

The Wey Forward

Issue 34 – December 2024 to February 2025

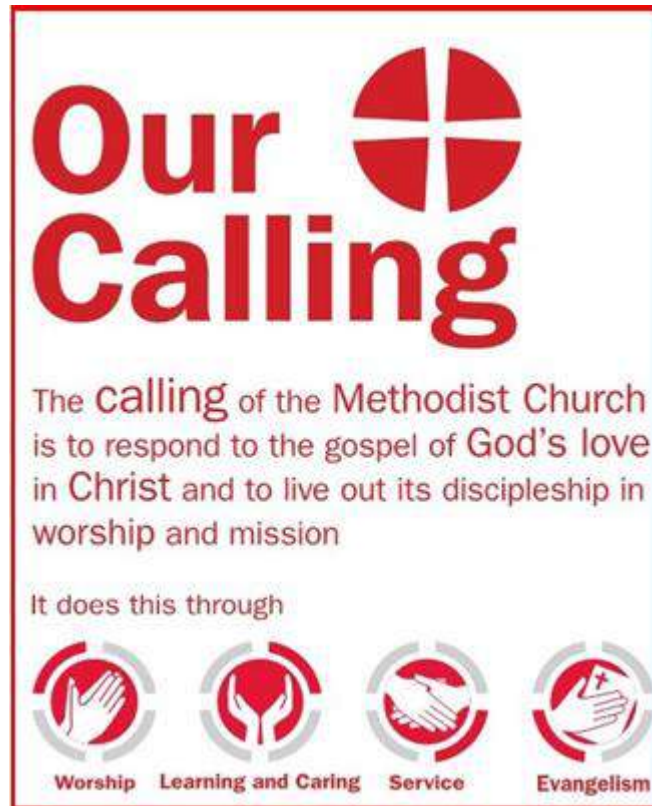


The Wey Valley Methodist Circuit

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.veyvalleycircuit.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@veyvalleycircuit.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

The Christmas story gives us two important ways of describing Jesus. He is Emmanuel - God with us and he is the Prince of Peace.

In a world that is in dire need of peace this Christmas, I wonder what that might look like?

Recently I was fortunate enough to attend the induction of Rabbi Alex Goldberg as the first named Rabbi of Guildford since 1275. There were Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus and Humanists at that joyful event.

In his address to us the Chief Rabbi, Sir Ephraim Mirvis drew our attention to the fact that the Jewish word for 'dove' and 'pigeon' is exactly the same word. He pointed out that Noah released a bird from the Ark to see if the flood waters had gone down. He pointed out that the bird could have been either a dove or a pigeon and that fact is actually rather important. The dove is well known as a symbol of peace. What is slightly less well known is that the pigeon as a carrier of messages is known as a symbol of communication.

He wisely pointed out that true peace is not possible without good, open, honest, wise, thoughtful communication.

That congregation gathered to welcome a new Rabbi to Guildford was a fantastic sign of the peace that we long to see.

As we look to Christmas this year, may each one of us think and pray about how we may best use our resources as individuals and as churches to be servants of the Prince of Peace in the world.

Shalom and Happy Christmas

Paul

Rev Dr Paul Glass
Superintendent Minister



News from around the Circuit

The Induction of Rabbi Alex Goldberg



Rabbi of Guildford Alexander Goldberg (centre left) and Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis (centre right)



Addlestone

In September we welcomed our new minister, a timely update to our church noticeboard to identify his presence. Sorry Shaun, the greatly reduced size of the picture of our noticeboard makes your name difficult to see!

Shaun has already chaired one meeting and has led us in two Sunday services, and we hope that he feels at home with us as much as we appreciate his presence.



All our Harvest Festival goods were donated as usual to the Woking York House Project, helping those in need in the community. This year we also responded to the appeal by Water Aid, with donations given to help the growing need for water in even more countries due to climate change. We had a generous response; our thanks to all who contributed.

Prior to Covid we held a weekly prayer meeting every Thursday morning. At a time of great need, some have asked if a regular prayer meeting could again be held? We hope this can be arranged.

Watch this space.

Christmas is approaching. No better time for us to join in the 'Universal Prayer for Peace'

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth, lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust; lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.



Each day at noon people of all faiths and none use this 'Universal Prayer for Peace'. This forms a wave of prayer and hope, rippling each day around the globe.



