

The Wey Forward

Issue 36 – June to August 2025

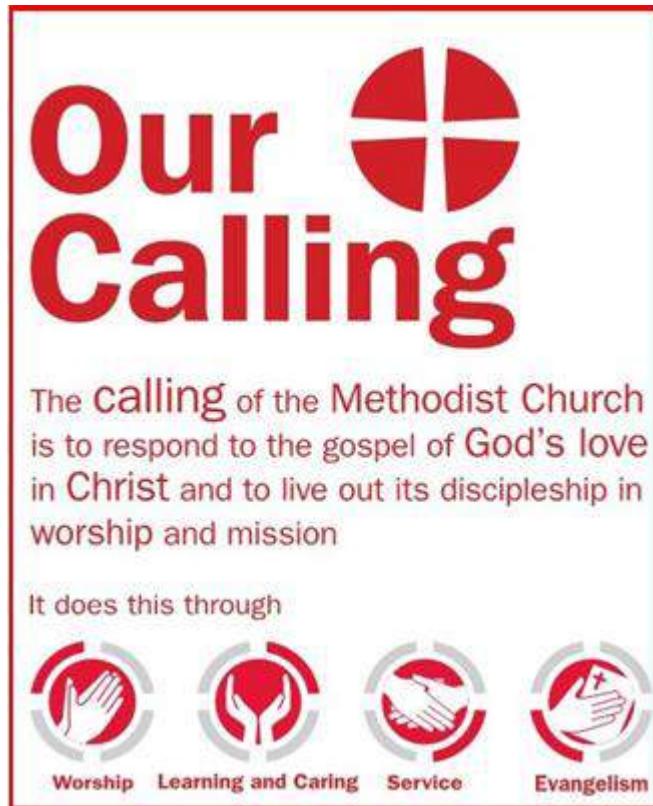


The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit came into being on 1 September 2016. It was formed by the joining of 13 churches in the Guildford and Woking & Walton-on-Thames circuits. Each church has its own distinctive personality and gifts, and continues to look forward to mutual sharing and support and to responding together to the gospel of God's love in the community and the wider world. (For those not familiar with the term, a "circuit" is an administrative group of Methodist churches in the same geographical area).

Our churches can be found in :

- Addlestone
- Byfleet
- Cranleigh
- Godalming
- Guildford
- Knaphill
- Merrow
- Sheerwater
- Stoughton
- Walton-on-Thames
- West Horsley
- Weybridge
- Woking



If you are a visitor or newcomer to the area, or living here and seeking a church for the first time, please visit our website - www.veyvalleycircuit.org.uk to find a church that meets your spiritual and pastoral needs.

The Circuit Office is open each weekday morning from 9am to 1pm and Lucy Venmore, the Circuit Administrator, can be contacted on circuitoffice@veyvalleycircuit.org.uk or 07808 046451.

This quarterly newsletter aims to showcase what is going on around the Circuit, provide relevant information for the forthcoming quarter and offer some thought-provoking articles.

Lucy Venmore

Editor

A Message From Our Superintendent

Plans...

I know that there are some Methodists who make a habit of collecting and studying preaching plans. They are a real source of historic information and interest.

I also know that there are some of you who pore over the plan when it arrives in your inbox. Who is coming to share worship with you? What's happening on special Sundays? And, increasingly important, how many LAs (Local Arrangements) do we have this quarter?

The Preaching Plan is the responsibility of the superintendent minister. It's one of those 'buck stops here' kind of jobs. Most Sundays there are 13 slots to fill with five ministers, some lovely supernumerary ministers and some very willing and extremely gifted local preachers.

What happens most quarters is that Lucy and I sit in the office for three or four hours doing a first draft of the Plan and at the end of the morning we are usually left with a whole range of gaps that we cannot fill. We then send out a series of more or less pleading emails asking if anyone can offer any more Sundays and we cast the net as wide as we can to see if there are others who might help us (most of you will have noticed we have some very welcome help from Anglican friends in the June-August quarter). We then spend another couple of hours filling some of the gaps and trying our best to make things as equal as possible across the circuit. At some point we have to accept we have done all that we can do and the Plan goes to press. That...of course, is not the end of the story and the Plan on the website is very much a 'live' document with changes being made fairly regularly.

Some churches are happy to have local arrangements - it gives them an opportunity to produce some worship with a more local, 'home grown' flavour. Other churches are not so fond of those two letters - LA. There is help available - 'The Vine' online is a good example of a widely used resource.

The numbers of LAs have risen over the past couple of years (although I was looking at the Preaching Plan of the Aire and Calder Circuit recently and churches in that circuit are regularly dealing with five local arrangements each quarter).

As with so many things it depends on how radical we want to be in our solutions. There are churches in other circuits that have 'tweaked' the times of their morning services so that preachers can do one service and then move on to do another. There are others that are experimenting with 'live streamed' worship, some are moving service times to afternoons or evenings, some churches in this circuit are doing 'sectional' services once a quarter.

