

Dear Friends,

I don't know about you but the current climate that we seem to be living in at the moment, in the international, national and local arenas, trouble me greatly; I would guess it bothers most of us. Daily we see and hear of tensions raised, anger meted out, intolerance displayed, conflict between peoples, the devastation of war and human suffering on a scale which seems hard to comprehend.

It might well leave us feeling really quite despairing: what can we do, how long will this last, why are so many situations so fraught, febrile and painful?

In the midst of all this, two events of this last weekend have offered me, and others, little signs of encouragement.

One was the District 'Sustaining Hope' event that Rev Hazel Forecast organises twice a year to bring people together who work in, or are interested in supporting, the area of concern for 'Refugees, Migrants and Displaced Persons'. We heard from two wonderful speakers:

one, offering specialist football coaching for young people from refugee or migrant communities, alongside those with issues of neuro diversity – bridging gaps between cultures and different ways of thinking and being, through sport and shared endeavour;

the second speaker, from 'All We Can' (previously 'Methodist Relief and Development Fund') sharing statistics on the impact of Climate Change on some of our siblings around the world and who they seek to work in partnership with to find creative and sustainable solutions.

Stories and activities that certainly can help us sustain hope in the face of the challenges we see all around us.



Then, on Sunday, there was our Circuit Service where we gathered together at Godalming, with representation from around the circuit, to 'Harvest the Spirit' of God's activity in our midst. We listened to stories from four different places of ministry ('Chit Chat' at St Marys Guildford, a school links at Trinity Woking, Iona pilgrimage reflections from Walton and Thy Kingdom Come mission work out of Godalming). It was a service where all the circuit staff team were able to be present, representing Ghana, the United States of America and Britain; we sat alongside one another and all participated in the leading of the service, alongside our lay colleagues who sang, spoke, read, played the organ and offered a wonderful ministry of refreshment.

Shaun's message was about singing our songs together and listening to another's song and story as we journey together and then Paul rounded off our time together by emphasising the importance of our togetherness and inclusive welcome.

These two events, on just one weekend, speak to me of HOPE! Of how we might 'sustain hope', to borrow that title of the district event. It linked with what Paul said at the Preachers

and Worship Leaders' meeting last month, where he spoke about the same issue of having to hold to our faith in and following of Jesus, as we continue to strive to be people of hope in a world that so desperately needs it.

And so I just offer these two examples, from within our own circuit and district, of how we can sustain hope and strive to be people of hope; simple ways of how we live our lives on this planet and alongside our global neighbours; how we worship together, how we serve our communities together in ways that are inclusive and hope-filled; to have a servant-hearted ministry to the people around us, and speak of tolerance, inclusion and genuine welcome in the places where God has put us.

May the Spirit of God, the example of Christ and the Compassion of our Creator encourage us on, with hope, to be a people of hope!

Yours in Hope!

*Sam.*

*Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord;  
And where there's doubt, true faith in you.*

### **Resources/Good News**

#### **World Mental Health Day, 10 October 2025**

Mental health matters on the days when everything happens and the days when nothing happens. When life is busy and unpredictable and when it's quiet and ordinary too.

For information and support, including details of Mind's four different helplines, look at:

[World Mental Health Day 2025 | Mind](#)





# 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

# **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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*



Common Ground  
Guildford  
PRAY • TOGETHER • GO

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

If you would like to attend please email [gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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





Saturday 18 October 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](mailto: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.



## STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

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

### COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



**7<sup>th</sup> October**

**14<sup>th</sup> October**

**21<sup>th</sup> October**

**28<sup>th</sup> October**

**4<sup>th</sup> November**

**11<sup>th</sup> November**

**18<sup>th</sup> November**

**25<sup>th</sup> 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

---

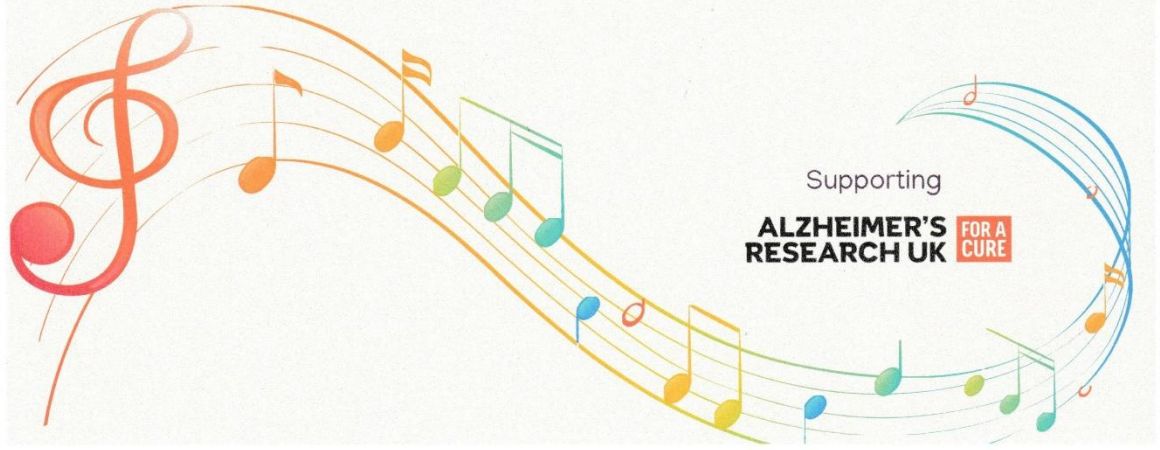
**11** SATURDAY  
OCT Doors open 2pm

Concert 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Cranleigh Village Hall

Tickets: £10, to include  
refreshments during the interval

Call: 07876 528704



Supporting

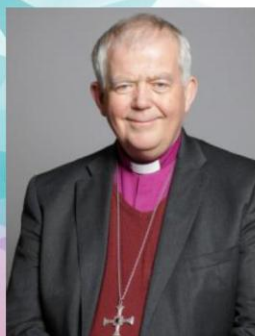
**ALZHEIMER'S  
RESEARCH UK** **FOR A  
CURE**



## 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](http://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

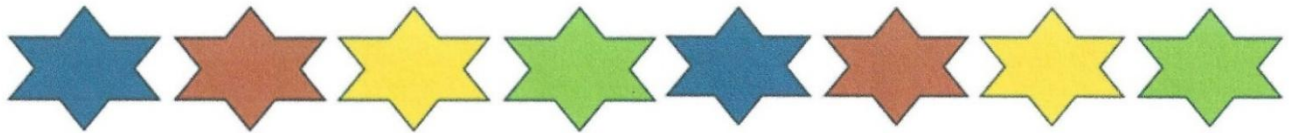
Rachel Lampard has worked for many years to help churches to engage with issues of social justice, particularly through the Methodist Church and the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team. She is currently the Director for Social Justice and Social Action for the Methodist Church and served as the elected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

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday – Fun Bingo**

*Donations to Sam Beare Hospice or  
Open Doors Charity*



**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday – A time to sing – favourite  
hymns & songs**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday – give popular games a go**



**4<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Hymns, songs  
and time for prayer**

*Check notice board for any changes*