

The Wey Forward

Issue 33 - September to November 2024



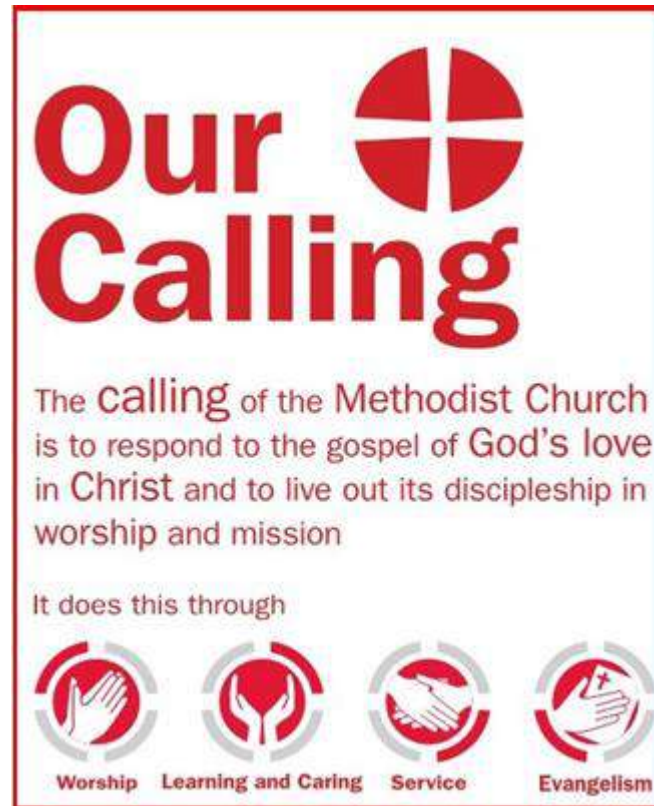
*Help us to remember
now and every day
sacrifice and service,
Lord of life, we pray.*

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit came into being on 1 September 2016. It was formed by the joining of 13 churches in the Guildford and Woking & Walton-on-Thames circuits. Each church has its own distinctive personality and gifts, and continues to look forward to mutual sharing and support and to responding together to the gospel of God's love in the community and the wider world. (For those not familiar with the term, a "circuit" is an administrative group of Methodist churches in the same geographical area).

Our churches can be found in :

- Addlestone
- Byfleet
- Cranleigh
- Godalming
- Guildford
- Knaphill
- Merrow
- Sheerwater
- Stoughton
- Walton-on-Thames
- West Horsley
- Weybridge
- Woking



If you are a visitor or newcomer to the area, or living here and seeking a church for the first time, please use our website - www.weyvalleycircuit.org.uk to find a church that meets your spiritual and pastoral needs. We have included links to the websites of all of our churches in the Circuit, but you can also contact the Circuit Office for more information. The office is open each weekday morning from 9am to 1pm and Lucy Venmore, the Circuit Administrator, can be contacted on circuitoffice@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk or 07808 046451.

This quarterly newsletter aims to showcase what is going on around the Circuit, provide relevant information for the forthcoming quarter and offer some thought-provoking articles.

Lucy Venmore

Editor

A Message From Our Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this edition of the *Wey Forward*. Leadership means lots of different things to lots of different people and there are many different styles of doing it.

I was taught a collaborative style in college. Decisions are best taken by groups and teams of people working together where responsibility is shared. Sometimes we feel as though we want the heroic leader out in front saying 'this is the way...follow me'. Actually, that style of leadership has been shown time and again not to work.

I worked with a senior leader who had actually done a PhD in educational management. He had looked closely at Jim Collins book '*Good to Great*' and he had come up with a number of ways of transferring the thinking of that book to school situations. 'Get the right person sat on the right seat on the bus' was a key phrase. In other words, get the right person doing the right role and then largely trust them to do the work that they have been entrusted with...micro-managing never helped anybody.

As a circuit I am deeply indebted to our CLT - our Circuit Leadership Team - they do an amazing job and we are still looking for people to join us. As Shaun Sanders joins us in his role of leadership in the churches at the north end of the circuit, the CLT will be having an away day in September to plan and envision together. There is no magic wand, and we are facing the same kinds of challenges as every other circuit in the country.

One of the books that I read on sabbatical was called '*How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*'. It talked about the church generally being in an 'in-between' time at the moment - where one thing is finishing and we are looking to see what happens next. That kind of experience can be nerve-wracking and full of anxiety. But the author suggests that it is worth not rushing through that 'liminal' time because it is often in that time of uncertainty and anxiety that we meet God in the most powerful of ways.

Keep the CLT of the circuit in your prayers. As I've said there is no magic wand or quick fix but together, as we seek the mind of God, I believe that new things and new ways of being will emerge.

Blessings,

Paul

Rev Dr Paul Glass
Superintendent Minister



News from around the Circuit

Hello



I was born and grew up in Cornwall where I found a profound welcome in local Methodist churches as a boy. I made, what was for me, a big move to London at the age of 19 to study economics. After a few years working in NHS finance, I tested a call to ministry and did my theological training in Cambridge. Since then, I have served in circuit appointments in Milton Keynes, Hackney, Golders Green and Barnet. Each new place has brought new opportunities, including chaplaincies, community ministry and multi faith work. I enjoy meeting all kinds of different people in different places.

