15.00*

including

‘OUR TIME 2’

exhibition of art

from prisoners at HMP Send

Refreshments available

Saturday 23 August at Knaphill:



MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING
AND SALE

TEA
COFFEE
BISCUITS
BACON BUTTIES

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

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

4th Saturday every month (except December)

10am to Noon

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



5th August

12th August

19th August

26th August

2nd September

9th September

16th September

23rd September

30th September



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

The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!

You are invited to a Cream Tea

**At Godalming United Church, Bridge Road,
Godalming GU7 3DU**

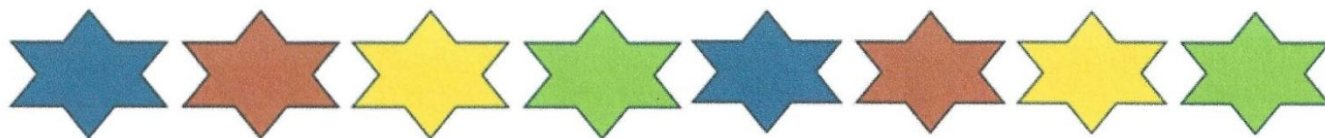
Saturday 6th September 2025

2.30pm to 4.30pm

**In the GUC Church Gardens or River Room
(depending on the weather!)**

**Donations in aid of the Gambian Ophthalmic Project
which provides funds for cataract operations and
follow-up care.**





**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***

EVERY MONTH

1st Saturday – Fun Bingo

*Donations to Sam Beare Hospice or
Open Doors Charity*



**2nd Saturday – A time to sing – favourite
hymns & songs**

3rd Saturday – give popular games a go



**4th Saturday – Hymns, songs
and time for prayer**

Check notice board for any changes

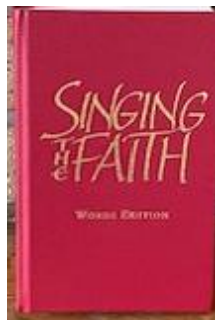


70 years at
MERROW METHODIST CHURCH

Join us for a

**SONGS OF PRAISE
SERVICE**

**On
SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER at 6.30PM**





SHARP: Surrey Healthy Ageing Research Partnership

Are you interested in why some people are more prone to illness with older age, or how we may extend healthy-life span and independent living

Then join us at the University of Surrey for tea and coffee and a chance to learn about our research on healthy ageing.

On Tuesday 9th September 2025, from 2pm-4pm, in the Rik Medlik Building, University of Surrey, we will open our doors to older adults within the local community.

You will have the chance to hear about our research, see posters, can ask questions, and find out what it means to take part in research, and we will provide refreshments!

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by email: SHARP@surrey.ac.uk



SHARP: Surrey Healthy Ageing Research Partnership

Tuesday 9th September from 2-4:30pm, in the Rik Medlik Building, University of Surrey

Open Afternoon Schedule

1:50pm	Arrival with tea, coffee and refreshments
2:00pm	Welcome by Dr Natalie Riddell
2:10pm	Talk 1. Dr Frances Sanders: <i>The AiH project: co-developing hospitable and age-inclusive communities</i>
2:25pm	Talk 2. Dr Kiran Ravindra: <i>Sleep monitoring technologies for improving health and sleep in older adults</i>
2:40pm	Questions and answer session
3:20pm	Meet the researchers and a poster and demonstration exhibition
4:25pm	Close

Please note that access to the Rik Medlik building will not be possible before 1:50pm

Surrey Churches Preservation Trust

Parisian Churches Weekend

26-28 September 2025



Join us for a weekend in Paris exploring five of its most celebrated churches

SCPT Members = £275 / person

Non-members = £300 / person

Your ticket includes:

- ◆ Return rail fare by Eurostar.
- ◆ Admission to the five churches mentioned.
- ◆ Tour guide.
- ◆ Two-course dinner and one-hour evening boat trip along the River Seine on Saturday.
- ◆ A donation to SCPT funds to help maintain churches at home.

