

Dear friends,

It was in the year 2BC, I think (two before Covid, that is) that Margaret and I followed John Wesley's path across the Atlantic. We were sailing in an ocean liner – the last in the world, we're told – and were without doubt less tossed about, more comfortable, safer, and much better fed than Father John had been. We arrived in New York and took a taxi (black and expensive) to the ferry terminal, via the tunnel. We returned in a yellow taxi, much cheaper, and crossed the bridge to the Brooklyn Terminal. The experience has certainly added to my enjoyment of American movies set in the Big Apple. Our destination was Ellis Island, the ferry taking us past the statue of Liberty to the place where, for many years, migrants were processed. It was an island village, with accommodation and a hospital, where all immigrants were examined, and even a kindergarten school. It is now a museum.

Frederick Trump was processed there – grandfather of Donald, and, while not an illegal immigrant, an illegal emigrant: escaping the kingdom of Bavaria to avoid conscription. (He returned to the Rhine to marry a girl from the same village, but his past caught up with him and both were deported and returned to America.) The following century, a Gaelic-speaking girl from the island of Lewis in the Hebrides arrived at Ellis Island. She was seeking a better life, and had family already in America. She married Frederick's son, Fred Junior, and Donald was, I think, her fourth son. Thus the President would qualify for British citizenship: there's a thought!

What set me thinking about this? It was a verse in one of the hymns set this week in the Methodist Prayer Handbook: Singing the Faith 695. Written by Ruth Duck, it is inspired by the parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25: 'Lord, when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?' (verse 38). Verse 3 in the hymn reads:

When you gave bread to earth's hungry children,
When you gave welcome to war's refugees,
When you remembered those most forgotten,
You cared for me in the smallest of these.

And I thought of crowded dinghies crossing the strait between Calais and Littlestone, and what happens to the migrants when they come ashore. And I do have mixed feelings. On the one hand, I do think that migration needs to be controlled, for the sake of those already living in Britain. I absolutely believe that the people smugglers who exploit these desperate folk should be gathered up, prosecuted and punished. On the other hand, I am aware that many – most, in fact – of those crossing, at great risk, are ordinary, decent people seeking a better way of life for themselves and their families. They include Christians escaping persecution, and war refugees, and people like Mary Anne MacCleod (later Trump) leaving poverty and hunger behind. Not all are 'feral males' – but some are. Not all are criminals, though a few are. They include doctors and teachers and farmers, mothers and children. (The clergy, my travels have taught me, have most likely stayed where they are, to support those who remain, sharing their dangers and, often, their poverty.)

I don't have an answer, and sympathise with the politicians who must find one, and with the Border Force and other agencies who must deal with it. But every time I sing, 'All are welcome

in this place' I think of where the English Channel meets the North Sea, and the hopeful ones. Each is a child of God, whatever their beliefs, and each must be treated one at a time, with respect, as were the hopeful ones who landed at Ellis Island all those years ago – whether they are allowed to stay or not.

Blessings,

Peter

Resources/Good News

Second Chance

The 30th anniversary of a much-loved charity shop took place this summer. *Second Chance* is part of the mission of Archway Methodist Church in north London and was described by Time Out as “London’s temple of bric-a-brac”. Over the last three decades the shop has donated over £800,000 to charity and helped dozens of volunteers find fulfilment and emotional security.

Read the story [here](#)

Standing with Giants: For Your Tomorrow

From 22 October, the powerful installation ‘For Your Tomorrow’ created by charity Standing with Giants, will debut at Royal Armouries, Fort Nelson, Portsmouth. This moving tribute to the 1,475 servicemen under British Command who gave their lives on D-Day is coming home to Portsmouth.

Life-size silhouettes representing the 1,475 servicemen under British Command who gave their lives on D-Day and 50 French resistance fighters will be displayed around the grounds of Fort Nelson in this powerful installation created by charity Standing with Giants.

Tickets will be available to book by mid-October.

[Standing with Giants: For Your Tomorrow | Royal Armouries](#)



SAM'S ZOOM AROUND GREECE

Back in May, as a large part of my Sabbatical, I went on a 10-day pilgrimage around Greece.

I'd now like to offer friends around the Circuit the chance to share some of the sights and experiences I had, as I travelled with my fellow pilgrims, in the footsteps of St Paul.

