

Dear Friends,

I so enjoyed hearing the Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths (aka Baron Griffiths) at St Mary's on Sunday. We first met when Leslie was Superintendent Minister of the West London Mission. We hit it off, being of a similar generation: Leslie is the senior, but we were both too young for National Service, yet older than the NHS. I had opted to stay another year at Wesley House Cambridge, for the Graduate Diploma in Theology, and wanted to gain experience of inner-city work. I shadowed Leslie for a week. One day was given to hospital visits. I shall never forget our visit to a ward specialising in the care and treatment of AIDS patients. This was in 1987, and the prejudice against gay people was strong, especially as they were often blamed for the spread of the condition. The image I carry with me is of a compassionate, loving, humble minister embracing a young man at a time when people with AIDS were untouchable. It was one of many incidents that summer which were to influence and shape my own ministry in the years to come.

AIDS scared people. In my childhood, the word which frightened us, and worried our parents was Polio. In earlier generations it might have been Typhoid, or Diphtheria. I visited many an old military cemetery during my army career, and the saddest memorials were of children who had died during a diphtheria outbreak at some time or other. Cancer, though no longer as feared as it once was, can still take away our loved ones, of whatever age. And then there is Meningitis. The loss of any young person is a tragedy, and it is impossible not to feel for those who are grieving. Whether disease is the cause, or natural disaster, or war, crime or road accident, Christians are faced with the same questions: Where was God? Why did God let it happen? Why did God not answer my prayers? Ministers are expected to know the answers, but we don't. We may be asking the same questions ourselves. I was taking a service on the day after Diana, Princess of Wales, died. A visiting youth group sang the Stuart Townend version of the 23rd Psalm (Singing the Faith 481) with its chorus:

And I will trust in you alone,  
And I will trust in you alone,  
For your endless mercy follows me  
Your goodness will lead me home.

It was such a help and brought a tear to my own eye. I found myself in the pulpit on the Sunday following the Tsunami of 2004. In my sermon I quoted Rabbi Harold Kushner: 'I don't believe that an earthquake that kills thousands of innocent victims without reason is an act of God...The act of God is the courage of people to rebuild their lives after the earthquake, and the rush of others to help them in whatever way they can.' I then repeated an anecdote of Dr C Everett Koop, one-time Surgeon-General of the US Public Health Service: Little Paul required thirty-seven operations to correct a birth defect. After twenty-two, Koop asked Paul's mother, 'What was the worst thing that happened in your life?' She answered, 'Having Paul born with defects that required all these operations.' Then he asked, 'What was the best thing that happened in your life?' Without hesitation, she said, 'Having a son born with all these defects.'

Where is God? I believe that God is present even when God seems absent: at the bedside of a sick child; beside a weeping parent; alongside those sheltering amongst the ruins as bombs rain down. God is wherever people suffer. I do believe that there are tears in heaven. I end

with a prayer used at the memorial service at Dunblane Cathedral for the sixteen children and one teacher who died in the Dunblane Primary School tragedy thirty years ago:

Lord, we give you thanks for the gift of tears: for tears of grief, redeeming our mourning from despair; for tears of anger, awakening our thirst for justice; for tears of laughter, celebrating our joy in living. May the light of Christ shining through our tears become the rainbow of your promise, shedding colours of your love's bright presence in your grieving, struggling, laughing world. Amen.

Blessings,

*Peter*



### **Resources/Good News**

#### **Surrey Hills Spring Fair**

**11 & 12 April 2026**

**10:00 - 16:00**

Rural Life Living Museum, Reeds Road, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DL, in partnership with Shooting Star Children's Hospices.

A weekend celebrating the onset of Spring, bringing together the very best of Surrey's Food, Drink, Art and Crafts at the Rural Life Living Museum, Tilford, Surrey.

This Spring Fair is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Spring in the beautiful setting of the Rural Life Living Museum, where visitors can experience a wide range of fun and exciting activities that showcase the richness of the culture, heritage and natural beauty of the Surrey Hills.

[Surrey Hills Spring Fair 2026 - Surrey Hills National Landscape](#)

**Saturday 28 March at Knaphill Methodist Church**



**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**

# EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

SUNDAY 5 APRIL, 6.00AM

2026

ST MARTHA'S HILL, AT THE CHURCH

Speaker: Noelle Coe, Town Chaplain at GTCC

The service will be followed by tea/coffee and hot cross buns. Please bring a travel mug.

Parking available at Halfpenny Lane car park and Guildford Lane car park.  
Please dress warmly and bring a torch.

**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**

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

**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](http://www.htsmguildford.org/mmac-2026)

## Events open to all:

Wednesday 11 March <i>* Ticketed event</i>	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. Dr. 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 <i>* Ticketed event</i>	19.30	<b>From Darkness ... to Light:</b> 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	<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 Bavitt: 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)



# 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 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30-4.30pm

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

# 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

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.

Weybridge Male Voice Choir's

# Spring Concert

Join us for an evening of eclectic and varied repertoire with surprises and debut performances along with refreshments afterwards!

Retiring Collection for..



Prostate  
Cancer  
Research

[pcr.org.uk](http://pcr.org.uk)

**WITH GUEST SOLOIST  
ANXO GARCIA  
WINNER OF THE WOKING YOUNG  
MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR 2026**



**Friday  
24th April  
7.30pm**

Christ The Prince of Peace, Portmore Way,  
Weybridge, KT13 8JD

Adults - £15 Under 12s - Free

Tickets can be purchased via  
choir members or online at  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/weybridgemvc](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/weybridgemvc)



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, 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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

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**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**