

Dear Friends

Today, as you know, is February 11th, just three days away from St. Valentine's Day. Valentine was a clergyman – either a priest or a bishop – in the Roman Empire who ministered to persecuted Christians. He was martyred and his body buried on the Via Flaminia on February 14th, which has been observed as Saint Valentine's Day since at least the eighth century. For no very clear reason, Valentine's Day has long been linked with romance and devotion.

Of course, in Christian circles the great hymn to love is found in Paul's letter to the Corinthians...a passage frequently read at weddings and sometimes at funerals. The love celebrated in Paul's hymn is not in fact romantic love...eros...but rather God's caring, sacrificial love for us...agape... our love for God and our love for each other. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, he was suggesting to them that it was agape love...wanting the very best for each other...that ought to characterise their dealings with each other in the church.

Speaking of church, Saint Valentine's Church in Rome was built in 1960 for the needs of the Olympic Village and, coincidentally, the Winter Olympics 2026 have just begun in Italy. Apparently, there are six Olympic Villages because the two host cities, Milano and Cortina, are some 250 miles apart and the Games are spread all over northern Italy.

The official Olympic motto, Citius, Altius, Fortius-Communiter (Faster, Higher, Stronger-Together), highlights the pursuit of excellence and unity in sport.

May it be that those who compete and those who watch do so not only in the spirit of the Olympic motto but also in a true spirit of agape.

Blessings

*Allan*

### **Resources/Good News**

#### **40acts: Do Lent generously**

#### **Starts 18 February 2026**

Join thousands this Lent for a 40-day generosity challenge – building habits, deepening faith and reflecting the heart of Jesus through everyday acts.

Each day offers a simple invitation to give, bless, and grow in generosity – one act at a time.

The 40-day Lent challenge includes a Methodist Charity - 'Fund for Human Need', the Chair of which is a past Chair of our District, Rev Roger Cresswell.

[40acts: Do Lent generously](#)

## Notices

### **Church Chairs Seeking a New Home**

Guildford St Mary's has about 30 upholstered wooden chairs, some Blue and some Teal green, which we are retiring and need to dispose of before late February when the Methodist Art exhibition is being set up.

If your church would like some or all of them, or if you can think of any other good home for them, please get in touch with Nigel as soon as possible (contact details below).

They are in good condition and comfortable. They have book racks on their backs and a shelf underneath. Some have arms.

Nigel Campion-Smith

[Nigel.campion-smith@outlook.com](mailto:Nigel.campion-smith@outlook.com)

07836 206774

### **Pudding and Praise Service at Walton-on-Thames, Sunday 15 February**

Taking place on the cusp of Lent on Sunday 15 February at 4pm for Tea and Puddings, and then 4.30pm to 5.30pm for the time of Praise led by Breeze and a short reflection led by Ross Richardson.



The theme for the service is: **“A Time for Letting Go and a Time for Embracing.”** It will act as a gateway into our Lent experience, and All are Welcome to come along.

If you have any questions, please contact Ross Richardson at:

[r.richardson952@btinternet.com](mailto:r.richardson952@btinternet.com)

Additionally, our contemplative group that meets on a Thursday night will have Lent focussed meditations in the sessions between Thursday 19 February and Thursday 2 April.

If you would like further information about this, please speak to Ross or email him at [r.richardson952@btinternet.com](mailto:r.richardson952@btinternet.com) for further information.

This group meets each Thursday evening at the Church for 30 minutes for a short Ignatian styled meditation on a gospel story (drawn from the Taketime organisation [www.taketime.org.uk](http://www.taketime.org.uk)), a lot of which is simply spent in quiet.

The meeting is also streamed live on Zoom so if you fancy joining in from the comfort of your couch at home – feel free to do this.

The current Zoom link is below:

Topic: Contemplative Oasis

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82202518784?pwd=mfgoixs2bLfF8qIlg7Xlgp8UzMwt2wb.1>

Meeting ID: 822 0251 8784

Passcode: qU5mks



Stay for FREE tea,  
coffee & a chat

## Clothes4U

Pre loved clothes with TLC

from

**Knaphill Methodist Church**

Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2DR



**Saturday 21 February 2026 2 - 4pm**

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](mailto:clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)



All are welcome to join us for tea, coffee, cake & a chat in a friendly environment



Whether you're looking for clothes for yourself, friends, or family



We have lovely, pre-loved clothes for everyone to take away & enjoy wearing



We look forward to meeting you & your family



If you would like to donate clothes, please contact us on the email below



If you would like to volunteer, we would warmly welcome your help

[www.knaphill-methodist-church.com/clothes4U](http://www.knaphill-methodist-church.com/clothes4U)

[clothes@knaphill-methodist-church.com](mailto:clothes@knaphill-methodist-church.com)

# STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

## COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



3<sup>rd</sup> February

10<sup>th</sup> February

17<sup>th</sup> February

24<sup>th</sup> February

3<sup>rd</sup> March

10<sup>th</sup> March

17<sup>th</sup> March

24<sup>th</sup> March

31<sup>st</sup> March

2026



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

The choice is yours!

