

Dear Friends,

“The Lord gave the word, and great was the company of the preachers.” These words from the Methodist Worship Book which open the service for the ‘Admission of Local Preachers’ also opened our special Circuit service at Merrow last Sunday. We celebrated the sixty years since Allan Taylor and Peter Hills became local preachers and seventy years since Roland Hamon did so. That’s an incredible 190 years of service. We also celebrated the commitment of Helen Belsham in the life of our Circuit as she prepares to move to pastures new. It was good to see so many people from around the Wey Valley Circuit and a special thanks goes to everyone at Merrow for their hospitality.

Allan and Peter went on to become ordained and those of us in the presbyteral ministry had to be local preachers before we could even candidate for ministry.

Local preaching in Methodism can be traced back to about 1741 when John Wesley left Thomas Maxfield to oversee his pastoral work in London. Since there was no ordained person available, Maxfield began preaching. Wesley as a strict abider of the rules (although only when it suited him!), was not happy with this. It was his mother Susanna Wesley, who persuaded him to change his mind. She said, “Examine what have been the fruits of his preaching and hear him yourself”. Preaching by lay (non-ordained) people became a crucial part of the Methodist movement and the role gradually developed until by the end of the Eighteenth Century, the status was more formally recognised.

Methodist local preachers are part of the social history of Britain. Women also became preachers when ordained ministry was closed to them. In George Eliot’s novel Adam Bede of 1859, one of the characters Dinah Morris is an enthusiastic preacher. Four of the six Tolpuddle Martyrs were local preachers. (The Tolpuddle Martyrs were found guilty in 1834 of forming a trade union and transported to Australia. Following a campaign, all eventually returned to England.)

Local preachers have always taken the majority of services in Methodist Churches in Britain. In the Cornish chapel where I grew up, they took nearly all of the services on Sunday mornings and we only saw our minister about twice a quarter. Local preachers gave flexibility to Methodism’s early mission. Newly industrialising towns and rural areas could be reached with lay people taking significant roles in preaching and pastoral work.

The process of becoming a local preacher takes many years. It involves theological training, submissions of work, assessments, interviews, leading worship and reports. It doesn’t stop there! Local preachers commit themselves to taking part in continuing development and reflection. It is a life-long office which continues even if the local preacher is no longer able to take services.

If you get the chance, read the service for the ‘Admission of Local Preachers’ on pages 329 to 335 of The Methodist Worship Book. The final words on page 334 ask the congregation, “Will you support them with your prayers, faithfully share in the worship they lead and receive through them the word of God?” The reply is a clear, loud, resounding, “We will”.

Shaun

## Resources/Good News

### **Christian Aid Week**

This week is Christian Aid Week, May 11-17, when supporters from all over the UK come together to find different ways of raising funds and awareness for the work of the organisation's local partners, empowering communities around the world to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty.

The President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference are encouraging people to take part.

Revd Helen Cameron said: "The work of Christian Aid in alleviating poverty globally is more important than ever."

[Christian Aid Week - The Methodist Church](#)

### **Surrey Sculpture Trail, Ramster Garden near Haslemere, until 1 June**

A collection of inspirational original pieces of sculpture set within a magical woodland setting. The stunning works of art will be staged within the garden, adding further drama to the breath-taking show of over 300 rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias which burst into colour at Ramster throughout Spring.

[Garden to Visit Surrey | Ramster Hall and Garden](#)

## **STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH**

*(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)*

### **COFFEE CORNER**

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



**6<sup>th</sup> May**

**13<sup>th</sup> May**

**20<sup>th</sup> May**

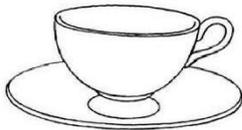
**27<sup>th</sup> May**



Enjoy Coffee & a Chat, Coffee & a Game, or Coffee & a Book

The choice is yours!

**Everyone welcome – bring a friend!**



Stay for FREE tea,  
coffee & a chat

## Clothes4U

Pre loved clothes with TLC

from

**Knaphill Methodist Church**

Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2DR



**Saturday 17 May 2025 2 - 4pm**

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](mailto:clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk)



All are welcome to join us for tea, coffee, cake & a chat in a friendly environment



Whether you're looking for clothes for yourself, friends, or family



We have lovely, pre-loved clothes for everyone to take away & enjoy wearing



We look forward to meeting you & your family



If you would like to donate clothes, please contact us on the email below



If you would like to volunteer, we would warmly welcome your help

[www.knaphill-methodist-church.com/clothes4U](http://www.knaphill-methodist-church.com/clothes4U)

[clothes@knaphill-methodist-church.com](mailto:clothes@knaphill-methodist-church.com)

