WEY VALLEY – WEEKLY CIRCUIT LETTER – 11 March 2026

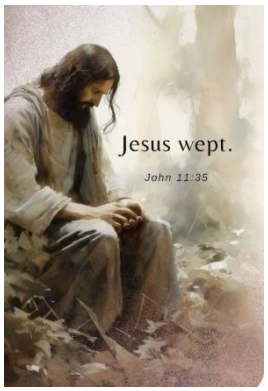
Barrie Tabraham

'We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ . . .'

(Or how I learned not to be afraid of Christology)

This rumination arises from my last one ("Like" on 14 January) and, I hope, covers some fitting themes for the middle of Lent. I want to share some thoughts on the person of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, based on three quotations – two from the Bible and one from a church member (many years ago!) – all of which caused members I knew to be deeply puzzled, and even troubled.

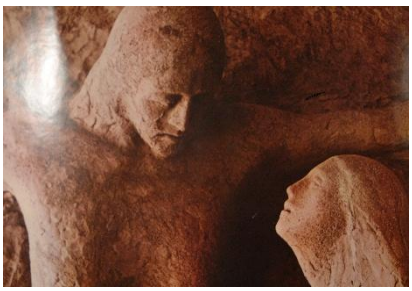
1) 'Jesus wept' (John 11 vs. 35)



This is, of course, the shortest verse in the Bible. When one of our dear departed members, Cynthia Winder, was a little girl, I was told that her Sunday School teacher asked her class to choose a 'memorable verse' in Scripture, learn it off by heart, and repeat it out loud to the other children. I have it on good authority that Cynthia chose John 11 vs. 35! We can smile at her ingenuity, but I have no doubt that as she grew older, she came to value that verse for its significance.

I've always thought it strange that one used to hear people cursing with the words *"Jesus wept!"* (though perhaps not so common these days) – little realising that this little verse speaks to us of the reality of our Lord's incarnation, which I wrote about last time. If Jesus could weep for the loss of his friend Lazarus, then there is nothing un-Christian or selfish about you and I expressing our own grief with tears. It's perfectly natural, and the way God has made us.

2) "I hate God, but I love Jesus"



These were words spoken to me by a church member many years ago, shortly after her husband had died. I have to say that I do not believe that God will hold to account any of his children who cry out in anger when suffering the pain of bereavement. You and I as Christians have to find ways of being loving and sensitive with people in these situations.

Perhaps those of us who occupy pulpits on Sundays have failed to convey the central tenet that God is *One*. If we have made God our Father too remote on the one hand, or 'domesticated' our lord Jesus Christ on the other, then we have done what one of my Greek Orthodox friends once remarked, when he said to me, "You in the West are in danger of worshipping *two* Gods!"

Perhaps you can understand when I say that I have a very simple personal belief in the doctrine of the Trinity. The God who made us in love, is the same God who became human and in love shared the reality of our life in all its joy and pain. That is why I invariably pray *to* God, in the name of Jesus his Son, and in the power and guidance of his Spirit.

3) **"No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14 vs. 6)**It's a pity that some people have taken this saying of Jesus out of context and made it fit a rather narrow form

of Christology. To give an example – I well remember one of my church members (who had been engaged in a Bible study of the book of Genesis) being very concerned that a friend was emphasising this narrow interpretation of John 14 vs. 6, which seemed to exclude noble characters from the Old Testament, such as Joseph (see left – sorry, it was the best I could do!), because 'they had not named the name of Jesus as their Saviour'.

This sounded (and still sounds) crazy to me, because to hold this narrow view of salvation would be to imprison God in his own time process, as it were! Or to put it another way, Jesus of Nazareth was – at a particular point in time – an expression of what God *always* is. In other words, God is always 'Son' as well as 'Father' and 'Creator'. This is why, in our creeds, we say that Jesus, the Son of God, was 'begotten, not made', and why we sing that ancient hymn, *Of the Father's love begotten*, (StF 181) which was written in the 4th century AD by a Spanish monk,

Apologies if this seems to have turned into a mini lecture, but all three of the above quotations speak to us not of a God who created the world, wound it up like a little clockwork toy and set it going, to watch its progress from afar off. I believe in a God who fell in love with his creation, and through Jesus Christ, becomes involved in a personal and intimate way with his creation – you and me – and longs for us to become the people he intended us to be.

A Prayer:
O Jesus, King most wonderful! Thou conqueror renowned;
thou Sweetness most ineffable, in whom all joys are found!
Jesus, our Love and Joy, to Thee, the Father's holy Son,
all might, and praise, and glory be, while endless ages run.

Attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153

Every blessing to you all,

Barrie Tabraham

Resources/Good News

New Healthy Surrey Cancer Information Hub goes live

A new resource focusing on cancer has launched on the Healthy Surrey website, providing residents and healthcare professionals with clear, accessible and evidence-based information. The new section - www.healthysurrey.org.uk/cancer will bring together trusted resources from partner organisations, making it easier for people across Surrey to find reliable guidance and support.

Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

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 * *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. 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 * *Ticketed event*	19.30	**From Darkness ... to Light:** Reflections in music and poetry, with poet Alwyn Marriage and 'cellist Annelies Terry *Exhibition viewing from 18.00*
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/mmac-2026
For further enquiries:
MMAC2026@htsmguildford.org.uk

St Mary's Church

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

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

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH
The Methodist Church
THE FOUNDRY

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!

Stay for FREE tea, coffee & a chat

Clothes4U

Pre loved clothes with TLC

from

Knaphill Methodist Church

Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2DR

Saturday 21 March 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

www.knaphill-methodist-church.com/clothes4U

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

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.

Celebrating 150 years of

Horsley Methodist Church

Songs of Praise

Saturday April 25th

7.00-9.00pm

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Sunday Service

April 26th 10.00Am

Preacher

Rev Conrad Hicks

followed by

lunch in village Hall

(booking essential)

Epworth Genesis

Two choir collaboration

AND The Chameleon Arts Orchestra!

Joseph Haydn's

The Creation

Supporting samson centre

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

epworth choir

HRTCT
The Humphrey Richardson Taylor Charitable Trust

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 '<u>Sustaining Hope</u>' spring gathering for 2026

will include

Cafes

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

Clothing Banks

Venue: Redhill Methodist Church, RH1 1BP
Redhill Station is 5 minutes' walk away
NCP car park on Gloucester Road opposite the church

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 APRIL SATURDAY

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