All of these actions reveal different ideas and attitudes towards worship; it's importance and who should lead it.

This quarter our local preachers are going to be talking about digital worship in all its forms. Is it a conversation your church could be having?

Superintendent's letter continued....

Worship is the lifeblood of any Christian. It is the 'worth' that we give to God. Who leads that and when, how, and where we do it are questions constantly worth pondering.

Blessings,

Paul

Revd. Dr. Paul Glass
Superintendent Minister



Practical Aspects of Spirituality



**THE NICENE CREED
AT 1,700 YEARS
– why it still matters**

led by

Andrew Wheeler

**Saturday 5 July 2025
09.30 – 12.00**

**St. Mary's Church
Guildford GU1 3UP**

Refreshments from 09.15

If you would like to attend please email gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk

News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

Our limited resources mean there are few who are able to lead or attend midweek events, but we try to make the most of our Saturday Coffee Mornings which have become a major event with refreshments and activities planned for every Saturday.

All are welcome to join us.



On 11 May we celebrated our 127th Church Anniversary – 127 years of praising our Lord and Saviour. We thank Him for his son Jesus, teaching us how we should live and for the Holy Spirit to guide us in our effort to follow him, so we can live with Faith, Hope and Love in our hearts.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

1st Saturday of each month – Fun Bingo 
Donations to Sam Beare Hospice or Open Doors Charity

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

3rd Saturday – time for our Quiz 

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Check notice board for any changes ★ ★ ★

Looking at the building, little seems to have changed in its 127 years, but we hope that we are changing by finding new ways to present Jesus Christ in today's society. The message is the same, it's just the way it is presented that is different.

We have a lady in our congregation who, in spite of life's difficulties, has for many years recognised the importance of our being able to enjoy a time to relax together, and what better way than in her garden. Thank you, Frances for your wonderful garden party this April – it was appreciated by all able to attend.

Fred Rowe



Cranleigh

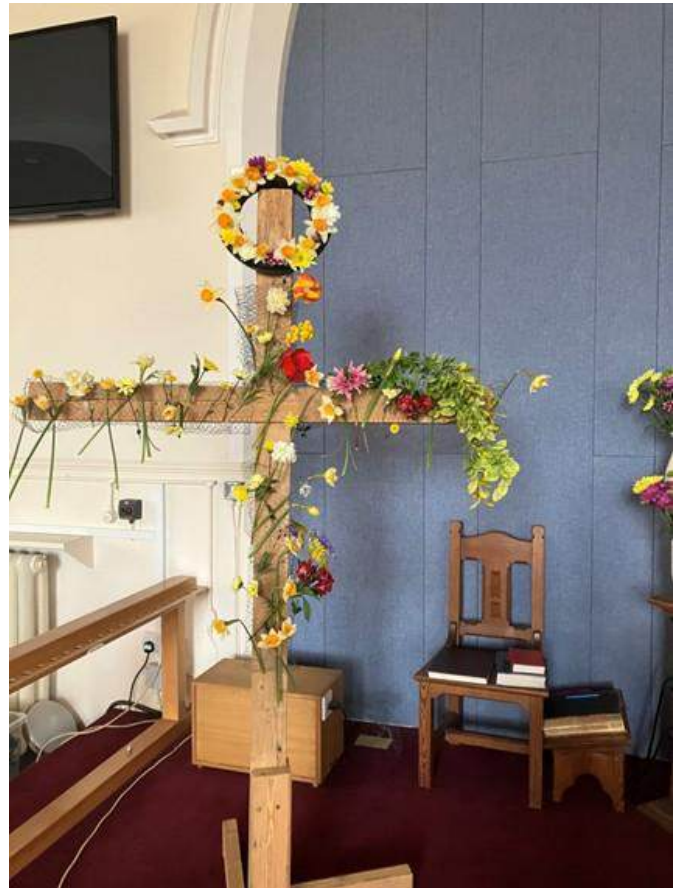
As I write this, we are bathed in glorious sunshine and enjoying the wonderful spring and early summer flowers and blossom. On Easter Day we transformed our cross with spring flowers to symbolise the triumph of life over death, representing the new life that emerges from Jesus' resurrection.

This symbol of hope and new beginnings is also reflected in the current life of our church. We continue to welcome new friends of all ages and we are very grateful for those of our members who have recently undertaken new responsibilities to enable our church to move forward.

The Baby Bank continues to be a much-needed resource in our village and our thanks go to all those who make it possible to provide this week by week. The numbers in our Wednesday group have depleted but we are still meeting monthly and hopefully when we have more numbers we will flourish again.

Here in Elmbridge Retirement Village, we have been making a special effort for Holy Week. We transformed the meeting room into a tranquil setting for the twice daily meetings for the Stations of the Cross. From Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, with services in between, 12-18 different people attended each day. We played quiet music, provided colouring sheets, and poems and books to read but focused on the poster for each station with a prayer and a meditation, lasting about 15 minutes each time. A total of six individuals led a station over the week, and over six different churches (or none) were represented.

