

Hello everyone,

For a 13-week period I have been writing a weekly reflection for that great organ '*The Methodist Recorder*'. On the basis that most of you don't see the weekly Methodist newspaper, I thought I'd share with you the piece that will be published this week:

Bear with me for a minute - this may take a little time.

I think I have a problem. It's a problem that was highlighted for me when I read a book by Francis Spofford called '*Unapologetic - why despite everything Christianity can still make surprising emotional sense*.'

The problem he highlights is this. We are surrounded by an ocean of self-help gurus and slogans. They say things like 'Love yourself enough to leave behind anything or anyone that no longer serves your best interest.' Or...'self-respect, self-worth and self-love - all start with self. Stop looking outside of yourself for your value.' Or...'I am beautiful and worthy of greatness in all areas of my life.'

Can you see what my problem is? As well as the fact that these are some pretty self-centred statements, Spofford would argue that they do not make emotional sense because they ignore a basic fact about being human that, at the back of our minds, we all know.

As human beings we have an innate and constant ability and tendency to muck things up and to be messy. We fall and fail time and time again. We need help...and that's okay. Because that's what God is about in Jesus. We ARE loved; we ARE worthy. That is about the worth that God sees in each one of us. However, that worth should not make us selfish, it should make us respectful - because if we have that kind of worth in God's eyes so does every other person as well.

The age we live in can easily tend towards selfishness and self-centredness. Christianity offers something that makes far deeper and more profound emotional sense than that. It recognises that we are loved within our brokenness, held within our messiness and loved no matter what.

Have a good week.

Paul

Resources/Good News

Once Struggling Church is Now Booming

A Methodist church once on the brink of closure now boasts a booming multinational congregation who can listen to services in their own languages.

[Read how Didcot Methodist Church has transformed its church community](#)

Dark Skies at Newlands Corner

24 October 2026 @ 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Discover the wonders of the night sky through telescope viewing, inspiring talks, poetry, immersive sound art and gentle woodland walks.

[Dark Skies at Newlands Corner - Surrey Hills National Landscape](#)

The Start of Greenwich Mean Time!

The clocks will go back one hour at **2:00 am on Sunday, 25 October 2026**, marking the end of British Summer Time (BST) and the return to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

The mornings will become lighter, while the evenings will get darker earlier.



Mike Widdup - Mission Trip to Ghana - Part III

The final part of my joining a mission team from the Methodist Blackheath and Crystal Palace Circuit to Ghana in January this year has now been completed. On Monday 5th October along with two friends from the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pyrford, I cycled 50 miles off-road from Pyrford to Shoreham by Sea on the South Coast. We cycled along canal towpaths and finally the Downs Link (an old railway track) to Shoreham Fort by the sea. This was quite a challenge for me, an 80-year-old grandad.

I and my two friends' aim is to raise £3,000 from sponsorship for the ride for Upper Norwood Methodist Church South East London to buy 10 Laptop computers for the Methodist Rafiki Satellite Village Orphanage in Accra, Ghana that I visited back in January this year. I came away determined to help them get new laptops for the school's computer room. Their existing laptop computers are very old, and some are not working.

Donations to support this event will help change these children's lives in giving them the opportunity to develop their digital skills to support their education and give them hope that will open doors to jobs when they leave the orphanage.

For donations to support the buying of the laptops, I have set up a bank account - Michael Widdup JG (the JG signifying 'Just Giving') specifically to accept donations to support the 50 miles off-road cycling event. The full account details are below:

Michael Widdup JG
20-26-28
20883611

Should any Circuit Newsletter readers like to make an online donation to the above account, when making your payment please insert your initials and surname as the reference. Please email if your donation can be Gift Aided - mwiddup@hotmail.co.uk.

Later this month, I will pass all the funds donated into the above account to the Upper Norwood Methodist Church South East London (a UK registered Charity) for them to purchase the laptops and deliver them to the Orphanage.

Thank you for considering supporting this worthwhile project.

Best Wishes,

Mike Widdup
St. Michael's Sheerwater

Saturday 17 October 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

Visitors are very welcome to stay for refreshments (free of charge)

We are once again accepting donations



STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



6th October

13th October

20th October

27th October

3rd November

10th November

17th November

24th November

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

matrix A Christian charity
providing a lifeline
for vulnerable young people
across Guildford

**THURSDAY
22
OCTOBER
10.30 – 12.00**



Everyone welcome



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 28 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

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