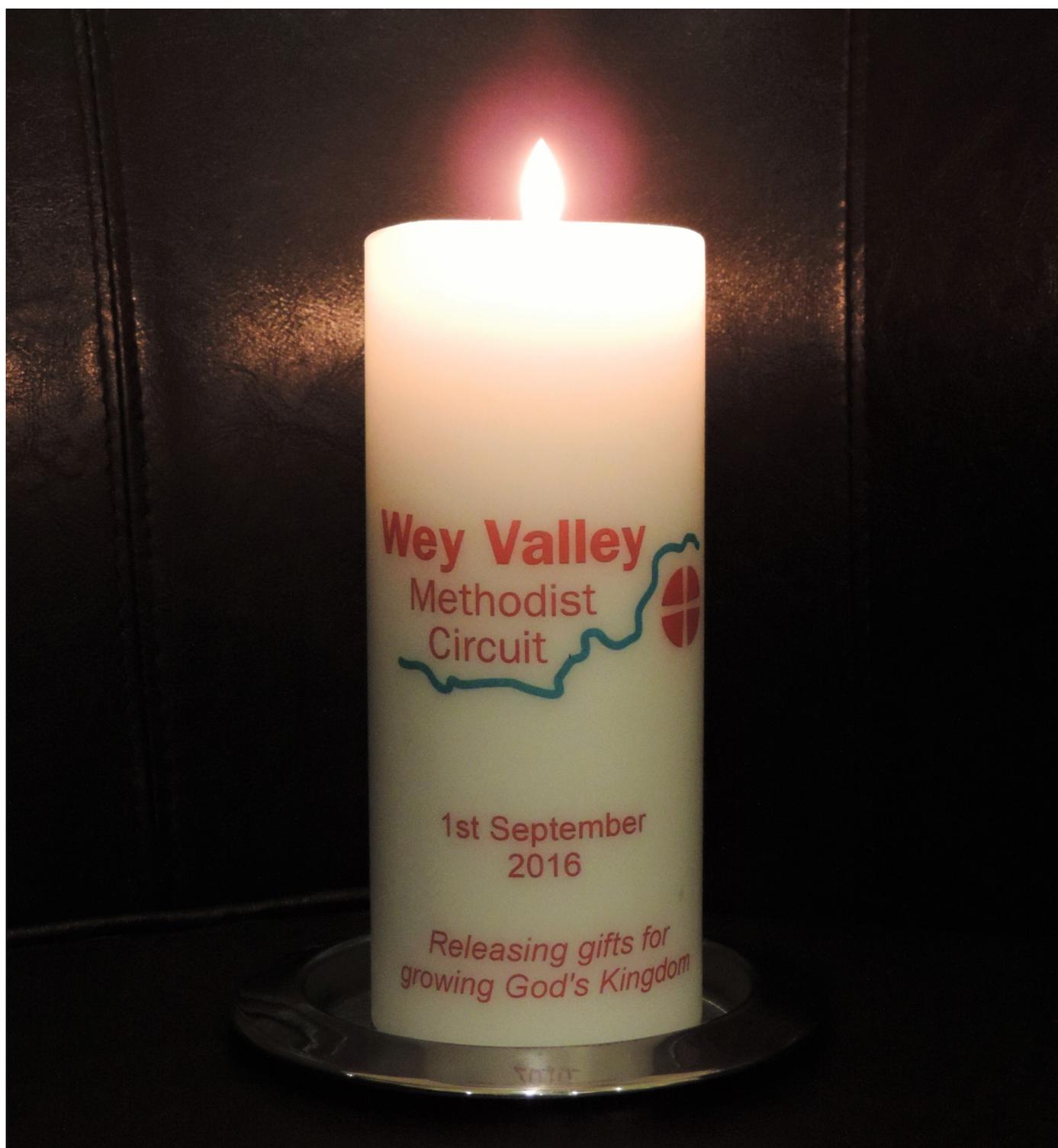


The Wey Forward

Issue 2, December 2016



A message from our Superintendent

*Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.*

*But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.*

*'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
Love said, 'You shall be he.'*

*'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on Thee.'*

*Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
'Who made the eyes but I?'*

*'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'*

*'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
'My dear, then I will serve.'*

*'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
So I did sit and eat.*

Dear Friends,

George Herbert's poem so expertly captures that hesitancy so many people feel when they come face to face with grace. There is a sense of constant movement – the person moves a little closer, but then draws back because of their sense of sin, then learns more about God's love and comes closer again and finally accepts the wonder of God's forgiveness.

This poem is so true to human life. We get comfortable and settled. But then suddenly we are jolted – by the horror of a hurricane hitting Haiti – the country least able to withstand it – by the stories of civilians who are still trying to live amidst the destruction of Aleppo - by the tragedy of refugees waiting for the chance to start again. We can be jolted too by sudden pain and confusion and suffering in our own communities and lives, and we have to ask ourselves how humanity could stand any of this if there was no God who walked with us through it all – who knows what this feels like.

