

'Happy New Year!' said Mike. It was the first day of September, but Mike – the Revd Dr Michael Harrison, to be more formal – is a supernumerary Methodist Presbyterian, so it is no surprise that he so greeted us on the first day of the Methodist year. Less usually, the church was St Michael's Church in the Cumbrian village of Shap. It is an Anglican church with a Methodist congregation, rather like our own Guildford Methodist Church at Guildford St Mary's, and this was the monthly 'Methodist service'. It was Mike's second visit to Shap, the first having been on Remembrance Sunday two years ago, so he used his sermon to share something of his own ecumenical journey. His ended with an illustration, which caught my attention (not that I wasn't paying attention the rest of the time).

Mike told us of once having to prune an out-of-control honeysuckle in his garden (how nice to have a honeysuckle: but I digress). It seemed, he said as though he were struggling to control more than one plant; but, as he completed the task, found that the tangled branches all came from a single root. The point he was making was that for all our differences, our prejudices, our arrogances, our beliefs that we are somehow special, the church in all its variety has but one source:

There is one body and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

It rained that afternoon, and Margaret and I settled down with our holiday books. Mine was Steeple Chasing (Around Britain by Church) by Peter Ross. Chapter One covered his visit to Pluscarden Abbey in Morayshire in north-east Scotland. Ross is such an attractive writer that there were many phrases that caught my attention. On the singing of the monks: 'There may only be eighteen monks in the church now, but there are hundreds in a line stretching back through the generations, and they are somehow in the music, too. It's not an echo, it's the same song.' (Much as, one might say, that the hymns of Charles Wesley unite us with Methodists of every generation and in every land.) Ross goes on: 'The chant tradition is like a bell rope hanging in a darkened tower. You know that it connects to the source of the sound, but you cannot see that far.'

No one has ever seen God. It is God the Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

In a way the images of the honeysuckle and of the bell rope seem to say the same thing. Whatever we do, there is but one source. During his stay Ross conversed with the monks, and a regular lay visitor to the Abbey. I select one: Father Giles. Ross states that by withdrawing from the world the monks participate in it: 'I'm fond of the analogy of the hydro-electric dam,' Father Giles suggested. 'Up in the middle of nowhere is a great puddle of water doing nothing, but if it wasn't there then down in central Scotland, when they turned on the switch, there would be no heat and light. Well, this is a spiritual hydro-electric scheme, if you like, providing energy and support.'

What a striking image of the church at prayer! I think it also stands alongside the honeysuckle and the bell rope, pointing towards Jesus Christ, the Word who was in the beginning with God, and through whom the world was made.

Be rooted in Christ, be built in him, grow strong in the faith; let your hearts overflow with thankfulness.

Blessings!

Peter

Resources/Good News

The urgency of now and the need to speak of and be loved

Revd Helen Cameron, President of the Methodist Conference, wrote a message for the New Connexional Year.

[The urgency of now and the need to speak of and be loved - Methodist Church](#)



World Alzheimer's Month

World Alzheimer's Month takes place every September and World Alzheimer's Day is on 21 September each year. It's a global opportunity to raise dementia awareness and support people affected by the disease.

The Alzheimer's Society website provides details of their telephone support line, a helpful tool to find services where you live, and a symptoms checklist. Memory walks are also taking place across the country to raise money to support people living with dementia.

[Alzheimer's Society \(alzheimers.org.uk\)](http://alzheimers.org.uk)



**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

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!





Stay for FREE tea,
coffee & a chat

Clothes4U

Pre loved clothes with TLC

from

Knaphill Methodist Church

Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2DR



Saturday 21 September 2024 2 - 4pm

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



All are welcome to join us for tea, coffee, cake & a chat in a friendly environment



Whether you're looking for clothes for yourself, friends, or family



We have lovely, pre-loved clothes for everyone to take away & enjoy wearing



We look forward to meeting you & your family



If you would like to donate clothes, please contact us on the email below



If you would like to volunteer, we would warmly welcome your help

www.knaphill-methodist-church.com/clothes4U

clothes@knaphill-methodist-church.com

WE NEED YOUR CLOTHES!

PLEASE DONATE UNWANTED CLOTHES

to

Clothes4U Clothes Bank
Knaphill Methodist Church

We give clothing to anyone who needs it.



CLOTHES

NEEDED URGENTLY!!

PLEASE DONATE CLOTHES FOR MEN WOMEN BOYS GIRLS & BABIES

HOW TO DONATE

bring your clothes to Knaphill Methodist Church

(use glass door down side passage)

1:30-3:30pm on these dates:

Saturdays 21 Sep, 19 Oct, 16 Nov

Can't make those dates?

email us to arrange another time

clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

**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

Pastoral Support

SUSTAINING HOPE AUTUMN 2024



**Are you involved in responding to the needs of
Refugees, Migrants & Displaced Persons -
or interested in becoming involved in some way?**

The Methodist South-East District 'Sustaining Hope' autumn gathering for 2024

will include

- Prayer and time to network
- Keynote presentations on:

- * What drives someone to leave everything and become a refugee?
- * Independent Monitoring Board for immigration detention centres

Date: Saturday, 12th October, 10.00am - 1.30pm

(Refreshments available from 9.45am)

Venue: Redhill Methodist Church, RH1 1BP

Redhill Station is 5 minutes' walk away
NCP car park on Gloucester Road opposite the church

**To register, or for more information, email
Rev Hazel Forecast at**

hazel.forecast@methodist.org.uk

Please say which Circuit, group or project you are part of

Something else...

Advocacy

Accommodation

Interpreting

Foodbanks

Drop-In Centres

Place of Sanctuary

Befriending

English practice

Cafes

Form-filling

*Resettlement
Schemes*

Clothing Banks

Liaising with other Agencies

Mother-tongue worship



The Bishops' Camino 2024

Sponsored Walk for

The Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund

Saturday 12th October 2024

**Walk to raise funds to support
vulnerable and marginalised people in our diocese**

Join Bishop Andrew and Bishop Paul for a 12 km (7.5 miles) circular walk starting at St Nicolas' Church, Guildford and ending at St Mary's, Guildford, via Hog's Back, Watts Chapel, North Downs Way and River Wey footpath.

The walk starts at St Nicolas' Church, Bury Street, Guildford GU2 4AW Gather at St Nic's from 9.00am ready for informal prayers, refreshments and depart at 9.30am

There will be three short prayer stops along the way

The Camino is open to individuals and parish groups. Youth groups are especially welcome.

The previous walks have raised over £6,000 for the Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund, which provides funds for parish projects that help the disadvantaged and vulnerable across the Diocese of Guildford. Bishop Andrew would love your help once again so that the Fund can support deserving community projects.

To find out more about the walk and how to donate to the Fund
please [click on this link](#)