

Prayer for the month of September

Heavenly Father,

As we enter the month of September, we thank You for new beginnings and the opportunities they bring. We lift up all students, teachers, and staff as they start a new school term. Grant them wisdom, patience, and enthusiasm. May their classrooms be filled with learning, growth, and mutual respect. We also pray for our Methodist Church community. Guide us in our worship, service, and meetings, please, do help us to be a beacon of Your love and grace, as we begin another connexional year. Strengthen our faith and unity as we journey together in Your name. Bless our efforts, Lord, and fill our hearts with Your peace and joy. May this new season be one of growth, learning, and deepening faith. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Dear Church Family,

As we step into the month of September, a time of new beginnings with the start of the school term and the changing seasons, we are reminded of the importance of welcoming and supporting those around us. I wish to write on a pressing issue that affects not only our community but also the world at large, that is on immigration, especially on recent happenings in the United Kingdom.

The Bible is clear in its call to welcome the stranger and show love to those who are different from us. In Leviticus 19:34, we are instructed, "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt." This command is echoed throughout Scripture, reminding us that our faith calls us to act with compassion and kindness.

Friends,

Immigration is a complex and often contentious issue. Many people flee their homes due to war, persecution, or economic hardship, seeking safety and a better life. As Christians, we are called to respond not with fear or prejudice, but with love and understanding. The Church of England and the Methodist Church both emphasize the importance of treating everyone fairly and compassionately, especially those who have been forcibly displaced. Understanding the realities of immigration can help dispel myths and reduce prejudice. Engage in conversations, read about the experiences of immigrants, and share this knowledge with others. Many organizations and churches are already doing incredible work to support immigrants and refugees.

Our churches can be sanctuaries of hope and acceptance. Let us make a conscious effort to welcome newcomers, learn their stories, and integrate them into our community. Simple acts of kindness can make a significant difference. Let us use your voice to advocate for fair and humane immigration policies. Let us also support campaigns that promote the rights and dignity of

immigrants and refugees. The Church of England/Methodist Church, provides resources and guidance on how to get involved and help.

**A Story of Hope.** Let me share a story about a family who left their home country in Congo, now a blessing to many in a small community in Kent. The Matondo's fled their home country due to conflict and arrived here with little more than hope. A church in Kent, welcomed them with open arms, providing support and friendship. Today, the Matondos' are thriving members of their community in Kent, contributing their talents and enriching other lives. Their journey reminds us of the transformative power of love and acceptance.

As we move forward, let us remember that our faith calls us to love without boundaries. By embracing the stranger and showing compassion, we reflect the love of Christ in our actions. Let us be a beacon of hope and a source of blessing to all, regardless of their background or circumstances. Just say a prayer for England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland and our world at large, wherever you go on your knees.

May God guide us in this mission and fill our hearts with His love and grace.

Please, remember my family in your prayers as I start my sabbatical this October. May the Lord guide and guard our circuit and make it a loving and caring place. His banner over us is Love. Thank you and God bless our circuit.

Yours devotedly,

Rev U. George

### **Resources/Good News**

#### **Interview with Revd John Travell, author of *As I Remember It***

The book *As I Remember It, Memories of Growing Up in the National Children's Homes 1934-1951*, is a bittersweet walk on memory lane, recanting the assets, challenges and limitations of the National Children's Home, as well as providing food for thoughts on the current care system.

[Interview with Revd John Travell, author of \*As I Remember It\* - Methodist Church](#)

#### **Cleaner Air Day in Guildford, Sunday 29 September 11.00am – 4.00pm**

Guildford's Cleaner Air Day encourages motorists to choose alternative travel such as walking, cycling or public transport, instead of using their car for the day. Come and try out the new Guildford e-bikes scheme; there will be lots of fun with market stalls and music, plus hear from world-class researchers from University of Surrey.

[Cleaner Air Day in Guildford - Visit Surrey](#)

# life skills

Would you like some help?

Many people struggle with the challenges of daily life.

Our **free** and friendly support sessions are here for **you!**

- Worries about the cost of living
- Sorting out your priorities
- Setting a realistic budget
- Tips to reduce energy and food bills
- Making your money go further ...and much more!

Confidential

Compassionate

Life-changing

## Thursday morning sessions

9.30am to 1.00pm with a free light lunch  
Starting 26th September 2024 for 4 weeks  
Guildford Baptist Church  
Millmead, GU2 4BE  
A free creche is available

To attend a session, please contact Ann Mather.

Phone: **07311 827828**

Email: [annmather@caplifefskills.org](mailto:annmather@caplifefskills.org)



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## Pudding & Praise

Sunday 27 October at Walton-on-Thames

4.00pm



Terrace Road, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2SR

All are welcome.



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](mailto: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](http://www.knaphill-methodist-church.com/clothes4U)

[clothes@knaphill-methodist-church.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](#)