

The Wey Forward

Issue 39 – March to May 2026



FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

9 MARCH – 5 APRIL 2026



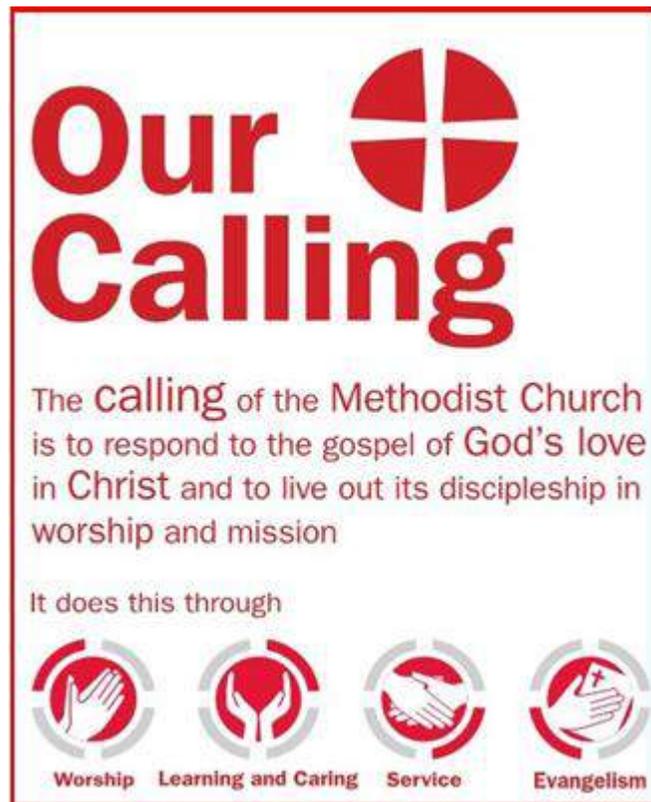
Richard Bavin: The Empty Tomb.

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit came into being on 1 September 2016. It was formed by the joining of 13 churches in the Guildford and Woking & Walton-on-Thames circuits. Each church has its own distinctive personality and gifts, and continues to look forward to mutual sharing and support and to responding together to the gospel of God's love in the community and the wider world. (For those not familiar with the term, a "circuit" is an administrative group of Methodist churches in the same geographical area).

Our churches can be found in :

- Addlestone
- Byfleet
- Cranleigh
- Godalming
- Guildford
- Knaphill
- Merrow
- Sheerwater
- Stoughton
- Walton-on-Thames
- West Horsley
- Weybridge
- Woking



If you are a visitor or newcomer to the area, or living here and seeking a church for the first time, please visit our website - www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk to find a church that meets your spiritual and pastoral needs.

The Circuit Office is open each weekday morning from 9am to 1pm and Lucy Venmore, the Circuit Administrator, can be contacted on circuitoffice@veyvalleycircuit.org.uk or 07808 046451.

This quarterly newsletter aims to showcase what is going on around the Circuit, provide relevant information for the forthcoming quarter and offer some thought-provoking articles.

Lucy Venmore

Editor

A Message From Our Superintendent

A poor Scottish farmer by the name of Fleming was working in his field when he heard a cry coming from the nearby bog. Immediately he dropped his tools and rushed towards the sound of the cries. When he got there, he found a terrified young boy trying to fight his way out of the thick black muck. Fleming waded into the bog, grabbed the young boy and saved his life. The next day a fancy carriage pulled up to the Fleming's small, rundown farmhouse. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Fleming had saved. 'I want to repay you' he said. 'You saved my son's life.' 'No, I can't accept payment,' said Fleming. At that moment a young boy came to the door of the farmhouse. 'Is that your son?' the nobleman asked. 'Yes' replied the farmer. 'Let me take him with me and give him a good education. If the lad is anything like his father, he will grow to be a man you can be proud of.' Knowing what an expensive education could do for his son, Farmer Fleming accepted the offer. In time his son graduated and became known throughout the world as Sir Alexander Fleming – the discoverer of penicillin. But that's not all. Years later the nobleman's son was stricken with pneumonia. His life was saved by penicillin. The nobleman's name was Lord Randolph Churchill and his son's name was Winston...Winston Churchill.

Looking at the world around us we sometimes wonder – what can one person do against this constant stream of anger and violence? As we see Jesus hanging on the cross and as we contemplate the empty tomb, we can see the power of an act of loving sacrifice. On top of that, as we look through the pages of Christian history, we see time and time again the power of what that life of love and hope has achieved through the years.

Let Lent be a time for reflection but let Easter be a time of hope, courage and strength. A time when we become really aware of what one person can do – and the power of what those lives linked together by love can achieve.

Revd. Dr. Paul Glass



The Year of the Horse: A New Year of Hope

The Lunar New Year of 2026 is the Year of the Horse. In both Eastern and Western cultures, the horse is seen as a lively and powerful animal. It stands for energy, movement, courage, and the strength to keep going. Throughout history, horses have played an important role: carrying soldiers into battle, appearing in the Greek story of the Trojan Horse, and standing beside medieval knights as symbols of honour and loyalty. Western culture also remembers the exciting chariot race in Ben-Hur and cowboys riding freely across the American West. Even in the First World War, horses were not just tools — they were faithful partners who faced danger and hardship with the soldiers.



