

Friends in the Wey Valley Circuit,

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of joining a group of pilgrims from our Circuit on a journey to the island of Iona. Five years ago, I couldn't have told you what "Iona" was — a place, a community, a denomination, or perhaps even a person's name. I had sung songs and prayed prayers bearing the name "Iona Community," but it remained a mystery to me.

Now, having walked its beaches and prayed in its abbey, I understand why pilgrims speak of Iona with such reverence. The island is stunningly beautiful, with wild weather that shifts from sunshine to storm in the blink of an eye. The cathedral's worship resonates with centuries of prayer. The history is heavy with the memory of saints and martyrs. But more than that, Iona is what Celtic Christians call a thin place — a place where heaven and earth seem to draw near, where God feels close, where eternal time brushes against ordinary time.

One such place is the White Strand of the Monks. There, in the year 806, sixty-eight monks were martyred by Viking raiders. We do not know their names, but God does. Their lives were hidden, simple, given to prayer and learning — yet their witness endures. As Tertullian once said, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church." From that place of sorrow, God has brought renewal, as pilgrims still gather on those sands to pray and to remember.

Standing on that beach, I was struck not only by the cost of discipleship but by its call. Jesus never promised that following him would be safe. He invited us to take up our cross and follow. For those monks, faithfulness meant life — and death — in Christ. For us, faithfulness may look different: in daily prayer, in love that forgives, in hope that endures. To live as witnesses is to bear Christ's light in the ordinary patterns of our days.

That is the gift of a pilgrimage: it teaches us not to escape life, but to see God within it — even in the pain, even in the wounds. Thin places are not limited to distant islands or holy shrines. They appear whenever we open ourselves to God's presence — in the quiet of prayer, in the embrace of community, in the beauty of creation, even in the struggle of carrying our own crosses.

My time on Iona changed me. It reminded me that God is never far away, that eternity is always brushing close, and that every moment has the potential to become a thin place. My prayer for us all is that we would learn to notice those moments, and to live as witnesses — quietly, faithfully, steadfastly — to the God who meets us where heaven and earth touch.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Adam Payne

Resources/Good News

Highlights of the Methodist Conference 2025

A look back at the highlights of the Methodist Conference 2025, which was held in Telford between 26 June - 2 July.

The Conference is the governing body of the Methodist Church and meets annually to discuss matters affecting the life of the Church, the nation and the world.

[Highlights of the Methodist Conference 2025](#)

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

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER
2025



Thursday 25 September
- - -
Thursday 23 October
- - -
Thursday 27 November
(first Advent Reflection)

10.30 – 12.00

- each month features a different charity

Everyone welcome

Practical Aspects of Spirituality



led by

Catherine Lomas

Priest and Iconographer

Saturday 25 October 2025

St. Mary's Church

Guildford GU1 3UP

Refreshments from 09.15

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

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



5th August

12th August

19th August

26th August

2nd September

9th September

16th September

23rd September

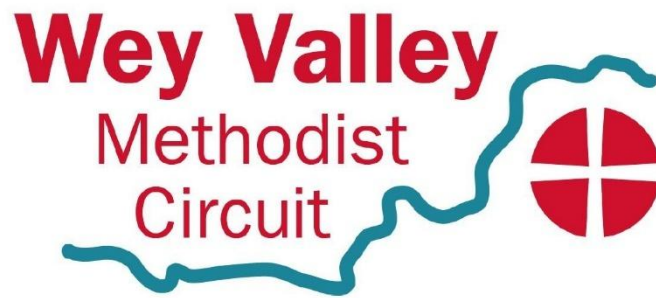
30th September



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

The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!



Our Story, Our Song

Circuit Service

*Celebrating the harvest of our
lives*



All welcome

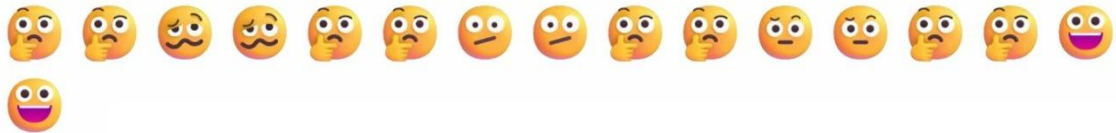
Refreshments will be served after the service

Sunday 5 October 2025 3.00pm

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



70 years at MERROW METHODIST CHURCH



When

SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER 7PM

Questions covering the years 1955 - 2025

General Knowledge.

Light Entertainment.

Sport



History.

Geography.

Spelling

!?.

? ? .

!?

Musical Intros. What Comes Next – Lyrics,

Quotations.

This Weeks News.



!?!? ? !?!? ? !?!?

WE WILL BE SERVING A PLOUGHMANS SUPPER.

ALL TEAMS OF 8 ARE WELCOME.