On Sunday 15 December at 10.30am we have our Carol Service. We will be singing some of the favourite carols and hearing the wonderful news of the birth of Jesus.

On Wednesday 25 December, the Christmas Day service will be at 9.30am. Both services will be led by our minister Rev Shaun Sanders.

Fred Rowe

A SERIES OF REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT WOMEN OF THE NATIVITY

- IMAGINING THEIR ROLES,
FACING THE HARSH REALITIES



Stained glass window: St Mary's Church Guildford

**ST. MARY'S
GUILDFORD
GU1 3UP**

THURSDAYS: 12.15 FOR 12.30

NOVEMBER 28: ELIZABETH

DECEMBER 5: MARY

DECEMBER 12: RACHEL

**THE REFLECTIONS WILL BE
FOLLOWED BY
A BREAD & SOUP LUNCH**

**CAROLS AT LUNCHTIME:
THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER**

St Mary's
Church

Byfleet

The Wey Navigation

I really enjoyed Shaun Sanders' Circuit Letter about his discovery of the River Wey, because I have lived near the Wey Navigation for nearly 60 years. The Wey was one of the first rivers in England to be made navigable when the River Wey Navigation opened in 1653, with 12 locks between Weybridge and Guildford. Near me, the River Wey runs through Brooklands with its twists and turns while the Navigation takes the smoother passage under the M25 and through New Haw which I thought nicely added to the idea of Jesus calming the Sea of Galilee.



The River Wey though is really our circuit river, with the Navigation also providing links on the Basingstoke Canal directly into Woking and the Godalming Navigation into Godalming. Walton of course has the Thames, but it needs the Wey to get to most of our other churches. As Shaun says, using the river nowadays is unlikely, but I do remember one of our Byfleet ministers cycling along the towpath from the Byfleet manse to visit our people in New Haw.

One tall story I cannot resist adding is that the New Haw lock keeper's cottage just up the road from me is where the first man on the moon lived! Just watch the "*First Men in the Moon*" a 1964 science fiction film of H G Wells' book. It has some wonderful shots of the cottage and Martha Hyer driving a Victorian car along the towpath.

Ken Mears

(images below courtesy of Rev Shaun Sanders)





Godalming Band & Godalming Youth Band

present an evening of festive music & cheer
at a joint

Christmas Concert



Saturday 14th December, 7pm
at Godalming United Church, Bridge Street

Tickets: **£8** adults, **£4** under 16, **£20** family (2 adults, 2 U16)

Book online at www.godalmingband.org.uk or scan the code >

Scan the QR code
to buy tickets



Registered charity no. 1025290, www.godalmingband.org.uk

Godalming United Church

National Methodist Youth Brass Band

In August, Eloise, following a long-held Rowling family tradition, accompanied the band on its annual summer mission/holiday – this year to the Lake District and Cumbria. They started at Wigton giving a concert and leading worship, finishing up a week later at Ulverston with a concert and Sunday worship. They were blessed with lovely weather and bagged two Wainwrights – Brim Fell and Swirl How – on their “day off”.

Their theme for the week was “Journeying with God”, following the ups and downs of the story of Moses. This was used as a vehicle for reflecting on personal journeys with God – how in each season of our lives we can hand over our burdens to Him.

This year’s tour brought the return of the Chapel Crawl, last done in 2011. This involved covering 50 chapels in one day, for which the band split in half, with one team covering the northern half of the region and the other visiting the south. In each church they played Deep Harmony, shared in a reading and a prayer, and finished with two verses of a hymn tune. Starting at 7am and finishing at 9pm the challenge was completed. A truly unique and special experience, reaching out to so many people in one day, travelling together to share some of their story and bringing inspiration. What a terrific week!

Sylvia Kelley

Sadly, we must report the death of our dear friend Sylvia Kelley in August.

Sylvia lived out a life of Christian love and commitment both in our church, the town, the wider Methodist circuit and in our struggling world - through the charitable work she shared with her husband Ryan.

Born and growing up in Woking, she began her working life as a primary school teacher (a “natural”). But in 1975, having met and married Ryan – who managed Whitmore Vale Home for adults with learning difficulties at Hindhead - she made the switch to running their day centre, a position she held for 30+ years.

Meanwhile in Godalming she grappled with the task of creating Godalming United Church from the merger of the two neighbouring churches – Methodist and URC - on either side of the river. Across the years she served on most of our church committees, latterly as Church Secretary. She was involved with both older folk and children, and an authority on Safeguarding.