The procession of the Trojan Horse in Troy by Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo

In fairy tales, horses often represent hope and rescue. Snow White waits for the prince who comes riding on a white horse. And in Shakespeare's *Richard III*, the king cries out, "A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!" showing how important horses once were for survival.

In Chinese culture, the horse also has a special meaning. It is not only an animal symbol but also a common Chinese family name — Ma (馬). Some families received this name because their ancestors worked as officials who cared for horses. In the Chinese Muslim community (the Hui people), the surname 'Ma' is often used as a short form of the name Muhammad. In many cases, the name carries

the cultural meaning of strength and loyalty, just like the horse itself. Many common sayings use the horse to describe good qualities:

馬到成功 — May success gallop towards you

一馬當先 — To gallop at the front

馬不停蹄 — To keep galloping without pause — working with steady, ongoing effort

千軍萬馬 — A mass of troops and galloping horses

走馬看花 — A horseback glance

青梅竹馬 — Childhood companions who grew up together

These sayings show how deeply the horse is part of Chinese imagination and New Year blessings.



One of the most famous blessings is “the spirit of the dragon and the horse” (龍馬精神). In Chinese tradition, the dragon is a heavenly creature that represents honour, wisdom, and hope. The horse represents strength, courage, loyalty, and steady action. When the dragon and the horse come together, they bring heaven and earth into harmony — the dragon’s vision and the horse’s energy, the dragon’s hope and the horse’s endurance.

This idea connects beautifully with the Bible. Scripture says, “Be strong and courageous,” “He gives strength to the weary,” and “They will run and not grow weary.” These verses match the spirit of the dragon and the horse — rising upward with hope and moving forward with strength.

So, in this Year of the Horse, may your spirit be full and your steps strong as you walk the path God has prepared for you. May we all carry the spirit of the dragon and the horse — brave, steady, and filled with hope — as we enter 2026.

Indy Lee

(Chinese Congregation, Methodist Church in Woking)





Circuit Mission Supper

Saturday 14th 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'.

Me, Paul Weller and the Archbishop of Canterbury

I studied for my A levels at Woking College between 1978 and 1980. This included an A level in Pure Maths with Statistics, and for two years I scratched my head over binomial and poisson distributions, and differentiation and integration. There were about 6-8 of us in the class including a girl called Sarah Bowser whom I knew fairly well as we both also attended the weekly lunchtime College Christian Union. Like many youngsters at the time, I loved music, and Sarah had a very cool claim to fame about which she was very modest, to the point of indifferent. Many of us had Saturday jobs – I worked in Boots in Woking, whilst Sarah's sister worked in a coffee shop in Woking. The other Saturday girl in the coffee shop was none other than Paul Weller's sister. At the time, Paul Weller was lead singer in a very famous 3-piece band called The Jam who had a string of number 1 hits including 'Going Underground'. Not only were The Jam brilliant, but they were also a local band – they were all a couple of school years older than us and met whilst pupils at Sheerwater School (now Bishop David Brown School). Paul lived at Stanley Road in Woking (which was the title of a later LP) and where I got off the bus for School.

College finished in 1980 and Sarah left to train to be a nurse in London, whilst I went off to University in London. I thought no more about Sarah for 38 years until one morning in 2018 I heard her name mentioned on 'Profile', a 15-minute radio biography of someone then in the news. Even before checking her name and photo on the internet, I knew it was the same Sarah whom I knew years ago, as the radio biography included the Paul Weller anecdote. Sarah Bowser had become Dame Sarah Mullaly, the then recently appointed Bishop of London.

Scroll forward another eight years, and you will know that my old A level classmate is the new Archbishop of Canterbury, elected at a service in St Paul's Cathedral in January, and to be formally installed on the throne of St Augustine at Canterbury in March 2026. Whilst I am gently relaxing into retirement, Dame Sarah is beginning the supremely challenging role of advancing the Anglican Communion in the World. So do, please, remember Dame Sarah in your prayers for God's continued blessing on her work.

Phil Way

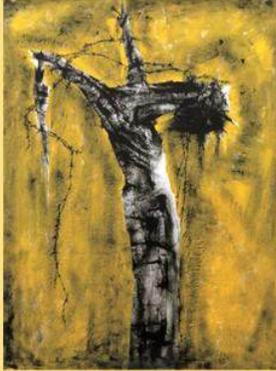
(Member of Byfleet Methodist Church)

FROM DARKNESS

St
Mary's
Church



Mark Cazalet: Fool for God



Lee-Elliott: Crucified tree-form - the Agony



Richard Bavin: The Empty Tomb

... TO LIGHT

Explore stunning works from the
METHODIST MODERN ART COLLECTION

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

9 March – 5 April 2026

Free public opening times will include

*Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays
and Saturdays*

11.00 – 15.00

Details of all events at

www.htsmguildford.org/mmac-2026

St Mary's Quarry Street Guildford GU1 3UP

Enquiries:: MMAC2026@htsmguildford.org.uk

Seeing the Spiritual

Facebook recently reminded me that it was 9 years ago (how can it be 9 years?!) that the whole of the Methodist Modern Art Collection came to The Beaney. The Beaney is a strange name for an art gallery and museum – but there it is – named after Dr. James George Beaney who left £10,000 to Canterbury City to build a 'House of Knowledge' (in those days, philanthropy was a big thing and £10,000 could buy you a museum!).

At Kent College (the Methodist residential school in Canterbury) we had been looking for an opportunity to bring the collection to the city for some time and had joined forces with The Beaney to make it happen. It was an extraordinary time. Visitor numbers were excellent; the impact was wonderful.

