

“Mottoes!”

Dear friends,

I have to thank Adam Payne for this entry! A little while ago he wrote an intriguing pastoral letter in which he teased out some important thoughts on our faith from the motto of his daughter’s school. This set me thinking of the motto of my old university (Swansea) which was adopted when the college was founded in 1920:

‘Gweddw crefft, heb ei dawn’

But how does that translate into English, you might ask? The *literal* translation (**‘A craft widow, without her talent’**) seems to make no sense at all! However, there are two basic ways of rendering the idiomatic Welsh into something sensible:

‘Bereft is craft without inborn gift’

or

‘Skill is bereft without culture’



I never did like the first translation, as it could easily be misunderstood. It *could* suggest that the university was saying to prospective students, “If you haven’t got it (‘up there’) – don’t bother coming to us, as simply working hard won’t bring you success” Wow !! Somehow, I don’t think it was intended to convey such a dispiriting message, and certainly the staff under whom I studied were almost always positive and encouraging.

The second way of translating those Welsh words is much nobler – and definitely more appropriate for an institute of learning. Of course, the English words themselves can be viewed in different ways, one definition of ‘culture’ that I came across the other day was: *‘Shared language, values, norms, traditions, pastimes, customs, beliefs and conventions that cause people to identify with one another.’*



I suppose my Christian faith gives a bias to my own interpretation. It’s bound to, really. You may think I’m stretching a point, but those words suggest to me that if we are serious when we say that we live in God’s world ‘with his permission’, as it were, then all our talents, all our work, should be to honour our loving Creator.

I’m glad that *Singing the Faith* has found room for a hymn by the noted 17th century poet George Herbert (1593-1633) who makes the point much better than I can:-

Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see,
and what I do in anything, to do it as for thee.

A servant with this clause makes drudgery divine;
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws, makes that and the action fine.



A Prayer: Gracious God, in all our days, help us to see that even the humblest tasks that we can perform can be made holy. Give us the humility and insight to offer all our works to you, our loving Creator God. Amen.

Every blessing to you all,

Barrie Tabraham

Resources/Good News

Resilience and faith: a renewed partnership in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa

[A report from the Revd Andrew Ashdown, Partnership Coordinator for Africa.](#)

In May 2026, I was joined by the Revd Valentin Dedji for the first visit by the Methodist Church in Britain (MCB) to Côte d'Ivoire in over 20 years.

"This is a moment of historic significance. The renewal of our partnership means so much to us." Many shared this sentiment as we stood before a congregation of 8,000 people on Pentecost Sunday, during an open-air service in the town of Dabou in Côte d'Ivoire filled with dancing, singing, prayers and celebration.

Runnymede Art Society Exhibition, at Painshill Park

August 29, 2026 – August 30, 2026

10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Included with general admission/free for members.

Location: Abercorn Room in the Visitor Hub

Last entry is at 5pm, the landscape and car park will close at 6pm.

[Runnymede Art Society Exhibition - Painshill](#)



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.

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



4th August

11th August

18th August

25th August

1st September

8th September

15th September

22nd September

29th September

2026



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

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!

Saturday 15 August 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

Donations - not needed!

Due to huge generosity lately from the residents of Knaphill and beyond,
we can't accept any donations at all for the time being.

Welcoming Service Invitation
Saturday, 5th September 2026
3:00pm Trinity Methodist Church
481 Clay Hill Road, Basildon, SS16 4NN

You are warmly invited to join us as we begin this new chapter of ministry and fellowship in Basildon. Thank you for your kindness, prayers, and support.

Rev George & Ama Quarm



COFFEE MORNING

AND SALE 24

IN AID OF

KSSX

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY
KENT SURREY SUSSEX
Registered Charity No: 1021367

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

Bacon Butties!

TEA
COFFEE
BISCUITS
BACON
BUTTIES

KMC
OUR CALLING...
SUPPORT EACH OTHER
WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER





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

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom
☎ +44 (0)20 3906 3906 ✉ info@tearfund.org 📱 @Tearfund

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