“Who made the eyes but I?” asked Love. We may not feel we are holy enough, good enough, ‘spiritual’ enough – yet we are invited to God’s feast as an honoured guest. This is pure and unconditional grace. Every human being – those who are comfortable, those who are suffering, those who are confused, those who are confident, those who are fearful for the future – every one is invited to be God’s guest.

In these three months we will travel through Advent, preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ. We will marvel again that God loved the world so much that he limited himself to live a human life on this very earth and defeated even death. In response we will have the opportunity to renew our Covenant promises –making a strong statement that we intend to cooperate with God in the way we live and the choices we make.

May God help us to notice his acts of grace and to celebrate them, moving closer all the time to accepting the love he has poured out for each of us.

With love and all good wishes,

Claire

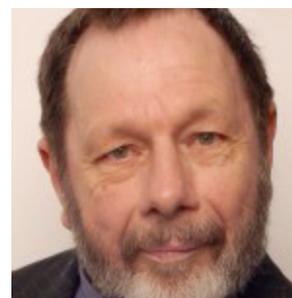


Most of you will have heard that Rev Asif Das is unwell and not currently taking appointments. We send our love and best wishes to Asif, Martha and the family at this worrying time and wish Asif a speedy return to health.



By the time you read this the Rev David Faulkner will have commenced his much needed sabbatical. Dave very kindly deferred this time of reflection and rest by a year to help out during the period of staff shortages 2015/16.

We wish Dave a fruitful time of renewal and refreshment and a restful family Christmas with Debbie, Rebekah and Mark.



Royal Surrey Hospital Chaplaincy

Please contact Rev Allan Taylor if you, or someone you know, would like a visit whilst an in-patient at the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Allan can be contacted by telephone or email:

01483 200464 (home) or 01483 406835 (hospital)

jat.hoschap@yahoo.co.uk

A new beginning

September marks a new beginning in the Methodist year. This September, though, is one of special new beginnings with the formation of the new Wey Valley Methodist Circuit, and the appointment of Rev Paul Chesworth as Minister for Trinity and St Michael's Church, Sheerwater. And so on Sunday 11th September, a beautiful late summer's evening, we met at Trinity for a very special celebration Circuit service.

This included the inauguration of the Wey Valley Circuit, the welcome of Paul and his wife Liz, along with the introduction and affirmation of all the presbyters and circuit stewards who will serve in the newly formed Circuit. And what a special service it was! Preceded by tea, the church was packed with friends from all the circuit churches from Cranleigh and Godalming in the south, to Walton-on-Thames in the north, and attended also by a number of civic and ecumenical guests.

The new Circuit came into being on September 1st – a joining of 13 churches in the Guildford and Woking & Walton-on-Thames Circuits – each with its own distinctive personality and gifts, looking forward to mutual sharing and support and responding together to the gospel of God's love in the community and the wider world. During the service the churches each gave and received a gift to symbolize this sharing of dreams, ideas and resources.

The service was presided over by Rev Dr Claire Potter – our Superintendent Minister – who welcomed us and lit a Circuit candle as a symbol of our unity in Christ – light of the world. Later in the service thirteen smaller candles were lit, one for each of the churches, and were received by their Senior Steward.

Rev John Hellyer, Chair of the South East District, preached at the service and Rev Conrad Hicks (Assistant Chair) refused to be defeated by delays on the M25 and arrived just in time to welcome the new Circuit staff! John Hellyer, in his message to the congregation asked what sort of relationships we wanted to build within our new Circuit? A stay in hospital had prompted him to think about how hospitals 'work'. Two main themes were apparent – teamwork and accountability. Linking this to the Gospel message (Mark 6), John talked of how Jesus' instructions to his disciples talked of mutual support, time for rest and recreation and time to grow and learn – lessons for us as we journey together. He also spoke of our need for accountability. First and foremost to be accountable to God in our individual and collective discipleship, but also accountable to the world in which we live – our mission, to the wider church in our ecumenism and finally to the people we come into contact with in our pastoral care. To work as a 'team' and be fully accountable is not possible in our own strength, but through the fruits of the Spirit, and by God's Grace we are able to build relationships of integrity, honesty, forgiveness and trust as we move forward to love and serve God together.

With wonderful musical accompaniment and singing, the service was one of dedication and celebration – a fitting beginning for an exciting time ahead, both as a new Circuit and at Trinity and St Michael's Sheerwater with Paul, looking forward to where God will lead us.

Helen Bowerman

Church buildings: bane or blessing?

Our Circuit's church buildings are all very different – varying from the 1000-year-old building in which the Methodists worship at St Mary's Guildford to Trinity Woking which was completed in 1965. Regardless of the age and style of our church buildings, the one thing they have in common is the opportunity they provide for our mission.

One of the most exciting challenges for us is how we respond to the opportunity to use our buildings to shape our relationship with our communities. If we believe that our mission is to stand alongside the vulnerable, the lost and the disenfranchised in order to reveal the transforming love of God, then how can our buildings support that mission?