On the Tuesday, we had an evening service followed by a bring-and-share ploughman's' supper (40 people attended). Thursday evening's Tenebrae saw 20 people attend and the afternoon Good Friday service, led by our own Chaplain Allan Taylor, attracted over 40 people who stayed for tea and cake afterwards. At our recent faith group meeting, we agreed it had been a success and we plan to do it again next year. Our plans going forward now focus on Harvest, Remembrance and Carol services!



Hilary Strawson and Jane Briggs

Godalming United Church

Looking back to Spring...

In February Eloise and Esther teamed up for a weekend away with the Methodist Youth Band at Lytham near Blackpool. Accommodation was on church-hall floors (fun when you're young!) and a great time was had by all – a packed concert on the Saturday evening and leadership of the Sunday morning service, all within the theme of “Created by the Creator: Created to Worship”.

Also, in February we welcomed a surprise guest leading Sunday morning worship - Adam's ex-college-buddy Revd. Andy Payton from the Methodist Temple, Evansville, Indiana – bringing us a refreshing transatlantic view of the Christian life. He packed in quite a “Methodist pilgrimage” during his week in Godalming: Wesley Chapel and Aldersgate Street in London, plus a visit to the New Room in Bristol – the first-ever purpose-built Methodist chapel, doubling up from the earliest days as a community-centre and base for the fight against slavery (at the time Bristol's biggest import).

Easter was marked by Messy Church featuring Sherlock Hemlock AKA Adam (complete with deerstalker and pipe) solving the mystery of “Who moved the stone?”, a meditative journey through Holy Week on Palm Sunday with Sam, evening Maundy Communion in our own upper room, the town-centre Good Friday Witness, Easter morning Sunrise Service at Ladywell, and our own Sunday morning communion when we welcomed new members (a day chosen as especially appropriate by the early church).

In April, Ryan paid a visit to The Gambia, the highlight being the dedication of a Home-Science block at Gunjur Upper Basic School to his late, much-missed wife Sylvia – and a richly-deserved certificate of appreciation for his own ongoing contribution to aid to The Gambia.

In May, Messy Church “Trekked across the Desert with Abraham” and Muriel led us in a special Christian Aid service and lunch marking 80 years of Christian witness to the world's poorest people.

And looking ahead to Summer...

Sat June 14th Choir Blast - The Burys Godalming Our Music Kids singing group will be there again. Last year 50 choirs from all over the country took part in this non-competitive event, each choir having two 20-minute slots on two out of the seven stages around the town's historic Burys. A fabulous free day out for the 2,500 singers and supporters and a festival atmosphere, with lots of stalls and refreshments.

Sun June 15th Church Anniversary and BBQ 10:30 Morning service followed by BBQ, strawberries & cream, and entertainments. Contact frymaile@gmail.com for more info or see church magazine on church website. £10 adult, £5 child.

Late June-July, dates TBA – annual collection of items for the Whitechapel Mission for the homeless www.whitechapel.org.uk. Urgently needed – non-perishable breakfast foods, men's clothing, toiletries, blankets, small rucksacks. As usual the trailer will be parked in the church car park for ten days or so – contact Ryan 01483 423261 or Janet 01483 527670 or see church website.

Godalming continued....

July – the Apocrypha – Adam’s Bible Study Dates TBA.

Fri August 8th Messy Church 10:30 – 12:30 Bible-based fun for all the family. BYO picnic lunch. “Party Time” theme – a Staycation event messy.church@guc.org.uk.

Sun Aug 10th No church service - GUC will be supporting the annual Staycation town service at the Burys bandstand.

Sat September 6th 2:30-4:30pm Cream Tea on the patio in support of GUC’s Gambia Cataract Project. (Just £15 pays for a sight-saving cataract operation.)

For more information and other future events, please visit www.guc.org.uk – there’s lots there in the monthly magazine!

Nancy Wilks

You are invited to a Cream Tea

At Godalming United Church, Bridge Street, Godalming

Saturday 6th September 2025

2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

**In the GUC Church Gardens or River Room
(depending on the weather!)**

**Donations in aid of the Gambian Ophthalmic Project
which provides funds for cataract operations and follow-up care.**



Circuit Mission Supper

It was a joy and privilege to welcome the national evangelism director of the Methodist church, Trey Hall to the circuit supper this year.

In an address that was warm, heartfelt and challenging, Trey inspired and encouraged us to be more intentional and serious about being invitational as churches.

A number of stories were shared by the circuit leadership team about evangelism that is already taking place, and we committed ourselves to encouraging each other to share the good news for the transformation of the world.