**Saturday 24 May:**



**MONTHLY  
COFFEE  
MORNING**



**AND  
SALE**



TEA  
COFFEE  
BISCUITS  
BACON  
BUTTIES



**BOOKS, DVDs,  
JIGSAWS, CAKES,  
BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE**

**KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL**

**4th Saturday every month (except December)**

**10am to Noon**

**COFFEE  
AND CAKE  
AT ST. MARY'S  
QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP**

**APRIL - JUNE  
2025**

**10.30 – 12.00**



*Everyone welcome*

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**Thursday 24 April**

**Thursday 22 May**

**Thursday 26 June**

# Songs of Praise



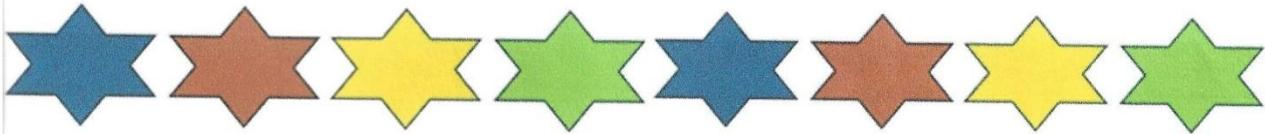
**Saturday May 17th**  
**Horsley**  
**Methodist Church**

(next to W.H. Village Hall)

**7.00p.m.**

Come and sing a selection of favourite hymns.

Phone 01483 282474 to make requests.



**Saturday morning events at the  
Addlestone Methodist Church café  
on Station Road**



**Come along between  
10am and 12 to enjoy  
tea/coffee and cake and  
join in with activities**

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each  
month – Fun Bingo**

*Donations to Sam Beare Hospice  
or Open Doors Charity*

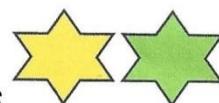


**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays – popular  
hymns & songs to sing to or just  
listen to.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – time for our Quiz**



*Check notice board for any changes*





# PET SERVICE



**Sunday 8th June**  
**15:30**

Walton Methodist Church,  
Terrace Road, KT12 2SR

Do come along to this short act  
of worship where our pets will  
be blessed.

Coffee, tea, biscuits and cakes  
served afterwards.



[www.waltonmethodist.org](http://www.waltonmethodist.org)

Charity No. 1174524



**JOIN US AT GODALMING UNITED CHURCH TO MARK THE  
10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
'THY KINGDOM COME'**



***The church will be open from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm for private prayer in the Sanctuary on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June.***

***We will also be having Afternoon Tea and Cakes on both Saturdays from 3 pm – 4.30 pm in the River Room and Gardens.***

**Displays of local and national charities will be around the church premises which highlight the positive actions that are already taking place, which are improving people's lives and so bringing us all closer to how we imagine God's Kingdom on Earth would look.**

**Come and have a look around the displays and have a tea and cake with friends. We will also have a Bring and Buy Sale.**

**Donations received from the teas and Bring and Buy on 31<sup>st</sup> May will be sent to Christian Aid and on 7<sup>th</sup> June to the Red Cross Appeal for Gaza.**

***Godalming United Church, Bridge Road, Godalming  
GU7 3DU***



**YOU ARE INVITED  
TO JOIN US TO CELEBRATE  
TRINITY  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

*60<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary*  
1965-2025

**SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 6PM**

**ANNIVERSARY SHOW**

FREE TICKETS: [SIXTYTRINITY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:SIXTYTRINITY@YAHOO.COM)

**SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 10:30 AM**

**WORSHIP WITH**

**REV. ANNA CARRINGTON**

**FOLLOWED BY BUFFET LUNCH**

**RSVP BY 7TH JUNE**

[TRINITYWOKING@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:TRINITYWOKING@BTINTERNET.COM)



# TRINITY 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SHOW

SATURDAY- 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025

@ 6.30PM



**BRING YOUR OWN  
REFRESHMENTS (no  
alcoholic drinks  
allowed on the  
premises)**

**FREE  
ENTRY!**

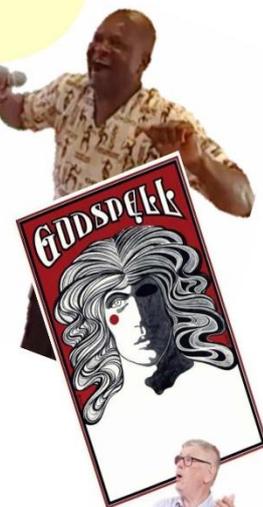
Trinity Methodist  
Church, Brewery  
Road, Woking,  
GU21 4LH

*Featuring current and past  
Trinity members from the  
English and Chinese  
congregations.*

**For free tickets please  
contact**

**[sixtytrinity@yahoo.com](mailto:sixtytrinity@yahoo.com)**

This is also a fundraising event for  
the upkeep of this church building  
and our work with the local  
community – any donations would  
be appreciated.



SCAN ME

