

Circuit Friends,

Last week, my wife and I were sitting in the pub when a song came on the radio that I'd never heard before. It's not a new song. It was written in the 1970's, made popular as a disco hit in 1978 by the group Boney M called "Rivers of Babylon". Apparently, it's one of those songs that never really crossed the Atlantic. It's one of the top-ten, all time best-selling singles in the U.K., but only briefly hit the charts in the U.S.

It struck me because, even though I didn't know the song, I knew the lyrics. The lyrics are taken straight from Psalm 137, a song of deep sadness written when the Israelites were exiled in Babylon. It's a lament—expressing the heartache of a people far from home. My context for the lyrics was far different from the upbeat disco tune that accompanied the words.

This past week, I preached over Jeremiah 32. In that passage, the people of Israel are under siege, with the mighty Babylonian empire about to take over. The prophet Jeremiah is imprisoned because he dared to tell King Zedekiah that this disaster was a consequence of the nation's choices. It was a dark, hopeless time for the people.

Yet, God asked Jeremiah to do something that seemed completely absurd: buy a piece of land. The city was about to be conquered, and Jeremiah was stuck in prison, but God's instruction to purchase the land was a bold sign that He hadn't given up on His people. The land deed was sealed in a clay jar to last for years, symbolising a future when life would return to normal, even if that hope was a long way off.

Jeremiah's act of faith reminds us that, even when things look bleak, God has a plan. Jeremiah didn't promise the people instant relief or a miracle to stop the Babylonians. Instead, he pointed to a future hope—a promise of restoration after the chaos.

Today, as we face our own challenges—whether financial struggles, loneliness, or uncertainty about the world—Jeremiah's story reminds us to invest in hope, even when we can't see the outcome. It's about trusting that God is still at work, even when everything feels uncertain. Let's hold on to that promise: there is always hope on the other side.

-Adam

Resources/Good News

Warm Welcome Venues Return For 2024

Over 80 Warm Welcome spaces will return at various locations across Surrey until 31 March 2025. These include the majority of Surrey's libraries, as well as community centres, church halls, and other public buildings. People can drop in, get warm and enjoy a hot drink.

[Warm Welcome venues return for 2024 - Surrey County Council](#)

Christmas Fair

Addlestone Methodist Church

Saturday November 30th

10am -2pm



Local crafts



Children's



Second-hand books



activities



Cakes!



Looking for a new game for Christmas –
come and try some out in the
coffee lounge between 10am
and 12
noon



Come and view the sales, play a game
and enjoy a coffee/tea and cake.



Variety of games suitable for age 8 to 108

Saturday 23 November, Knaphill Christmas Coffee Morning



MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING AND SALE

TEA
COFFEE
BISCUITS
BACON BUTTIES

**BOOKS, DVDs,
JIGSAWS, CAKES,
BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE**

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

4th Saturday every month (except December)

10am to Noon



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 23rd November
3pm & 5:30pm
Wilfrid Noyce Centre
Godalming

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

01483 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



Supported by
IHRTCT
The Humphrey Richardson Taylor
Charitable Trust

Registered Charity no 1048381

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



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