**Everyone welcome – bring a friend!**

# FROM DARKNESS



## ... TO LIGHT

Explore stunning works  
from internationally renowned artists such as  
**Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink,  
Patrick Heron and Maggi Hambling**

at

**St Mary's  
Quarry Street  
Guildford GU1 3UP**

**9 March to 5 April 2026**

Free public opening times will include  
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays  
9 March – 5 April 11.00 – 15.00

St Mary's  
Church

# Events open to all:

Wednesday 11 March * Ticketed event	19.00	<b>A Journey through the Passion:</b> Prof. Ben Quash in conversation with Rev. Karen Case-Green
Thursday 12 March	12.30	<b>A Lunchtime Lent Reflection:</b> Rev Sarah Hutton introduces three water-themed images
Saturday 14 March	09.30 to 11.30	<b>Practical Aspects of Spirituality: Dark ... Light ... the Spirit in paint:</b> Rev. Paul Glass
Thursday 19 March	12.30	<b>A Lunchtime Lent Reflection:</b> Rev. Karen Case-Green introduces Lee-Elliott's Crucified tree-form – the Agony.
Friday 20 March * Ticketed event	19.30	<b>From Darkness ... to Light:</b> Reflections in music and poetry, with poet Alwyn Marriage and 'cellist Annelies Terry.
Wednesday 25 March * Ticketed event	19.00	<b>A Door to the Holy: Contemporary Art &amp; Faith</b> A talk by Laura Moffatt
Thursday 26 March	12.30	<b>A Lunchtime Lent Reflection:</b> Rev. Brian Roberts introduces Cazalet's Fool of God and Brokenshire's Pentecost
Sunday 29 March	18.00	<b>Shadows of the Cross</b> - a Palm Sunday Reflection including music from <i>In Nomine</i> Choir
30 March – 5 April		Programme of events for Holy Week to be published on the website

\* Ticketed events: £10 each  
see Eventbrite for  
MMAC Guildford

More details at  
[www.htsmguildford.org/mmac-2026](http://www.htsmguildford.org/mmac-2026)  
For further enquiries:  
[MMAC2026@htsmguildford.org.uk](mailto:MMAC2026@htsmguildford.org.uk)



Mark Cazalet: Fool of God. Lee-Elliott: Crucified tree-form – the Agony. Richard Bavin: The Empty Tomb.

Images from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission.  
[www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection](http://www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection)



# Circuit Mission Supper

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**6pm for 6:30pm**

**At Trinity Methodist Church, Woking**

Fish and Chips (battered sausage  
/vegan options available)

Cost £10 – tickets available from  
the Church Stewards

**Bring your own crockery and cutlery**



## Speaker: Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman

Grace is a former mission partner, who has worked alongside her husband Daniel, in Cameroon, Italy and Uganda. Grace and her family have now settled in the Northampton Circuit.

Grace will be sharing about her experience as a mission partner and the subject of the talk will be 'Unusual Kindness'.

# FREE FUN AND GAMES THIS MONTH



## ADDLESTONE METHODIST CHURCH

71 Station Road (next to Subway)

10.30am-12pm (Doors Open 10am)

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Free Bingo in Coffee Lounge, Tea, Coffee and Cake

**Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Sing-a-long in church to popular hymns and songs,  
Tea, Coffee and Cake

**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Feb** – Free Games morning in Lounge, Scrabble is game of the month,  
Tea, Coffee and Cake

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Time to Sing, Discuss and Pray, Tea, Coffee and Cake

**Play.  
Laugh.  
Connect.**



**Churches Together in Byfleet  
Ecumenical Lent Group**

**At**

**St Michael's Church,  
Sheerwater**

**7pm refreshments  
for a 715pm start**

# **Superstar**

**The course booklet is written by DAVID WILBOURNE** who studied Natural Sciences and Theology at Cambridge. David has been a vicar and published six books. Having worked with three Archbishops of York, he went on to serve as Assistant Bishop of Llandaff.

*"It's 1970 – Edward Heath becomes PM, Apollo 13 limps back to earth, and Jesus Christ Superstar takes the West End by storm, asking daring questions that gave colour to my former monochrome faith and fired my vocation. Half a century on, its message remains just as relevant, and we explore themes from its iconic lyrics in the 5 sessions of this course".*

**Session 1 - 25<sup>th</sup> February: Who is Jesus?**

**Session 2 - 4<sup>th</sup> March: Miracles**

**Session 3 - 11<sup>th</sup> March: The Psalms**

**Session 4 - 18<sup>th</sup> March: The Church**

**Session 5 - 25<sup>th</sup> March: Cross Purposes**



Woking People of Faith

The WPOF Environmental Working Party invite you to

# HELP THE HEATHER

**JOIN US TO HELP THE HEATHER  
SURVIVE ON HORSELL COMMON!**

**Saturday 14th of February**



**10 am - 12 pm**



**Horsell Common  
(meet at Heather Farm at 9.45 am)**



**Bring Boots and Gloves!**

**All welcome!**

For more information email John West:

**[westjohn630@gmail.com](mailto:westjohn630@gmail.com)**

# LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS!?!

*Do you have a conversation in your church  
that goes something like this?*

PERSON 1: "We've got a (or two, or three!) Local Arrangement(s)  
on the Plan this quarter. What are we going to do?"

PERSON 2: "Oh no! I don't know! Do you think we could get away  
with another 'Songs of Praise' service? Or can we find someone  
else to do it for us?"



Well... DON'T PANIC! Help is at hand!

We've finally got round to planning a session to help you with  
some ideas, resources and encouragement.

*(Apologies for the delay, someone was a bit poorly!)*

**Who it's for?** Stewards, Worship Leaders;  
anyone in the Congregation that it's interested really!

**Where?** TRINITY, WOKING

**When?** Sat 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30-4.30pm

**SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION TO  
FOLLOW NEARER THE TIME!**