Meanwhile under the Kelleys’ guidance, through the Mission and Outreach Committee and in association with Whitmore Vale, GUC’s charitable work burgeoned. A remarkable link was developed with The Gambia, the 67th container of supplies for schools and clinics being shipped off earlier this year. The West African link led to an especially close relationship with Grace and Daniel Pratt Morris Chapman who were always welcome at the Kelleys’ home with their growing family when on leave from their missionary work.

Sylvia’s life was both prayerful and practical: she prayed, discerned and listened. She was a wise, kindly and modest friend to us all and will be greatly missed.

Looking Ahead

- Advent Bible Study: Joseph: 17 December 10am and 18 December 7pm.
- Sat 7 December 3.00pm Messy Church – Countdown to Christmas Bible-based activities for all the family, story-time and songs, party tea. messy.church@guc.org.uk 01483 414778.
- Sun 8 December 10:30am Family Gift Service. An Advent service with the opportunity to bring gifts to our Christmas tree for the less fortunate in our community – toys and gift vouchers please (to be distributed by the Cellar Camino Café). Music Kids will lead us in “Hosanna Rock” and everyone will leave with a Christingle.
- Sat 14 December 7.00pm Godalming Band Christmas Concert. Tickets 01483 355129 or www.godalmingband.org.uk
- Sun 22 December 6.00pm Candlelit Carol Service
- Tues 24 December 4.00pm Christmas Eve Communion
- Wed 25 December 10:00am Family Service – bring along one of your presents to show
- Sun 29 December No morning service at GUC – worship will be broadcast live from Woking
- Sun 12 January 10:30am Covenant Service and dedication of Church Officers
- Sun 19 January 10:30am GUC hosting the annual Godalming Churches Together New Year service
- Sat/Sun 1st/2nd February Annual pantomime – four performances of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. Tickets £10, children £5. Contact beckylkeene@gmail.com or see church website.
- Sat 8 February Messy Church messy.church@guc.org.uk 01483 414778

For other events, please visit www.guc.org.uk for a constantly updated rolling calendar.

Online services: <https://guc.online.church>

Service recordings: www.guc.org.uk, <https://bit.ly/GUCYouTube>

Nancy Wilks



SAVE THE DATE!

Circuit Mission Prayer Hour **03 January 2025** **5 – 6 pm Via Zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96385163972?pwd=vVgb7q04oMZE6FjZKlbEUdRmKbe7e2.1>

Meeting ID: 963 8516 3972

Passcode: 011092

The Wey Valley Circuit Missions Group is inviting all of the churches to participate in a very different prayer vigil in 2025. On 3rd January at 5pm, we are going to be holding a “Sweet Hour of Prayer” on Zoom. We will be using this hour for guided prayer, devotions, and intercessions. We hope you’ll join us.

Guildford St Mary's

Art for Art's **Christ's** Sake

I must start with a confession – art appreciation has never been my strong point, even less had art formed a significant part of my faith journey until recently. From childhood to arriving in Guildford, I worshipped regularly in four Methodist churches, I can't recall art ever featuring in what was on offer. Indeed, it barely featured in our first 30 years in Guildford.

Moving to St Mary's gave us the impetus to explore different approaches and art has grown enormously in significance as we've come to appreciate how it can help in various ways, both for our benefit as a Christian community and in our outreach.

We started gently using works of art as a focus in our Lent and Advent reflections, prompting discussion. The location and appeal of our building make St Mary's an excellent location for exhibitions and we're learning how to make the most of the opportunities.

I'm writing this at the end of the first week of our Extraordinary Women of the Bible programme and it's made me think more about art as a resource for our activities. Three exhibitions come to mind:

- An exhibition we held of alpine photographs by a Christian mountain photographer – we invited members of the congregation to select a photograph and link it on display with a piece of scripture or Christian writing, unsure whether people would be prepared to do so. We were oversubscribed, with very thoughtful submissions
- Our Heritage Weekend exhibition of art by prisoners from HMP Send – very varied and high quality
- The icon-style paintings of 7 Extraordinary Women – each of which represents much more than the woman pictured. Through its detail it tells the story with which the woman was involved and how her role is key to God's story, stimulating thought and discussion and giving fresh insights. For example, Miriam's quick thinking enabled her brother Moses to survive, prosper and ultimately lead the Jewish people out of Egypt and on towards the promised land.