I also enjoy photography, reading, listening to music and walking.

I am looking forward to being with you in the Wey Valley Circuit.

Rev Shaun Sanders

Goodbye

After two years in the circuit as a Student Minister, it is time to move on to my first appointment as a Probationer Minister in the Dane and Trent Circuit. At the time of writing, we are working through all the stuff we have accumulated in our loft, but hopefully we will be moved in and settled by the time you are reading this!

I have had a wonderful two years in the Wey Valley Circuit, experiencing so many different aspects of ministry. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to gain this practical experience alongside my theological studies.

Thank you to everyone in the circuit for your support and encouragement and for making Paul, Elishama and me feel so welcome.

We will miss you all but hope to stay in touch and see you again soon.

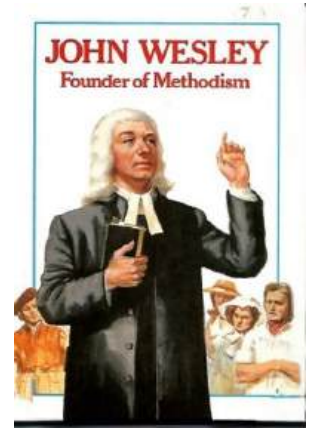
Anna Carrington



Addlestone

Our Faith

When sorting out my filing system, I came across this John Wesley booklet. I found that in 1728 at the age of 25 John was ordained, but not until 1738, after 10 years of preaching, did he feel he trusted in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation. Why was this important to me? I had been a Christian for 60 years but when my wife died in 2012, I realised how much I needed God - my relationship with Him was not complete. I prayed for his love, help and guidance. He responded and He changed my life. It's never too late.



Rev Sydney Samuel Lake's farewell at his last service at Addlestone Methodist Church

During the six years Sydney has been with us, we remember the example he set us concerning the importance of prayer and bible study to deepen our understanding of God. He also set an example with his pastoral care of members in times of need. May God go with him in his new appointment, and with Hawa and their two children, may they quickly resettle in their new home and location.

A new Methodist year approaches

We will welcome our new Minister, Rev Shaun Sanders starting with us on 1st September. We look forward to some new ideas, new expectations, a new challenge and hope for the future. To a large extent, our future relies on putting into effect the changes and new ideas we have introduced, hoping they will bring forth the results we are looking for, more visitors at our events and an increase in the church service attendance.

High on our objective will be to ensure that we help and involve the local community through spreading the word and – in our own behaviour – introduce them to Jesus Christ our Lord. Over and above, we must continue to pray to God for his help and for His Holy Spirit to guide us in all we do.

Fred Rowe



Byfleet

We had the pleasure of hosting the circuit farewell service and tea for Sydney Samuel and Anna Carrington back in July. The chosen day turned out to be one of the days the M25 closed and diverted all the traffic on a route that came within a few hundred yards of our church. Many of our folk are within the village and I simply had to cross the diversion - so no problem. My wife Wendie and Cynthia Haslam were organising the tea, so we and some others went down early for the morning service and stayed through until the tea was over.

The day then was a flow of people coming for the morning service, the Iona Pilgrimage meeting and the farewell service and tea; all with different experiences of their travel. My role in this was easy, helping to set up chairs and tables and pointing people in the right direction. This gave me a wonderful experience of realising how many people I knew (even if I did not always remember their names!!) I was also left wondering if we have had so many clergy present in our church before – probably yes, but it was a joy to see.

I then come to the bit that all of you who have worked in the church will know – something has gone wrong and you are asked to fix it. I had just sat down with my tea and cakes when someone came up and said, “the gents is flooded.” There was water everywhere, so I spent the next half hour or so mopping up and showing “visitors(?)” that only one facility was blocked and everything else was useable. My reward was that other people had helped clear away the tea set-up, but unfortunately that included my tea and cakes! Even so, my thanks and our church’s thanks to everyone who helped to make a successful day.

So much for my experiences but for our church it was a formal farewell to Sydney Samuel and his family and this is a further opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to them all. We must have been a burden to Sydney Samuel when we were added to the three churches he already had pastoral care of and yet he has taken us under his wing so willingly and become fully involved in the life and times of our people and our church.

Then, as was so eloquently expressed by Adam Payne at the farewell service, goodbyes are followed by welcomes and we look forward to the arrival of Shaun Sanders. For the moment then it is a simple welcome, but we look forward to saying more in the future.

Having concentrated on my own involvement I must also add that our weekly FoodBank outlet and Citizens Advice Woking continue apace. Times may be changing but the demand stays and I know Kate and Vaughan who run our sessions would want to thank all of you who donate food, household essentials and money (which means they can provide a regular supply of fresh eggs, cheese and bread each week).

Ken Mears

Cranleigh

Here at Cranleigh we are having a busy summer. Our regular activities have continued as usual and in addition to those, we have had a church outing and have taken part in the annual Lion's Fair on Cranleigh Common.

Our outing this year was close to home at the new Knowle Park in the centre of Cranleigh. The park was created recently and is becoming well established and is very popular with locals of all ages. We met by the lake, enjoyed coffee and ice creams and then had a leisurely walk around the park which includes playgrounds for children of all ages, beautiful lakes with an abundance of wildlife, newly planted trees, wildflower areas and an amphitheatre.



