

Friends of the Wey Valley Circuit,

As I begin to prepare my sermon for this Sunday, we note that the Lectionary authors have given us quite contrasting scriptures for this Sunday and last. Last week's reading, from Acts 2, was telling about the results of Peter's Pentecost sermon, focusing on the large number of people who were added to the church that day and how they chose to live out their new lives in Christ.

This Sunday's reading is about the martyrdom of Stephen, which you might say is the exact opposite reaction to a sermon. Stephen's "congregation" was so incensed by these words that they immediately put him to death by stoning.

Now, I've preached some bad sermons in my career, but never one so bad that the congregation wanted to kill me. Or....maybe I should say that I've never preached a sermon so **good** that people wanted to kill me. After all, if I've never made a congregation angry, maybe I'm not challenging them enough? Maybe I'm not confronting them **with** their sins, but rather comforting them **in** their sins. It's an interesting thought.

When was the last time you were challenged by a sermon? When was the last time you allowed yourself to be challenged by a sermon? Even the best preacher in the world (and I know we have some great ones in the Circuit) can't move a heart that refuses to acknowledge that they need to be moved.

John Wesley wrote, "We should be rigorous in judging ourselves and gracious in judging others."

I hope that I'm preaching to the choir here, and that you're someone who regularly examines themselves, their actions, and their motives, but knowing human nature, I suspect it's something we can all do better on.

Perhaps that is the real thread connecting both passages: not the reaction of the crowd, but the posture of the heart. In both readings, the same gospel is proclaimed, yet one group is cut to the heart and transformed, while another is cut to the heart and enraged. The difference is not in the message, but in the willingness to receive it. As we come to worship this Sunday, may we resist the easy temptation to sit in judgment over what we hear, and instead place ourselves under its searching light. If we are to grow as disciples, we must be prepared not only to be comforted, but also to be unsettled. Trusting that even the hardest word spoken in truth is, ultimately, spoken in love.

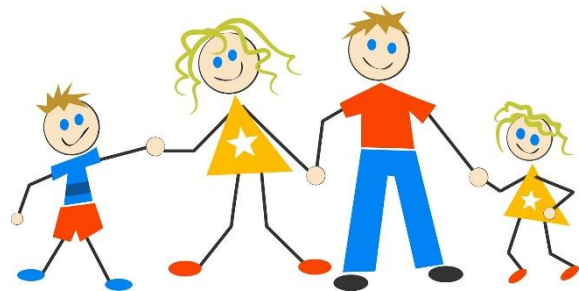
Adam

Resources/Good News

A Chapel's willingness to try new things, at their "give-it-a-go" Church

A chapel outside the town of Nantwich has shown how mission can grow when a church chooses to welcome young families and listen to its community. At Broomhall and Sound Methodist Church in Cheshire, lay worker Kathryn Davies has worked to help shape the family ministry that began with a toddler group and has since expanded into after-school activities, holiday clubs, a twins' support group and even a pedal-tractor run dreamed up by two young boys.

[Read how the church has become a place of belonging and support](#)



STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH
(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER
Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon

 <p>7th April 14th April 21st April 28th April</p>	2026	<p>5th May 12th May 19th May 26th May</p> 
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Enjoy Coffee & a Chat, Coffee & a Game, or Coffee & a Book
The choice is yours!
Everyone welcome – bring a friend!

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS!



Local Arrangement Resourcing Event

For Church Stewards, Worship Leaders
or anyone in the Congregation that is interested.

Please come along and join Dave Ingoldby, Elizabeth Gurd,
Graham Warr & Sam Funnell for a session on how to tackle
these and even ENJOY them!

Where?

Trinity Methodist Church,
Brewery Road, Woking, GU21 4LH

When?

Sat 30th May, 2.30-4.30pm (Refs from 2pm)

What do I need to bring?

Pen and paper (or laptop) plus an open mind and heart!

We look forward to seeing you then!



Saturday 23rd May 2026 2pm

**Walton Methodist Church Hall
KT12 2SR**

A maximum of 6 people per team

Refreshments being served at half time.

To book a table please email:

waltonmethodistchurchsecretary@virginmedia.com

Donations on the night in aid of Tearfund

tearfund.org/quiz

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom

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tearfund

FREE EVENT



Healthy Ageing Fair

An event for all things health. Physical, mental, financial and legal.

Feeling lost about ageing and later life Find clarity, support and a pool of resources all in one place through a multitude of organisations we've called together to guide and help you.

- Thursday April 30th
 - 14:00 - 16:00
 - QE Baptist Church and community centre
- Guildford, GU2 9LX

COME ALONG!

 FREE ON-SITE PARKING

Get in touch
to find out more

■ 01483 904594

mike.boniface@radfieldhomecare.co.uk

Hosted by



THE BRIGITTE TRUST PRESENTS

Planning Your Funeral with Judith Dandy



Join us for a FREE talk with Judith Dandy, funeral director and founder of Dandelion Farewells. During the session, Judith will share her extensive knowledge of the industry and answer any questions you may have around end-of-life planning.

Taking place at Effingham Golf Club in Leatherhead, this session will offer a refreshing approach to death and dying, and provide you with the information needed to ensure that you get the perfect send-off.

WHEN: Tuesday 12th May, 9:30am (for a 10:00am start) until 12:00pm

WHERE: Effingham Golf Club, Guildford Road, Leatherhead KT24 5PZ

This session is free and open to all. If you are interested in attending, please book through one of the following options;

- Contact Mandy East at mandy.east@brigitte-trust.org
- Visit our Eventbrite page through the QR code →
- Or visit our website at www.brigitte-trust.org/our-services/the-brigitte-trust-presents/