What have we learned:

- The exhibitions are a draw and a great conversation starter with visitors, even with those who have come to visit for other reasons
- The prison art exhibition helped the prisoners' confidence and self-esteem, even though they couldn't be present in person – they were thrilled that a church was prepared to showcase their art (and pleased by the sales achieved). Visitors were equally impressed that we made the art available for community viewing
- The Extraordinary Women paintings have been fertile ground for studying oft-neglected parts of the Bible story, helpful both for us and visitors, triggering Bible study in a different and creative way.

Guildford St. Mary's continued....

Taking it forward:

- We'll look for more opportunities and learn lessons from what's happened so far to make more of these resources
- There's always scope for improving channels of publicity!
- Art can provide a basis for involving schools more, something we view as a priority
- We're happy to share lessons, ideas and resources with other churches – do get in touch if you'd like a chat with our team
- Our Thursday lunchtime Advent Reflections will build on the rich vein of thinking about the vital role women play in God's story.
- I now (belatedly) recognise art can be a very valuable tool for churches to use in mission and discipleship!

Nigel Campion-Smith

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



Godalming Community Gospel Choir

Registered Charity Number 1210363



CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2024 7.30PM

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Godalming GU7 1EW



**MUSIC DIRECTOR
KATHY MCLEISH**



**VAUGHAN LARMOND
AND BAND**

ADULT TICKET £10 CHILDREN FREE

TICKETS AT gcgcinformation@gmail.com BUY AT RECORD CORNER CASH ONLY OR PAY ON DOOR CASH & CARD

WINE AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE DURING THE INTERVAL

Knaphill

Over the past two months, coffee mornings at KMC have continued successfully. The extra one we held on 7 September for the Air Ambulance Trust, KSSAAT, has raised in the region of £1200 so far, which is even more than last year and a wonderful success for Tarina Berry, who organised it. By the time this is read, we will have held our Christmas Coffee Morning on, 23 November, which we try to make special, with decorations, music and extra stalls. Also, the clothing bank, Clothes4U, which continues to be well used, will have held its last session for this year on 16 November.

As regards special services, guides, brownies and rainbows join us for our Remembrance Service on 10 November and there is a short ecumenical service at the War Memorial in Knaphill on Armistice Day.

Our annual Gift Service, when we gather gifts for the Salvation Army to distribute to needy families at Christmas is on 1 December this year. Then on Sunday 8 December we have the Christmas Afternoon Tea with Carols, for folk who are elderly or live alone in the area. We expect it to be well attended and most enjoyable, as always. Our Carols by Candlelight Service is at 6pm on Sunday 22 December.

After all this busyness, January and February look to be rather quiet, with only regular clothing bank and coffee mornings scheduled at KMC so far, but there is an ecumenical service at the parish church on 22 January 2025 to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Meanwhile, we wish everyone a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Lynda Shore

Is there anyone in the Circuit who practices the art of Calligraphy?



Merrow Methodist Church is looking for a volunteer to inscribe names into their Member's 'In Memoriam' book.

If you can offer your expertise in this way, please contact Gilian Varley on 07518 518023.

Thank you.

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

**JANUARY – FEBRUARY
2025**

10.30 – 12.00



Everyone welcome

SAVE THE DATES!

Thursday 23 January

- - -

Thursday 27 February

Merrow

It is hard to believe that we are now rapidly preparing for the 'Christmas season'. The recent mild weather for October makes it seem far off – although the shops are doing a good job of reminding us all that it will soon be here.

Again, it has been a busy time at Merrow. In September, we hosted a charity coffee morning for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) where £220 was raised for the charity. This charity has the tagline 'Flying for Life' and flies planes etc into inaccessible areas in various countries to provide food, healthcare and spiritual care. On 29 September, we celebrated Harvest with Uncle George leading us. Uncle George's theme was 'Gratitude' – and he led the service with great style. This was his last service before he left for his Sabbatical. The service was followed by a family lunch with food from around the world which was all very tasty!

In October, we hosted another charity coffee morning – this time for the Bible Society. Along with the Bible Sunday donations, £555 was raised for this charity.