It does not include:

- Hotel accommodation—you can book a hotel that best fits your budget and expectations using Booking.com or your usual travel agency. For convenience we encourage you to stay around the Gare du Nord or Gare de l'Est area where a range of boutique hotels is available at a spectrum of prices.
- Dinner on the Friday evening.
- Lunch on Saturday—we suggest you buy a sandwich and a bottle of water on the day so we can picnic on the Quai de Archevêché.
- Wine/drinks with your dinner on Saturday.
- Travel insurance.

Itinerary

Friday, 26 September

- 14:00—Depart London St Pancras Int'l.
- 17:30—Arrive Gare du Nord Station, Paris.
- Check in to your chosen hotel and make your own arrangements for dinner.

Saturday, 27 September:

- 10:00—Visit to Sainte Chapelle.
- 12:00—Tour of the Cathedral of Notre Dame.
- 14:30—Tour of the Église Saint-Louis-en-l'Île.
- 16:00—Tour of Saint Etienne du Mont.
- 18:00—Dinner at *Le Bistro Parisienne* on the Port de la Bourdonnais and cruise along Seine.
- 21:00—Evening stroll around the Eiffel Tower.

Sunday, 28 September:

- 09:30—Visit to the Basilica of Sacré Cœur.
- 14:30—Depart Gare du Nord Station, Paris.
- 16:00—Arrive London St Pancras International.

Our tour begins with a visit to Sainte-Chapelle, a palatine chapel on the Île de la Cité. Built for King (later Saint) Louis IX to house the Holy Crown of Thorns, a piece of the True Cross and various relics of the Passion that he had acquired from 1239 onwards, this former royal chapel boasts one of the finest collections of stained glass in Europe and is known as *The Jewel Box of Paris*.

Our second church is a 10 minute walk away—the medieval Notre-Dame de Paris. Recently restored following the tragic fire on 15 April 2019, the cathedral is a particularly fine example of French Gothic architecture, especially its pioneering use of rib vaults, flying buttresses and huge rose windows.

After lunch we have a 15 minute walk to the Church of Saint-Louis-en-l'Île, a Baroque church hidden behind a plain and innocent-looking façade. It was built 1664-1725 and although much of its original interior was lost in the French Revolution, it was extensively restored in the nineteenth century.

From here we have a 20 minute walk to Saint Etienne du Mont, a sixteenth century church that contains the shrine of St. Geneviève, the patron saint of Paris. Famous for its rood screen and double spiral staircase leading to a gallery, the church was renovated by the City Architect Victor Baltard in 1865-68. He restored the façade and replaced some of the sculpture and stained glass that had been destroyed in the Revolution.

In the evening we will dine together at a bistro by the Eiffel Tower and take a one-hour guided cruise along the River Seine. Once back ashore we can enjoy an

evening stroll around the Eiffel tower before returning to our hotels.

On Sunday, you can either spend the morning doing your own thing in Paris or join us for a visit to Sacré Cœur in Montmartre.

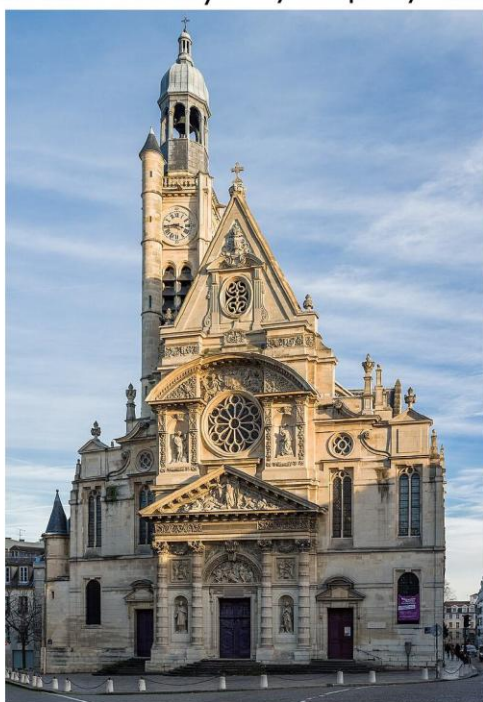
The tour involves a walk of about 30 minutes duration (2½ km). If you have difficulties walking any distance, please let us know so we can provide you with a Navigo Travel Card and map with bus and metro details.