Rev'd. Dr. Paul Glass



Guildford St Mary's

If you have been following our journey at St Mary's, you will have seen that exhibitions feature strongly in our ministry. We're looking forward to hosting another exhibition of art from prisoners at HMP Send in September around Heritage Weekend (12-14 September) and to hosting a large part of the Methodist Modern Art Collection in Spring 2026 - watch this space.

The most recent exhibition has generated lots of interest both amongst worshippers and other visitors - a key difference is that it is a homegrown exhibition.

It was inspired by our series of Lent Reflections Finding Hope in Hard Places, a theme which resonates with many people at the moment. Members of the congregation were invited to select one of a range of photos illustrating some of life's hard places. The brief was to find a reading, poem or verses which for them offered hope or reassurance for people experiencing that place and to write a few lines explaining the reason for their choices. We had an enthusiastic take-up creating a stimulating exhibition of 19 pictures (see a selection below). The supporting readings were very varied, and some contributors went so far as to write their own poems.

A key feature for us has been that the inspiration for the choices came not from distinguished theologians but from ordinary Christians - people who worship together week by week. It's worth remembering that our individual life and faith experiences can offer invaluable reassurance, inspiration and testimony to others around us. The importance of us being ready to share such experiences was reinforced by another Lent course run in our parish where we were encouraged to be ready to tell our stories to help others on their faith journey.

Helpful in building our confidence in telling those stories, is improving our understanding of the beliefs we share in the church. 2025 is the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed – the first ecumenical statement of belief - and still at the core of our doctrine. Our next Practical Aspects of Spirituality will be looking at the Nicene Creed and asking why it still matters. Come along on Saturday morning 5 July 09.30-12.00 to find out more – refreshments served from 09.15.

Nigel Campion-Smith



St Mary's Easter Garden

On Easter Day as well as having a floral cross outside the church, St. Mary's spent time installing a beautiful Easter Garden inside the church. At the morning service (themed around 'Encounters in the Garden') the congregation sat around the garden and over 80 people enjoyed the sights and smells of nature brought indoors. Huge thanks to all those who made this possible.

Rev'd. Dr. Paul Glass



Knaphill

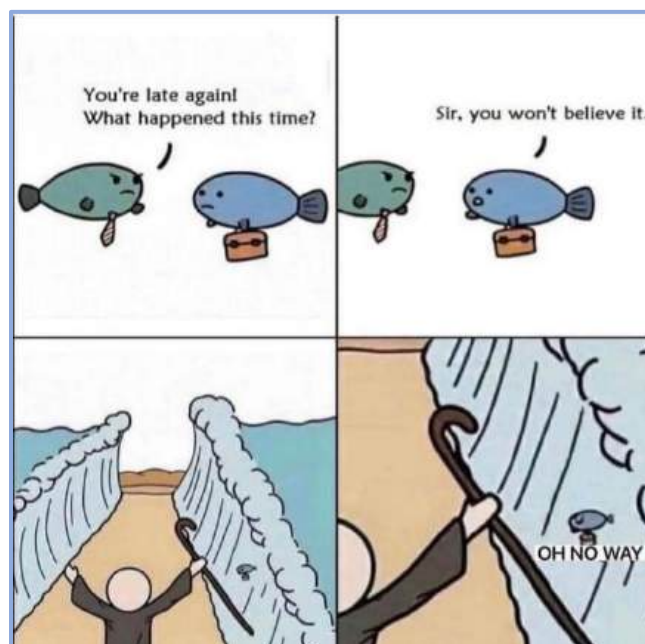
We had lovely Easter services at Knaphill. On Maundy Thursday, about 15 of us enjoyed a simple, but delicious, meal of soup and ploughman's before Paul led us in a short Communion Service. On Good Friday, the Walk of Witness organised by C4K (Churches for Knaphill) started from the Anglican Church at 9.45. We processed silently through the village, led by two people carrying a heavy wooden cross, stopping at churches and the War Memorial for bible readings. We finished at St Hugh's RC Church, where we had a lovely ecumenical service, followed by teas/coffees and hot cross buns supplied by members of St Hugh's. Then we had our own Easter Day Communion on Sunday.

Since then, we have had a very successful coffee morning, on Saturday 26 April. One of our coffee morning stalwarts was given a large amount of very good quality items by a friend who had to clear a house and they have certainly boosted our takings. As well as being lovely social occasions, our last two coffee mornings have raised just over £1000 for church funds. We are tremendously grateful to the many folk who give us items to sell. We are now busily preparing for the May event, which includes a plant sale. The gardeners among us are growing a variety of plants for the event.

Also, as I write, we are gearing up for Christian Aid Week, with a street collection on 10 May, house to house collections during the week of 11-17 May and online collections for those who wish to donate that way. Once again, C4K is involved, with help from all four churches, so we hope to top last year's £2300 total from Knaphill and the surrounding area.

