

Dear friends,

For 38 years of my 40 years in ministry I have been in Chaplaincy. Two theatres, two schools, one university, one industrial plastics molding company and one 24 hour opening supermarket ('ASDA colleague...happy to help.').

Last week was a busy one with a graduation ceremony to attend (celebrating the retirement of Revd. Duncan Myers as Anglican Chaplain to Surrey University - and his 100 degree ceremonies in 5 years!). You can see from the photo the lovely and very special group of people that I work with - Hindu, Muslim, Ba'Hai, Buddhist, Humanist, Jewish and Christian colleagues.



That was on Friday, but then on Thursday I presented three puppet shows at Woodlands School in Leatherhead. A school for over 100 very special children indeed - many in wheelchairs and often non-verbal. To see the love the staff showed to these amazing young people was inspiring.

Two days before that on Tuesday evening I attended a talk by Bishop Graham Tomlin and something that he said pulled my week together in a quite remarkable way. 'We are not adverts for God,' he said...'we are letters from God.' And if we are going to be authentic, truthful letters that really hit home with people and have an effect on them then those letters need to include our frailty, our brokenness and something of the messiness of the lives that we lead.

Wherever I go, I can only be myself. I am far from perfect. I am not in any remote way an advert for God. I am far too flawed for that. But I can be a letter. Whether it is engaging with

students and their families as part of a multi faith Chaplaincy Team, or doing a puppet show and meeting staff at a very special school, or taking a fellowship group at a Church - all I can do is to remind myself that at all times I am a letter from God in the world.

As Paul says: 2 Cor. 3. 3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Have a good week being letters from God!

Paul



### **Resources/Good News**

#### **Heath Week – 28 July to 3 August**

Heath week returns from 28 July to 3 August and is an opportunity to celebrate and learn more about Surrey's rare heathland habitat. Our heaths are home to some amazing wildlife including nocturnal birds that come all the way from Africa to breed here! Organised by the Thames Basin Heaths Partnership, Heath Week offers the opportunity to take part in a whole host of FREE events.

[Heath Week 2025 - Thames Basin Heaths](#)

#### **24 July is Samaritans Awareness Day**

Samaritans volunteers run more than 200 branches and locations across the UK and Ireland. They offer their time to help to deliver 24-hour emotional support service to callers.

Find out more on the many ways they can offer support [How we can help | How Samaritans can help you | Samaritans](#)

# South East District Welcome Service



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



**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

3pm, followed by refreshments



**Redhill Methodist Church, RH1 1BP**



And streamed online

visit [www.methodistsoutheast.org](http://www.methodistsoutheast.org) in early September for streaming instructions



The **Methodist Church**  
South East District



**Inspire**

**Enable**

**Encourage**

## POP-UP PLAY CAFÉ

**Wednesday 30 July & 13 August 9.30 – 11.30**

... call in at  
**ST. MARY'S**  
Quarry St  
Guildford GU1 3UP

- space to play
- time to relax
- coffee and cake

**All ages welcome**



**FREE!**

duplo

lego

games

brio

a quiet corner

crafts



Saturday 26 July 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



**3<sup>rd</sup> June**

**10<sup>th</sup> June**

**17<sup>th</sup> June**

**24<sup>th</sup> June**

**1<sup>st</sup> July**

**8<sup>th</sup> July**

**15<sup>th</sup> July**

**22<sup>nd</sup> July**

**29<sup>th</sup> July**



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

The choice is yours!

**Everyone welcome – bring a friend!**

*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!

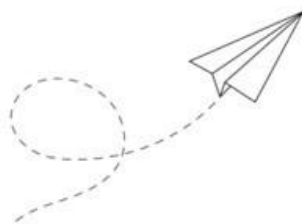


*Craft activities for  
children and adults*



*Toys and games  
– bring your  
favourites*

*Bubbles*



*Free ice  
cream!*



**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2025**

**2.30pm – 5.00pm**

**Merrow Methodist Church**





**STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH**

# **STOUGHTON INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**

***Are you from around the world?  
Are you a Methodist or would like to know  
about Methodism?***

***Do you enjoy a vibrant service? If you answer  
yes to any of these questions.***

***Do join us for an enjoyable and engaging  
service. Come as you are.***

***All are welcome.***

**3RD AUG. 2025 @2PM**

**STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH, STOUGHTON  
ROAD, GUILDFORD, SURREY, GU2 9PT**



**FREE LATE LUNCH FROM AROUND  
THE WORLD AFTER SERVICE.**

**Contact: Rev Quarm 01483575432**

*You are invited to a*

# **CREAM TEA**

*raising funds to support children in need  
in Uganda and Kenya  
through projects close to  
the hearts of St. Mary's worshippers*

**TUESDAY 5 AUGUST**

**2.00 – 4.00 PM**

**ST. MARY'S  
GUILDFORD GU1 3UP**



For further details, contact [gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk)