At the Lion's Fair our church ran a toy stall and provided ploughman's lunches, both of which raised money for church funds and advertised our presence in the middle of our village.

The Baby Bank is continuing to provide a much-needed service to local families and is open every Tuesday morning in term time and by appointment at any other times when needed. It is not exclusive to Cranleigh so if anyone knows of a family who would benefit from the equipment, clothes, nappies etc that we can provide free of charge, do please give them our details:

cranleighbabybank@gmail.com 07942 346486

Cranleigh continued....

We are very grateful to Allan Taylor for all that he did for us while Paul was away on his sabbatical. Allan continues to be Chaplain at the local Elmbridge Retirement Village visiting twice a week, to support both staff and residents and he is a regular to the various court coffee mornings to see and be seen. His guidance, insight and support are invaluable. Elmbridge itself celebrated its 40th anniversary as the first retirement village of its kind, opened in the UK, on 21st May. The ecumenical faith group meets regularly, holding coffee mornings quarterly and our weekly services regularly attract anywhere up to 30 people with between 12 and 15 people meeting for bible study once a fortnight as well. We are planning our usual October Harvest festival service for the evening of Tuesday 8th October at 6.00pm followed by supper in the restaurant on site. Remembrance service will be on the afternoon of Sunday 10th November with the Godalming Band in attendance again. Both events could attract up to 60 or more people each time as these annual occasions are always popular when you offer food, or the inclusion of a brass band! We have a faith group meeting shortly when we start planning the annual carol service for December when we expect at least 90 to attend - the draw here is the mulled wine and the mince pies.

Hilary Strawson and Jane Briggs



The poster features a central graphic with a coffee cup and a server. A sign on the server lists 'TEA COFFEE BISCUITS BACON BUTTIES'. Below the server is a close-up of a 'Bacon Butties!' sandwich. The text 'COFFEE MORNING AND SALES 3' is prominently displayed. The KMC logo is in the top left, and the KSSX logo is in the bottom left. A list of stalls and contact information is provided in a yellow box.

KMC
LEARN THROUGH JESUS - WORSHIP GOD - REACH OUT - OUR CALLING... - SUPPORT EACH OTHER

COFFEE MORNING AND SALES 3

IN AID OF **KSSX**

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY
KENT SURREY SUSSEX
Registered Charity No: 1021367

There will be various stalls including:
Cakes, Body shop, Raffle, Tombola, Bric - a - Brac.
Guess the Weight of the Cake, Guess the Name of Teddy,
Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar & Model Railway.
Offers of help and donations of items welcome! Contact Tarina Berry

To be opened by **JONATHAN LORD**
KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL
Saturday 7th September 2024
10am to Noon
www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk



Farewell

A lovely circuit service was held on the afternoon of 14th July to bid a fond farewell to Sydney Samuel Lake and his family as he makes his way to Leicester, and Anna Carrington and her family as she moves to Holmes Chapel. The service also expressed its grateful thanks to Linda Weedon for her time as circuit steward. The congregation at Byfleet provided a splendid tea to follow the service and the collection for the work of MHA totalled a wonderful £299.50.

Sydney Samuel and his family, and Anna and her family go with our prayers, thoughts and best wishes for the work that they are moving to. The circuit is deeply indebted to both of them for the vision, passion and creativity they have brought to the ministry of the circuit in their time of service.

We wish them well.

Paul



Godalming United Church

A big Thank You to everyone who contributed clothing, toiletries and non-perishable food items to our annual collection for the Whitechapel Mission to the Homeless in June/July. The trailer was (as usual!) full to bursting by July 8th.

GUC's talented musicians have been enjoying a musical summer.....

On Saturday 8th June our Friday evening Music Kids (who have grown from strength to strength this year) took part in Godalming's annual open-air ChoirBLAST on The Burys. 50 choirs from all over the country took part in this non-competitive event, each choir having two 20-minute slots on 2 out of the 7 stages around the town's historic Burys. A fabulous free day out for the 2,500 singers and supporters – to be repeated next June.



Music Kids have also entertained the residents at Eastlake care home.

From June 14th - 18th Keith (flugelhorn), Julie (cornet), Eloise (tenor horn) and, for the first time, Esther (baritone horn) joined in the National Methodist Youth Brass Band weekend away at Oxford. Practices on Friday evening and Saturday morning were followed by time exploring Oxford – truly a beautiful city, especially when viewed in sunshine while punting on the river (only one member fell in!). The theme for the epilogues and for the Sunday service was “The Kingdom of God is” especially appropriate in the run-up to the general election. A weekend of fun, faith and fellowship. This year's summer Youth Band tour takes place in the Lake District in August.

Godalming continued...



And continuing the musical theme, rehearsals for our New Year pantomime get under way in September.

We're delighted to report a new church group "SnackChat" at GUC supported by TTT (Trinity Trust Team – Godalming's ecumenical youth work group) - a chance for teens to chill out on Sunday evenings.