It is not simply a matter of how we use the premises: although if we offer our premises to various groups but have no relationship with these groups and their members – in fact are often not present when they are on the premises – then we are more likely to be considered a Community Centre than a Church by them, and our relationship will be landlord to tenant. Equally, if we sit in our committees and church councils and decide what the needs of the community are without any dialogue with community representatives, and set up groups and activities to service this need, then our relationship risks being patronising.

Clearly, how we use the building is important in terms of our mission: if we want to develop relationships with other groups that use them we need to explore how to do that with these groups; and if we want to be relevant to the community we need to be engaging with the community to identify local needs. But how can the building itself reflect the mission of the church, and offer others an encounter with the risen Christ?

Imagine that someone new comes into your church buildings: what would they see? And how would that enable them to understand what the purposes and values of your church are? How accessible is the Sanctuary, or is it hidden behind solid closed doors creating a sense of “us and them”? What literature and information is available for the passer-by to take away, and how suitable is its language and content for a non-churched individual? How does your building serve as a welcome to the stranger?

Three questions we were asked to consider at a recent Circuit Stewards' conference are:

- What theological principles should inform the way we shape our buildings?
- What theological principles should inform the way we use our buildings?
- How can we support Managing Trustees in making good decisions about the development and use of our buildings?

At a time when mission is at the top of the agenda in our churches, and when a number of our churches are also looking at their buildings as a resource that supports the church mission, how we answer these three questions at Circuit Leadership Team and local church levels will be critical to answering the key question: are our church buildings a bane or a blessing?

*Margaret Ireland
Senior Circuit Steward*

In response to an address by Rev John Hellyer, South East District Chair, at the Circuit Stewards' Conference. If you would like to listen to the whole address, go to:

<https://soundcloud.com/trinitynewbuild/rev-john-hellyer-keynote-151016>

Update on manses (north!)

Until the summer only one of the four manses in the former Woking & Walton-on-Thames Circuit were occupied by presbyters – Rev Dave Faulkner and family at Knaphill. Following the arrival of Paul and Liz Chesworth in August it is pleasing to know that the Woking manse is also now occupied. The other two manses are currently let on 12 month terms. At Byfleet we undertook a complete redecoration of the property and carried out various other works before going to the market. The tenancy commenced on 3rd May 2016. At Walton-on-Thames the initial tenancy ended on 4th May 2016 but we were able to let it again with effect from 1st July after rapidly organising redecoration and repairs in line with the recommendations of a Quinquennial inspection.

David Lander, Circuit Steward

Fair by Five campaign



1. By age 5, most children in England have reached a good level of development. They are able to make friends and explore their world safely and are ready to learn. Others have already fallen behind.
2. One in three children in England don't reach a good level of development by age five. In the most deprived areas, this number is higher.
3. At Action for Children, we believe it's possible to close this gap. But it will need vision, leadership and concerted effort by the Government.
4. We can't afford to let down thousands of children who could be getting a better start in life. It's bad for children, for families, for communities and for our country's future success.
5. Join us to make early years development in England, especially for the most disadvantaged children, a national priority 2020. Become a campaign supporter at www.actionforchildren.org.uk/fairbyfive

Christmas resources are now available which contains everything you need to hold a Christmas service for AFC and give thanks for the work of Action for Children. Over 1310 churches held an event, collection, service or activity for AFC last Christmas, raising over £260,000. You can download these resources from the web-site www.actionforchildren.org.uk/methodist-resources.

Christmas cards and diaries 2016 are now available. Please ask your church AFC representative or ring the supporter care on 0300 123 2112

Merrow Methodist Church will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 15th December from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Please join me for coffee and cake. There will also be Christmas cards available.

*Suzanne Burnham
Merrow Methodist Church
Circuit Representative for AFC*

News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

Addlestone are surging ahead with the work to brighten and refresh the premises. They are looking forward to hosting the Nursery schools nativity play, serving coffee to the parents and continuing the slow but steady work of building relationships.

The church is holding its annual Christmas Fayre on 26th November from 10am to 2pm.

A new initiative this year is the 'Carols for All' coffee morning on 10th December. Come along and enjoy listening to (or singing) your favourite carols and enjoy a cup of coffee/tea accompanied by mince pies or cake

Why not come and visit us any week? Coffee is served on a Thursday morning at 10am, followed by a time of prayer, and every Saturday from 10am to 12 noon.

Daphne Platt

Byfleet

Who could have imagined the benefits that the old-fashioned Jumble Sale could bring? Not only did it raise almost £800 towards the Roof Fund but it built new friendships within the church family as we sorted, and lunched, and cleared up. Moreover it proved to be a superb vehicle for mission and outreach within the village. A comprehensive leaflet drop brought opportunities for conversations, communities got together to deliver jumble, and many found where the Methodist Church is located!