We have been busy planning our Christmas services at Merrow. Although, Uncle George will be on Sabbatical, this does not mean Christmas ceases here! We will be hosting our Advent Carol Service (a regular feature at Merrow) on the morning of Sunday 1 December. Our Christmas Carol Service will be held on the morning of Sunday 15 December and will be led by Rev. Peter Hills. We will also be joined by our friends from the Guildford Church of the Holy Word. They are a Chinese Church who hire our Church on Sunday afternoons. We always love their contribution to the service and enjoy the fellowship together with them.

On Sunday 8 December at 4.30pm, the 'From Loss to Light' service will be held. This is an 'All Souls' style service which will be led by Rev. Dr Paul Glass. It aims to provide a space for anyone to come and pause/reflect on any losses that they may have experienced recently. For many, Christmas can often be a difficult time – especially for the recently bereaved.

Looking further forward, it will be Merrow's 70th anniversary next year. Yes – we will be celebrating it, and plans are starting to be made. To help with the plans – the Church Anniversary date has already been agreed with the preacher (I'm not usually this organised!!!). The date is 22 June 2025 with Rev. David Coote leading.

Special activities will be held throughout the year (and not on one weekend only) so watch this space!

Julie Wallis



Rev George Quarm at Merrow's Harvest Service

St. Michael's, Sheerwater

Prayer Walks around Sheerwater

On the first Wednesday of each month at 12noon, the 30-45 minute walk begins at the church to various locations, schools, doctors surgery, Shopwise, local shops, Mascot and Community Centre. We never know who we are going to see/meet along the way. This also gives us the opportunity to see the progress of the ongoing work of the Regeneration.

All are welcome to join the walk, if you require further information please contact the church office.

It would be lovely if you would like to join us.



Where are we at with the Building:

The application to Your Fund Surrey was submitted in August and follow up questions answered and submitted in October. Please continue to prayer as the team at Surrey continue to decide the outcome.

Tracey Francis

Circuit Safeguarding



We give a very warm welcome to our new Circuit Safeguarding Officers, Andy and Pat Seehusen, who have already been busy in their new roles.

We also give a huge and warm word of thanks to Maggie Woolcock who has faithfully and brilliantly served the circuit in the role for almost 10 years. Her calm and efficient handling of an important circuit role has been exemplary.

Thank you, Maggie!

Rev Dr Paul Glass

Stoughton

A young man, Hemantha, has joined us at our services over the last couple of years and we were delighted to welcome him into membership at the sectional service with Merrow and West Horsley held in September. Our minister George led the service which was one of his last before leaving for his sabbatical. We look forward to welcoming him on his return at the start of next year.

Rev. Darlene McCarley was warmly welcomed back to lead our Harvest Festival service and her message reminded us of the need to be thankful – a difficult reflection when we see the destruction in our world caused by greed. Gifts brought to the service were gratefully received by the Salvation Army based in Guildford.

We are still making efforts to improve our financial position but have again been disappointed with the withdrawal of a substantial weekly letting, due to lack of response in the local area.

Our fortnightly coffee mornings are supported by a small group of members and friends and we will be making a donation to Cherry Trees at Clandon from one of our December meetings.

As we go into Advent with hope and look for the joy in Christmas, we send blessings and good wishes for the New Year.

Linda Macbeth

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)



“COFFEE CORNER”



Fortnightly on Tuesdays from 10.00 a.m – 12 noon

3rd and 17th September

1st, 15th and 29th October

12th and 26th November

10th and 17th** December

** 17th December will be in aid of Cherry Trees, Clandon

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

The choice is yours!



Everyone welcome – bring a friend!



Walton-on-Thames

The new Methodist year started at pace at Walton, with the hosting of a well-attended vibrant welcome service on 1 September for Rev. Shaun Sanders, followed by a slap-up celebratory tea. This has set him up perfectly to pick up the mantle of his post as he tends to his four churches in the north of the circuit.

We had a well-supported Harvest Service with over 70 people packing out our sanctuary at the end of September, which included a parade service from our uniformed groups who helped us think about where our food comes from and in particular, the food miles that are attached to them. We followed this up with a related harvest and food mile themed display in our main window which faces the main road outside, giving passers by some food for thought about this issue.

In October we welcomed our home-grown band, Breeze, back to lead one of our Pudding and Praise “Café Style” worship services, it was themed around Job 42 verse 5. If you’ve never attended one of these services – pop in for the next one, which is scheduled for 26 January 2025. As it says on “Tin” the focus is quite simply on lots of vibrant praise and a delicious selection of puddings and treats with a very short pithy talk... So, if these appeal to you, pop up to Walton and give it a try.