Bookings must be made by writing to Andrew using plumridge@architect-uk.com, and include the names of everyone in your party and confirmation that they have a valid passport. You will then receive a letter giving you further details about the trip and how to pay, as well as a list of hotel suggestions.

Places are limited to 20 on a first-come-first-served basis.

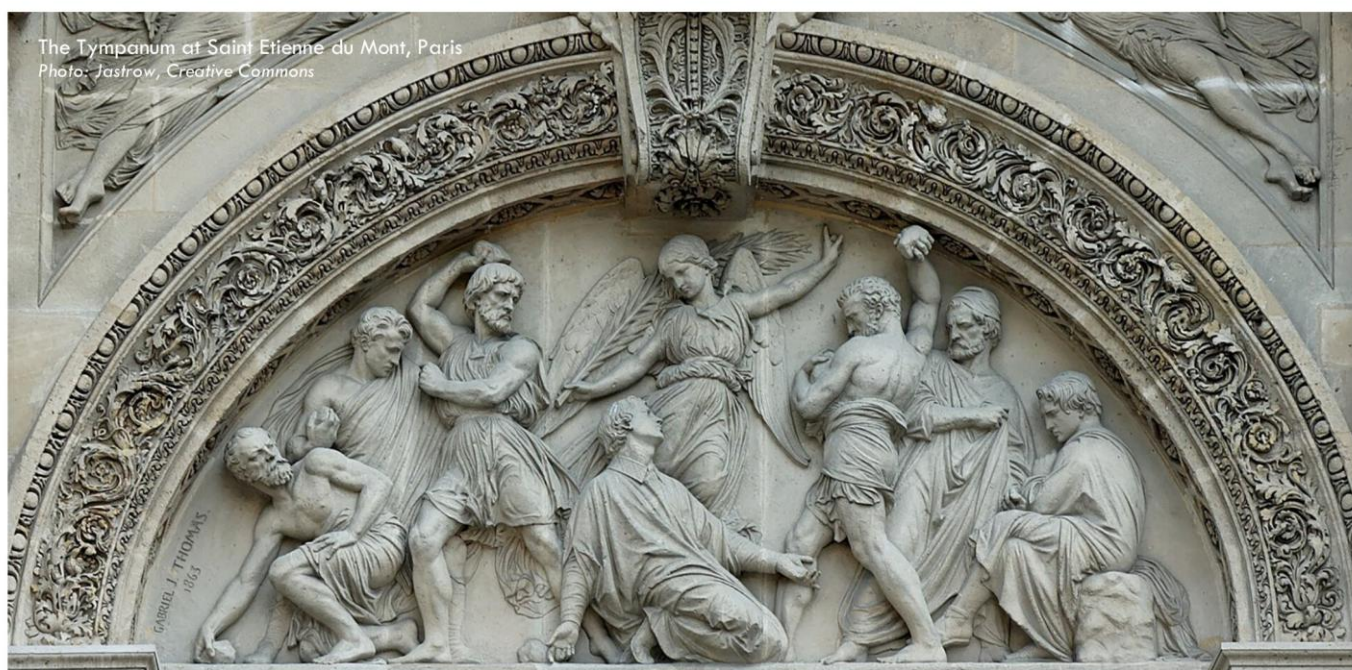
Bookings close 22 August 2025.

If you have any questions, special needs (including diet) or have trouble finding an appropriate hotel, contact Andrew on 07484 062333.



Saint Etienne du Mont, Paris

Photo: David Iliffe, Creative Commons



The Tympanum at Saint Etienne du Mont, Paris
Photo: Jastrow, Creative Commons