After that, clothing bank and coffee mornings continue on the 3rd and 4th Saturdays every month, but otherwise the Summer should be a little quieter for us. We look forward to Sunday 1 June, when Mike Widdup will lead our Anniversary Service. This is Mike's final service before he retires as a Local Preacher, after 33 years, and he will be joined by Janet Gardham as he was all those years ago.

Lynda Shore



Merrow

Spring has certainly sprung! I do so love this time of year where there is a sudden abundance of colour all over after the cold, dark days of winter. Even my garden is now blossoming with bluebells and lovely violet-coloured plants (probably weeds!) but I am very appreciative of the colour. Anyone who knows me, knows that I am not green fingered!

It has been a busy period again at Merrow. There have been several very successful charity coffee mornings. At the March coffee morning, £450 was raised for The Leprosy Mission. A speaker came from The Leprosy Mission and a video was shown informing everyone about leprosy and the charity's work. Leprosy is a disease well known in the Bible, but still prevalent around the world today and still causing the same stigma and discrimination. Our coffee morning in aid of the Merrow Community Garden raised £181.

By the time this goes to press, we will have held our latest coffee morning for Christian Aid. Our warm welcome coffee morning runs every Thursday between 10.30 and 11.45am and has been thriving, with plenty of friends from the church and local community regularly attending. We have recently celebrated the 100th birthday of one of the guests too.

On Saturday 5 April, the Scouts held their Annual Easter Tea at Merrow. The hall is decorated for Easter and people from the local community are invited to come and enjoy afternoon tea. They are waited on hand and foot by the Scouts. The Scouts also provide entertainment. A great time was had by all – and the food was lovely too! The photo shows just how busy the Hall was!



Merrow continued....

Our 70th Anniversary Celebration plans have now taken shape. Details as below:

Church Anniversary	Sunday 22 June	Revd. David Coote, followed by Family Lunch
Family Picnic	Saturday 2 August	Bring a picnic to Merrow. Games etc available
Songs of Praise Service	Sunday 14 September	
Church Quiz	Saturday 18 October	Return of the Merrow Quiz, get a team ready!
Church concert	Saturday 15 November	
Christmas Finale	Monday 8 December	

The theme for the quiz is 70 years – so if you study every event throughout the world that has occurred over the last 70 years, you will be fine! We look forward to seeing you there.

More information will be sent through as the plans are finalised but note the above dates in your diary now.

Till the next time!

Julie Wallis

The Seed, the Growth... and the Harvest

In early March, our annual Mission Supper was graced with the teaching of Revd. Trey Hall, the denomination's Director of Mission and Evangelism. It seemed to the Mission Group that the heart of Trey's message was The Seed—inspiring, Spirit-filled, and timely.

In the months before the event, the Circuit Leadership Team undertook valuable research into evangelism activities across all our circuit churches. We would like to continue this vital work. We are calling it The Growth, and we are asking you to help us document it, so we can all celebrate and learn from the good things happening in our wider church family.

Please send any “good news” sightings to adampayne@mac.com and we will plan on highlighting these later in the autumn, as we present The Harvest - a time to gather in what God has been growing among us. We look forward to seeing how God is at work in your churches.

Revd. Adam Payne

What about Local Lay Pastors?

Vocations and callings are as varied and unique as the individuals God has made – which is both a blessing and a challenge: a blessing because God calls people in so many different ways and places; a challenge because being Church means organising our structures in ways that enable people to fulfil those wide and varied callings.

I have the privilege of glimpsing into two very different, but equally valuable, vocations. One where lay people serve churches and their communities with pastoral care and leadership through the recently established Local Lay-Pastor office; the other where people respond to the needs of a wide range of people beyond gathered church spaces through chaplaincy.

‘What’s this new Local Lay-Pastor thing all about?’ I hear you say. Well, it is not really new. The office might be, but the work of lay people serving church communities in such a way is as old as the Christian church itself – and, of course, lay people leading and providing pastoral care empowered the Methodist movement. All it took was someone to recognise the potential and organise the right structures to enable people to serve.

The new Local Lay-Pastor office follows in this same tradition. Our society has changed; the church is changing and our role as a Christian church is to discern what God is up to and support and help nurture it. A few years ago, the Methodist Conference recognised that across the connexion, increasing numbers of lay people were providing pastoral care in a significant way, that people were looking to them as their church leaders and that God was working through them to bring care and transformation. The Conference took the bold step to embrace this vocation and provide the structures needed to equip and enable it.

I have the joy of being part of implementing that bold step. There is nothing quite like sitting opposite someone who has been serving the church in such a way and saying, ‘We recognise and value the ministry God has called you to. You are a Local Lay-Pastor and in the life of the church it is a really important calling.’

One of the questions I am asked most is, ‘Well what does a Local Lay-Pastor actually do?’ Again, this is as varied as the contexts people are called to. No two Local Lay-Pastors serve in the same way – the vocation arises out of the local circumstances in the way that God is calling people to join in with God’s mission. Some are voluntary, some are employed, some work full time, some offer a few hours each week. The best way to find out is to speak to Local Lay-Pastors.