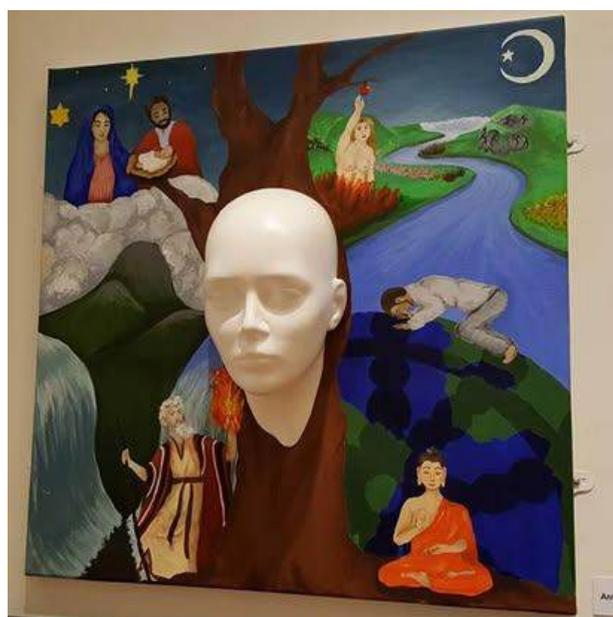
One of the best things that happened was that we had managed to enlist the services of an artist who went into several local schools and asked students doing GCSE and A level art to explore what 'spirituality' meant to them. There were some extraordinary pieces of art done. Some of them are shown here.

What it says to me is that in an age when people have lost some faith in organised religion – the need to explore the spiritual side of our lives is still as vibrant and urgent as ever. What does belief mean? How do we express it? How do we explore those big themes of redemption, forgiveness and love in our world today?

My hope and prayer, as part of the MMAC collection comes to Guildford, is that it might inspire some of the same conversations and thoughts that took place in Canterbury 9 years ago – and if it does, then all of the hard work and organisation that has been involved in bringing it here (and there has been a lot!) will have been worth it.

Engage with it, enjoy it. Let it spark conversation, questions and thoughts as we journey together in that discovery of what faith might mean for us and for others.

Revd. Dr. Paul Glass



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE PASSION

- with works from the
Methodist Modern Art Collection



Mark Czalet: Fool of God.



John Brokenshire: Untitled - Pentecost.

Wednesday 11 March 2026
7 pm

St. Mary's Church
Quarry Street
Guildford GU1 3UP

Tickets: £10 - see Eventbrite for MMAC Guildford

Prof. Ben Quash
in conversation with
Karen Case-Green
as part of

FROM DARKNESS ... TO LIGHT

Free public opening of the exhibition:
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

9 March – 5 April 11.00 – 15.00

'Why have you brought a vicar? It can't be that bad!'

Reflections on being a chaplain to the Ambulance Service, by Revd. Peter Hills

As many of you may know, I had two careers in the Army: in the Royal Army Educational Corps (1969-1985), and as an army chaplain (1991-2002), serving in Northern Ireland, Germany and the Balkans. In my final year of training for the ministry at Wesley House Cambridge, I spent a day a week as a student chaplain at Addenbrookes Hospital. I therefore returned to Circuit in 2002 with an experience of chaplaincy. I missed it, so I put out feelers to Kent Police, in case there was an opening for a volunteer. There was, and I began a long association with the police as a volunteer chaplain in Kent, Thames Valley and Surrey, which only ended in 2024. Before I heard back from the police, however, something else happened.

My doorbell rang in Sevenoaks, and standing before me were two Non-Executive Directors of Kent Ambulance Trust, who happened to be active Christians. They needed a chaplain to look after the local Station. I made my first visit in April 2003 and stayed until the station closed. By then, Kent, Surrey and Sussex trusts had merged – up to a point, as it turned out. It was a while before the three former trusts could communicate with each other by radio, and satnavs tended to stop at the county border! I once had to sit beside the driver as navigator, since I happened to know from my time as the minister in Horley, where to find East Surrey Hospital. Things have much improved since then, and Call Centre staff now realise that the distance between Thanet and the Isle of Sheppey is much longer than it appears, unless the ambulance can float.



After Sevenoaks I retired to Tenterden as an 'active supernumerary', with pastoral care of five chapels on the edge of Romney Marsh and transferred to the new Ashford station. I was by then an assistant

senior chaplain, with oversight of Paddock Wood station, as well as Ashford, supporting my fellow chaplains. Finally came my move to Guildford, now living within walking distance of the station. As the then senior chaplain for Surrey, I visited most Surrey stations, before handing over that role to a colleague, a Catholic deacon in Redhill. I also covered Dorking and Epsom stations for a while, until they closed and the crews moved to Banstead. Currently, I cover Guildford and Tongham stations but have joined crews from Godalming and Farnborough 'on the road' during their shifts.

What do I do? Basically, call in (with a book, since there is no guarantee that I'll find anyone in on arrival) and just be there. I was once called to a debrief following a distressing incident, and was told, 'Everyone relaxed when you arrived.' It's not that I did or said anything amazing, but just being there was enough. It was like what happens to our lovely crews: the call takers – on the front line, in my opinion – speak with someone who is worried, desperate, perhaps panicking; but as soon as the heroes in green (and they are) arrive at the front door, they can relax. I've seen it so often.

