

Dear friends,

As many of us did, I watched the commemoration of VE Day earlier this year, celebrating the ending of the war in Europe 80 years ago (when I was but a baby, not yet a toddler). It was also the Government's way of remembering VJ Day, the celebration of victory over Japan, later in 1945 – though if you blinked you may have missed that detail. VE day (8th May) was not in fact the day that the Second World War ended: thousands of servicemen and women were still engaged in fighting a fierce and often cruel enemy in the Far East. However, the 80th anniversary of VJ Day will soon be upon us. The original VJ Day was actually a 48-hour period: the 15th and 16th August 1945, chosen by the new Labour Prime Minister, Clement Attlee. As in May, there were celebrations, street parties and a sense of joy that it was all over at last. Except that it wasn't. Attlee was a trifle premature. The fighting had not stopped. As late as the 20th August British, Indian, American and Japanese troops were still fighting and dying in what is now Myanmar. The surrender did not take place until 2nd September.

What is true is that the Japanese government had begun to discuss surrender terms in August. The war had reached Japan and the Japanese people, and several attacks on their cities using incendiary bombs had killed thousands. But it was the horror which followed which finally broke Japanese resolve. On 6th August 1945 an American Boeing B-29 bomber dropped a single bomb on the city of Hiroshima, a bomb the likes of which had never been seen or used before. It had been developed by German (yes, German), British and American scientists and was called the Atomic Bomb. That one bomb killed 60,000 people and injured 100,000 others, many of whom were to die of radiation poisoning in the years following. A second A-bomb was dropped on the charming port and town of Nagasaki (the setting for Puccini's opera *Madam Butterfly*) on the 9th August, with similar results.

Both cities were laid waste. Almost all houses and other buildings within a nine-mile radius were destroyed. I have seen aerial photos which showed that destruction: remarkably similar to the aerial images of Gaza that I saw in the news yesterday. I have my own opinions about Hamas, unelected, murderous, oppressive rulers of the people in Gaza, and about the inappropriate response by a so-called civilised nation which has reduced so many homes, schools, churches and hospitals to ruins, and led, it seems, to starvation amongst so many. Governments wage war, and the innocent suffer. Before throwing stones, I can never forget that we dropped those two bombs 80 years ago.

I read an article thirty years ago, whilst serving with the United Nations in another war zone, surrounded by destroyed towns and meeting people affected by their experience of loss and bewilderment and grief. Not that Bosnia could be compared with Hiroshima, Nagasaki or Gaza. The article was by a Methodist minister who found himself serving as a Royal Air Force chaplain in Japan in the weeks following the bombings. One day he came across another Methodist pastor clearing the rubble that was all that was left of his church. The chaplain appealed to his own congregation when he returned home and managed to raise a substantial amount of money towards the rebuilding of the church and manse in Hiroshima.

Fifty years later he was invited back to the church, by which time the pastor, Kyoshi Tanimoto, had died of radiation poisoning, but his widow Chisa and his daughter Koko were still there. Koko was eight months old when the bomb fell – and it had made her childless. Her father worked for peace and reconciliation for the rest of his life. When Koko was ten, he took her

with him to America, and there she met Robert Lewis, the co-pilot of the B29 bomber *Enola Gay* that had dropped the bomb. I'll use her own words, as reported by the chaplain: 'What happened then really changed my life for he spoke with sadness, saying that as they looked back and saw the horrendous destruction he wrote in his log, "Oh, God, what have we done?" I saw tears in his eyes and I ran over and held his hand tight. At that moment I realised that hating people was not the way and suddenly I felt a release as though a burden had been lifted from my heart.' I suspect that there was not a dry eye in that television studio. (I've told this story before, but think it worth repeating.)

Jesus said, 'You have heard that it was said, "you shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy." But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.'

One of my favourite prayers was written by another Methodist, Queen Salote of Tonga:

'Grant, O God, that we who are one in our need of your forgiveness, may be one in our acts of compassion. May we who are made one in your love become one in our common life. May we who speak many languages dwell together as one race in unity with our one heavenly Father, and this we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.'

Blessings,

Peter

Resources/Good News

Survey on Ambient Voice Technology



The NHS is thinking about using **Ambient Voice Technology** (AVT) to help doctors and nurses take notes during your appointment. This means they can spend **more time talking** and **listening** to you, and **less time typing** on a computer. AVT listens **quietly** in the background and **writes down** important things the doctor says.

You might have seen this kind of technology at **home**, like when you say "**Hey Siri**" or "**Alexa**", or in smart speakers, TVs, or cars.

Please complete this [survey](#) by **Sunday 10th August 2025** to tell us what you think. There are 10 questions asking for your views on AVT, and an optional 10 questions about you. The survey should take 10 minutes to complete.

Contact us for further information:

[email](mailto:sxicb.involvement@nhs.net) us at sxicb.involvement@nhs.net
phone us on 0300 140 9854

Kind regards,

Engagement Team

Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System | NHS Surrey Heartlands

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

POP-UP PLAY CAFÉ

FREE!

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



duplo

lego

games

brio

crafts

a quiet corner

Saturday 16 August 2025 2.00-4.00pm

Knaphill Methodist Church, The Broadway, Knaphill GU21 2DR

(between Boots & the old Lloyds Bank)

Clothes4U

a clothes bank supporting the local community

To claim your FREE clothes, collect a voucher from 30+ places in Surrey. Email us to find out where they are:

clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Due to huge generosity lately from the residents of Knaphill and beyond, clothes donations are not being accept at all for the time being.