Across Advent we have plans to install a bench on the pavement outside our church window, to give weary pedestrians a chance to rest as they travel up and down Terrace Street. It will have a piece of scripture on it for them to contemplate, as they rest. We also take advantage of the Festive Season to deliver Christmas cards to local businesses. In these we offer our festive greetings and wishes, and we advertise church and festive services.

Additionally, we will continue to hold a weekly Ignatian style contemplative meditation group each Thursday at 8.30pm based on a series of immersive Advent readings. We run them both from the Church and on Zoom, so those interested can meet in person or from the comfort of their couches for a short time spent 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 the Zoom link details. Our Carol Service is scheduled for Sunday 15 December at 18.30, and we will have a Christingle service on Christmas eve at 4pm.

With best wishes,

Ross Richardson



West Horsley

On 15 September we made our Harvest Festival into a celebration of all that God has done for us. The service was led by Claire Hargreaves who gave us petal-shaped pieces of paper to write down what we each have to thank God for. (These are now up on the internal window in the link area.) We concentrated our gifts on goods that could be sent to our local foodbank at Cobham - these filled five large carrier bags. Sales of produce and donations during the day resulted in us also being able to send them £200.

In the afternoon we held another of our community teas for friends and neighbours. Around 40 people attended and were very appreciative of the chance to meet others and enjoy the range of cakes and other goodies, all ably master-minded by Celia.

We had an afternoon of musical entertainment on Thursday 24 November when our local U3A music group gave us a very accomplished and varied programme of music. They use our Wesley room for their weekly rehearsals, so it was great to hear them in concert.

We hope that you will be reading this in time to join us for our annual Carols evening at 7.00pm on Saturday 30 November.

Then it'll be time to prepare for Christmas - Claire is taking our carol service on Sunday 22 December and Dave Paterson will lead our Christmas Day celebrations.

We sent George off on his sabbatical with our good wishes and look forward to hearing about it when he gets back. Meanwhile, we are very grateful to Claire Hargreaves for taking care of us in George's absence.

Margaret Faulkner



Circuit Mission Supper Saturday 8 March 2025

Save the date

At Trinity Methodist Church Woking 6.00 for 6.30pm

Speaker

Trey Hall



Trey Hall is a Methodist pioneer, church planting strategist, and evangelist. Since 2000 he has established and led churches in the United Kingdom and the United States, served as Mission Advisor for the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church in Britain, and coached scores of practitioners renewing inherited forms of church or launching fresh expressions of church.

Fish & Chip supper – cost TBA
Bring your own crockery & cutlery

Weybridge

Autumn & Winter 2024

This autumn we have been pleased to welcome Rev. Shaun Sanders as our Presbyter. We held a shared lunch after his first service when he was able to start building relationships with congregational members. We have been delighted that he has embraced his place in 'Churches Together in Weybridge' (which has had a renaissance since the Rector arrived at the Parish Church early in 2024). Shaun led the closing devotions at the ecumenical 'Prayer Day of Remembrance' on 9 November and attended the Civic service on Remembrance Sunday.

Shaun also paid a visit to the Weybridge Old Folks Club which our church has supported for many years. He gave a well-received talk about 'Landmarks seen on walks along the River Thames'.

We are busy catching up with some long overdue building repairs, having been fortunate to find some contractors who actually turned up to view the required work and followed up with quotes – something which is a minor miracle in itself.

Our premises continue to be used heavily and we look forward to growing relationships with our users in 2025.

The New Year will commence with our Covenant Service and an ecumenical service for the week of prayer for Christian Unity – the first one since the Covid pandemic. Our church is also hosting the Good Friday Walk of Witness for Weybridge in 2025, another ecumenical event, but more of that next time.

Linda Weedon



District Sustaining Hope Gathering

The Sustaining Hope gathering took place in October, with keynote presentations addressing the needs of refugees, migrants and displaced persons.

If you would like to read a copy of the summary report, please contact the Circuit Office.

The date of the next gathering is

Saturday 17 May 2025, 10.00am -1.30pm.

More information will be provided in due course.