The next three months will be just as busy: Carols by Candlelight to which all are invited (4.30pm 11th December); Quiz Night & Hot Supper (6.00pm 21st January); Film Show with Afternoon Tea (2.00pm 17th February); and on 5th March at 3.00pm we celebrate our Church Anniversary with Afternoon Tea followed by Songs of Praise at 4.30pm. With our regular Coffee Mornings on the second Saturday of every month and Tuesday Fellowship at 2.15pm every Tuesday during term time, there are many opportunities for you to get to know us. Come and experience our hospitality!

Margaret Watts

Carols for All (for all ages – 0 to 100)
at the Methodist Church, Station Road, Addlestone



Saturday 10th December 2016 10.30 to 11.30am

Music provided by a wind trio

Singing aided by members of the Addlestone Singers

*Come and join in and sing some of your favourite Carols
and hear the story of the Birth of Jesus*

Retiring Collection in aid of Action for Children, the Methodist-founded children's charity

Coffee, Cake & mince pies and Christmas music from 10am

A joyful start to Christmas

Carol Praise



Saturday Dec 3th

7.00- 9.00 pm

Horsley Methodist Church

(next to W. Horsley Village Hall)

**Come and sing your favourite carols.
With a break for refreshments and
mince pies, etc.**

Phone requests to 282474

FINDING OUR WAY TO BETHLEHEM



A series of
Advent Reflections

led by **Andy Wheeler**

at

St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford

12.15 for 12.30 pm

- Thursday 24 Nov: A Strange Calling
- Thursday 1 Dec: An Uncertain Journey
- Thursday 8 Dec: Finding Our Heart's Desire
- Thursday 15 Dec: Carols for the High Street

The reflections will be followed by a **Bread & Soup lunch**

Looking forward to seeing you there!

CRANLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH



INVITES YOU TO A

CHRISTMAS TEA AND CONCERT

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER

FROM 2.30PM TO 4.45PM

TRANSPORT CAN BE
ARRANGED



TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE
PLEASE CALL:

**SUE PINK 01483 276374 OR
JANE O'LEARY 01483 351651**

Byfleet
Methodist Church
Rectory Lane

CAROLS
BY
CANDLELIGHT
Sunday
11th December
at
4.30 pm

Cranleigh

Representatives from Cranleigh were delighted to be present at the impressive Launch Service for our new Circuit on September 11th. It was great to chat to old and new friends, and to meet yet more people as we exchanged representative pictorial emblems from our different partner churches. We now know a lot more about Addlestone church and area, as we received the delightful knitted bus, which reminded us of the firm which employed many workers in the area, including past members of Addlestone Church.

We have also been pleased to welcome new preachers from the northern end of Wey Valley circuit, and I know our ministers and preachers have in some cases already made new friends in return. These fresh contacts invigorate us all!

In my last article I mentioned Cranleigh's Alterations Project (Phase Two) which has had to be re-considered in view of the prohibitive costs involved in the original plan. The Church Council has agreed that the Revd Dr Claire Potter, with a small number from the Project Group, should meet with a new architect to discuss the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of our plans to reach out to the community in a more positive way. These plans include a re-designed porch, light and airy, and providing a screened, multi-purpose area separate from the sanctuary, but which could be joined to it if a larger space were required. Other areas requiring attention include the kitchen and toilets, other small back rooms, an outside play area and, of course, parking spaces.

At this time of the year we organise what we are pleased to call our 'Outreach Tea' and invitations have already been sent to lonely or needy people in our community to come and share tea with us from 2.45pm on the afternoon of Saturday, December 10th. Last year, for the first time, we incorporated this event with our Christmas concert of seasonal music, which we had previously performed on a Saturday evening in aid of Action for Children. We found the changed time successful, and many of our guests contributed to this worthwhile cause.

Members of other charitable groups also helped with food, waiting at table, washing up and offering lifts to visitors. If you are reading this article, please consider joining us for tea and carols, but do let us know, so we have enough food and room! (contact Jane O'Leary or myself – details in the Circuit Directory)

We have good connections with other churches in our village, and at important festival times, including Christmas and Easter, advertise each others' events (and united ones) by means of a stall distributing leaflets. As well as our own Carol Service and Gift Service (proceeds to AFC) we join St Nicolas Parish Church in a Carol Service on the Sunday evening before Christmas and in Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve.

We look forward to receiving news from old friends and new in this latest publication of 'The Wey Forward'. A happy Christmas to you all!

Glenda Sewell

Godalming United Church

During the church's quiet month of August our upstairs Vestry, Lammas Room, and Committee Room (with their incomparable views over the Wey and water meadows) were modernised. The elderly east- and south-facing windows have been replaced with improved well-insulated walls and windows which will solve the problem of winter chill and summer over-heating. The work was completed on schedule, and the refurbished rooms are in use. The Vestry has been transformed from a drab office (used by many and "owned" by none) into a peaceful retreat where Paul can welcome visitors, and ministers can prepare themselves in an atmosphere of calm.