Looking Ahead

- Sun Aug 11th - No church service - GUC will be supporting the annual Staycation town service at the Burys bandstand.
- Sat September 7th 2:30-4pm Cream Tea on the patio in support of GUC's Gambia Ophthalmic project. (Just £15 pays for a sight-saving cataract operation.)
- Sat Oct 5th - Curling Evening with Fish and Chip Supper. Contact frymaile@gmail.com for more info or see church website.
- Sun Oct 6th - 10:30 am Harvest Festival. Gifts – non-perishable foodstuffs for foodbank, please
- Sat Oct 12th 3-5pm Messy Church "Helping Hands" based on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Bible-based activities for all the family, story-time and songs, party tea. messy.church@guc.org.uk
- Sun Nov 10th - No church service – GUC will be supporting Godalming's civic Remembrance Service at the war memorial on The Burys.
- Sat/Sun 8th/9th Feb - Annual pantomime – Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Nancy Wilks

Sabbatical by Numbers

So thank you everyone (and particularly those who covered in any way)...thank you for the gift of a sabbatical. One way of describing what went on is to do a little 'Sabbatical by the numbers' exercise - here goes!

12 books read - 6 Theological, 6 novels
Theological Books:
'The Word and the Words' Colin Morris
'Multiplying Love' Paul Chilcote
'Revive Us Again' Leslie Newton
'Unapologetic' Francis Spufford
'The Surprising Rebirth of Belief in God' Justin Brierley
'How to Lead When...' Susan Beaumont

23 Acts of Worship in 18 different venues:
Sutton United Church (Methodist/URC)
Hinde Street Methodist Church (twice)
Canterbury Cathedral Evensong
Peace United Methodist Church - Orlando Florida Wesley Methodist Church, Cambridge
Wesley House Chapel (Morning Prayer and Communion) King's College, Cambridge, Evensong
Trinity College, Cambridge, Evensong
John Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford
Wesley's Chapel City Road
Farnham United Church (Methodist/URC)
Hunslet Methodist Church, South Leeds (Final Services) Prenton Methodist Church (Wirral)
Mow Cop Methodist Church
Queen's Birmingham
Christchurch, Guildford
Guildford Cathedral
Guildford URC

12 Interviews conducted with current and previous students of Wesley House, Cambridge.
2 zoom book studies attended
16 pencil sketches completed
3 Meditations written and filmed
1 joint author day at Wesley House, Cambridge
1 21-page (9,500 word) essay assessment of the recent history of Wesley House, Cambridge

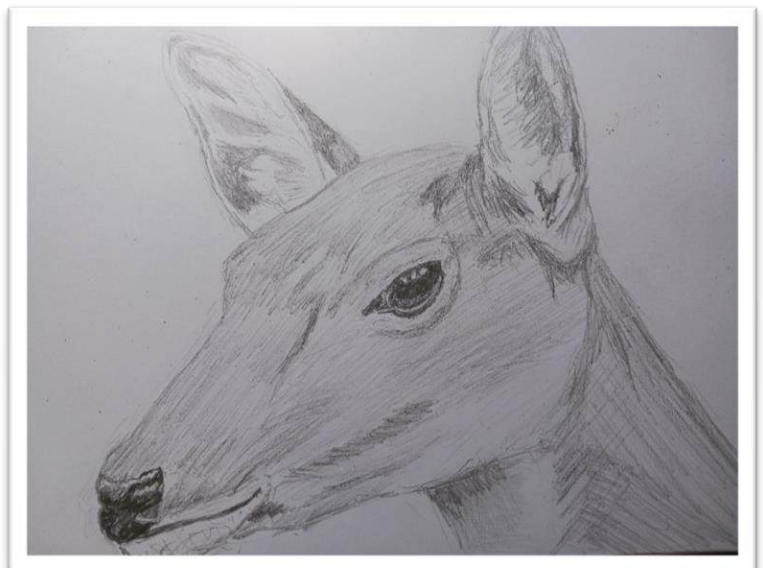
Some of you will know that with my mother being ill in Epsom District Hospital and Janet's father being ill in Arrow Park Hospital on the Wirral, there was a lot of zooming up and down the country.

But 'thank you'. I got to write a 9,000-word extension to my PhD thesis, I interviewed 12 ex-staff and students of Wesley House, Cambridge. I went to lots of different acts of worship in lots of different places. I got to do lots of reading - the fruits of which you may well become aware of in the months to come.

And I picked up a sketch pad and pencils for the first time since I did A level art 40 years ago and tried to bring back some of the muscle memory of sketching (see below!)

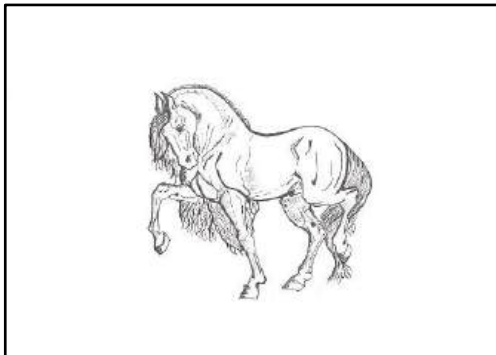
Thank you...and hopefully the enrichment that the sabbatical has provided will make itself seen over the next few months...

Paul



Hope, Heritage and more at Guildford St Mary's

Hope is at the heart of our Christian message, and we're delighted to be echoing that theme in a special exhibition to be staged at St Mary's over Heritage Weekend (13th to 15th September). A small selection are shown at the bottom of this piece.