I still go out with a crew from time to time. It's what I did in the army: 'go with them wherever they go, and share their risks'. It also helps to know what crews are talking about in the station. I tend not to wear a clerical collar when I do, since it can put the wind up some people ('I didn't think it was that bad!') – though once, when that happened, I went back to take the patient's funeral a year later. Though strictly non-clinical, there are times when all hands are needed (hence the annual training). Sometimes a close encounter occurs, if I can put it that way: in a quiet corner of the station, or occasionally a café or other public place away from the crew room. It could be to do with health, worries about family, broken relationships, the state of the world, sometimes to do with the job – like supporting someone under investigation, or involved in a fatal accident, or needing to sound off about management (sorry, managers, but it can happen!). Then there are what one might call unwanted memories: stillbirths, paediatric deaths, road fatalities involving young people, 'one hanging too many', even a murder or two. I try to email those involved when I know they have been involved in a distressing incident – as I did after the recent murder of a teenage boy in Guildford. Most of the time, however, I just drink coffee or tea and listen and laugh with people.

I do sometimes wear a clerical collar (with a green shirt) on station visits. I am what I am, and follow the advice of a former army chaplain, Woodbine Willie: 'Go with them, pray with them sometimes, but pray for them always.'

Revd. Peter Hills

News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

Billy Graham's influence on our Sunday Services

It all started in 1955 when Billy Graham was in Scotland for his Tell Scotland Campaign. I was working there and my girlfriend asked me to accompany her to one of his Tell Scotland events in Glasgow.

It was a very moving occasion and many attending went to the front to commit to a Christian life. The one thing in particular I remember was Billy Graham telling us that their commitment was only a first step for them. Is your church ready to welcome people when they enter it for the first time and would the experience encourage them to come back?

I became a Methodist in 1959 until I retired to Spain in 1993, spending 20 years there joining an English-speaking Protestant Church. Returning to England in 2014 to live in Addlestone, I naturally went to the Methodist Church. It was a shock to me – everything was so familiar, I felt I was back in 1959. In 2016 on the BBC Hard Talk programme, I heard the Anglican Bishop of Nigeria make the following statement: 'We need to find new ways of presenting Jesus Christ in today's Society.'

My concern not only applied to Methodism, or even the UK, it was worldwide. Sometime after that I approached all our preachers to ask if they would, whenever appropriate, make the service more meaningful /relevant / modern /attractive to visitors: a talk rather than a sermon, hymns that would be uplifting to sing and ones with meaningful stories from the Bible. I can report, and was pleasantly surprised, every preacher has supported the idea.

It has worked but is limited by two things: you must get them into church first (we need another Billy Graham) and the age of our existing congregation tends to put younger visitors off returning.

Prayer, and how we are seen to behave, can help.

Last year we lost our nursery with possible serious financial consequences. We didn't have an answer until I got a phone call – 'A friend had heard you might have a hall available for a nursery.' The problem was solved. An answer to a prayer!

Let's all pray that we can welcome more people into our church and they return to become part of our church family.

With fewer people attending church it has been suggested we need less churches. The situation in the world today means we, our church, our country, the world doesn't want less churches. We urgently need more people in our churches learning to follow the teaching of Jesus. 'God will make a way when there seems to be no way,' but He needs, expects, us to play our part.

Fred Rowe

Practical Aspects of Spirituality

DARK ... LIGHT ... THE SPIRIT IN PAINT

Reflections inspired by works
from the
Methodist Modern Art Collection

led by

Rev. Paul Glass

Saturday 14 March 2026

09.30 – 11.30

Refreshments from 09.15

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



John Brokenshire: Untitled - Pentecost

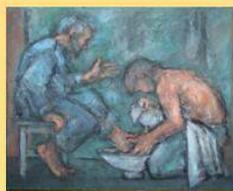
If you would like to attend,
please email
gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk

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www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection



FROM DARKNESS ... TO LIGHT

St Mary's
Church



Clarke: Storm over the Lake | Howard: The Washing of the Feet | Hambling: Good Friday: Walking on Water, 2006 | Lee-Elliott: Crucified tree-form – the Agony | Cazalet: Fool of God | Brokenshire: Pentecost

A SERIES OF REFLECTIONS FOR LENT 2026

Exploring stunning works from the
Methodist Modern Art Collection

ST. MARY'S QUARRY STREET GUILDFORD GU1 3UP

Thursdays: 12.15 for 12.30

26 February:	Seeing the Spiritual: introducing the Collection	Rev. Paul Glass
12 March:	Storm over the Lake: Clarke Washing of the Feet: Howard Good Friday: Walking on Water: Hambling	Rev. Sarah Hutton
19 March:	Crucified tree-form - the Agony: Lee-Elliott	Rev. Karen Case-Green
26 March:	Fool of God: Cazalet & Pentecost: Brokenshire	Rev. Brian Roberts

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www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

Byfleet

As we walk our way through the drab damp and cold days of early 2026, we must look forward to the arrival of Spring – daffodils, sunshine and lighter evenings.

But reflecting on the days before the end of 2025, and the Christmas Season, there was plenty to enjoy. At our annual attendance at the Byfleet Village Fair at the beginning of December, we represented Byfleet Methodist Church with our £1 Stall, offering ready-wrapped gifts for all ages. It was a successful event all round, as always well attended and with a plentiful selection of different stalls. The sausage or bacon rolls served alongside mince pies and delicious cakes were a lovely treat too. We raised £180, so it was a win all round.