The next phase of refurbishment - the replacement of the Hall roof slates (113 years old!) – took place across October half-term. Summer 2017 will see the complete refurbishment of the downstairs River Room (opening out onto the Lammas Lands) and kitchen.

Our Harvest Festival on October 9th was declared by all to be "the best ever"! Gifts of non-perishable foods were offered in thanksgiving, and the church was decked out for family café-style worship. A christening at the start of the service made it a doubly special event. The service was attended by around 200 people and around 100 stayed for lunch – a "bring-and-share" event that flowed seamlessly from the service.

Our charitable link with the Gambia remains as active as ever, and a container of goods – mainly recycled school furniture – departed for Banjul in November. This autumn we had a relief appeal for the Haitian hurricane disaster (Christian Aid) and for the Italian Earthquake – funds being directed through our mission partners Daniel and Grace Pratt-Morris-Chapman who are working for the Italian Methodist Mission.

Looking ahead to events across the winter:

- December 11th Countdown to Christmas 10.30am – family- and parade-service
- Saturday December 17th - Godalming Band and Youth Band Christmas Concert 7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm) – a feast of Christmas music with the opportunity for audience participation. Tickets £6 adults, £3 children available on 01483 428701 or from Record Corner music shop, Godalming
- December 18th – Christingle-Carol Service 6.00pm
- January 7th (Saturday) – launch of GUC's 40th Anniversary Year with a celebration lunch at "Bel and the Dragon" from 12 noon. It is 40 years since our two congregations – United Reformed and Methodist – came together, so it is fitting to celebrate in the former URC church across the bridge - now a restaurant. Tel 01483 423261 for menu and booking.
- January 15th – Godalming and District Churches Together United Service at GUC 10.30 am – our annual affirmation of ecumenism and a chance to worship together with friends from other churches
- February 4th & 5th weekend – annual pantomime "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" - two performances each day. The show is specially written for GUC, and customised to give parts to all of the numerous youngsters in the production. This is always a sell-out, so book your tickets in good time on 01483 421433. Good traditional family entertainment.

Nancy Wilks



Guildford St Marys

In the first issue of this magazine I mentioned that Guildford Methodist Church/St Mary's was exploring a possible ecumenical missional initiative, Common Ground. We had an initial meeting to present the project in September. I was personally hoping at least 40 would attend and was delighted when 117 attended and many extra chairs were needed. They represented around a dozen churches from the Guildford area. We're now moving forward into a feasibility phase over the next 9 months or so but we will be doing things at the same time as thinking about what a missional community might be like. Our aim is to bring churches together to undertake outreach activities together in new ways and to help resource individual churches to undertake activities locally. If you'd like to be on the mailing list to be kept up to date on developments email me on gmc.info@hotmail.com.

As a first venture we'll be helping to provide a Christian presence, alongside the commercial units, in the run-up to Christmas at Guildford Borough Council's new pop-up village adjacent to the bus station. Do come along and visit in December and let me know if you're able to help staff it for a half day or more. We're seeking Christian musicians and other performers to make use of the performance stage in the village.

Our ChitChat drop-in for foreign residents, staffed by volunteers from around 8 churches, continues to provide a valuable facility on a Wednesday morning. If you do know foreign residents who'd like the opportunity to practise their English and learn more about life in the UK, do encourage them to attend - 09.30-11.00 during term time.

Our lunchtime Advent reflections will take a slightly different form this year, with one speaker through the series - see the advert elsewhere in this issue. I hope you can join us.

We have the privilege of again hosting Christian Aid's West Surrey Advent Hope evening on Tuesday 6 December as part of their Christmas Appeal. This year we have the opportunity to meet one of their partners engaged in Refugee work in the Balkans - you'll find more details in the advert for that and we'd love to see you then.

Nigel Campion-Smith

Seasons of my Soul



A group has been meeting at St Mary's Guildford for the past 18 months using this Methodist/Anglican study book as a basis for reflections on spirituality in different phases of life. Some members of the group have now chosen a book with a similar theme, Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward*—a spirituality for the two halves of life. New members are invited to join us on this journey.

Meetings are 7.15-9.00pm fortnightly at 18A Beech Lane, GU2 4ES. A daytime group is also possible.

Contact: Susan Snashall: snashallsusan@gmail.com

Merrow

At present, we're looking forward to our Christmas celebrations with plans already in place for Christmas Tree decoration, Christingle making, shoe box assembling and gifts to organisations and people who are less fortunate than us. During this festive season we intend to 'fling our doors open', and hope that our enthusiasm for our Christmas celebrations will encourage passers-by to come and take a look at what we are doing.

We love getting together over a 'cuppa'! There is always a buzz after morning worship, when we share thoughts on the service we have just been involved in, the week ahead and the care we try to exercise for members, friends and newcomers. Throughout the year, we have regular monthly coffee mornings on a Thursday (and a new banner to announce that it is happening!) and a different charity to support is chosen each time. In December, we are pleased to support Action For Children, with January 2017 seeing us supporting the Motor Neurone Disease Association and February 2017, a local charity this time – the St Christopher's Hospice.