For 15 years, women prisoners at HMP Send have been encouraged to develop their artistic talents, thanks to a partnership between Watts Gallery Trust, the Michael Varah Memorial Fund ('MVMF') and HMP Send. Not only do the prisoners create accomplished works of art in weekly tutored sessions; since 2017 they have also planned and curated an annual in-prison exhibition for invited guests, learning new transferable skills including design, marketing, budgeting, time management, patience and public speaking.

The Prison Governor stated in the catalogue for their most recent *Our Time* exhibition that one of the many positive things the programme gives is Hope. Giving women belief in their ability to effect change and achieve a goal is recognised as reducing the risk of reoffending. The programme has clearly enhanced participants' self-belief, along with developing many transferable skills along the way.

A number of people connected with St. Mary's and the wider Parish volunteer regularly at HMP Send and hosting our exhibition acknowledges and strengthens that relationship. We hope it will provide interest for visitors to St Mary's and encouragement for the artists, even though they cannot attend in person. Artworks will be available for purchase (with a proportion of the proceeds going to support victims of crime in Surrey and the MVMF).

The exhibition will be open Friday and Sunday 12 noon to 4pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm. Do come along and enjoy the wide range of creative and inspiring art on display. During the Saturday opening, Brownies and Guides will be running a café as well. If you can't make it during Heritage Weekend, the art will remain on display for our normal opening the following week (11am to 3pm on Tuesday 17th September and 11am to 3pm on Thursday 18th September).

Having taken breath after that exhibition, and our Harvest Weekend, we'll be moving on to *Celebrating Women of the Bible* - a series of events running from 29th October to 17th November. This will mark the Faith, Courage and Wisdom of 7 women (not the most prominent) who feature in the Bible.

The series is centred on seven icon-style paintings of these women, accompanied by poems written by Bishop Graham Kings and culminating with a concert on the evening of Friday 15th November incorporating the art, poetry and anthems inspired by them.



We will be making use of these resources during many of our normal activities as well as hosting a series of special sessions, including our autumn Practical Aspects of Spirituality on Saturday morning, 16th November. A detailed programme will be issued to all Circuit churches in September.

Guildford St. Mary's continued.....

It promises to be a busy and exciting autumn. Of course, our weekly Vigil for Peace will be continuing on Friday evenings - total attendance has now reached over 9,500 and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to touch their lives in a very small way.

And, before we know it, our Lunchtime Advent Reflections will be upon us (starting Thursday 28th November).

We hope to see friends from around the circuit at some of these events.

Nigel Campion-Smith





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

Heritage Open Days

13 – 15 September

Friday & Sunday 12.00 – 16.00

Saturday 10.00 – 16.00

**also open 17 & 19 September 11.00 – 15.00*

including

‘OUR TIME 2’

exhibition of art

from prisoners at HMP Send

Refreshments available

Faith - Courage - Wisdom

**Extraordinary
Women of the Bible**

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

October 29 – November 17



**Art, poetry and music celebrating
the lives of 7 women**

Watch for full programme details in September

Knaphill

At the time of writing a piece for the last edition of *Wey Forward*, Christian Aid week was about to commence. We worked very hard in Knaphill, as usual, and raised £2300 for Christian Aid, by a combination of house to house, deliver only, street, church and online collections. Many thanks are due to all who helped in any way.

We had a very pleasant (and substantial) faith lunch on 23rd June, for our Church Anniversary. This followed an excellent service taken by several members of the Oborski family. Rev Nick Oborski, a past minister at KMC, had been invited back to lead the anniversary service and his wife, Sandra, and son, Tom, also participated.

The clothing bank continues to be well used. This was very evident on the most recent occasion, Saturday 20th July. In spite of reasonably nice weather and a summer fete in the village, a large number of people came to look for clothing and went away with a good range of items for both adults and children.

July services have focused on the book of Genesis, for Bible Month, so we are now well-versed in all the stories therein. All of the services on this topic were very good and it was interesting to hear how different preachers approached the themes involved.

September will be a busy month at KMC. We start with our Covenant Service on 1st, followed by a special Coffee Morning for KSSAAT (Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Trust) on 7th, led by Tarina Berry. Last year's event raised over £1000 for KSSAAT, so the pressure is on this time! Later in the month we will again be collecting for the Whitechapel Mission at our Harvest Service. There will also be our regular Clothing Bank on 21st, and Coffee Morning for church funds on 28th, so a busy time all told.

Lynda Shore

Coffee Mornings at Knaphill, 10.00 to 12 noon

- ❖ 7 September
- ❖ 28 September
- ❖ 26 October
- ❖ 23 November

Clothes Bank at Knaphill, 2.00 to 4.00pm

- ❖ 21 September
- ❖ 19 October
- ❖ 16 November





You are invited to a Cream Tea

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

Saturday 7th September 2024

2.30p.m. to 4.30p.m.

**In the GUC Church Gardens or River Room
(depending on the weather!)**

**Donations in aid of the Gambian Ophthalmic Project
which provides funds for cataract operations and follow-up care.**



Merrow

Summer has eventually arrived and I'm writing this on what is the 'hottest day of the year' (maybe so far!). It is amazing how often we so long for hot weather – and then are perhaps not quite so keen when it actually comes!