Our Tuesday Fellowship continues to meet fortnightly at the Church between 2.15 – 4.00pm with a mixed programme of events – and refreshments served. Postponed from just before Christmas, the last meeting was led by Reverend Claire Hargreaves, a name familiar to all. She asked us to bring a photograph of ourselves as babies. After discussion about Jesus and his birth, the photographs caused a great deal of interest and exchanges of memories. Thank you, Claire, it was a real success.

I also have to report the sad news of the death of Lesley Cook. Lesley was the wife of our longstanding organist Adrian, so we remember Adrian and the family in our prayers. He has resumed playing for us each Sunday, and as always, he is greatly appreciated. We must also remember Liz Swift and Jeanne Plummer who were both Members of our Church.

On a brighter note, it was wonderful to welcome the family of Peter and Annalina Hall for the christening of Emily Ann, great granddaughter of Peter and Annalina.

Gill Bond

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Looking for fresh ideas, helpful resources, or a bit of encouragement?

Come and join us!

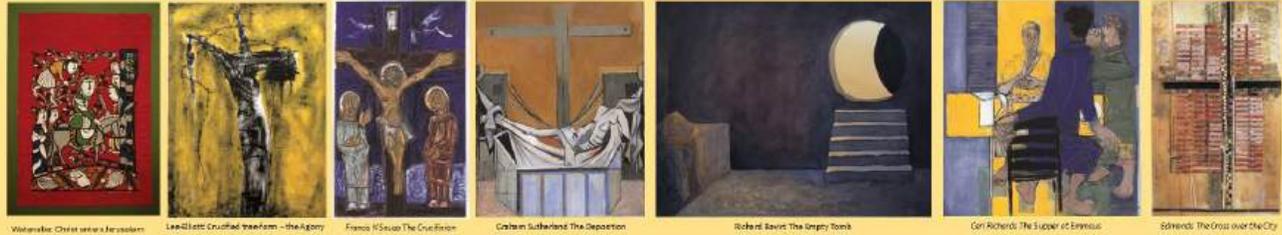
Who it's for? Stewards, Worship Leaders,
anyone in the Congregation that's interested really!

Where? TRINITY, WOKING

When? Saturday 30th May, 2.30-4.30pm

FROM DARKNESS ... TO LIGHT

St Mary's Church



AN AFTERNOON WITH LESLIE GRIFFITHS

Lord Griffiths shares the build-up to Easter and Easter itself through readings, music ... and his enthusiasm for the works from the Methodist Modern Art Collection

ST. MARY'S QUARRY STREET GUILDFORD GU1 3UP

Sunday 22 March 2.30 pm

Admission by ticket (free) from: Eventbrite – search MMAC Guildford

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www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection

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

Events open to all:

Wednesday 11 March * Ticketed event	19.00	A Journey through the Passion: Prof. Ben Quash in conversation with Rev. Karen Case-Green
Thursday 12 March	12.30	A Lunchtime Lent Reflection: Rev Sarah Hutton Introduces three water-themed images
Saturday 14 March	09.30 to 11.30	Practical Aspects of Spirituality: Dark ... Light ... the Spirit in paint: Rev. Paul Glass
Thursday 19 March	12.30	A Lunchtime Lent Reflection: Rev. Karen Case-Green Introduces Lee-Elliott's Crucified tree-form – the Agony.
Friday 20 March * Ticketed event	19.30	From Darkness ... to Light: Reflections in music and poetry, with poet Alwyn Marriage and 'cellist Annelies Terry.
Wednesday 25 March * Ticketed event	19.00	A Door to the Holy: Contemporary Art & Faith A talk by Laura Moffatt
Thursday 26 March	12.30	A Lunchtime Lent Reflection: Rev. Brian Roberts introduces Cazalet's Fool of God and Brokenshire's Pentecost
Sunday 29 March	18.00	Shadows of the Cross - a Palm Sunday Reflection including music from In Nomine 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/mmacc-2026
For further enquiries:
MMAC2026@htsmguildford.org.uk

St Mary's Church



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Congratulations, Cranleigh!

We have been awarded the Bronze Eco Church award which the Sunday Club children have been working towards, with the support of the rest of the congregation. The children have been busy making bug houses, bird boxes and feeders, have carried out litter picks in the areas around the church and have identified other areas where we can make improvements in our local environment. That is just part of the award but it's the area the children have been working on alongside recycling schemes, using green energy and Fairtrade products where possible.

Hilary Strawson



Godalming United Church

GODALMING UNITED CHURCH,
BRIDGE ROAD, GODALMING, GU7 3DU



- Livestream: <https://guc.online.church>
- Service videos on our website: <http://guc.org.uk>
- YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@GodalmingUnitedChurch>

During Advent we were once again able to offer Advent gift-packs to families with children associated with our church but not regularly attending. Each “Advent Unpacked” box – developed by the URC, our other parent-church – contained postcard-sized cards — one for each day in Advent with alternating images of things associated with Christmas and characters from the Christmas story, with fun facts and activity ideas on the reverse.

Psalms 133 reminds us, “How good and pleasing it is when God’s people live in unity!” On 18 January we were delighted to once again host the annual Godalming Churches Together combined New Year Service of Holy Communion. It’s always a joy to worship with our brothers and sisters from other churches – attested to by the buzz as we passed the peace and the lusty singing of over 190 voices. The theme was 2 Timothy 4: 1-5 – an encouraging sermon on keeping the Message alive and doing a thorough job of being a servant of God.

