Circuit Letter 14.08.24 Rev Adam Payne

Friends of the Wey Valley Circuit,

At the leaving service for Anna and Sydney Samuel a few weeks ago, I began my sermon by saying that "goodbyes are the hardest part of ministry". I was, of course, referring to the fact that Methodist clergy are itinerant and begin any church knowing they will not be there forever.

However, this week, I have been reminded of another way in which "goodbyes" are the hardest part of ministry: when a much beloved and respected member passes away. On Tuesday of this week, our church faced that with the loss of Sylvia Kelley.

I'm not going to eulogise Sylvia here. Frankly, I don't have the emotional energy to do so right now, and many of you knew her better than I did anyway. However, you might remember her as a strong presence in the work and mission of Godalming United Church and the Methodist circuit.

Ministry is something of a contradiction. We're supposed to care for our members, but not get too close. We're supposed to love them, yet remember that there are professional boundaries. I remember one elder in the United Methodist Church saying that "your parishioners are your family, but not your friends."

While I understand the reasoning behind such words, there is a part of me that has always rebelled at them. Every once in a while, there is a particular member whose wisdom, kindness, and support makes them impossible NOT to get close to.

Sylvia was one of those people for me. She was the first person to meet with me after my call to Godalming. She offered advice, and sometimes correction, with a gentle smile and kind spirit. I'm not ashamed to say that I loved my friend, Sylvia, and will miss her greatly.

To Sylvia: "Well done, thy good and faithful servant." You have earned your rest and we'll see you again.

Adam Payne

# **Resources/Good News**

# See The Love

We've all witnessed what happens when hate comes before love. That's why we're encouraging everyone to #SeeTheLove.

Across the UK we have seen misinformation breed separation. Riots, unrest and destruction. But we know there is a better way. This a prayer for communities, minorities and all of us.

Follow the link to watch the film. Use it as a chance to reflect, pray and see the love around you.

See The Love (youtube.com)



# Clothes4U

Pre loved clothes with TLC from

# **Knaphill Methodist Church**

Broadway, Knaphill, Surrey GU21 2DR



# Saturday 17 August 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



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

Clothes 4U Clothes Bank Knaphill Methodist Church

We give clothing to anyone who needs it.

# COR CALLING. KMC

# 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 20 July, 17 August

### Can't make those dates?

email us to arrange another time clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

# COFFEE AND CAKE AT ST. MARY'S

QUARRYST. GUILDFORD GU13UP



**Thursday 23 May** 

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**Thursday 27 June** 

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Thursday 25 July

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**Thursday 22 August** 

- each month features a different charity



Cranleigh - Surrey Hills Rehab and Stroke Recovery Service

The stroke café offers an informal place for people affected by stroke to meet with others in a similar situation and socialise within a relaxed café setting.

# **At Snoxhall Community Centre**

Dates September 3rd 2024 Times 11:00

Rebuilding lives after stroke

For more information contact the Cranleigh - Surrey Hills Rehab and Stroke Recovery Service. Telephone: 07860187653 or email



# You are invited to a Cream Tea

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

Saturday 7th September 2024

2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.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.







# **KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALI**

**Saturday 7th September 2024** 

10am to Noon

www.knaphillmethodist.co.uk