But alongside our social gatherings, we are asking ourselves some important questions – are we using our premises to the best advantage for ministry and mission? Can we forge better ecumenical links with neighbouring churches? Is our worship best suited to newcomers, as well as the existing congregation?

So as we approach the New Year we are mindful that we need to be less inward-looking and a little more adventurous in our desire to be an 'open church' which looks outwards.

Joan Tabraham



**Thursday
22
December**

Coffee & Cake
at
**St. Mary's, Quarry St,
Guildford**
10.30 am - 12 noon

*~ take a break from your
shopping & meet up
with friends*

Looking forward to seeing you!

MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION

Merrow Methodist Church invites you to a

COFFEE MORNING

In aid of **MND**

Come and join your friends and bring your family too, for tea, coffee and home-made cakes and help raise money for the MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION

and the terrific work they are carrying out to find a cure for this progressive disease.

Thursday 12 January 2017
10.30am to 12.30pm
Merrow Methodist Church

Walton-on-Thames

By the time you read this, the new heating at Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church will have been installed. We have already begun to notice a difference with immense gratitude to all those, including the circuit, who contributed so generously and to those who have managed the work.

In September we hosted a coffee morning for MacMillan Cancer Care raising over £1000 and as this edition goes to press we are preparing for a Ploughman's lunch to raise funds for the Sam Beare Hospice on 19 November.

Like many other churches, Walton is preparing to dispatch a veritable mountain of shoe boxes on their journey to those in need, helping to brighten Christmas for those less fortunate than us.

Messy church continues to flourish and we are looking forward to the final session of the year which takes place on Christmas eve.

The drama group are busy rehearsing for their annual production which takes place in March 2017. We wonder how they are going to surprise us this year!

Chris Mills, Jeannette Curtis, Marion Wadley



Walton-on-Thames Methodist Church

December Saturday 24th 3-5pm

January Saturday 28th 3-5pm

February Saturday 25th 3-5pm

These meetings will take place in the Hall, Emmaus and Wesley rooms.

All families are welcome

On Christmas Eve we will be thinking about
the Kings and their journey to see the baby

In January we will look at some of Jesus' stories such as
The 10 lepers & saying thank you to God for the good things we have been given

In February we will be finding out more about
Salt and light. How just a little salt makes a big difference.

**There will be lots of messy things to do, songs to sing and games to play.
Do book the dates and come and join in.**

If you can help in any way or want to know more please contact Jeannette
01932 221562, jeannettecurtis@gmail.com

West Horsley

Following the death of Di Bamber, our service on 16th October, led by our own minister, the Revd Claire Hargreaves, contained a very moving and positive tribute to Di and a thanksgiving for her life. Claire's theme was 'Blessing from struggle; being a blessing'. The gospel reading for the day was the Parable of the Importunate widow. The emphasis in the parable is on never giving up which is something we saw in Di's life. Right to the end Di persevered and served her Lord in spite of all her problems and the suffering which she endured heroically.

In common with many churches, we are challenged by the number of tasks which need doing and the shortage of help available. In our Bible study group, Claire has introduced us to the challenging Methodist publication entitled Presence. This is a workbook designed to help promote and sustain an effective Christian presence in villages. The questions asked are relevant to our situation and encourage us to think more deeply about what we can do to further the work of the God's kingdom, both as individuals and as part of the Christian witness in Horsley and beyond.

We continue to have our Thursday coffee mornings in the Wesley Room and also our Occasional Lunches, both of which successfully provide a means of fellowship and good company. Our now regular Advent Carol Praise will be held in the chapel on December 3rd at 7.00 pm. Do join us if you are able. Meanwhile, we are in good heart and optimistic about the future. We are using our next house group to review our current situation and to share our ideas as we plan the way ahead - 'Tomorrow to fresh woods and pastures new'.

Margaret Faulkner

Weybridge

The new kitchen is complete and has been used. We had the surreal experience of enjoying our Harvest worship with the tantalising smell of roasting meat drifting through the church. Members of the circuit were able to inspect this new facility when they joined us for a fascinating Café Church service in October. Rev Dr Claire Potter opened our eyes to new ways of experiencing and understanding some of the works of Caravaggio. It certainly provided new insight to Saul's experience on the road to Damascus.

At the wonderful service of inauguration for the Wey Valley Circuit, Weybridge received the symbol from Stoughton. We know very little about these new friends so we have invited Mr Philip Beastall, who worships at Stoughton, to lead our next Café Church which will be on Sunday 29th January 2017. All are welcome to join us.

The bedding bank continues to flourish and in the new year we will turn our thoughts to extending this mission opportunity.

Linda Weedon

Trinity, Woking

Advent in flowers

"Woking Trinity will again be telling the story of Christmas in plants and narrative in the form of an advent calendar outside the church. One pot will be placed outside the Church every day from 1 December, until we reach 25 pots and the stable and crib on Christmas Day. The story and photos will also be on Trinity's website, accessed from the home page under Christmas 2016.