Our panto in February was Alice in Wonderland, once again written by Josh Dixon, and specially adapted to our multi-age cast of 55 children (upwards from 5) and 15 adults. It was full of music, with 23 songs/dances, and there were significant parts for all – Cards, Rabbits, Fairies, Cats, Brothers & Sisters, Hatters, Butterflies and Flowers. It was something of a break with tradition with a younger cast, a much younger Pantomime Dame and a new pianist, Ruth. On the “tech” front, Richard provided stunning projected backdrops, a “magical key” which descended from the ceiling, and numerous props made on his 3D printer. Callum produced some beautiful toadstools, and all was enhanced by Steve’s dramatic lighting. Colourful costumes were provided once again by our very own Kris Benjafield assisted by Jennie Cousins and Julie Jeffery.

The whole production couldn’t have taken place without the help of numerous back-stage helpers (make-up, scenery, refreshments, props, supervision.) Everyone had great fun rehearsing (starting in September) and performing, and the audience enjoyed a fantastic show. Many thanks as ever to Barbara Keene, assisted by Tina Jenner and Becky Keene, for masterminding this very special form of community outreach.

Looking Ahead

Sat 21 March 3-5pm Messy Church Easter Egg Trail.

Maundy Thursday 2 April 7:30pm Holy Communion in our Upper Room overlooking the River Wey.

Easter Sunday 5 April 10:30am Holy Communion and dedication of Lenten Appeal gifts.

Every Friday 12:00 – 1:30pm Lunch in support of local charities. Come and enjoy convivial company and delicious great-value home-made food (3 courses an option) in the delightful surroundings of our River room. (Not Bank Holiday weekends or August)

For other events, please visit www.guc.org.uk for a constantly updated rolling calendar.

Nancy Wilks



Godalming's Panto, Alice in Wonderland



FROM DARKNESS

Jyoti Sahi: Dalit Madonna



*A reflective hour
bringing together
the paintings,
specially written poetry
by Alwyn Marriage
and music from
cellist Annelies Terry*

... TO LIGHT

Friday 20 March 2026

7.30 pm

Exhibition viewing from 6 pm

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

Tickets: £10 - see Eventbrite for MMAC Guildford

Free public opening of the exhibition includes:
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays

9 March – 5 April 11.00 – 15.00

See www.htsmguildford.org/mmac-2026 for full opening hours

*Images from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission.
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**St Mary's
Church**

**A DOOR
TO THE HOLY:
CONTEMPORARY
ART AND FAITH**



Richard Bavin: The Empty Tomb

**Wednesday 25 March 2026
7 pm**

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

Tickets: £10 - see Eventbrite for MMAC Guildford

An evening with

Laura Moffatt

Director of Art + Christianity

as part of

FROM DARKNESS ... TO LIGHT

Free public opening of the exhibition:
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
9 March – 5 April 11.00 – 15.00

Knaphill

Advent and Christmas events all went well. Particular highlights were the Christmas Tea for the elderly and folk who live alone in our community on 7 December, and the family carol service on Christmas Eve afternoon. Both were well attended and the refreshments and singing were enjoyed by all. Ecumenical carol singing was also a success at various venues, with the service at the Dramatize Community Centre and the session at Sainsbury's in Brookwood being especially well received.

Since then, we have held our first Clothing Bank of 2026, on 17 January. It was very busy – not surprising given all the cold weather we have had. We were fortunate in having had some generous gifts of warm clothing and many families were able to go away with useful additions to their wardrobes. The first coffee morning of 2026, on 24 January was also busy and we raised a very good sum too. Thanks again to the many loyal cake makers and for the generous gifts for our stallholders to sell.

We have a lovely selection of books, DVDs, jigsaws and bric-a-brac, plus home-made cakes and preserves AND delicious bacon rolls available every FOURTH Saturday of the month. All are welcome to join us.

March is fairly quiet for us at Knaphill, but in April we have a Maundy Thursday “soup and sandwich” supper, followed by communion and an ecumenical Walk of Witness around Knaphill on Good Friday, organised by Churches for Knaphill. This will be followed at 10.30am by an ecumenical service (at the parish church this year) with refreshments to follow – hot cross buns, of course.

Then it will be time to gear-up for Christian Aid Week in May. We will be holding a street collection at the shopping centre in Goldsworth Park, collecting house-to-house and delivering only in Knaphill, in addition to an online church collection.

Lynda Shore



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

Epworth Genesis

Two choir collaboration

AND The Chameleon Arts Orchestra!

Joseph Haydn's The Creation



*Conducted by Charlie Perry &
Florence Price*

Let there be Light! Experience Haydn's Masterpiece

**Saturday 28th March 2026
7.30pm**

Tickets £25
including refreshments
and programme
www.epworthchoir.org

**Welcome Church
Woking**

Church St. West
Woking, Surrey, GU21 6DJ



Walton-on-Thames

We are pleased to report that improvements have been made, both inside and outside our church. Two handrails have been installed leading up to the raised Chancel area, something that we have wanted to do for some time. They are appreciated by all, especially those with more limited mobility and confidence.



We have also had a lovely wooden bench installed at the front of the Church as the first stage in our project to make our church more welcoming, attractive and useful to the local community. The next stage will be to add a raised trough to which we will add seasonal planting. Hopefully, we will have more news about this in the next edition of The Wey Forward.



