

SPEND TIME WITH PEOPLE, NOT DEVICES

Dear Friends,

We live in a world where everything is becoming faster, smarter, and more convenient. With a single tap on a screen, money moves, groceries arrive, and conversations happen without a voice ever being heard. Technology has given us many gifts — but sometimes, without noticing, it quietly steals something precious from us too.

A few months ago, I accompanied my father to the bank. He needed to transfer some money to my sister in Texas. We spent nearly an hour there, and as we waited, I could not resist asking him:

“Dad, why don’t we activate your internet banking?”

He looked at me with curiosity. “Why would I do that?”

I launched into my enthusiastic explanation — how he could save time, avoid queues, shop online, and have everything delivered to his door. I was ready to usher him into the digital age.

His reply stopped me in my tracks.

He said, “Since I entered this bank today, I have met four of my friends. I have chatted with the staff who know me well. You know I am alone... this is the company I need. I like to get ready and come to the bank. I have time. It is the human touch that I crave.”

Then he continued with stories that reminded me of something we often forget:

“When I was ill two years ago, the fruit seller came to visit me at home. We sat and talked for a long time. When your mother fell on her morning walk, our local grocer saw her, stopped everything, and drove her home because he knew exactly where we lived. Would I have that if everything was online? Why would I want everything delivered to me and force me to interact only with a screen? I want to know the people I deal with — not just the seller. It creates relationships. Does Amazon deliver that as well?”

His words were simple, but they carried a profound truth.

Technology can deliver convenience. But only people can deliver care.

A parcel can arrive at your door. But a neighbour arrives at your bedside.

A notification can remind you of a task. But a friend reminds you that you matter.

A device can connect you to the world. But it cannot hold your hand when you fall.

Life is dynamic, yes. The world is changing, yes. But the human heart has not changed. We still need community, conversation, and connection. We still need to be seen, heard, and known.

As we embrace the benefits of modern life, may we never forget the beauty of slowing down, stepping out, and spending time with real people. The warmth of a smile, the kindness of a familiar face, the comfort of shared stories — these are the things that make life rich.

Technology isn't life. People are. Spend time with them.

Thank you.

Rev. George

Resources/Good News

Reflection for Refugee Week, 15-21 June

The Revd Richard Andrew, President of the Methodist Conference, and Matthew Forsyth, Vice-President, offer this reflection for Refugee Week.

[Refugee Week: Our Story, Our Song of Welcome - The Methodist Church](#)

Help Celebrate the UK's Wildlife

After a public consultation last year, the Bank of England announced in March 2026 that the theme for the next series of banknote designs will use nature, with a particular focus on wildlife. The three categories are mammals, birds and amphibians.

From 3 June to 3 July, you will be able to vote for up to six of your favourites from the shortlist, to appear on the £5, £10, £20 and £50 notes.

[Help us celebrate the UK's wildlife | Bank of England](#)



STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



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

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!

Saturday 20 June 2026 2.00-4.00pm

Knaphill Methodist Church, The Broadway, Knaphill GU21 2DR

(between Boots & the old Lloyds Bank)

Clothes4U

a clothes bank supporting the local community

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

We can accept donations again, and are looking for clothes for all age groups, but especially for men and teenage boys.

Donations can be left in waterproof bags outside the church on 20 June before 1pm



Circuit Service

With Revd Conrad Hicks

District Chair,

South East District




All welcome

Refreshments will be served after the service

Sunday 14 June 2026

3.00pm

**Byfleet Methodist Church
Rectory Lane, Byfleet, KT14 7LL**



CHOIR BLAST

A CELEBRATION OF
CONTEMPORARY CHOIRS

JUNE 12th & 13th 2026

FREE FESTIVAL
GODALMING

CHOIRBLAST.COM

DONATIONS WELCOME

Registered Charity Number: 1210483

ChoirBLAST, a celebration of contemporary choirs.

ChoirBLAST festival returns to Godalming this June for its fourth year, bringing together voices, communities, and an extraordinary shared love of singing.

