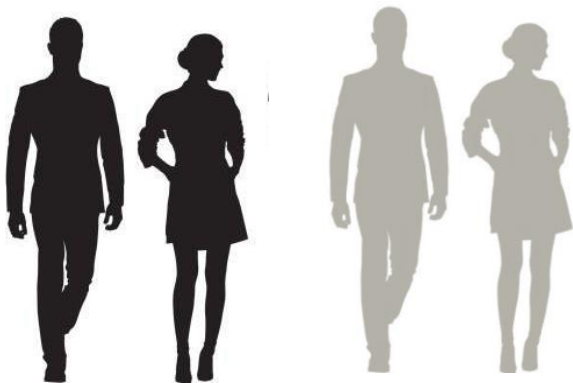


WEY VALLEY – WEEKLY CIRCUIT LETTER June 2023

Barrie Tabraham

'Healed by a shadow!'

Acts 5:12-16 ¹²Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, ¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. ¹⁶A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.



Some of you from Merrow will have to forgive me if some of this seems a little familiar, but truly, this is a wonderful little piece of Acts! Nowhere else in all the New Testament is there mention of the possibility of healing from a shadow! Yes, healing comes through touch or by word, through faith, hope, even by touching a garment (handkerchiefs and aprons no less, in Acts 19) ... but a shadow?!

This is one of those biblical moments when we should think a little harder about the text and the context. **Luke**, the writer of Acts, probably isn't referring simply to the blotting out of sunlight (he might also have been influenced by an old thinking that shadows were important and powerful – based on the fact that they were the same shape as the person).

Luke is convinced that God's Spirit was with the early church, the apostles: ordinary men and women who nevertheless did extraordinary things. They preached and proclaimed Jesus Christ, shared their things and cared for the sick and poor. They lived out their faith . . . and so their faith bore fruit. The fruits of the Spirit included healing, and so Luke sees God's healing power at work in the church's ministry it was undertaking. I thank God that in a sense, **our shadow** in this Circuit is indeed just as powerful in these times. People's faith is reflected in their compassion and care – shopping for others, collecting medication for others, ringing each other, sending cards, caring for neighbours, praying for their community, working in the caring professions, business, public transport, remembering the Foodbank . . . we could go on.

We all know that the phrase 'to be in someone's shadow' is not exactly complimentary! It suggests subservience and weakness. But what about **being in Jesus' shadow?** When our friendship with and obedience to our loving Master is deepened, then not only are we blessed; we are better able to be a blessing for others.

May God's Spirit continue to be at work in us and through us, so that our faith's shadow may bring some healing and help to others today.

Good News/Events

Guildford Sings! On Sunday 9 July, 4.00pm and 7.30pm.

Guildford Sings!

Join us for a **Joyous Celebration** of harmony singing
featuring **The Surrey Fringe Chorus**



with Special Guests from around Guildford, including

- **Vivacity** a stunning ladies barbershop quartet
- **Southern Acapella** beautiful close-harmony singing
- **Tu-Kay and Ryan** award-winning acoustic duo
- Sunday 9th July 2023 at 4:00pm and 7:30pm at The Electric Theatre, Guildford
- Tickets £16 (£8 for children under 16)
- Bookings from The Electric Theatre Booking Office 01483 501 200 10am - 5pm Mon-Fri



or scan the QR Code

(<https://electric.theatre/shows/guildford-sings-guildford-barberbshop-harmony-club>)

**Proceeds will go to The Matrix Trust, who provide a lifeline for
vulnerable young people across the Guildford Borough**

(www.matrixtrust.com)