This is where the challenge lies – when we have an office that is as varied as the contexts people serve in, how do we organise ourselves to enable and equip them? We have done our best to create a framework for the Local Lay-Pastor office that recognises some of the common qualities and competencies needed to fulfil the role. The learning and development supports people in growing and nurturing their gifts and skills, so they can reflect on their practice and respond to the needs in their context. The office does not focus on creating people who can ‘do’ certain things but developing the characteristics that enable lay people to provide pastoral care and leadership in our communities.

Gary Hopkins (Ministry Development Officer for chaplaincy)

GODALMING UNITED CHURCH

(Methodist and United Reformed)

Bridge Street, Godalming GU7 3DT

**Urgently needed: Men's Clothing, Toiletries and
Non-perishable Breakfast foods for**

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

A collection of these items will be held during the period

27th June – 7th July 2025

Please ask your friends, neighbours and colleagues to help as well!

Whitechapel Mission

The Whitechapel Mission has helped the homeless in London since 1876. Today, it is recognized as one of London's most effective homeless charities.

The cost-of-living crisis sadly means that the need continues to grow.

The charity provides showers, breakfast, lunches, training, advice and dignity to all who walk through its doors every day of the year. Clients are mainly men, although there are also services for homeless women.

The aim of the charity is to transform lives from homelessness to hope by helping clients reconnect to family, commit to sobriety, find a job and place to live and to be able to plan for the future.

Entirely dependent on public support, the Whitechapel Mission always needs donations of clothing which is in good condition and suitable for street dwellers, toiletries and non-perishable breakfast foods.

This appeal is being coordinated by Godalming United Church, between 27th June and 7th July 2025. For further information on the charity: www.whitechapel.org.uk

Any queries, contact Ryan Kelley 01483 423261 or Janet Shaw jrshaw15@yahoo.co.uk.

Collection times at Godalming United Church will be:

Friday 27 June	12 noon to 1.30 pm
Saturday 28 June	10.30 am to 12 noon
Sunday 29 June	11.30 am to 12.30 pm
Tuesday 1 July	2 pm to 3 pm
Wednesday 2 July	6 pm to 7 pm
Friday 4 July	12 noon to 1.30 pm
Saturday 5 July	10.30 am to 12 noon
Saturday 5 July	2 pm to 3 pm
Sunday 6 July	11.30 am to 12.30 pm
Monday 7 July	7 pm to 8 pm

Items highlighted in **bold** are needed the **most urgently**:

BREAKFAST FOODS		
Peanut Butter	Cornflakes	Weetabix
Bottled water	Chocolate Spread	Brown Sauce
Nutella	Chopped tomatoes	Salt
Chopped Tomatoes	Plum tomatoes	Porridge
Baked Beans	Honey	Biscuits
Sugar	Squash	Coffee
Instant Hot Chocolate	ketchup	Tinned Fruit
Sugar	Honey	Black Ground Pepper
Peanut Butter		
MEN'S CLOTHING		
Winter Jackets	Winter Coats	Baseball Caps
Woollen Gloves	Woollen Hats	Woollen Scarves
T-shirts	Jumpers	Hand Towels
Bath Towels	Underpants	Boxers
Jeans 28-36"	Trousers 28-34"	Small Rucksacks
Men's Trainers	Men's Shoes	Socks
Blankets		
TOILETRIES		
Toothbrushes	Body Lotion	Body Wash
	Roll-on Deodorant	Razors
Hand Cream	Moisturiser	Shampoo
Spray Deodorant	Shower Gel	Shaving Foam



***SAVE
THE DATES ****

**St Mary's
Guildford**

is open during

**Heritage
Weekend**

***12 – 14 September
2025***

**Refreshments
available**

** Look out for further details*

St. Michael's, Sheerwater

Easter Activities

We welcomed the families from the community, Pop-up Café and our Tots Praise to crafts and lunch on Maundy Thursday. We enjoyed Easter crafts, games and told the Easter Story around the Easter Garden which we made together. It was a lovely afternoon, sharing Easter activities. Another time of sharing was with our Pop-up families when we celebrated Eid and Easter with crafts and food (prepared by our families). This is always a lovely time and a great opportunity for us to share our faiths and cultures together.



Asda Community Grant

As a church we were nominated for a grant as part of Asda's 60th birthday celebrations for what we do in the community. The grant will help us continue the work we are doing with Pop up Café, Tots Praise, Community Lunch etc.

Last week Faye (the Community Champion from Asda Sheerwater) came to visit Pop up Café and awarded us a cheque for £1000.



Where are we at with the building?

There are no further updates at present. Please continue to pray as the team at Surrey continue with discussions on our application.

