

Dear Friends,

Today, September 23rd, marks the autumnal equinox in the northern hemisphere. Day and night are of nearly equal length as the Earth transitions into autumn. For people like me who suffer from nyctophobia, an intense and irrational fear of the dark, this is not a good time of year because from now onwards the nights are drawing in. Of course I'm not on my own. Surveys show that nearly 30% of adults feel uneasy or dislike the dark.

The dark or the night are often used as metaphors rather than as a literal state of being. This is perhaps particularly true of John's gospel. Nicodemus went to see Jesus 'by night,' the literal night reflecting his spiritual blindness and lack of understanding. When Judas left the Last Supper to betray Jesus, John notes, 'And it was night.' This detail marks more than just the time of day; it symbolises Judas entering the realm of moral and spiritual darkness. Mary Magdalene went to the empty tomb while 'it was still dark', signifying grief and a transition from confusion toward the dawning realisation of the risen Christ.

All of us pass through dark times or as Psalm 23 names them 'the valley of the shadow'. It may be depression or disappointment or loss or grief or fear or despair or anxiety or sickness. And the good news is that 'even though I walk through the valley of the shadow' God is there. In dark times and bright times, bad times and good times, sad times and joyful times God is there. As John Wesley is reputed to have said as he lay dying: 'Best of all is God is with us.'

Best of all is God is with us,
God will hold and never fail.
Keep that truth when storms are raging,
God remains though faith is frail.

Best of all is God is with us,
Life goes on and needs are met,
God is strongest in our weakness.
Love renews, will not forget. (Andrew Pratt)

Blessings,

Allan

Resources/Good News

Advent and Christmas Resources

The Methodist Church's Advent and Christmas campaign for 2026 is called

Don't be Afraid

You can read more on the upcoming campaign, find worship resources and posters by following the link below.

There's also a video with ideas on how to engage your community this Christmas.

[Advent and Christmas Church Resources - The Methodist Church](#)

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid ... I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people."

Luke 2:10 (NRSVue)



Saturday 26 September at Knaphill Methodist Church

A colorful advertisement for a church event. At the top left is a circular logo with a cross and the text 'Our Church KMC'. The main text 'MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING' is in large white letters on a brown background. Below this, the word 'AND' is in red, followed by 'SALE' in large red letters. To the left of 'SALE' is a white cup of coffee on a saucer. To the right is a cartoon illustration of a person in a green shirt and orange cap serving coffee. A blue sign next to them lists 'TEA', 'COFFEE', 'BISCUITS', and 'BACON BUTTIES'. Below the main text, there are small illustrations of various items for sale: a vase, a lamp, a bicycle, a radio, and a clock. To the right of these is the text 'BOOKS, DVDs, JIGSAWS, CAKES, BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE' in red. At the bottom, there are three black bars with white and yellow text: 'KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL', '4th Saturday every month (except December)', and '10am to Noon'.



Woking People of Faith

Woking People of Faith present



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE EVENT



Saturday 26 September 2026



12pm–1pm



Mercia Walk, Woking



Woking Mayor, Cllr Rob Leach, to present prizes to Woking schoolchildren for peace-themed poetry and posters.



Children's work on display



Local faith leaders to read from the **Peace Document**



One minute's silence in memory of those who have passed due to war



Music from local musicians



Beautiful **FREE** henna painting

ALL WELCOME

PEACE • PEOPLE • A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



Alzheimer's
Society



Cream Tea Charity Fundraiser

We are holding a 2nd Cream Tea Charity Fundraiser this year this time for Alzheimer's Society. Book now for a 45 minute time slot and receive a delightful cream tea with a tea or coffee all in the aid of this charity. Train rides will be running as normal.

Sunday 27th September 2026 2-5pm

£10 per person (pay on the day)

 **MIZENS RAILWAY TEA ROOM**



*Scan Here
To Book*





Merrow
Methodist Church

Coffee Morning



JOIN US
for
coffee/tea,
homemade cakes,
and
a chat

Thursday 15 October 2026
10.30 am – 12 noon
Merrow Methodist Church

biblesociety.org.uk | Registered charity 232759 | Photo: Engin Akyurt PIXABAY



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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!

