

Friends of the Wey Valley Circuit,

I believe that I've used this space before to talk about my family's love of history. Part of our original motivation to move to the UK was this fascination with the long and storied history of this country. Over the weekend, we took a bit of a dive into the darker side of that history.

We attended a guided walk entitled "Disastrous London: Plaguepits, Executions, and the Great Fire". The tour guide began with leading us to the former site of Charterhouse School, and opened with the line: "You're standing above the graves of approximately 3,000 people."

We were then led to St. Bartholomew's Church, just outside of which are monuments marking the end of Wat Tyler's Peasant Revolt, the execution spot of William Wallace, and bomb damage from Zeppelin raids during World War I.

Finally, we walked south of St. Bart's Hospital (pointing out the spot marking where the Great Fire was stopped in 1666), to The Old Bailey, the spot of one of Europe's most notorious prisons, Newgate. Here, our guide pointed out that, while we think of public executions as something from the distant past, the nearby Barbican Tube Station opened in 1865, while executions were not private affairs until 1868. So, for 3 years, people were able to take the London Underground to see people be killed.

It was an interesting, yet sober, day. Everyone we've told about it has teased us for picking a "cheery" day out. Yet, I have no regrets. Usually when we go to London, we're seeing the Great and the Impressive. While it was somewhat depressing to be reminded of the city's darker side, it's sometimes helpful to be reminded of humanity's lows instead of always focusing on the highs. In fact, I think it can be downright necessary.

One thing I often see with new Christians, is that they are excited and joyful about starting out in church, yet as soon as something goes wrong in their lives, they lack that enthusiasm and disappear. I think our churches do a disservice to people when we're always focused on the happy and the cheerful. We need to prepare people for the darker moments of life...sometimes by staring those darker moments in the face.

Ultimately, that's what my family did this past weekend. We looked at the unpleasant past of our favourite city. We acknowledged that it's not a perfect place...but somehow, I think I love it all the more for that.

-Adam Payne

P.S. As I send this letter to Lucy for publication, I realise that it's going out on Guy Fawkes Day! Even though that wasn't part of the tour, that feels appropriate!

Resources/Good News

Appeal for those affected by Hurricane Melissa

The Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can have opened a joint appeal to respond to Hurricane Melissa.

Together with our partner, the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), we are working to ensure that funds raised are directed to where they are most needed. MCCA is working on co-ordinating emergency relief efforts across affected communities in the region.

For more information and to make donations, visit [Prayer and appeal for those affected by Hurricane Melissa - The Methodist Church](#)

Free Tree Giveaway!

This Winter, Surrey County Council is giving away 4,000 trees at locations across Surrey.

If you would like a free tree to plant at home, visit one of the seven community recycling centres (CRCs) from 9am to 4pm on:

Friday 28 and Saturday 29 November

Monday 1 December

To help manage demand, pre-booking will be required:

https://customer.surreycc.gov.uk/crc_tree_giveaway



Warm Homes Local Grant

We are sending the information below on behalf of the Greener Futures Team at Surrey County Council.

Residents who face rising energy bills and struggle to keep their homes warm may be eligible for a grant of up to £30,000 for home energy upgrades. The Warm Homes Local Grant can be used to install insulation, upgrade doors and windows, install solar panels and upgrade your heating system to a heat pump, which is up to five times more efficient than gas central heating.

Eligibility criteria are:

- Household income of less than £36,000
- Or be in receipt of means-tested benefits
- And have an energy performance rating of D or below

For more information, and to apply, see [SCC's Warm Homes Local Grant webpage](#)

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

SAVE THE DATES

Join us for this year's series of

Advent Reflections

followed by a bread & soup lunch

Thursdays

27 November
4 & 11 December

Carols at Lunchtime

18 December

12.15 for 12.30



St. Mary's Quarry St Guildford GU1 3UY

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



Saturday 15 November

6 – 8 pm

Trinity Methodist Church

Brewery Road

Woking GU21 4LH

**Bring a dish of food to share (savoury or sweet),
and your plate, cutlery and a mug/tumbler.**

All are welcome! We will sort teams out on the night.

FUNDRAISING FOR TEARFUND

tearfund.org/quiz

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom

☎ +44 (0)20 3906 3906 ✉ info@tearfund.org 🌐 @ /Tearfund

Registered office: Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE. Registered in England: 994339. A company limited by guarantee. Registered Charity No. 265464 (England & Wales) Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland)

tearfund

Saturday 15 November 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.



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!



Woking People of Faith

Diverse Beliefs: United Action

Interfaith Walking Pilgrimage (Knaphill)

Join us for a journey of friendship and faith through
Knaphill!

Saturday 15th November, 10 am till 2 pm

Start: Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, GU21 2DR

Stops include: Dhammakaya Buddhist Temple and local churches

Finish: St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church (GU21 2AA) – with other
faiths represented

P Free parking at Englefield Road Car Park



🚶♀ Refreshments along the way

🧥 Dress for the weather

♥ Just turn up – all welcome!

💰 Donations appreciated



70 years at **MERROW METHODIST CHURCH**

COME TO THE

MERROW CHURCH CONCERT

SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 7PM

*MERROW
METHODIST
SINGERS*

Sketches

Piano

Poetry

Surprises!

There is no charge but donations will be invited on the night to be
made to
The Matrix Trust.

Carers' Information Fair

Saturday 22nd November 2025

10am - 2pm

The HIVE, Park Barn Drive, Guildford, GU2 8EN

**Practical & financial advice from
Surrey charities & organisations**

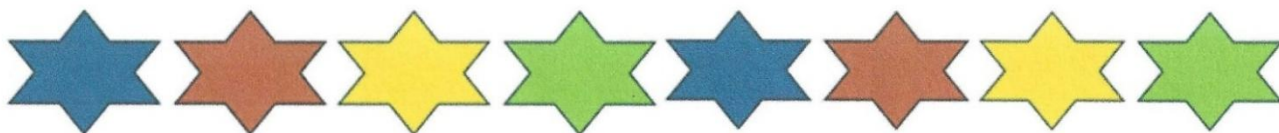
Action for Carers - Admiral Nurses - The Hunter
Centre - Energy Manage - Surrey Sports Park -
BRAAIN - Family Information Service - plus others

73%

**of people who are providing or have provided
unpaid care do not identify themselves as a carer**



Community
Wellbeing



**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

A joyful start to Christmas

Carols for All



Saturday Nov 29th

7.00 - 9.00pm

**Horsley Methodist
Church**

(next to W. Horsley Village Hall)

**Come and sing your favourite
carols with a break for
refreshments and mince pies.**

Phone requests to

01483 282474