

Dear Friends,

Some of you will have heard that I recently had a climbing accident when trying to negotiate a particularly high-speed bump in Elmbridge RV! This has led me to think a little more deeply about the whole subject of falling. I was reminded that there are a number of references to falling in the Bible...some explicit, others implicit. Perhaps the most significant reference is when Jesus was tempted to throw himself off the pinnacle of the temple and fall towards the ground because: God will command his angels concerning you...on their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. Of course, Jesus refused to put God to the test and the law of gravity is such that if you stumble as I did then you fall!

I was also reminded of the book written by the American Franciscan priest Richard Rohr entitled *Falling Upward*. Drawing on the wisdom from time-honoured myths, heroic poems, great thinkers and sacred religious texts, the author explores the two halves of life to show that those who have fallen, failed, or 'gone down' are the only ones who understand 'up'. The heartbreaks, disappointments and loves of the first half of life are actually stepping stones to the spiritual joys that the second half has in store for us.

That in turn reminded me that all of us, whatever our age, are in the business not simply of **getting** older but **growing** older...always new things to learn, new ideas to explore, new experiences to be had. When I was a hospital chaplain, I remember visiting a man of 90+ yrs young. He had been a minister in the Independent Methodist Church and this was the very first time in his long life that he had been a hospital patient. "This is a new experience for me" he told me with a sense of anticipation and expectation.

All of you will probably know the famous lines written by the poet Robert Browning: Grow old along with me! The best is yet to be, the last of life, for which the first was made. Our times are in his hand who saith, 'A whole I planned, youth shows but half; Trust God: See all, nor be afraid!'

Blessings

Allan

### Resources/Good News

#### **Guildford Cathedral Christmas Fair**

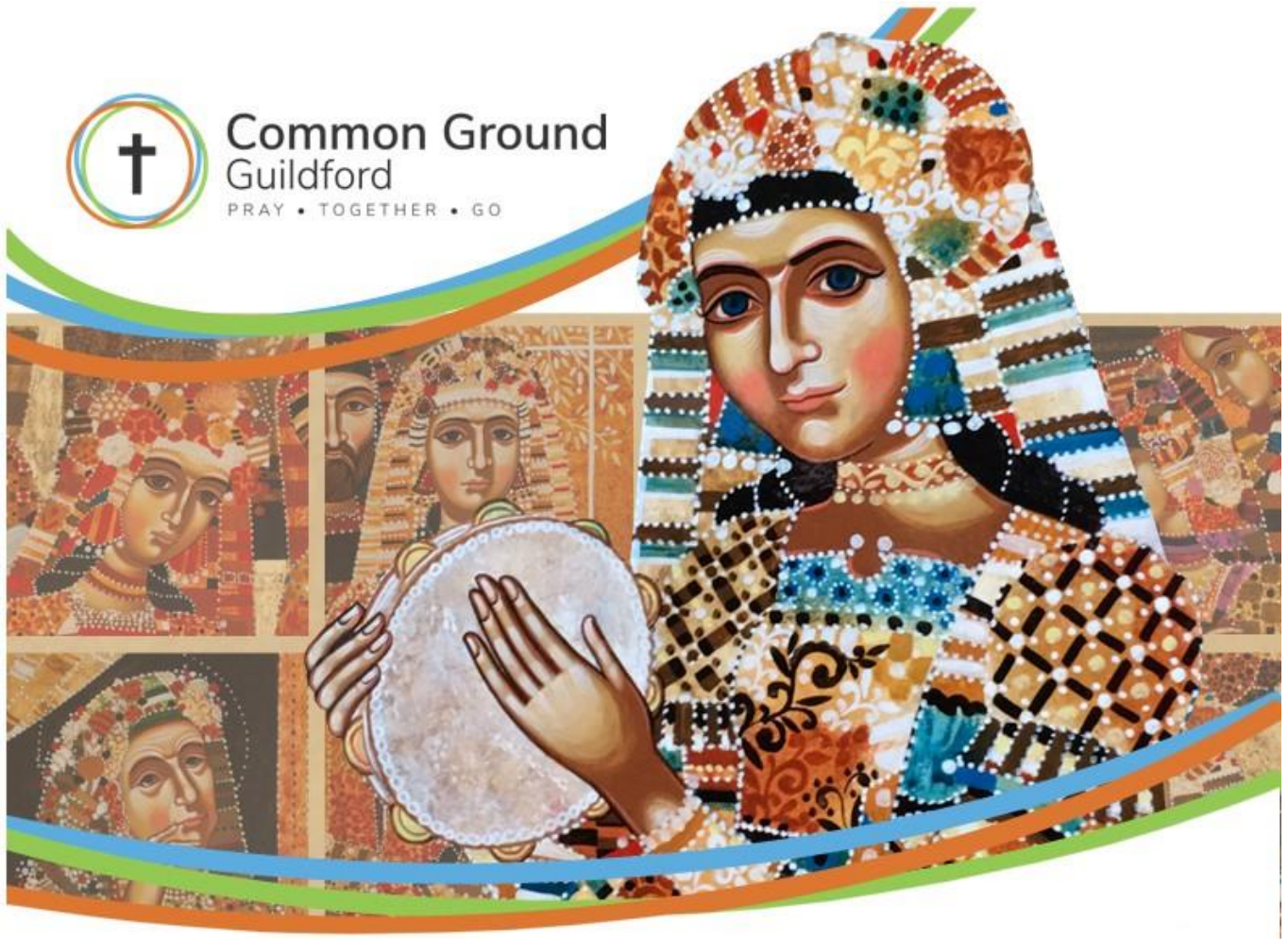
**Friday 22 and Saturday 23 November • 10am–4pm**