Tracey Francis



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

**60th
Anniversary**
1965-2025

**SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 6PM
ANNIVERSARY SHOW**

FREE TICKETS: 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**



Stoughton

Our Maundy Thursday communion and Good Friday services were times of reflection followed by a joyful celebration on Easter Sunday morning, led by Revd. Claire Hargreaves and included the decoration of the Cross.

In 1890 the Methodist circuit of Guildford bought a plot of land on the corner of Grange Road and Stoughton Road and erected a corrugated iron-clad church room. The first meeting by a congregation calling themselves Wesleyan Methodists was on 21 February 1891. However, the Tin Tabernacle, as it became known, was soon found to be insufficient so funds were raised to build a permanent church. It was completed and opened in 1895 and in June we will celebrate 130 years of witness as the "Church on the Corner".

On Saturday 7 June at 7.30pm there will be a concert from the "Rhythm of Life Community Choir". We look forward to welcoming back our former minister Revd. Nick Holt on Sunday 8 June to lead our Anniversary service and this will be followed with a shared lunch.

Our Coffee Corner which began in May 2024 as fortnightly became weekly during the winter months and now, by popular demand(!), continues as a weekly event. Following visits to the coffee morning by folk from a local dementia care home, a group of us now visit the home once a month for a short time of worship with them.

Two new groups are currently hiring the premises and we are hopeful for their success as they go through the summer months. Our thanks to friends around the circuit for support and encouragement as we continue to seek ways to improve our finances.

Linda Macbeth



COFFEE AND CAKE

AT ST. MARY'S

QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP



**JUNE – AUGUST
2025**

Thursday 26 June

- - -

Thursday 24 July

- - -

Thursday 28 August

10.30 – 12.00

- each month features a different charity

Everyone welcome

West Horsley

We celebrated Easter in good heart this year.

Starting with an afternoon tea on Palm Sunday to which we invited friends and neighbours. An enjoyable time was had by the 30 people who attended and conversation was unstoppable!

On Good Friday we joined with members of the other local churches for an open-air service at the East Horsley shops. This was organised this year by the members of All Saints, Ockham with participation by all the local churches. The numbers were higher than ever, perhaps helped by the warm weather?

And, on Easter Day we had an inspiring service led by Graham Warr, with an emphasis on the experience of those on the road to Emmaus. We were pleased to have our Easter communion service the following Sunday with Revd. Claire Hargreaves.

When you read this, we will have celebrated our Chapel Anniversary weekend, with a Songs of Praise evening on Saturday 17 May and the service on Sunday led by Revd. David Coote.

One of our members has been decorating eggs with tiny beads and jewels and much patience! She decided to give a selection of these to our chapel, see photo below. Purchases raised £185 for the Myanmar disaster and for church funds.

Margaret Faulkner



Weybridge

For the first time in many years, Weybridge Methodist Church hosted the Churches Together in Weybridge Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Over a hundred people (and two dogs) from the Weybridge church community gathered at our church where Revd. Shaun Sanders led a short devotion before we processed in silence to Monument Green. Here, Shaun continued to lead us in a short act of worship. The town was very busy, probably due to the lovely weather, so this act was very visible. One little boy was heard asking his mother why someone was carrying a cross and she stopped to explain to him: so at least one family had a discussion about Easter.



In February, Shaun made a return visit to the Weybridge Old Folks Club, which our church has supported for many years and talked about some of his precious items and why they are important to him.

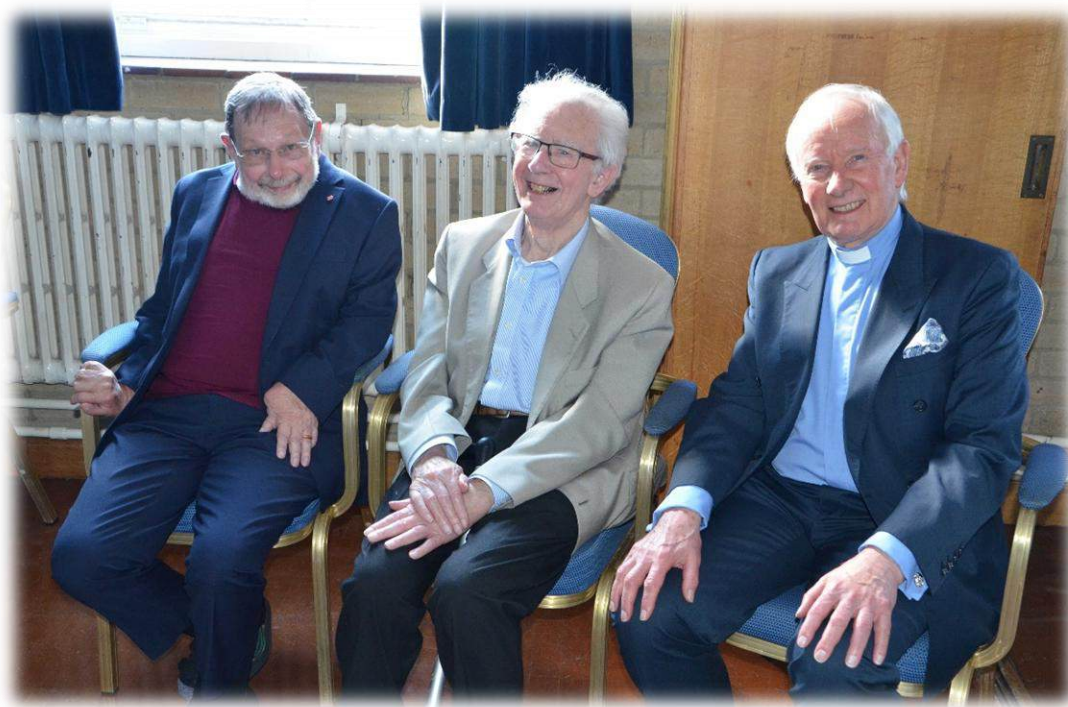
In recent months we have welcomed several new members to the congregation and have the pleasure of welcoming one of them into membership shortly.