This joyful, non-competitive festival takes place across two days:
Friday 12 June (evening)
and **Saturday 13 June**, from 11am until 10pm.

Across the weekend, **over 100 contemporary choirs** from across the UK - and beyond - will fill the town with sound, performing on **multiple stages throughout Godalming**. This year's festival is bigger than ever, with two additional stages joining returning favourites, offering simultaneous performances across open-air spaces, historic buildings, and local venues.

ChoirBLAST has a festival buzz that welcomes everyone, and is proudly family (& dog) friendly. So, whether you're a devoted singer or simply someone who loves live music drifting through a summer town, this is the event for you!

As a charity, our aim is simple:

to make music accessible to everyone.

ChoirBLAST exists to create and sustain accessible, **free-to-attend community choirs** and to provide more events that are inclusive and diverse for **choirs of all abilities to perform** and share the **joy of singing**.

In the spirit of the festival,

ADMISSION IS FREE,

with **donations** warmly welcomed online in advance
or with one of our friendly volunteers.

All proceeds go directly to the ChoirBLAST charity.

Group Singing - Happy Mind - Healthy Community

CHOIRBLAST.COM
@ChoirBLAST

Registered Charity Number: 1210483



A safe place to talk with people who understand

Tuesday 12 May, 9 June, 14 July

We start at **10:30am** with discussion followed with a break, and we will end at **12pm**.

Woodhill Church,
Chobham Road, Knaphill
No need to book, just turn up.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

Over a warm drink and a slice of cake, our Bereavement Café provides a welcoming space to connect with others who understand the journey of loss. It's a place to talk about the pain of bereavement and find mutual support and encouragement – especially when you need it most.



**The Whitechapel Mission has
been helping the homeless since
1876**

Collections of non-perishable
foods, toiletries and clothing will
be made at

**Godalming United Church
Bridge Street, Godalming GU7 3DT**

26th June to 6th July 2026

GODALMING UNITED CHURCH

(Methodist and United Reformed)

Bridge Street, Godalming GU7 3DT

**Urgently needed: Men's Clothing, Toiletries and
Non-perishable Breakfast foods for**

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

A collection of these items will be held during the period

26th June – 6th July 2026

Please ask your friends, neighbours and colleagues to help as well!

Donation times and specific items needed are detailed inside this leaflet.

Collection times at Godalming United Church will be:

Friday 26 th June	12 noon to 1.30 pm
Saturday 27 th June	10.30 am to 12 noon
Sunday 28 th June	11.30 am to 12.30 pm
Tuesday 30 th June	2 pm to 3 pm
Wednesday 1 st July	6 pm to 7 pm
Friday 3 rd July	12 noon to 1.30 pm
Saturday 4 th July	10.30 am to 12 noon
Saturday 4 th July	2 pm to 3 pm
Sunday 5 th July	11.30 am to 12.30 pm
Monday 6 th July	7 pm to 8 pm

GODALMING UNITED CHURCH

(Methodist and United Reformed)

Bridge Street, Godalming GU7 3DT

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

Items highlighted in **bold** are needed the **most urgently**:

BREAKFAST FOODS		
Peanut Butter	Cornflakes	Weetabix
Bottled water	Chocolate Spread	Brown Sauce
Nutella	Chopped tomatoes	Salt
Chopped Tomatoes	Plum tomatoes	Porridge
Baked Beans	Honey	Biscuits
Sugar	Squash	Coffee
Instant Hot Chocolate	Ketchup	Tinned Fruit
Sugar	Honey	Black Ground Pepper
Peanut Butter		
MEN'S CLOTHING		
Winter Jackets	Winter Coats	Baseball Caps
Woollen Gloves	Woollen Hats	Woollen Scarves
T-shirts	Jumpers	Hand Towels
Bath Towels	Underpants	Boxers
Jeans 28-36"	Trousers 28-34"	Small Rucksacks
Men's Trainers	Men's Shoes	
TOILETRIES		
Toothbrushes	Body Lotion	Body Wash
	Roll-on Deodorant	Razors
Hand Cream	Moisturiser	Shampoo
Spray Deodorant	Shower Gel	Shaving Foam