

Dear Friends,

I think there can be no doubt that the world we live in is a Time of Trouble. OK, I pinched that phrase from the historian Arnold Toynbee, but it is no less true. Toynbee goes on to say, 'To the faint-hearted, a Time of Trouble is the epilogue of what has gone before it. To the [person] of faith, a Time of Trouble is the prelude to what is to follow.' Again, I lay no claim to having found that for myself. Toynbee was being quoted by the late Harry Williams when he was Provost of Coventry Cathedral, in an address in Germany in 1961, entitled 'Coventry, A Symbol of Reconciliation'. Williams went on to say, 'It remains a terrifying thing that history today is being moulded around prejudices which are rooted in events in the past, and not around hopes which are inspired by the vision of the future.'

I found these comments while preparing for a sermon on forgiveness last Sunday, though didn't use them then. Here are two more quotes: from the American scholar and preacher Walter Brueggemann: 'When we live according to our fears and our hates, our lives become very small and defensive, lacking the deep, joyous generosity of God.' And, from the late John Ferguson of the United Reformed Church, 'She buried the hatchet, but every week and sometimes twice a week, she laid flowers on its grave.'

We in the Church do better, don't we? Or do we? The truth is that church people like to look back, for the familiar is comforting. It took a long time to move on from the King James version of the Bible, and some never have. Nothing wrong in that. We hung on to 'thee's' and 'thou's' in our prayers for as long as we could, and sometimes still do. Not that I can talk, in my cassock, originating in the ancient tunic of the barbarian in ancient Roman times and my 18th century bands at the neck, not to mention my love of liturgy and Charles Wesley hymns. Nor is looking back a bad thing in itself. There are some things we should never forget: this year we remember Auschwitz, Dresden, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, all within my lifetime. Yet we see echoes of that history so soon after, in today's wars, in the movement of rootless people looking for a home, in the abuse of vulnerable people, particularly women and children, in the condemnation of others, just because of who they are, or what they think.

In his address to his former enemies, only 16 years after the Second World War, Harry Williams said, 'Only God can wipe out the past, and that is what forgiveness means.' I believe he had a point when he contrasted those who work to remember the past, 'and to see in the future nothing, apart from an opportunity to redress the past'; and those – and I hope we are among them – who live in the light of God's future.

A prayer by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936):

O God, who set before us the great hope that your kingdom shall come on earth and taught us to pray for its coming; give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning and to work for the perfect day when the whole world shall reflect your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessings,

Peter

Resources/Good News

COVID-19 Day of Reflection | Sunday 9 March 2025

Sunday 9 March 2025 is the Day of Reflection across the UK for the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is an opportunity to come together to remember those who lost their lives since the pandemic began and to honour the tireless work and acts of kindness shown during this unprecedented time.

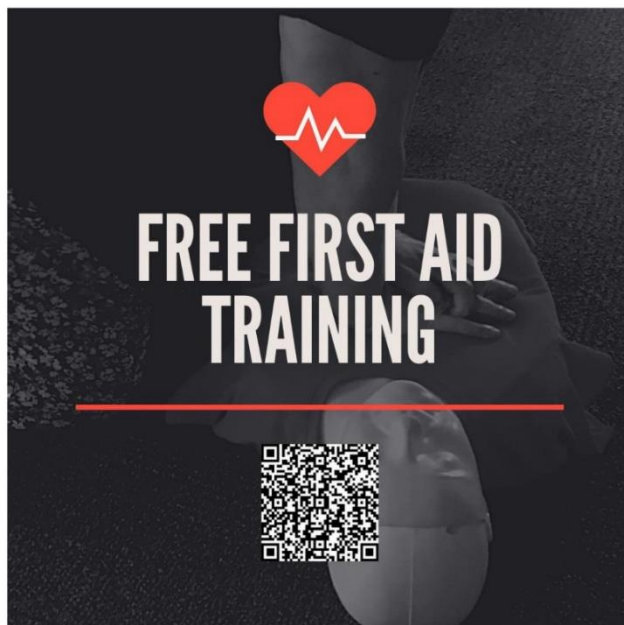
2025 marks five years since the pandemic began and we continue to honour and remember those affected.

People and communities are invited to come together on the COVID-19 Day of Reflection, to mark the day in ways that feel meaningful to them.

[COVID-19 Day of Reflection 2025](#)



**COVID-19
DAY OF
REFLECTION
9 MARCH 2025**



Would you have the confidence or ability to react immediately to an incident, injury or illness?