As a small church community it is difficult to get involved with many needy initiatives but with God's help, we continue to do the best we can.

Linda Weedon

Celebrating 190 Years of Preaching

Over 100 people from almost every church in the circuit gathered at Merrow Methodist Church on a very warm Sunday afternoon for a service celebrating 190 years of preaching. Roland Hamon (70 years a Local Preacher), and Allan Taylor and Peter Hills (both 60 years since their admission as Local Preachers) gave testimony, chose favourite hymns and were presented with certificates. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate ministries that have meant so much to so many people over the years.



From left to right: Revd. J. Allan Taylor, Roland Hamon and Revd. Peter Hills



TRINITY 60TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

SATURDAY- 14TH JUNE 2025
@ 6.30PM



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

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

FREE
ENTRY!



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

For **free tickets** please
contact
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



A Note to Contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of The Wey Forward, in its pdf format, on the circuit website. The Wey Forward is an important source of information about the life of the circuit and what is going on in each of the churches across it. We want to share it with others.

However, we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable with a mention on the internet. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so. Please advise at the time of submitting the copy.

A Message from the Editor

I hope you have found the latest edition of 'The Wey Forward' both interesting and useful. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the articles. It has been a real pleasure to receive and read each item as I put the newsletter together.

If you would find a large print version of the magazine useful then please let me know and I can arrange that for you.

We would like the focus of the magazine to be a forward looking one. So, as you plan your events, bear in mind that the rest of the circuit would love to know about them.

The deadline for Issue 37 of The Wey Forward is:

midnight 1 August 2025

Submissions to the newsletter are accepted at any time but we can only guarantee a submission **will be considered** for a particular issue if it is received by the corresponding deadlines listed below. Pop them in your diaries now.

Issue 38 31 October 2025

Issue 39 30 January 2026

Please send your items (and photos) to

weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Lucy Venmore

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
June 2025			
8 June	3.30pm	Pet Service	Walton-on-Thames
14 June	6.00pm	Trinity Anniversary Show (see pages 20 and 26)	Woking
15 June	10.30am	Church Anniversary followed by buffet lunch	Woking
15 June	After morning service	Church Anniversary and BBQ (see page 7)	Godalming
21 June	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
22 June	10.30am	Church Anniversary followed by family lunch	Merrow
26 June	10.30am to 12noon	Coffee and Cake (see page 22)	St. Mary's Guildford
27 June - 7 July		The Whitechapel Mission (see page 16)	Godalming
28 June	10am to 12noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
July 2025			
5 July	9.30am to 12noon	Practical Aspects of Spirituality (see page 4)	St. Mary's Guildford
19 July	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
24 July	10.30am to 12noon	Coffee and Cake (see page 22)	St. Mary's Guildford
26 July	10am to 12noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
August 2025 (and beyond)			
2 August	TBC	Family Picnic Lunch	Merrow
8 August	10.30am to 12.30pm	Messy Church and BYO picnic lunch	Godalming
16 August	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
23 August	10am to 12noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
28 August	10.30am to 12noon	Coffee and Cake (see page 22)	St. Mary's Guildford
28 Aug – 2 Sep		Circuit Pilgrimage to Iona	
6 September	2.30pm to 4.30pm	Cream tea in aid of Gambian Ophthalmic Project	Godalming
12-14 September		Heritage Weekend	St. Mary's Guildford
14 September	TBC	Songs of Praise Service	Merrow
18 October	TBC	Merrow 70 th Anniversary Church Quiz	Merrow
15 November	TBC	Church Anniversary Concert	Merrow
8 December	TBC	Merrow Church Finale	Merrow

And Finally

A Christian is trying to convince her friend to come to church. "I don't want to go to church!" the friend says. "Church is full of hypocrites!"

"Oh, come on," the Christian implores, one more won't hurt!"