To that effect, please find below some Zoom link details for **THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER at 7.30pm** (I'll open the meeting at 7.25pm), for about an hour or so.

You'd be very welcome to join me!

Yamas! (That's 'Cheers!' in Greek)

Sam.

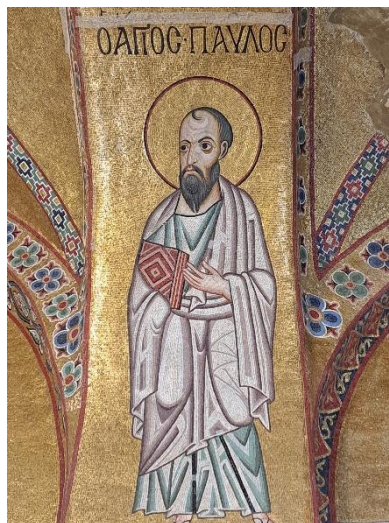


Image of St Paul - Taken at Hosias Loukas, in the 11th century church

ZOOM LINK:

Topic: Circuit Zoom - Sam's Sabbatical Travels in Greece

Time: Nov 6, 2025 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84676600289?pwd=wxk4b8JLdfYYZkSgzRgXTeGTxThMyO.1>

Meeting ID: 846 7660 0289

Passcode: 600496

THREADS THROUGH THE CROSS

25 SEPTEMBER – 3 NOVEMBER 2025

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL



Talented textile artist

Jacqui Parkinson

presents

‘Threads through the Cross’

- a stunning series of panels
exploring the life and teachings of
Jesus, from his birth to his final weeks,
culminating in Pentecost.

Jacqui’s intricate stitching and vibrant
design bring Christ’s story to life.

The exhibition is free to view
– please don’t miss it!

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

Catherine Lomas

Priest and Iconographer

Saturday 25 October 2025

09.30 – 12.00

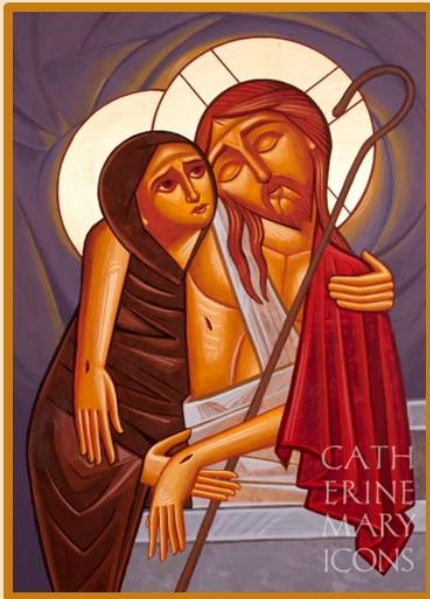
Refreshments from 09.15

PLUS

Optional Workshop (booking required)

13.00 – 15.00

*with practical demonstrations
and insights into icon design*



St. Mary's Church Guildford GU1 3UP

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

POP-UP PLAY CAFÉ

Wednesday 29 October 9.30 – 11.30

... call in at

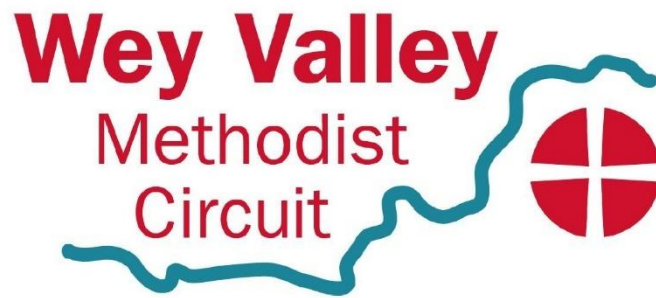
ST. MARY'S

Quarry St
Guildford GU1 3UP

- space to play
- time to relax
- coffee and cake

All ages welcome





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

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



7th October

14th October

21th October

28th October

4th November

11th November

18th November


25th November



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

The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!