Over 50 stalls selling an eclectic mix of Christmas gifts and decorations, spirits, including jewellery, accessories and much, much more. Entry on the door - £3 per person; under 15s free but must be accompanied.

[Guildford Cathedral - Christmas Fair 22 & 23 Nov 2024](#)



Common Ground  
Guildford  
PRAY • TOGETHER • GO



# Extraordinary Women of the Bible

By: Tristan Latchford    *Sung by:* the In Nomine Choir  
*Organ:* Peter Wright    *Conductor:* Sebastian Forbes

**Friday 15 November 2024 - 7.30pm**

At St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford, GU1 3UP

7 anthems by Tristan Latchford on  
7 poems by Graham Kings on  
7 paintings by Silvia Dimitrova

Scan this QR  
code to purchase  
tickets. Price £10





# Practical Aspects of Spirituality

Join us for  
*Reflections inspired by*  
**7 Extraordinary Women  
of the Bible**

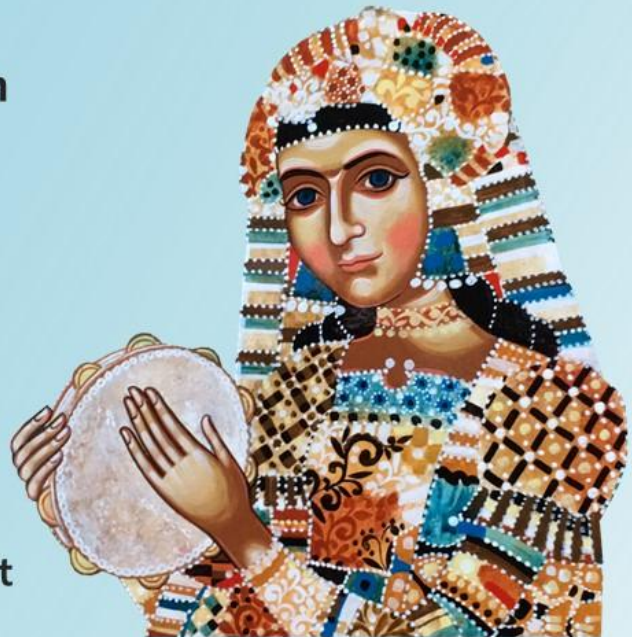
*led by*  
**Bishop Graham Kings**

**Saturday 16 November**

**09.30 – 12.00**

*Refreshments from 09.15*

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



*If you would like to attend, please email [gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk)*

**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 Band

Presents



# The Snowman LIVE

Film Screening  
with  
Godalming Band &  
Godalming Junior School Choir



Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November  
3pm & 5:30pm  
Wilfrid Noyce Centre  
Godalming

[www.TheSnowmanGodalming.co.uk](http://www.TheSnowmanGodalming.co.uk)



**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**





Selected pieces from:  
**Handel's *Messiah***  
Christmas Carols

Music Director:  
Florence Price

7.30pm, Saturday  
30th November 2024

St John's Church  
West Byfleet,  
KT14 6EH

Tickets: £18 Adults,  
£9 students  
Order from website,  
choir members and  
on the door

**Genesis Chorale**

[www.genesischorale.org.uk](http://www.genesischorale.org.uk)



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**I HRTCT**  
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Registered Charity no 1048381





MEMORY LANE AND FRIENDS  
INVITE YOU TO A JOYFUL

# Celebration of Christmas

2.30-3.30pm

**MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER**

Mince Pies, Cakes and Tea

St Nicolas Church  
Church Lane, Cranleigh, GU6 8AR

To accept invitation:  
01483 274398 / [mamwild@aol.com](mailto:mamwild@aol.com)