Walton-on-Thames continued....

Both these improvements came from requests and suggestions from members of the church. We were able to fund them from money left to the church in the wills of previous members of our community who are no longer with us. It is a fitting way to remember them by, together with the new pew cushions and extra hymnbooks, purchased from these funds.

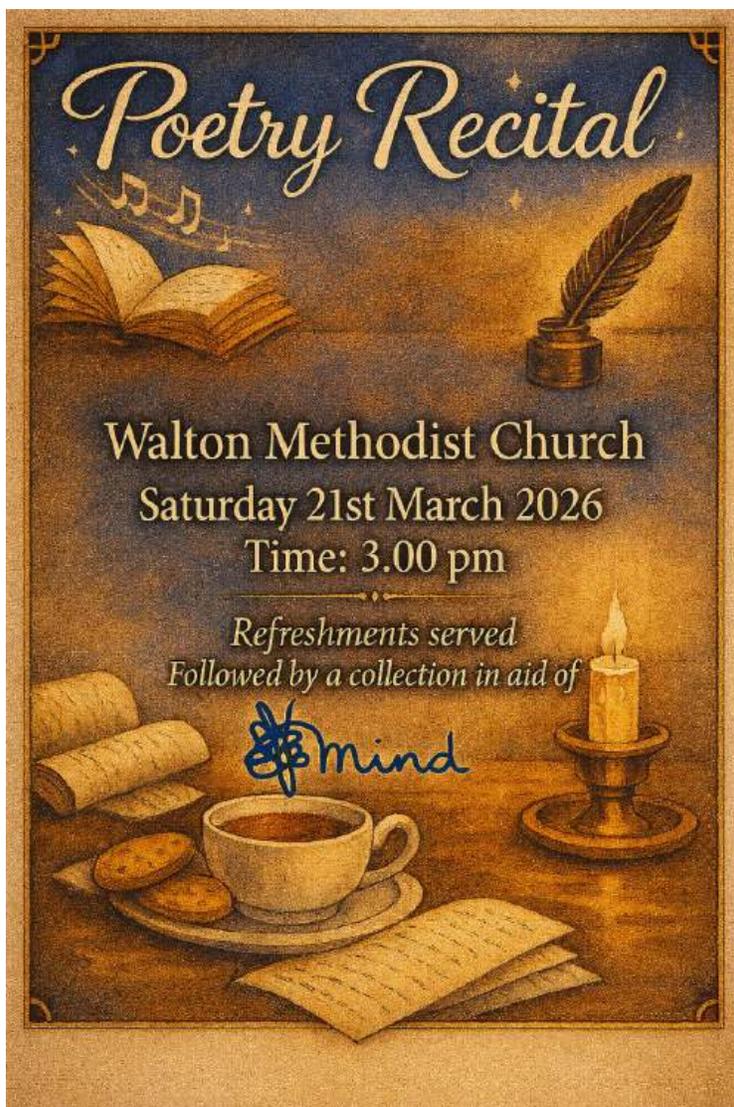
We are very grateful to Chris Mills, our Property Steward, for all she has done and is doing to make such improvements to our church.

Two fundraising events are now on our calendar for this Spring:

We are holding a Poetry Recital; readings of favourite and familiar and less familiar poems in the church, followed by tea and cake. Please do join us on Saturday 21 March at 3pm. There will be a retiring collection for the mental health charity, Mind.

We will also be hosting a Tearfund Quiz on Saturday 23 May 2-4pm. Everyone will be welcome. Details to follow in the Circuit email.

Val Barker



SHADOWS OF THE CROSS

6 PM

29 MARCH 2026

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH
QUARRY ST. GU1 3UP**



Watanabe: Christ enters Jerusalem

**Choral music, readings and reflections
prompted by works
from the
Methodist Modern Art Collection**

led by Rev. Andrew Wheeler

Choir: In Nomine

Conductor: Sebastian Forbes Organist: Peter Wright

**including the World Premiere of
Alwyn Marriage's poem**

Mothered

inspired by Jyoti Sahi's painting - Dalit Madonna

Composer: Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

Cellist: Annelies Terry

West Horsley – 150th Anniversary!

Christmas 2025 saw the West Horsley Chapel full for both the Crib Service on Christmas Eve and the Christmas Day service. It was particularly pleasing to see the popularity of the Crib Service as it was only introduced in 2024.

Songs of Praise – our annual evening of favourite hymns – will be on Saturday 25 April at 7.00pm. Everybody is welcome and refreshments will be provided at the interval (see poster on the next page).

2026 is the 150th anniversary since the church was founded. Before 1876, services were held in the open air under the oak tree on the village green!

To celebrate the start of this special year, the Chairman of the South East District of the Methodist Church, Revd Conrad Hicks will be conducting Morning Service on 26 April. Friends from fellow churches are welcome at 10.00am to join the congregation. Over the summer there will be a series of services taken by ministers who have been invited back, having previously presided over the church. In September it is proposed to hold an outdoor service under the oak tree on the West Horsley village green, followed by a picnic, as a reminder of how early Methodists met in Horsley. For more information about our centenary celebrations see www.westhorsleymethodistchurch.org.uk

Date of service	Service taken by
April 26th	Rev. Conrad Hicks
May 10th	Rev. David Coote
June 7th	Rev. Allan Taylor
July 12th	Rev. George Quarm*
July 19th	Rev. Darlene McCarley
August TBC	Rev. Nick Holt
September 13th	Janet England**
October 18th <i>Harvest festival</i>	Rev. Claire Hargreaves
November 1st	Matthew Forsyth***

- * This is George's last service at West Horsley before he transfers to Basildon, Essex in August.
- ** Janet England - Service under the oak tree on the village green with optional picnic/lunch afterwards at The Barley Mow pub.
- *** Matthew Forsyth (Vice President of Conference). Last service of the celebration year.