Memory Lane

Presents

MUSICAL MEMORIES

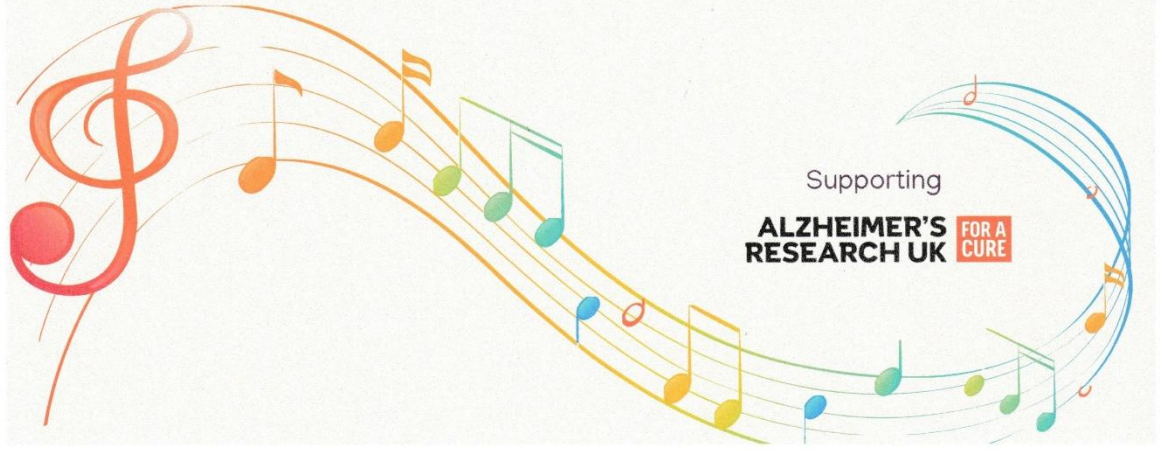
A concert given by

MEMORY LANE MUSICIANS
with Supporting Artists

11 SATURDAY
OCT Doors open 2pm
Concert 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Cranleigh Village Hall

Tickets: £10, to include
refreshments during the interval
Call: 07876 528704



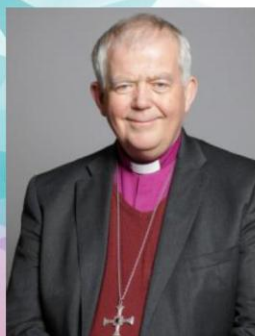
Supporting

**ALZHEIMER'S
RESEARCH UK** **FOR A
CURE**

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

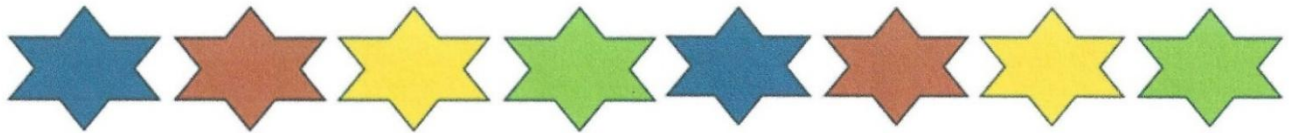
Rachel Lampard has worked for many years to help churches to engage with issues of social justice, particularly through the Methodist Church and the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team. She is currently the Director for Social Justice and Social Action for the Methodist Church and served as the elected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

Pastoral Support

Advocacy

Accommodation

SUSTAINING HOPE AUTUMN 2025

Interpreting



Foodbanks

Drop-In Centres

Created by John Kock
from Noun Project

Place of Sanctuary

**Are you involved in responding to the needs of
Refugees, Migrants & Displaced Persons
- or interested in becoming involved?**

Befriending

The Methodist South-East District 'Sustaining Hope' autumn gathering for 2025

English practice

will include

- Prayer and time to network
- Keynote presentations on:

Cafes

Surrey Refugees' Football Club - Martin King
The Impact of Climate Change - Paul Richards (All We Can)

Form-filling

Date: Saturday, 4th October, 10.00am - 1.30pm
(Refreshments available from 9.45am)

Resettlement
Schemes

Venue: Redhill Methodist Church, RH1 1BP
Redhill Station is 5 minutes' walk away
NCP car park on Gloucester Road opposite the church

Clothing Banks

**To register, or for more information, email
Rev Hazel Forecast at
hazel.forecast@methodist.org.uk**

Something else...



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**