On 21st July, we celebrated our 69th anniversary with a special family service and lunch. We invited Rev Nick Holt back again to lead our worship. The theme was 'Extravagant Hope'. Those with good memories will remember that Nick and his wife Linda were invited last year but were delayed by an accident on the A3 and only arrived in time for lunch. This year, all went to plan! The cake was cut by one of our founder members – Frank Winder. The more observant of you will notice that it will be Merrow's 70th anniversary next year. Yes – we will have to start planning how to celebrate this achievement.

The 'Holiday from Home' Afternoon tea was held on 13th August. This event aims to provide a full afternoon tea served to people who may not have a chance to get out much or go away. Previous guests have said that the food just kept coming, so I suppose it helps not to be on a diet when attending!

The Community Garden at Merrow (pictured below and aided by a Project Aspire grant from Guildford Borough Council) is going from strength to strength. Produce is currently ready to be picked by anyone who wishes - the sunflowers are massive. It even featured on the front page of *Merrow Pages*.

Merrow's Harvest Service on 29th September will be George's last before he goes on Sabbatical. I am sure that we will be wishing him well for his Sabbatical and will be looking forward to his return in the New Year.

Julie Wallis

Coffee Mornings at Merrow 10.30am - 12.00pm

- ❖ Thursday 12 Sept in aid of MAF
- ❖ Thursday 10 Oct in aid of Bible Society

Bible Study at Merrow 7.30pm

- ❖ Thursday 19 September
- ❖ Thursday 17 October
- ❖ Thursday 21 November





Additional Needs Service showcase

Tuesday
22nd October
9.30am - 2pm

Cranleigh Village Hall
Village Way, Cranleigh, GU6 8AF

- ✦ Come and find out about local and national services!
- ✦ Age range 0-25 years for Children and Young People with Additional Needs

If you have any questions please email:
localoffer@surreycc.gov.uk



No need to book, just show up!



St. Michael's, Sheerwater

Welcome to the team Gracie.....

My name is Grace Luke (Gracie). I live in Guildford with my husband Martin. We are currently worshipping at Burpham church and have been there for the past 14 years. I have a background in both catering and childcare. I have been working part time for Foodwise for the past 13 years and was the Preschool Manager at Burpham church until April this year. While I have now increased my hours for Foodwise, I have also joined St Michael's church as their children and families community worker (also part time) and believe these two roles intertwine and work well together in the community of Sheerwater. I'm really excited to be part of the team at St Michael's and I'm very grateful for all the support and encouragement from the church and community, as I settle into my role in Sheerwater. I'm looking forward to whatever God has in store for me here.



Gracie serving lunch at our first pop-up summer event



Summer pop-up café Olympic Torch

The Building

By the time of publication, our application will have been submitted to Your Fund Surrey. Thank you to everyone for prayers and support via 'Have Your Say'. Please continue to pray as the team at Surrey begin to decide the outcome.

The Church

We have had a great summer term welcoming families to Pop-up Café, Tots Praise and monthly crafts. A small team led the Year 6 leavers assembly at Broadmere, which is always a wonderful morning with the children reflecting on their time at Broadmere and looking to their future at secondary school.

During the summer we are hosting pop-up summer events in church along with Foodwise sharing lunch, craft and games with local families.

Tracey Francis

A Story of Encouragement

Praying For Others

A hospital chaplain visited a delightful elderly lady in the hospital. As he approached her bed, he noticed that with the index finger of one hand she was touching, one by one, the fingers of the other, with her eyes closed. When the chaplain spoke to her she opened her eyes and said, "Oh, chaplain, I was just saying my prayers - the prayers my grandmother taught me many years ago."

The chaplain looked puzzled, so she went on to explain, "I hold my hand like this, my thumb towards me. That reminds me to pray for those nearest to me. Then, there is my pointing finger, so I pray for those who point the way to others - teachers, leaders, parents. The next finger is the biggest so I pray for those in high places. After that comes the weakest finger - look it won't stand up by itself - so I pray for the sick and the lonely and the afraid. And this little one - well, last of all I pray for myself."

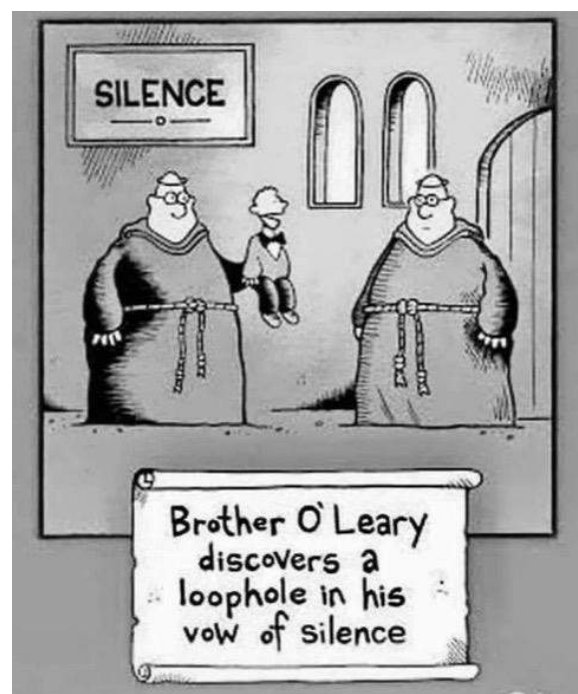
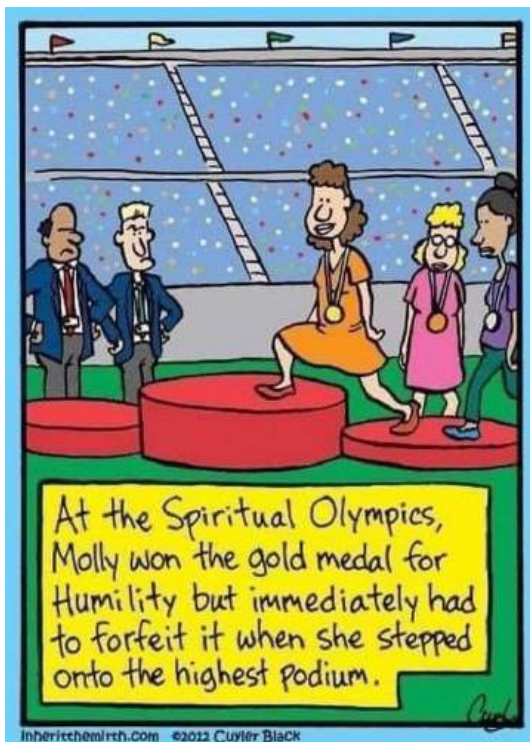
What a great lesson! It is so easy to make our prayers about us - "Help me... deliver me... give me... show me... I need... I want..." when our prayers should be for and about others.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18)

