

Friends in the Wey Valley Circuit,

I have a friend named Matt that I met nearly 25 years ago in a fan club that we were both involved in (it was a Star Wars fan club. Don't judge). Anyway, Matt and I communicate nearly every day, but I have to admit that most of our communication is text messages sending "memes" back and forth. You know, screenshots of things we find online that we find funny or think the other person might find interesting or entertaining.

He sent one the other day that really resonates with me right now: "Ah, the classic game: Am I starting a depressive downswing or is it the state of the world?"

I wake up every morning, and before I even get out of bed, I grab my phone to see what tragedies have occurred while I was sleeping. Sometimes it's just something embarrassing a certain politician has said or done (I think you all know who I'm talking about). Some days, it's the announcement of policies that are actively making the world a worse place. Last week, I woke up to hear that the United States and Israel were bombing Iran.

It is difficult not to feel that the ground is shifting beneath our feet. Wars and rumours of wars. Political instability. Economic uncertainty. A steady stream of outrage delivered directly into our hands before we have said our morning prayers or even had our morning coffee.

Scripture is not naïve about this. The psalmist writes, "Why do the nations rage?" (Psalm 2, American Standard Version). The prophets speak into times of invasion and exile. The disciples ask Jesus about the signs of the end, and he speaks soberly about conflict and upheaval. The Bible does not pretend that the world is calm.

Yet alongside that realism is a consistent, steady refrain. Our God reigns.

"The Lord is king... the floods have lifted up, O Lord... mightier than the thunder of many waters" (Psalm 93). The psalmist does not deny the floods, but he declares that they are not ultimate. In Isaiah, God speaks to a people facing the collapse of everything familiar and says, "My purposes shall stand" (Isaiah 46:10). In the Gospels, Jesus sleeps in a boat that is taking on water. The storm is real. The fear is real. But so is his authority over wind and wave.

For Christians, the clearest revelation of God's sovereignty is not found in a show of brute force, but in the cross. During Lent we are walking again toward Jerusalem. From a purely political perspective, the crucifixion of Jesus looks like the triumph of empire and the failure of a movement. Yet the New Testament insists that even there, maybe especially there, God was at work, reconciling the world to himself. What appeared to be chaos was, in fact, the outworking of divine love.

That does not mean we shrug at suffering or disengage from the world. Lent is not an invitation to apathy. It is a season of sober self-examination, repentance, prayer, and renewed trust. It asks us to turn down some of the noise so that we can listen again for the still, small voice of God.

Perhaps part of our Lenten discipline this year might be this: before reaching for the phone, we reach for prayer. Before absorbing the headlines, we remember the deeper headline of our faith — that Christ is risen, and that his kingdom is not shaken by the volatility of news cycles.

Peace, in the biblical sense, is not the absence of trouble. It is the settled confidence that the Lord of history is also the shepherd of our souls. And that knowledge allows us to live neither in denial nor in despair, but in hope.

As we continue through Lent, may we learn again to place our anxiety where it belongs. Into the hands of the One who holds the world.

Prayerfully,

Revd. Adam Payne

[Reflection from Palestine from a Palestinian Christian living near Bethlehem - The Methodist Church](#)

Prayer for the Middle East

God of love,

As we see and hear the news of the devastating violence wrought upon
and within the Middle East,

we hold your broken world before you in prayer,

We pray for lives lost, for people who mourn, and for those living in fear

We pray for people stranded and in need of safe routes and safe harbours.

We long for peace and pray that those who wage war might exchange weapons for words.

Help us to know how to pray, how to speak and how to act,
that we might remember our call to follow the Prince of Peace,

In whose name we pray,

Amen.

Ramster Embroidery & Textile Art Exhibition 2026

Friday, 6th March to Sunday, 22nd March 10am-4pm

Ramster Embroidery and Textile Art Exhibition is one of the largest exhibitions of its kind. Over 250 pieces of the finest embroidery and textile art by leading artists from across the country will be on display and for sale within the splendid Ramster Jacobean Hall, the Great Drawing Room and Brick Hall.

Tickets: £9 per entry, registered disabled visitors £4.50 available on the door.

[Events Surrey | Ramster Hall and Garden](#)



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'.

FROM DARKNESS



... TO LIGHT

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

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

9 March to 5 April 2026

Public opening hours will be
11.00 – 15.00 (or later)
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
and daily from 30 March – 4 April

Further details from www.htsmguildford.org/mmac-2026

Events open to all:

Wednesday 11 March <i>* Ticketed event</i>	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. Dr. 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 <i>* Ticketed event</i>	19.30	From Darkness ... to Light: Reflections in music and poetry, with poet Alwyn Marriage and 'cellist Annelies Terry <i>Exhibition viewing from 18.00</i>
Wednesday 25 March <i>* Ticketed event</i>	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 <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
For further enquiries: MMAC2026@htsmguildford.org.uk



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

Images from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission.
www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection



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

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 30th May, 2.30-4.30pm

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



MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING



AND SALE



**BOOKS, DVDs,
JIGSAWS, CAKES,
BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE**

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

4th Saturday every month (except December)

10am to Noon

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



- 3rd February
- 10th February
- 17th February
- 24th February

- 3rd March
- 10th March
- 17th March
- 24th March
- 31st March

2026



Enjoy Coffee & a Chat, Coffee & a Game, or Coffee & a Book
The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!

Please join in with the

Walk of Witness

Good Friday • 3 April 2026 • 10:30



**Enter into the spirit of Good Friday, with many Christians from local churches.
We hear the story of Jesus's journey from Gethsemane to Golgotha.**

**We will start outside McDonalds/Friary at 10.30am and then walk up the
High Street towards Holy Trinity.**

**Once the cross has been tied to the railings at the top of the High Street,
outside Holy Trinity Church, you are invited to tape a prayer to the cross,
when you are next in the centre of Guildford,
as a sign laying down your burden at Jesus's feet.**

Pastoral Support

Advocacy

Accommodation

SUSTAINING HOPE IN 2026

Interpreting

Foodbanks

Drop-In Centres



Place of Sanctuary

Are you involved, or interested, in supporting
Refugees, Migrants & Displaced Persons?

Befriending

English practice

The Methodist South-East District 'Sustaining Hope' spring gathering for 2026

Cafes

will include

Form-filling

- time to network

- Rev Nigel Cowgill, Global Communities Officer: '*Being a Global Community*'
- Mary Barrett, Immigration Detention Visitor: '*Support, friendship, advocacy*'

Date: Saturday, 25th April, 10.00am - 1.30pm

(Refreshments from 9.45am)

Resettlement
Schemes

Venue: Redhill Methodist Church, RH1 1BP

Redhill Station is 5 minutes' walk away

NCP car park on Gloucester Road opposite the church

Clothing Banks

Liaising with other Agencies

To register, for more information, or for the
livestreaming link, please email
Rev Hazel Forecast at

hazel.forecast@methodist.org.uk

Mother-tongue worship

Something else...



Memory Lane

Presents

MUSICAL MEMORIES

A concert given by

MEMORY LANE MUSICIANS

with Supporting Artists

25 SATURDAY
APRIL Doors open 2pm
Concert 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Cranleigh Baptist Church

Tickets: £10, to include
refreshments during the interval

Call: 07876 528704



Supporting

**ALZHEIMER'S
RESEARCH UK** **FOR A
CURE**