Our aim is to tell the Christmas story in a way that anyone using the premises or passing the church can enjoy as well as church members. The last two years we have had people taking photos, other churches wanting to copy the idea, people calling into the church office to say how much they enjoyed it and people saying it made them cry – hopefully in a good way! Follow us on the website or come and see our pots! The display will remain over the Christmas period"

Jill Willis

Amazing Grace – “Live Like You’re Loved”

On Sunday 2nd October the young people of Trinity Methodist Church in Woking organised a Youth led service called Amazing Grace. From 6 o'clock in the evening the church began to fill with over 60 people, three quarters of which were young people from churches and youth groups all over Surrey. In order to create an appropriate space, the young people spent hours beforehand transforming and redecorating the church into a safe place for the congregation to worship or pray freely in whatever way they wanted.

The service was based on God's Grace and Love for us, and the senses were used to explore different prayer methods and to help focus prayer to strengthen – and for some people, to start – their relationship with God. Dinner was provided; hot dogs and cakes; and everyone was encouraged into small groups with strangers of all ages to discuss their faith and just get to know each other. Everyone left with at least one more friend than they came in with! The evening then continued with modern worship songs, led by a small band of Anna Kozłowska (vocals/guitar), Evie Oldfield (keyboard) and Ben Hillman (percussion). During this time there was a mixture of people worshipping along with the band, groups in deep conversation that came from the random group pairing, and those exploring prayer stations – set up by the young people. These involved going deeper into prayer with the use of smelling different fragrances and herbs; touching different materials (things that helped an individual focus); tasting oils that originated from the time of Jesus; reflecting on a variety of pictures and reflections in mirrors.

The service also involved an inspirational talk on grace, given by Sam Taylor who led us in prayer, which was followed by a time of complete silence in the church, the only thing to be heard was the hum of the sound system and cars driving past in the distance. This reflective time was followed by more worship, led by the band. After this, the whole congregation linked together for a group prayer the whole church took part in. The prayers for this came from a prayer tree set up that the congregation added to. The evening then concluded with the congregation getting back into their groups of strangers, blessing each other in prayer, discussing their evening with each other, and joining in on more worship and praise through song.

Anna Kozłowska

This Christmas, 65 million people simply can't be at home. Forced out by the darkness of violence and fear, they're searching for safety and refuge. We're raising money to light the way to a better future.



Event: Carols by Candlelight: Meet Christian Aid partner Philanthropy from Serbia and hear from Marija Vranesevic about their work with refugees.

When: Tuesday 6th December: 7-8pm (Doors 6:30pm)

Tickets free: a collection will be taken

Where: St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford, GU1 3UA

An evening of carols, readings, and stories from our work around the world. Festive refreshments will be served

Talk to: Laura Mead: 0207 523 2110
LMead@christian-aid.org

Want to find out more?

Just go to christianaid.org.uk/christmas-appeal

Trinity Harvest Supper

Our Harvest weekend was on 1st and 2nd October and the theme for the weekend was the Refugee crisis in the world, and supporting the 'All We Can' Syria appeal.

Rev Claire Hargreaves, who led our worship on Sunday morning has a particular interest in this charity (formerly known as the Methodist Relief and Development Fund) and its work with Syrian refugees in Jordan. Lebanon is a neighbour of Jordan and has taken in many Syrian refugees and so because Woking has a very good Lebanese restaurant we thought we could tie these things together and have a Lebanese meal on the Saturday night and raise funds for the Charity at the same time. So tickets were sold and 76 Trinity folk and friends came to enjoy the supper and support the Charity.

The restaurant was happy to cater for us and sent along two chefs, Abdul and George, who brought the food and served it – which went down very well with the ladies of Trinity who are usually in the kitchen! They provided a delicious chicken and rice dish, also aubergine moussaka, pitta breads and a green salad and then baklava pastries. We also served Turkish Delight with coffee or tea.

We were very fortunate to have two really good speakers for the evening. Firstly Lisa Barrott, one of our own members, told us about an event called Refugee Tales - a walk of solidarity with refugees, asylum seekers and detainees that she had taken part in along with Rev Bryony Davis. It was organized by the Gatwick Detainees Support Group – the Harvest Charity which Trinity supported in 2015. The 58 mile walk from Canterbury to Westminster following the Chaucer tales idea took place between 4th – 8th July and offered the walkers an opportunity to reflect on the long and dangerous journeys that many refugees make fleeing war and persecution. Support was given along the way by many local communities and by churches offering food and accommodation. Lisa told us what an impact it had made on her to talk with some of the refugees on the walk. Another walk is mooted for next July and Lisa would be happy to speak to anyone interested in taking part.

The second speaker was Adam Thomas from Woking Borough Council. Adam is the Family Support Team Manager who with his team are responsible for supporting Syrian refugee families in Woking. In September 2015 David Cameron, then Prime Minister, had made a pledge that the UK would take in 20,000 families from Syria. Woking Council have responded to this and currently 12 families have been housed and are living in the Borough with more to come.