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself." (Philippians 2:3)

Let's keep praying for each other.

Rev George Quarm



Stoughton

September is a bit of a “new” month – the start of a school year, the Methodist Church year. Although it was “new” last Autumn we are looking forward to sharing the third sectional service with friends from West Horsley and Merrow in September. It will be one of Rev George's last services before his Sabbatical and we pray that it will not only be a period of reflection for him but also a time for rest and spiritual nourishment.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Rev Darlene McCarley to lead our Harvest Festival service in October. Gifts are to be donated to the local Salvation Army as we continue to support them in their work with those in need.

After a short summer break our Coffee Corner will return fortnightly from 3rd September with an invitation to anyone wanting a cup of coffee (and we have quite a selection!) along with either a chat, playing a board game or a quiet read from a selection of books.

We held a coffee morning last Autumn to support Cherry Trees at Clandon and we hope to repeat that again in November. By that time, we will once again be preparing for Advent, the Christmas season and a new year.

Linda Macbeth



SAVE THE DATES

Join us for this year's series of
Advent Reflections
followed by a bread & soup lunch
Thursdays - 28 November and 5, 12 December
12.15 for 12.30

Carols at Lunchtime: 19 December

St. Mary's, Quarry St, Guildford, GU1 3UP

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

**SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER
2024**

10.30 – 12.00



Everyone welcome

Thursday 26 September

Thursday 31 October

- each month features a different charity

Walton-on-Thames

It has been a busy few months at Walton. In January, we were excited to celebrate the new arrival of baby Naylor, and on Sunday 23rd June we finally joined together as a community to joyfully celebrate the baptism led by Rev Lake. We took the opportunity of Rev Lake's last service with us on 7th July to celebrate our unique community that we have within our congregation at Walton, with a service and a splendid lunch that was a joy-filled expression of our cultural diversity. We took the opportunity to thank Rev Lake for his ministry with us over the past years – particularly for his inclusive efforts at helping us build our community into what it is today. One of these recently settled families has produced a pianist to help lead our worship, and another recent member has offered his services as an organist (a wonderful way to express gifts and talents!) particularly since we have had two organists retire this year after around 80 years' service between them.

Across the summer we have continued to hold a weekly Ignatian style contemplative meditation group each Thursday at 8.30pm, to immerse ourselves in a gospel story.

We run them from the Church and on Zoom so those interested can meet in person or from the comfort of their couches. There is absolutely no requirement to take part in any way as the 30-minute session is styled to simply create an opportunity to step aside from busy lives and spend a little time in silence contemplating the significance (or not 😊) of a piece of scripture. If you fancy joining us – as it says on our coffee mug – “All are Welcome!” so feel free to email me at r.richardson952@btinternet.com for details.

As this Methodist year draws to a close, we are looking forward to the next chapter for Walton as we host the circuit at a vibrant welcome service for Shaun Sanders on 1st September at 3pm – see you there!

With best wishes,

Ross Richardson



West Horsley

We were very pleased to welcome a new member, as a transfer from the Irish Methodist church.

We are busy planning events for the next quarter and will be delighted to welcome friends from the circuit to our 'Carols for All' evening on Saturday 30th November at 7.00pm.

This is a time for maintenance of the chapel – the outside has been painted and painting of the inside is scheduled for later this year. We are very grateful to all the people who keep an eye out for what is needed and make it happen!

We wish our minister, George, a fruitful sabbatical and hope he finds it a time for rest, reflection and regeneration.

Margaret Faulkner



A joyful start to Christmas
Carols for All



Saturday Nov 30th
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
01438 282474

Circuit Pilgrimage to Iona

Thursday 28 August - Tuesday 2 September 2025

led by Rev Adam Payne

staying at the Argyll Hotel

<https://www.argyllhoteliona.co.uk/>



Please contact Helen
Belsham for further details

helenebelsham@icloud.com



Trinity, Woking

Creation Boards

At Messy Fun Church we explore the bible in very different ways to conventional church or Junior Church, even.