NO CHARGE FOR TICKETS BUT DONATIONS INVITED ON THE
EVENING TO THE OAKLEAF ENTERPRISE CHARITY

Weyfarers

The circuit book reading and discussion group, which began way back in 2009, has decided to adopt a new name. Henceforth it will be known as WEYFARERS travelling the Way and the Wey.

In recent months we have lost a number of members through illness, death, house moves etc but we have also gained some new members. We meet fortnightly on Friday afternoons either in members' homes or in one of our churches.

Over the years we have read many books by a rich diversity of authors e.g. Bishop Tom Wright, Oxford Professor Keith Ward, Chair of District Tom Stuckey, Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sachs, Archbishop Rowan Williams and many more.

For more information, contact me on 07708 573661 or jat.hoschap@yahoo.co.uk

Do come and join us!

Revd. Allan Taylor

Saturday 20 September 2025 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

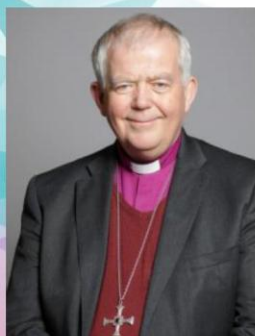
Due to huge generosity lately from the residents of Knaphill and beyond, clothes donations are not being accept at all for the time being.



Study Day: Speaking of Justice in Worship and Preaching



Rachel Lampard
Director of Social
Justice & Social Action
for The Methodist
Church
She is talking on
Politics in the Pulpit?



Right Reverend Nick Holtam
Bishop of Salisbury from 2011
until his retirement in 2021.
He is talking on *Study this
age, sense its need, preach
to its condition – preaching in
such a time as this.*

Saturday 11th October 2025 from 10.00am to 2pm

At Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton, BN2 1RL dgmc.org.uk

Refreshments: Tea, coffee will be available from 9.30am.

Please bring a packed lunch, hot drinks & soup will be available.

Rachel Lampard, Director of Social Justice & Social Action for The Methodist Church

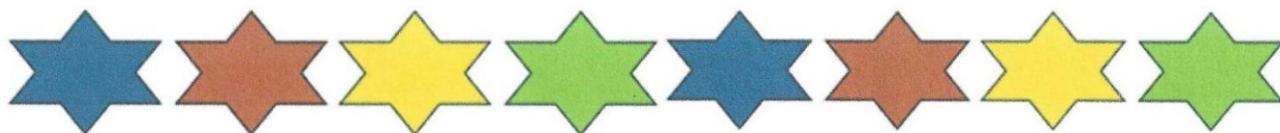
Rachel Lampard has worked for many years to help churches to engage with issues of social justice, particularly through the Methodist Church and the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team. She is currently the Director for Social Justice and Social Action for the Methodist Church and served as the elected Vice-President of the Methodist Conference in Britain between 2016-17.

Rachel has also spent over a decade working for the Gambling Commission, seeking to regulate the industry to prevent gambling harm, and received an MBE for services to gambling regulation. She is a trustee of the youth work charity, Worth Unlimited, and Chair of Governors at an east London secondary school. She lives in Walthamstow, east London, where she spends much of her time trying, and failing, to keep up with the rest of her cycling-mad family.

Right Reverend Nick Holtam. He served as Bishop of Salisbury from 2011 until his retirement in 2021.

Nicholas Holtam was ordained deacon in the Church of England in 1979 to a curacy at St Dunstan's Stepney and retired from stipendiary ministry in 2021 as Bishop of Salisbury and the Church of England's lead bishop on the environment. In between he taught Ethics and Mission at Lincoln Theological College and was the vicar of two parishes – the Isle of Dogs in East London and St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, where he was a regular broadcaster of worship, mostly on BBC Radio 4 and the World Service. He has therefore preached in a wide variety of contexts and will talk about the purpose and context of preaching, drawing on a variety of examples and issues from his experience.

Please contact Steve Preston steve.preston@brightonhovemethodistcircuit.org.uk to register attendance and if you have any questions.



**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***

EVERY MONTH

1st Saturday – Fun Bingo

*Donations to Sam Beare Hospice or
Open Doors Charity*



**2nd Saturday – A time to sing – favourite
hymns & songs**

3rd Saturday – give popular games a go



**4th Saturday – Hymns, songs
and time for prayer**

Check notice board for any changes



Saying Goodbye Remembrance Service Canterbury, Kent

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

4TH OF OCTOBER, 2025 - 11AM

**A SERVICE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS
LOST A BABY IN PREGNANCY, AT BIRTH
OR IN EARLY YEARS, WHETHER THE
LOSS WAS YESTERDAY OR 80 YEARS
AGO. THIS EVENT IS ALSO FOR THOSE
GRIEVING THAT THEY HAVE NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO HAVE A CHILD.**

[SAYINGGOODBYE.ORG](https://sayinggoodbye.org)

**SAYING GOODBYE IS A DIVISION
OF MARIPOSA INTERNATIONAL**