Lucy Venmore

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



ROC Conversation joins the dots for Woking

On 24 October, 111 people met at Trinity Methodist Church, Woking to take part in the ROC Woking conversation run by a steering group from Trinity and other local churches. It brought together individuals from the local Council, Police, other statutory agencies, education, faith and community groups, businesses and community-minded residents. The aim of the evening was to identify all the good community work taking place within the borough, join some dots and identify gaps in provision.

The Mayor, Cllr. Louise Morales and Will Forster, M.P. welcomed guests to the evening, including the Lord Lieutenant, Michael More-Molyneux and High Sheriff, Shahid Azeem. During the event, leading figures in Woking including Leader of Woking Council, Cllr. Ann-Marie Barker and Head of Woking College, Bret Freeman shared their perspectives. Also speaking were Woking Community Hospice Clinical Operations Director, Tammy Stracey, Head of Woking Environmental Action, Ellen Pirie, lead at Woking Food Bank, Alison Buckland, CEO of Methodist Care Homes, Sam Monaghan, and Luke Greening PCSO for Woking.

It was a structured conversation following the pattern of the first ROC conversation in Woking four years ago and similar community conversations held up and down the country by national charity, Redeeming Our Communities. Delegates were gathered around tables of eight with table hosts who facilitated the conversation and scribes to capture everything that was shared.

There is already so much amazing community support work taking place within Woking and good working relationships between the statutory and voluntary sector. Our aim was for this 'conversation' to build on these links and maximise the effectiveness of community support being offered to Woking, as well as exploring where the gaps in activity and greatest needs are. There was a real buzz about the evening and we are hoping to see new connections made and new collaborations to support our community.

The next step will be to produce a report from all the information gathered during the conversation, which will identify key issues facing Woking's communities and offer possible solutions. Needs coming out so far from the analysis show young people, mental health and isolation coming high on the list, followed by elderly people and the need for suitable buildings for activities and organisations needing more volunteers.

If you would like to get involved in an action group or receive the report, please contact admin@rocwoking.org.uk.

*Ruth Taylor chair of ROC Woking
and Steward at Trinity Methodist, Woking.*

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

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 35 of The Wey Forward is:

midnight 31 January 2025

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 36 6 May 2025

Issue 37 1 August 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
December 2024			
5 December	12.15pm	Advent Reflections	St. Mary's Guildford
7 December	2.00pm	It's A Boy! Christmas Comedy Musical	Trinity, Woking
8 December	10.30am	Christingle Service	Godalming United Church
8 December	4.30pm	'From Loss to Light', All Souls Service	Merrow
12 December	12.15pm	Advent Reflections	St. Mary's Guildford
14 December	7.00pm	Godalming Band Christmas Concert (see page 8)	Godalming United Church
14 December	7.30pm	GCGC Christmas Showcase (see page 14)	St. Peter & St Paul, Godalming
15 December	10.30am	Carol Service	Addlestone
15 December	10.30am	Carol Service	Merrow
15 December	2.30pm	Carol Service	Stoughton
15 December	6.00pm	Carol Service	Trinity, Woking
17 December	10.00am to 12noon	Coffee Morning in aid of Cherry Trees	Stoughton
19 December	12.15pm	Carols at Lunchtime	St. Mary's Guildford
22 December	10.00am	Carol Service	West Horsley
22 December	10.30am	Carol Service	Byfleet
22 December	10.30am	Carol Service	Cranleigh
22 December	10.30am	Carol Service	St. Michael's Sheerwater
22 December	10.30am	Carol Service	Weybridge
22 December	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	Knaphill
22 December	6.00pm	Candlelit Carol Service	Godalming United Church
24 December	3pm and 4pm	Crib Service	St. Mary's Guildford
24 December	4.00pm	Christingle Service	Walton-on-Thames
29 December	10.30am	Circuit Service (Live streamed)	From Trinity, Woking
January 2025			
3 January	5.00pm to 6.00pm	Circuit Mission Prayer Hour (see page 11)	On Zoom
19 January	10.30am	Godalming Churches Together New Year Service	Godalming United Church
23 January	10.30am to 12noon	Coffee and Cake	St. Mary's Guildford
26 January	4.00pm	Pudding & Praise	Walton-on-Thames
February 2025 (and beyond)			
27 February	10.30am to 12noon	Coffee and Cake	St. Mary's Guildford
8 March	6.00pm	Circuit Mission Supper (see page 22)	Trinity, Woking