

Dear Friends,

On Monday of last week, a flurry of emails circulated around a range of religious leaders in and around Guildford. As we reflected on the terrible news of the massacre of Jewish folks celebrating Chanukah on Bondi Beach in Australia, the Rabbi of Guildford (Alex Goldberg) and the Dean of Guildford (Bob Cooper) were clear that they wanted to do something – to take a stand.

A plan quickly came into focus. On Tuesday afternoon, December 16th, at 2pm on Guildford High Street we would gather as many people as possible to have a Vigil for Peace outside the council offices on Guildford High Street.



Emails were quickly sent, appropriate authorities contacted and some 24 hours later some 50 people gathered as a sign of solidarity and hope. That group included Christians, Jews, Hindus, Muslims and members of the Ba'hai faith as well as interested passers-by. Words of life, cherishing and mutual respect were shared. Prayers were recited. We stood alongside each other and declared something of huge importance. That despite the fact that we are surrounded by a world at the moment where anger and hatred are only just below the surface most of the time – there is something more important that binds us all together in our common humanity.

At Christmas time we spend a lot of time hearing and thinking about light, peace and love coming into the world. The story has its dark moments, but it also has a constant thread of the arrival of joy, kindness and hope.



May I wish each and every one of you a blessed and happy Christmas and my prayer is that we may all be people who bring justice, love, and much needed light and kindness into our needy world.

May the Christ child be a blessing to each one of us and to those we minister in these days.

Paul



CIRCUIT SERVICES

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER

There will be two services on Sunday 28 December, both at 10.30am, as follows:

Morning Worship with Rev Sam Funnell on Zoom

If you'd like to join us for Worship on the 28 Dec, from the comfort of your own home, then please do!

Topic: Morning Worship on Zoom

Time: Dec 28, 2025 10:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89942764794?pwd=jMMvS4oVXbeYTCIppqoSx1WbaXJpYJV.1>

Meeting ID: 899 4276 4794

Passcode: 137425

Circuit Service at Godalming United Church, with Rev Paul Glass

In person or follow from home via Godalming's live stream on YouTube:

[Godalming United Church - YouTube](#)