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.**





***SAVE
THE DATES ****

**St Mary's
Guildford**

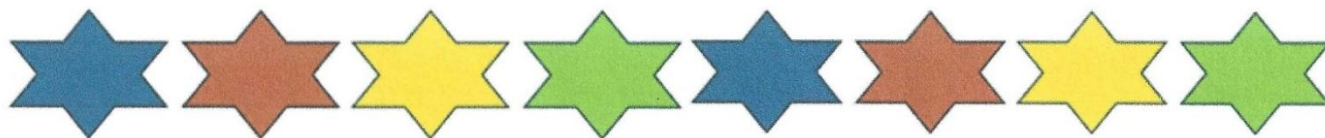
is open during

**Heritage
Weekend**

***12 – 14 September
2025***

**Refreshments
available**

** Look out for further details*



**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

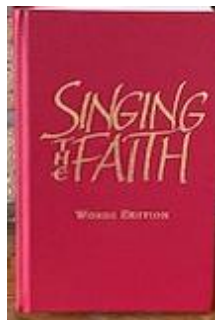


70 years at
MERROW METHODIST CHURCH

Join us for a

**SONGS OF PRAISE
SERVICE**

On
SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER at 6.30PM





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**

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.

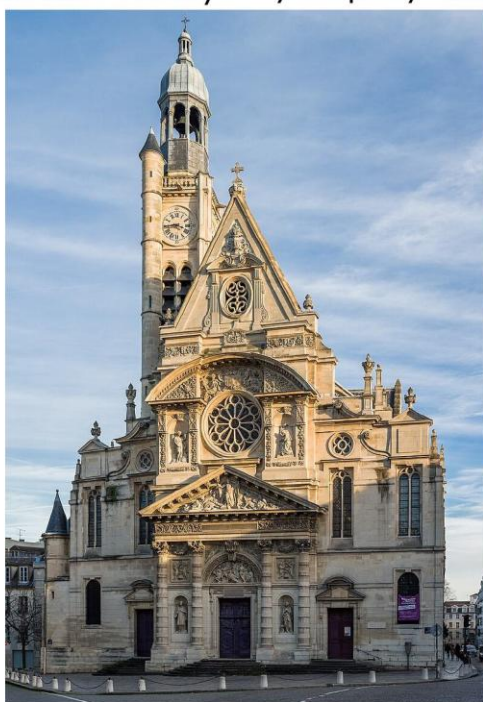
The tour involves a walk of about 30 minutes duration (2½ km). If you have difficulties walking any distance, please let us know so we can provide you with a Navigo Travel Card and map with bus and metro details.

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.

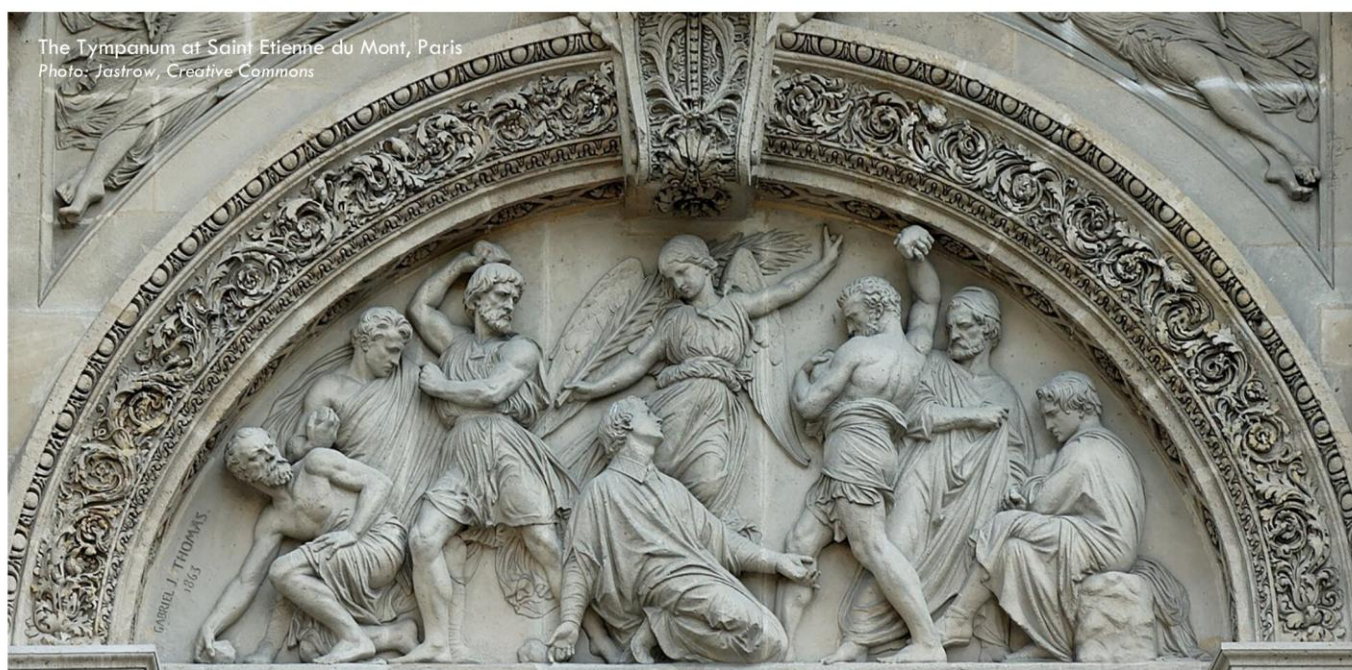
Bookings close 22 August 2025.

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