Adam stressed that the role of his team is to support and guide the families as they settle into their new surroundings. With the aid of volunteers, families are helped to adapt to their new lives. Help is given in various ways from taking someone to the dentist or doctor or going shopping to more involved things like form filling. The team is only small so volunteers and helpers are invaluable to them. If anyone is interested in offering support please call 01483 743812 or email refugee.support@woking.gov.uk

Everyone who came thoroughly appreciated the evening. We enjoyed good company over the delicious food but were also given a challenge with the thought provoking talks. Trinity proved to be generous with giving as well – we raised £1119.50p over the weekend which has been gratefully received by All We Can.

Daphne Lander

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



**FILM SHOW
MY FAIR LADY**

followed by Afternoon Tea

**Friday 17th February 2017
2.00 p.m.**

Admission: free but donations in aid of the
'Roof Repair Fund' would be welcomed



A Night of Eastern Promise

**DRAMA FROM THE EAST AND SONGS FROM THE
MUSICALS**

Thursday 9th March-7:45pm Walton Methodist
Friday 10th March-7:45pm Church Hall
Saturday 11th March-7:15pm Terrace Road
Walton-On-Thames

Tickets £12 (to include a 'High Tea')

*Speak to any cast member or
visit our page on waltonmethodist.com to get tickets!*



A message from the Editor

Welcome to this second edition of the Wey Forward which is full of the Christmas activities which are taking place across the Circuit. However it goes beyond Christmas and offers opportunities for fellowship during those winter days of January and February.

Thanks to all those who have contributed; I couldn't produce this without your editorials. Send in whatever you wish the rest of the circuit churches to be aware of in the life of your church but do remember that this is the *Wey Forward!*

Once again I extend my thanks to Corinne and Linda for their assistance with this edition.

The deadline for Issue 3 is Monday 30 January 2017

**Please send items (and photos) to
weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk**

Finally I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2017.

ED (aka Allen Weedon)

N.B. If you would like any of the posters included in this edition for your notice boards please email the above address

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
December 2016			
Thu 1	12.15	Advent Reflection (with bread & soup lunch)	Guildford
Sun 3	19.00	Carol Praise	West Horsley
Tue 6	19.00	Carols by Candlelight for Christian Aid	Guildford
Thu 8	12.15	Advent Reflection (with bread & soup lunch)	Guildford
Sat 10	10.00 – 12.00	Carols of all (with coffee & mince pies)	Addlestone
Sat 10	14.45 – 16.45	Christmas Tea & Concert	Cranleigh
Sun 11	16.30	Carols by Candlelight	Byfleet
Thu 15	10.30 – 12.30	Coffee morning in aid of Action for Children	Merrow
Thu 15	12.30	Carols for the High Street	Guildford
Sat 17	19.00	Band Concert	Godalming
Thu 22	10.30 – 12.00	Coffee & Cake	Guildford
Sat 24	15.00 – 17.00	Messy Church	Walton
January 2017			
Thu 12	10.30 – 12.30	Coffee morning in aid of Motor Neurone Disease Association	Merrow
Sat 21	18.00	Quiz with hot supper	Byfleet
Sat 28	15.00 – 17.00	Messy Church	Walton
Sun 29	18.00	Café Church	Weybridge
February 2017			
Sat 4 & Sun 5	matinée & evening	Pantomime: Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves	Godalming
Sat 4	18.00	Circuit Mission Supper	Woking
Fri 17	14/00	Film Show (My Fair Lady) with afternoon tea	Byfleet
Sat 25	15.00 – 17.00	Messy Church	Walton
Sun 26	18.00 for 18.30	Pudding & Praise	Walton
March 2017			
Thu 9 - Sat 11	19.45	'A Night of Eastern Promise' (19.15 on Sat)	Walton

Wey Valley

Methodist
Circuit



Circuit Mission Supper & Talk

Holiness & Justice: Responding to Refugees

Saturday 4th February 2017

Trinity Methodist Church, Woking, 6.00pm for 6.30pm

Tickets £7 available from your local church representative

All proceeds will go towards *All We Can*

Speakers:

Rev Dr Roger Walton, President of the Methodist Conference

Ms Rachel Lampard, Vice President of the Methodist Conference

We are delighted to have such eminent speakers at our first Wey Valley Circuit Mission Supper and do hope you will be able to join us for the evening.

For ten years, Roger was the Director of the Open Learning Centre and for eleven years the Director of the Wesley Study Centre in Durham.

More recently, he has been Chair of the West Yorkshire Methodist District and the Methodist representative to the General Synod of the Church of England.

Rachel is the leader of the Joint Public Issues Team which campaigns about UK poverty, nuclear weapons and climate change. She has been a commissioner with the Gambling Commission since 2006.

Sunday 5th February 2017

Rev Dr Roger Walton will preach at Walton-on-Thames, 10.00am

Ms Rachel Lampard will speak at Merrow, 10.30am