

Dear Friends,

We supernumerary presbyters – I speak for myself, of course – like to be useful. We may continue to preach and celebrate the sacraments, but no longer have to attend meetings, let alone chair them. There are exceptions: we are expected to attend the Presbyteral Synod, when we renew our ordination promises and ask God's blessing on our ministry; and we sometimes help out during a colleague's holiday, sabbatical or period of illness. All other meetings are optional; though you may spot us sitting in the back row at a Circuit meeting, or at gatherings of Local Preachers and Worship Leaders. Occasionally we are invited to a special meeting, and two of us attended one such a few days ago. We sat in the shade of a willow tree alongside members of the Circuit Leadership Team for what was called a strategy meeting. It was a lovely time of fellowship, prayer and, of course, talk. Lots of talk: we are Methodists after all.

It is not for me to say what was discussed: I was a guest, and some matters were sensitive, but I can say that every church in the circuit was remembered, lovingly and prayerfully. Each chapel matters, as does each congregation, each member, each worshipper and each user of our premises. The communities amongst which we live and witness matter too. It was encouraging to know how those in leadership roles are ready to discern God's will, to be prepared to think creatively and to seek a vision of the Circuit as we respond to the changes all around us. So, there will be more prayer, more talking, and some exploration, and some planning. All positive, I can tell you that. We are good news people, after all.

I am currently re-reading Stephen Neill's 'A History of Christian Missions', reprinted in 1999, the year I received it as a farewell gift from my church in Germany. I have reached what Neill calls the heyday of colonialism, the second half of the 19th century, beginning with Japan. An agricultural college was opened there, headed at first by an American, Dr Clark. Clark was not a missionary, but his Christian example led to the baptism of fifteen Japanese students. One of these was Kanzo Uchimura, who became the leader of the group. He later became well-known for forming the 'Mukyokai', or 'non-Church' movement. He believed that 'the truly Christian temple has God's earth for a floor, and his sky for a ceiling; its altar is in the heart of the believer; its law is God's word, and the Holy Spirit is its only pastor.'

Uchimura was not in favour of the organised church, but neither did he set out to destroy it. Rather, he was concerned that those who paid attention to exterior things should be helped to see the interior things. What really matters, in other words. Well, amen to that: I think back to the battles of churches to keep their pews!

As we move into a new connexional year, guided by a new Superintendent and with new vision, may we ever keep in mind who we really are.

Let him to whom we now belong
his sovereign right assert,
And take up every thankful song
and every loving heart.

He justly claims us for his own,
Who bought us with a price;
The Christian lives for Christ alone,
To Christ alone he dies.

Blessings,

Peter

Resources/Good News

St Columba's Open Day, Saturday 1 August 11:00 – 15:00

St Columba's House, Maybury Hill, Woking, Surrey GU22 8AB

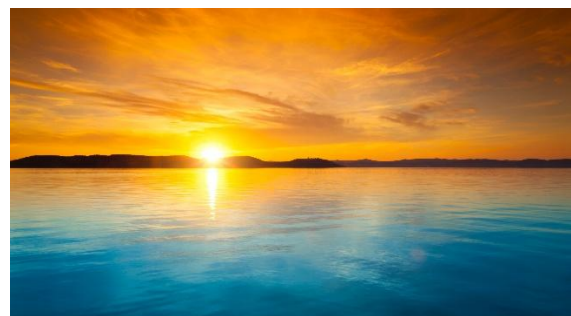
Saint Columba's House is an urban contemporary Christian retreat and conference centre in Woking.

Explore the house and gardens, enjoy a guided tour, walk the garden labyrinth, visit the art exhibition or spend a quiet moment in our Oratory.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning, everyone is welcome. Bring family, friends, colleagues and members of your Church. No booking is needed—just drop in between 11am and 3pm on Saturday 1st August.

There is also a wide variety of events throughout the year, including meditation evenings, day retreats, art exhibitions and vocal workshops.

[Our Events | St Columba's House](#)





Circuit Service

**To bid a fond farewell to
Revd Uncle George Quarm**



All welcome

Refreshments will be served after the service

Sunday 19 July 2026

3.00pm

**Merrow Methodist Church
Bushy Hill Drive, Merrow, GU1 2SH**

WEYBRIDGE MALE VOICE CHOIR
INVITE YOU TO THEIR

SUMMER Concert

FRIDAY 17TH JULY, 7.30PM

St. James' Church, Weybridge, KT13 8DB

With special guests Retiring collection for

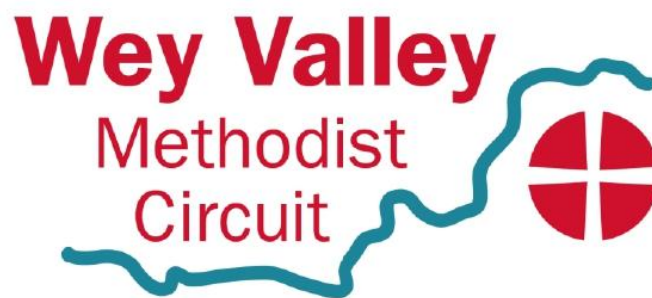


Adults - £15 Under 12s - Free



Tickets can be purchased via
choir members or online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/weybridgemvc





Welcome Service

for

Revd Paul Tabraham

Our new Superintendent Minister

Light refreshments will be served before the service



Sunday 6 September 2026

6.00pm

**Knaphill Methodist Church
Broadway, Knaphill, GU21 2DR**

COFFEE MORNING FOR

AL-AHLI HOSPITAL – GAZA

(The oldest and only Christian Hospital)

Thursday 10th September
Coffee and Cakes from 10.30am
at Merrow Methodist Church

Talk by Dr Ang Swee Chai at 11.30am

A Senior Consultant at Barts Hospital. She has worked as a surgeon in both Gaza and Lebanon and has spoken at the United Nations. She is a founder member on the Board of MAP (Medical Aid for Palestinians).



Please come and listen to this wonderful, courageous lady who has worked tirelessly against injustice.



Saturday 21st November 2026
2pm

At Walton Methodist Church Hall
A maximum of 6 people per team
Refreshments being served at half time.

Email:

waltonmethodistchurchsecretary@virginmedia.com

to book your place!

tearfund.org/quiz

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STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



2nd June
9th June
16th June
23rd June
30th June

2026

7th July
14th July
21st July
28th July



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

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!



COFFEE MORNING

IN AID OF

KSSX

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY
KENT SURREY SUSSEX

Registered Charity No: 1021367

AND

SALE

There will be various stalls including:

Cakes, Guess the Weight of the Cake, Raffle, Tombola, Guess the Name of Teddy, Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar, Model Railway, & Bric-a-Brac.

Offers of help and donations of items welcome! Contact Tarina Berry

To be opened by **Cllr Saj Hussain**

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Saturday 5th September 2026

10am to Noon

www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk



TEA
COFFEE
BISCUITS
BACON
BUTTIES

Bacon Butties!



Would You Like Trees for Your Charity or Community Group?

We can offer:

- Hedgerows to improve biodiversity
- Community orchards
- Individual trees or copses
- Expert advice on planting... And More!

Please contact our friendly team at
trees@surreycc.gov.uk for more information or
Scan the QR code.



The Email address is: trees@surreycc.gov.uk