

Are We Supporting or Straining Our Ministers?

A Church-Wide Reflection

Dear friends,

I write with a sincere desire for the growth of God's kingdom and the well-being of those who serve within it. Ministry is a sacred calling, yet it is also a path filled with unseen struggles.

Ministers dedicate their lives to serving others, pouring out their hearts and spirits. However, behind the scenes, they often wrestle with challenges that go unnoticed, challenges that can lead some to consider stepping away. It is important to note this is not a matter of lack of faith, but of insufficient support, appreciation, and understanding.

This is a moment for honest reflection, not judgment.

Are we strengthening our ministers, or unknowingly adding to their burdens?

A Shepherd Without Strength

Recently, a minister in Central Ottawa, Canada, shared his experience. For 28 years, he faithfully led, counselled, and served his congregation. Yet behind his unwavering service, he was exhausted.

The demands never ceased—late-night calls, financial worries, church divisions. Whenever he hinted at needing rest, the response was always: *"The work of God never stops."* He felt guilty for wanting a break.

One Sunday, after delivering a heartfelt sermon, he collapsed in his office, physically and spiritually drained. Weeks later, he stepped away from ministry—not because he lost faith, but because he was broken. His departure shocked the congregation, who only then realised: a shepherd cannot lead if he is struggling.

The Silent Struggles of Ministry

Ministry involves far more than sermons and worship. Ministers guide, counsel, and inspire. But behind their public roles, many bear emotional, spiritual, and administrative burdens.

They carry expectations to be always available, always strong, unwavering in faith. Yet behind closed doors, they wrestle with exhaustion, loneliness, discouragement, and sometimes burnout. When ministers face gossip, criticism, or unreasonable expectations, it can lead to deep emotional wounds.

A church that values and uplifts its ministers becomes a source of strength. Conversely, when ministers feel undervalued or unsupported, many leave—not necessarily from God, but from ministry itself.

These struggles affect all ministers, regardless of background or culture. Indigenous ministers, overseas presbyters, and those new to ministry all face unique challenges. For foreign ministers, subtle or overt racism adds another layer of hardship. Many question their legitimacy, enduring silent struggles while continuing to serve.

A Call for Change: What Can We Do?

Ministers are human—they feel, they hurt, and they need love and respect.

Churches play a vital role in creating environments where ministers are supported and cared for.

- **Encourage them:** A call, a visit, or a word of affirmation can make a significant difference.
- **Recognise their struggles:** Do not assume they are “fine” just because they preach well or not.
- **Address systemic challenges:** Tackle unrealistic expectations and administrative overload.
- **Foster supportive structures:** Leadership training, pastoral support groups, and counselling resources are essential.

A Shared Responsibility

Let us ask ourselves:

- Are we strengthening our ministers, or unknowingly draining them?
- Are we mindful of the weight they carry?
- Are we creating an environment where ministry can flourish?

When we invest in their well-being, we strengthen the entire church community.

A Hopeful Future: Standing Together in Christ

Supporting our ministers is obedience to God’s command to love one another.

When ministers thrive, the church flourishes.

Today, let us lift them, encourage them, and stand alongside them.

Ministry is a shared journey—thriving on love, compassion, and support.

Let us walk together in faith, reflecting Christ’s love to the world.

Thank you, and God bless.

Devotedly yours,

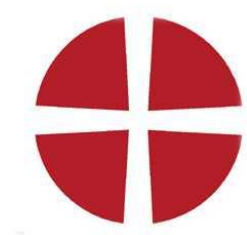
Rev. George Quarm.

Good News and Upcoming Events

We are grateful to share that the tea and coffee programs at Merrow, Stoughton, and West Horsley churches continue to thrive, fostering warm fellowship and meaningful connections within our community. We thank God for this blessing and pray for its ongoing growth and sustainability.

Additionally, we are pleased to invite everyone to the sectional United Service at Sheerwater Community Hub on 29th June at 10:30 am. Led by Rev. Gilliane Holland and Rev. George Quarm, this gathering will be an opportunity for worship, reflection, and strengthening our unity in Christ. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing in this special time together.

Postcode to Sheerwater Church: GU21 5PJ (Dartmouth Avenue).



What does it mean to be part of a welcoming community?

In this film, Christians from Britain and those who have sought asylum, reflect on experiences of receiving and offering welcome. They tell their stories of pain, courage, action, transformation and friendship, and encourage everyone to take a first step of connection. Their stories are a reminder that hospitality is a clear challenge to hostility.

Sanctuary Sunday is marked at the end of Refugee Week and aims to promote the Church of Sanctuary programme, building cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety in our churches.

[What does it mean to be part of a welcoming community? | Sanctuary Sunday](#)

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

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!

Saturday 28 June at Knaphill:

The advertisement features a central illustration of a coffee cup on the left and a person serving drinks at a counter on the right. A large brown sign with white text reads "MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING". Below this, the word "AND" is written in red, followed by "SALE" in large red letters. To the right of the person, a blue sign lists "TEA", "COFFEE", "BISCUITS", and "BACON BUTTIES". Below the main illustration, there is a row of small icons representing various items for sale: a book, a DVD, a jigsaw, a cake, and bric-a-brac. The text "BOOKS, DVDs, JIGSAWS, CAKES, BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE" is written in red. At the bottom, a black banner contains the text "KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL" in orange, "4th Saturday every month (except December)" in yellow, and "10am to Noon" in blue. A small circular logo with a cross and the letters "KMC" is in the top left corner.

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

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

Practical Aspects of Spirituality



**THE NICENE CREED
AT 1,700 YEARS
– why it still matters**

led by

Andrew Wheeler

**Saturday 5 July 2025
09.30 – 12.00**

**St. Mary's Church
Guildford GU1 3UP**

Refreshments from 09.15

If you would like to attend please email gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk



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



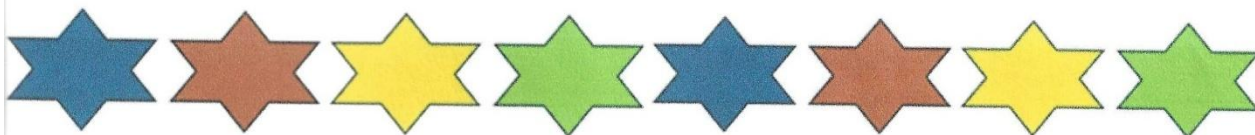
Scan for more info
and to book tours



 **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