## 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.

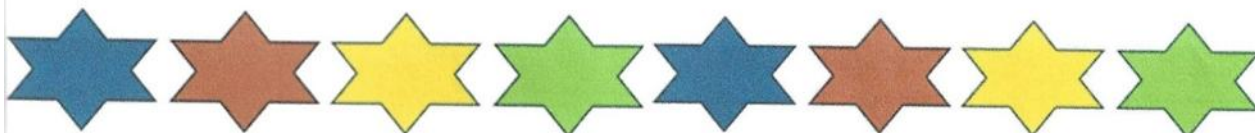
The aims of the programme are to:

- 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](mailto: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***

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

*Donations to Sam Beare Hospice  
or Open Doors Charity*

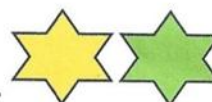


**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays – popular  
hymns & songs to sing to or just  
listen to.**

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



*Check notice board for any changes*



# 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.

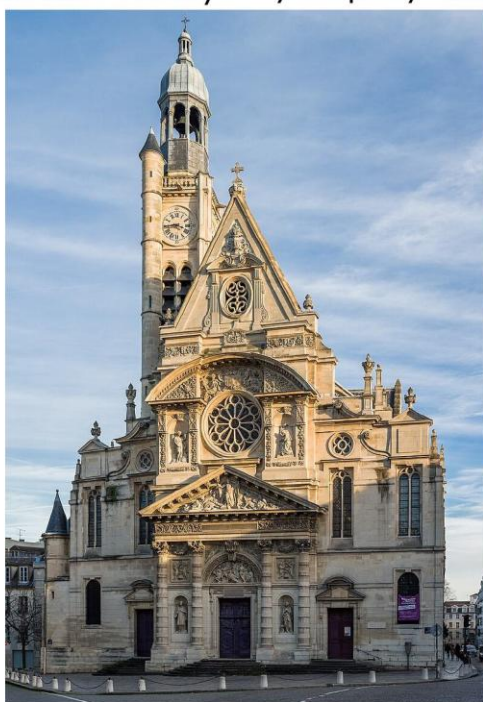
**The tour involves a walk of about 30 minutes duration (2½ km). If you have difficulties walking any distance, please let us know so we can provide you with a Navigo Travel Card and map with bus and metro details.**

**B**ookings must be made by writing to Andrew using [plumridge@architect-uk.com](mailto: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.**

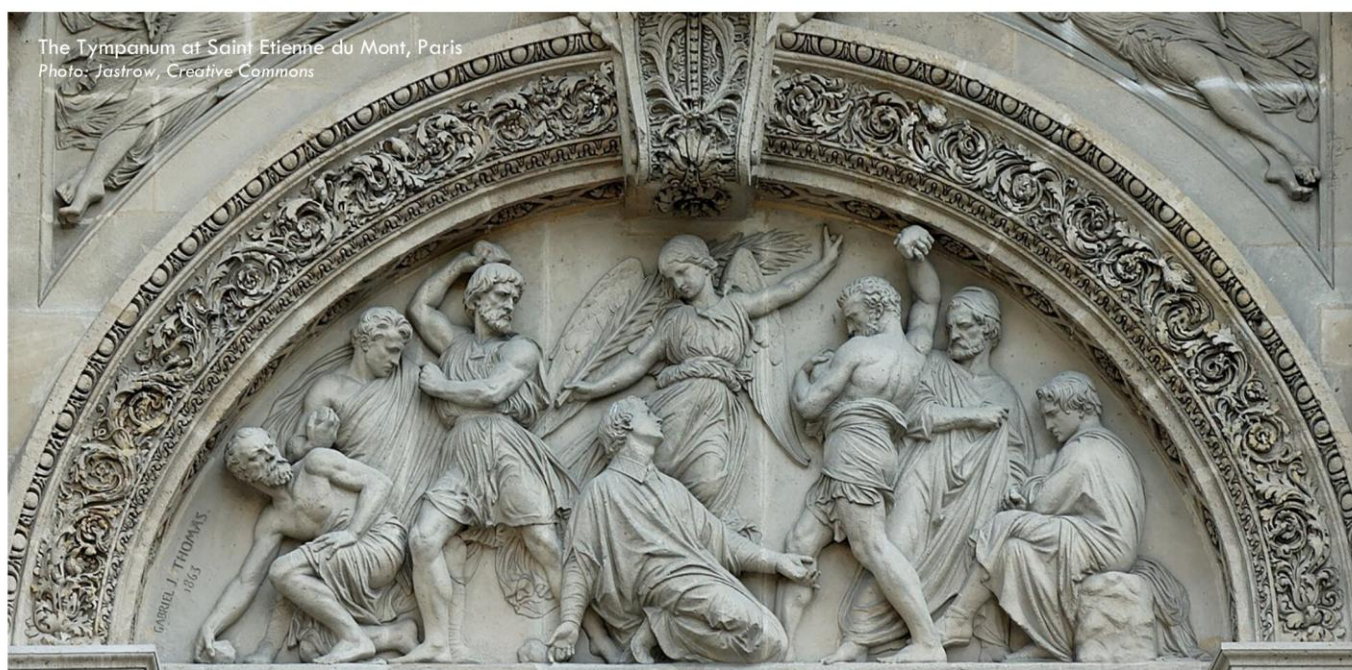
**Bookings close 22 August 2025.**

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