Messy Church, Muddy Church and Forest Church open the bible to families who would not always necessarily come to church. This could be for many reasons, the biggest being their children got bored, or they struggle to sit still long enough to listen due to ADD, ADHD, Autism etc. Therefore – Messy Fun Church is perfect for all children and their parents.

The team and I plan together half a year of bible stories, parables etc. to engage with our families. If the truth be known, it doesn't always go to plan, because we have many children who find it hard to even participate due to communication challenges and language barriers. We are determined not to give up on them though: the challenge is for us to keep looking for other methods to share the Gospel with them in ways that they can access more easily and find meaningful.

We therefore decided to work with the theme of creation for a month.

We put a basic plan in place; we had no idea how it would unfold. Then we explored our cupboards for craft inspiration. We found plastic boards we repurposed, coloured sand, old plastic pots, wire, various different crafting things and some very old plaster bandages.

Who knew what they would soon become!

The pictures you can see show how the display developed over a series of weeks – provoking many interesting conversations with people who visit our church.

One child, who struggles to engage due to autism and language issues, began to get involved with the project.

It was beautiful to watch as we finally had a connection; he became part of the story of creation and he was able to connect with us and other children and God.

This is why I say, we never know how Messy Fun Church is going to work from week to week, as children connect in many different ways, but God does not give up on any of us, and nor should we!



Sue Waddington
Children, Youth and Families Worker

It's A Boy!

The Christmas comedy musical for the young and young at heart

Date: 7 December 2024

Time: 2:00 (45-60 minutes)

Venue: Trinity Methodist Church
Brewery Road, Woking, GU21 4LH

Price:

Pre-Booking: £10 (adult), £5 (child)
£25 (2 adults + 2 children)

Pay at door: £12 (adult), £7 (child)

Children must be accompanied by an adult
(maximum of 3 children per adult)

Price includes a goody-bag for each child.

Refreshments on sale. All are welcome.



FOR MORE INFO



qr.codes/M5VmAu

Important Volunteering Opportunity within the Circuit

Would you like to be involved in leading the strategic decisions that move the Circuit forward?

Would you like to be part of a team?

We are currently looking for new Circuit Stewards.

The role includes:

- Stationing and Invitations of Ministers to the Circuit
- Strategic Leadership including some attendance at Church Councils
- A positive role within the Circuit Leadership Team

For more information and details on time commitment and responsibilities please contact Rev Dr Paul Glass.



A Note to Contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of The Wey Forward, in its pdf format, on the Circuit website. The Wey Forward is an important source of information about the life of the Circuit and what is going on in each of the churches across it. We want to share it with others.

However, we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable with a mention on the internet. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so. Please advise at the time of submitting the copy.

A Message from the Editor

I hope you have found the latest edition of 'The Wey Forward' both interesting and useful. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the articles. It has been a real pleasure to receive and read each item as I put the newsletter together.

If you would find a large print version of the magazine useful then please let me know and I can arrange that for you.

We would like the focus of the magazine to be a forward looking one. So, as you plan your events, bear in mind that the rest of the circuit would love to know about them.

The deadline for Issue 34 of The Wey Forward is:

midnight 1 November 2024

Submissions to the newsletter are accepted at any time but we can only guarantee a submission **will be considered** for a particular issue if it is received by the corresponding deadline listed below. Pop them in your diaries now.

Issue 35 31 January 2025

Please send your items (and photos) to

weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Lucy Venmore

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
September 2024			
1 September	3.00pm	Welcome Service for Rev. Shaun Sanders	Walton-on-Thames
7 September	10am to 12noon	Coffee Morning in aid of KSSAAT	Knaphill
7 September	2.40pm to 4.00pm	Cream Tea in aid of Gambian Ophthalmic Project	Godalming
12 September	10.30am to 12noon	Coffee Morning in aid of MAF	Merrow
13 – 15 September	See page 14	Heritage Weekend	Guildford St. Mary's
19 September	7.30pm	Bible Study	Merrow
21 September	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
26 September	10.30am to 12noon	Coffee and Cake	Guildford St. Mary's
28 September	10am to 12noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
October 2024			
5 October	See page 11	Curling Evening with Fish and Chip Supper	Godalming
8 October	6.00pm	Harvest Festival Service	Cranleigh
10 October	10.30am to 12noon	Coffee Morning in aid of The Bible Society	Merrow
12 October	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Messy Church	Godalming
17 October	7.30pm	Bible Study	Merrow
19 October	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
22 October	9.30am to 2.00pm	Additional Needs Service Showcase	Cranleigh Village Hall
26 October	10am to 12noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
31 October	10.30am to 12noon	Coffee and Cake	Guildford St. Mary's
November 2024 (and beyond)			
16 November	2.00pm to 4.00pm	Clothes4U	Knaphill
16 November	TBC	Practical Aspects of Spirituality	Guildford St. Mary's
21 November	7.30pm	Bible Study	Merrow
23 November	10am to 12noon	Coffee Morning	Knaphill
28 November	12.15pm	Advent Reflections	Guildford St. Mary's
30 November	7.00pm to 9.00pm	Carols For All	West Horsley
7 December	2.00pm	It's A Boy! Christmas Comedy Musical	Trinity, Woking
8-9 February	TBC	Goldilocks and the Three Bears Pantomime	Godalming