Bob Spackman

Celebrating 150 years of

**Horsley Methodist
Church**

Songs of Praise

SATURDAY APRIL 25TH

7.00-9.00PM

.....

Sunday Service

APRIL 26TH 10.00AM

PREACHER

REV CONRAD HICKS

followed by

LUNCH IN VILLAGE HALL

(BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

Weybridge

Whilst we are asked to be forward looking, we cannot miss the opportunity to report on the most successful Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ever experienced in Weybridge. Churches Together in Weybridge came up with a program which featured an event hosted by the churches in turn and at different times of the day, every day of the week so that there was something to suit everyone. The attendance at all events exceeded expectations. The Methodist church was privileged to open and close the week.

We will shortly be commencing a series of Lent Group sessions led by Mr David Ingoldby. Starting on Wednesday 25 February at 7.45pm and running every Wednesday, these sessions will be on Zoom and are open to all.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95259170649?pwd=YgALdBqLaXauM5ucobJlcNB4mTTUWC.1>

Meeting ID: 952 5917 0649

Passcode: 183262

After Lent we look forward to the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. This year it will be organised by our friends at the Catholic Church but we will be assisting.

We continue to support the Weybridge Old Folks Club. Shaun gave an amusing talk about football which was well received. The club is celebrating 80 years since its inception in June and we are spearheading a big celebration. Our church has always been heavily involved with this club which continues to provide a time of fellowship for those who would otherwise be solitary.

Linda Weedon





NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTY



SATURDAY
18TH APRIL 2026
4:00 - 6:00pm

Trinity Methodist Church
Brewery Road, Woking



There will be high tea, entertainment and a fun quiz.



If you know someone
who'd appreciate an **invitation**

CONTACT Marian (07749 094064)
Pauline (07729 301713)



Volunteers would be welcome to...
Help on the day or bake a cake

CONTACT Pauline (07729 301713)



To give someone a **lift** or sponsor a **taxi**

CONTACT Hugh Bowerman

Thank you for your continued support.

The Neighbourhood Party Team



The Methodist Church



A Note to Contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of The Wey Forward, in its pdf format, on the circuit website. The Wey Forward is an important source of information about the life of the circuit and what is going on in each of the churches across it. We want to share it with others.

However, we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable with a mention on the internet. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so. Please advise at the time of submitting the copy.

A Message from the Editor

I hope you have found the latest edition of 'The Wey Forward' both interesting and useful. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the articles. It has been a real pleasure to receive and read each item as I put the newsletter together.

If you would find a large print version of the magazine useful then please let me know and I can arrange that for you.

We would like the focus of the magazine to be a forward looking one. So, as you plan your events, bear in mind that the rest of the circuit would love to know about them.

The deadline for Issue 40 of The Wey Forward is:

midnight 1 May 2026

Submissions to the newsletter are accepted at any time but we can only guarantee a submission **will be considered** for a particular issue if it is received by the corresponding deadlines listed below. Pop them in your diaries now.

Issue 41 31 July 2026

Issue 42 30 October 2026

Please send your items (and photos) to

weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Lucy Venmore

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
March 2026			
9 March to 5 April	See page 8	'From Darkness to Light' Exhibition	St. Mary's Guildford
11 March	7.00pm	A Journey Through the Passion (see page 10)	St. Mary's Guildford
14 March	9.15am	Practical Aspects of Spirituality (see page 14)	St. Mary's Guildford
14 March	6.00pm for 6.30pm	Circuit Mission Supper (see page 6)	Trinity, Woking
20 March	7.30pm	A Reflective Evening (see page 20)	St. Mary's Guildford
21 March	3.00pm	Poetry Recital, followed by tea and cake	Walton-on-Thames
21 March	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Messy Church, Easter Egg Trail	Godalming
21 March	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
22 March	2.30pm	An Afternoon with Leslie Griffiths (see page 16)	St. Mary's Guildford
25 March	7.00pm	A Door to the Holy (see page 21)	St. Mary's Guildford
28 March	10.00am to 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
28 March	7.30pm	Joseph Haydn's The Creation (see page 23)	Welcome Church, Woking
29 March	6.00pm	Shadows of the Cross (see page 26)	St. Mary's Guildford
April 2026			
18 April	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
18 April	4.00pm to 6.00pm	Neighbourhood Party (see page 30)	Trinity, Woking
25 April	10.00am to 12noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
25 April	7.00pm to 9.00pm	Songs of Praise (see page 28)	West Horsley
May 2026 (and beyond)			
16 May	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
23 May	10.00am to 12noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
23 May	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Tearfund Quiz	Walton-on-Thames
30 May	2.30pm to 4.30pm	Local Arrangement Training (see page 15)	Trinity, Woking
14 June	3.00pm	Circuit Service with Revd Conrad Hicks	Byfleet
19 July	3.00pm	Farewell Service for Revd George Quarm	Merrow
6 September	6.00pm	Welcome Service for Revd Paul Tabraham	Knaphill