COFFEE AND CAKE

AT ST. MARY'S

QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP

**SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER
2026**



Thursday 27 August

- - -

Thursday 24 September

- - -

Thursday 22 October

10.30 – 12.00

- each month features a different charity

Everyone welcome



St. Mary's Church

Quarry St GU1 3UP

visit

OUR TIME 2

**- an exhibition of art
created by**

women prisoners from HMP Send

Opening:

Thursday 1 October 11 am – 5 pm

Friday 2 October 11am – 5 pm

Saturday 3 October 11 am – 5 pm

Sunday 4 October 12 noon – 5 pm

Thursday **1st October, 7.00-8.30pm at St John's, Waterloo** - hear the testimony and call to action of a Palestinian farmer and peace activist from *Tent of Nations* in the West Bank. Supported by *Embrace the Middle East* and the CEO of *All We Can*. Tickets can be booked at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-struggle-for-land-justice-and-peace-in-the-west-bank-tickets-1998351370744>

Saturday **3rd October 10.00am-1.30pm - *Sustaining Hope* gathering at Redhill Methodist Church** with presentations from two people on the front-line of supporting asylum-seekers and people recognised as refugees in the south of our District. In view of the current increased intimidation of communities and people of goodwill, do take this opportunity to learn more and share your support. Details are on the poster or from hazel.forecast@methodist.org.uk.

Pastoral Support

Advocacy

Accommodation

SUSTAINING HOPE IN 2026

Interpreting

Foodbanks

Drop-In Centres

Place of Sanctuary

Befriending

English practice

Are you involved, or interested, in supporting Refugees, Migrants & Displaced Persons?

The Methodist South-East District 'Sustaining Hope' autumn gathering for 2026

Cafes

will include

- time to network

- Deacon Vicky Welsh: 'Unexpected voices within a small town'

- Rossana Leal: Becoming 'Refugee Buddies'

Form-filling

Date: Saturday, 3rd October, 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

To register, for more information, or for the livestreaming link, please email
Rev Hazel Forecast at
hazel.forecast@methodist.org.uk

Liaising with other Agencies

Mother-tongue worship

Something else...



Weybridge Sings

**Treble Clef and
Weybridge Male Voice Choirs
in Concert**



tre clef choir
WEYBRIDGE



Registered
Charity
No: 1038624



**Friday 9th October at 7.30pm
Christ the Prince of Peace
Portmore Way, Weybridge. KT13 8JD**

**Adults £15 U12's go Free
Pay Bar for Refreshments.**

Retiring collection
in aid of

Princess Alice
Hospice

**Tickets from Choir Members, or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/weybridgemvc**





Woking People of Faith

FAITH TO FAITH FORGIVENESS

AN INTERFAITH CONVERSATION



EVENT DETAILS

DATE

Thursday 15
October 2026

TIME

7.30 pm

DURATION

60–90 mins
maximum



VENUE

Friends Meeting House, 41 Park Road
Woking GU22 7DB

What to expect

A focused evening of listening, reflection and exchange.

01

Faith perspectives

Five minutes from each speaker on forgiveness in their faith.

02

Small groups

Time to discuss, ask questions and share reflections together.

03

Shared session

Concluding with common features and distinctions between faiths.



Light refreshments provided

Please arrive in time for a prompt 7.30 pm start.



Parking available

On site and on nearby side roads.

JUST TURN UP!

PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS AND NO FAITH WELCOME



Woking People of Faith

The WPOF Environmental Working Party invite you to

HELP THE HEATHER

**JOIN US TO HELP THE HEATHER
SURVIVE ON HORSELL COMMON!**



Saturday 17th October 2026



10 am - 12 pm



Horsell Common

(meet at Heather Farm at 9.45 am)

Bring Boots and Gloves!

All welcome!

For more information email John West:

westjohn630@gmail.com

POP-UP PLAY CAFÉ

Wednesday 29 October 9.30 – 11.30

... call in at
ST. MARY'S
Quarry St
Guildford GU1 3UP

- space to play
- time to relax
- coffee and cake

All ages welcome



SAVE THE DATES

Join us for our 2026 series of

Advent Reflections

followed by a bread & soup lunch

**Thursdays – 26 November
and 3, 10 December**

12.15 for 12.30

Carols at Lunchtime: 17 December

St. Mary's Quarry St Guildford GU1 3UP

Tea/Coffee and Cake

Pay as You Feel

every Saturday, 10.00 - 12.00pm



Addlestone Methodist Church

(Next to Subway on Station Road)

Free Prize Bingo &
Games Mornings

on 1st and 3rd Saturdays
of month!



We always need donations and volunteers to
keep serving the Addlestone community. Please help us!

Play  
Chat. Connect



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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