The British Red Cross and Surrey Prepared are hosting free first aid training sessions designed to help you do just that. Suitable for beginners or those with existing knowledge.

- **Woking** Tues 25 Feb 25 – 18:30 – 20:30
- **Horley** Tues 22 April 25 – 18:30 – 20:30
- **Dorking** Tues 20 May 25 – 18:30-20:30
- **Haslemere** Tues 24 June 25– 18:30-20:30

“An amazing First Aid course. Clearly presented, very informative, practical and fun”

Places are limited, so book your place now using the QR code or via

<https://bit.ly/CommunityFirstAid>

Tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis.

**Please note this course is designed to improve confidence and skills but is not a formal first aid qualification.*

**COFFEE
AND CAKE
AT ST. MARY'S
QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP**

- supporting the work of

oakleaf 

MAKING LIFE WORK WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

THURSDAY

27

FEBRUARY

10.30 – 12.00

Everyone welcome



SURREY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Are you working in the community, providing a service for people with dementia?

Join us at the Dementia Experience Exchange (DEXX) forum

Share your wealth of knowledge and experience with others in the dementia day care circle in Surrey.

A space for you to:

- Share your experiences
- Share best practise
- Make new contacts
- Gain support and resources
- Talk about the great things you do

27 February 11.00am – 1230pm via teams

To register your interest in this forum, please rsvp to
nicola.haswell@surreycc.gov.uk

Circuit Mission Supper Saturday 8 March 2025

**Trinity Methodist Church Woking
6.00 for 6.30pm**

Fish & Chips (battered sausage/Vegan options available)

Cost £10 – tickets available from church stewards.

Bring your own crockery & cutlery

Speaker - Trey Hall



Trey Hall is a Methodist pioneer, church planting strategist, and evangelist. Since 2000 he has established and led churches in the United Kingdom and the United States, served as Mission Advisor for the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church in Britain, and coached scores of practitioners renewing inherited forms of church or launching fresh expressions of church.

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**

Virtual Dementia Experience

Ever wondered what it might feel like to live with dementia? Come and find out!

Wednesday 5 March

The Hive, Park Barn Drive, Guildford, GU2 8EN

2 sessions available

10am till 1pm*

or

1.30pm till 4.30pm*

*Must attend for the 3 hours



To book

✉ community.wellbeing@guildford.gov.uk

☎ 01483 444150



care UK



Right at Home
Quality Care in Your Home

NEW! **THE SUNFLOWER CAFE**



Enjoy a cuppa, biscuits and great company at The Sunflower Cafe. The cafe is aimed specifically at individuals living with Dementia and their carers providing them the opportunity to meet with others in a welcoming environment!



Godalming Baptist Church, 15 Queen Street, Godalming, GU7 1BA

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Nearest Parking: Queen Street Pay & Display next to the Church or Crown Court Car Pay & Display approx. 2-minute walk.

**Thursday 13th February 2025
Thursday 13th March 2025
Thursday 17th April 2025
Thursday 8th May 2025
Thursday 5th June 025**



BOOK YOUR FREE HOME SAFETY CHECK TODAY



Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, in partnership with NHS Surrey Heartlands, is offering a FREE Home Safety Check to help reduce falls and fire risks in the home.

You must be registered with one of the following GP Practices:

The Mill Medical Practice, Godalming
Binscombe Medical Centre, Binscombe
Cranleigh Medical Practice, Cranleigh
Springfield Surgery, Elstead
Wonersh Surgery, Wonersh

OUR SERVICES:

- ✓ Focus on falls prevention
- ✓ Ensuring homes are warm, safe, well-maintained
- ✓ Reducing fire hazards
- ✓ installation of free essential safety equipment

SPEAK TO YOUR GP PRACTICE OR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL WHO CAN REFER YOU INTO THE SERVICE.



Guildford and Waverley Health and Care Alliance

2025 open GARDENS

in aid of Phyllis Tuckwell

*Do you love
your garden?*

Why not open your garden to friends and family, or join our public 2025 Open Gardens campaign, and help raise money for local hospice care.

*Call for
gardens*

Scan me!



Gardens of all size and design can take part. If you have a unique and interesting garden we would love you to join our 2025 Open Gardens. You could even get together with your neighbours and do a group opening.

To find out more and to arrange a garden visit by our team please call 01252 729446 or email fundraising@pth.org.uk