

Dear friends in the community of faith,

My Sabbatical Journey: From October to December 2024

I had the privilege of embarking on a sabbatical journey, a time for renewal and reflection after 37 years of dedicated service in ministry. This precious period allowed me to step back, recharge, and return with renewed energy and insights to serve our community.

A Global Perspective: Ghana and Beyond

My sabbatical began with a deeply enriching seven weeks in Ghana. I had the opportunity to work with theological seminary students, focusing on crucial aspects of effective pastoral care:

Self-Care: We explored the importance of pastors prioritising their own well-being, recognising that they cannot pour from an empty cup.

Safeguarding: I emphasised the critical need for robust safeguarding practices to ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable individuals within the church.

Sexual Ethics: I engaged in thoughtful discussions on human sexuality, navigating challenging topics with sensitivity and respect. While discussions on transgender issues and cohabitation presented unique complexities, they provided valuable opportunities for learning and growth.

A Journey of Discovery: Europe and Beyond Ghana

My sabbatical took me on a journey of discovery across Europe. I marvelled at the breathtaking beauty of the Switzerland Alps in Zurich, experiencing the serenity of the mountains and valleys. In Northern Ireland, I was captivated by the awe-inspiring power of the rivers and the rich history reflected in the architecture of Belfast.

My travels also brought me back to the UK, visiting Coventry, Leamington Spa, Birmingham, Rugby, Warwick, Aylesbury, Luton and the picturesque village of Stone in Buckinghamshire. These visits provided valuable opportunities to share my experiences of ministry with other faith communities, reflecting on the joys and challenges of serving for 37 years.

A Time for Reflection and Renewal

The final 12 days of my sabbatical were dedicated to rest and reflection. I used this time to process my experiences, to reconnect with my own spiritual journey, and to discern God's calling for the next chapter of my ministry.

Returning with Renewed Strength

I return from my sabbatical with renewed strength, a deeper understanding of the challenges facing our world, and a renewed commitment to serving our community with compassion, integrity and wisdom. I am eager to share the insights and experiences gained during this journey and to work together with you all in building a vibrant and inclusive community of faith.

I am deeply grateful to each of you for your prayers and support during my sabbatical. Your encouragement and well wishes have meant the world to me, especially members of my sabbatical committee, who helped put all the arrangements in place before the start of the programme. I look forward to reconnecting with you all in the coming weeks and months.

Indeed, sabbatical is a gift, and I am eternally grateful to God, the church and my family. On behalf of my family, I say (Merci beaucoup) Thank you.

God bless.

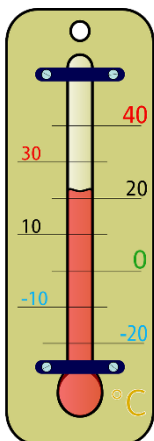
U. George.

Resources/Good News

The Methodist Church has launched its Lent material for 2025

Follow this link to get a daily bit of Soul Food for your Christian journey through Lent...

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/soul-food/>



Energy Savers Week – Stay Warm, Spend Less

Energy Savers Week runs from 20 to 26 January 2025. Help to reduce your energy use and save money in the process.

[Energy Savers Week - Energy Saving Trust](#)

COFFEE AND CAKE

AT ST. MARY'S

QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP

**JANUARY – FEBRUARY
2025**

10.30 – 12.00



Everyone welcome

SAVE THE DATES!

Thursday 23 January

- - -

Thursday 27 February



**SUNDAY
JANUARY 26TH
4.00 PM**

PUDDING AND PRAISE

This will be led by

Ross Richardson and Dave Paterson

Come and have some delicious puddings at 4.00pm and then settle down to some great praise, worship and contemplation at 4.30

**Delicious puddings and
great Praise**

**If you like a good
pudding come and
taste some**

**Be uplifted by great
praise songs
led by 'Breeze'**

**WALTON METHODIST
CHURCH**

Terrace Road
KT12 2SR

Telephone

01932 429184

<http://www.waltonmethodist.org>

Sunday January 26th 2025 4pm

Saturday 25 January, Knaphill Coffee Morning



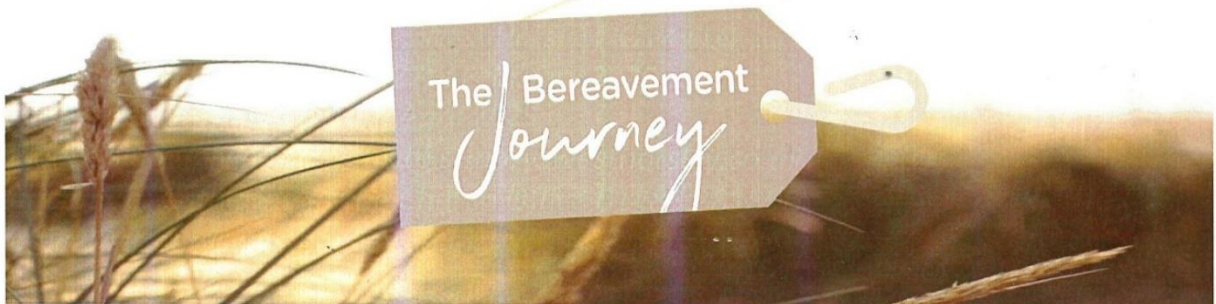
**MONTHLY
COFFEE
MORNING
AND
SALE**

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

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

4th Saturday every month (except December)

10am to Noon



**Are you grieving the death of a loved one
or struggling with the long-term effects of loss?
You are invited to join a seven-session course which will soon be
running at St Mary's West Horsley.**

Thursday evenings from 7.30pm - 9pm

at the Wheelhouse East Lane, West Horsley, KT24 6LQ

Course start date: Thursday 27th February 2025

Final session: Thursday 10th April 2025

*Please sign up via the website stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk
or contact Catherine at the Church Office 01483 281898
office@stmaryswesthorsley.co.uk*



Circuit Mission Supper Saturday 8 March 2025

Save the date

At Trinity Methodist Church Woking 6 for 6.30

Speaker

Trey Hall



Trey Hall is a Methodist pioneer, church planting strategist, and evangelist. Since 2000 he has established and led churches in the United Kingdom and the United States, served as Mission Advisor for the Birmingham District of the Methodist Church in Britain, and coached scores of practitioners renewing inherited forms of church or launching fresh expressions of church.

Fish & Chip supper – cost TBA

Bring your own crockery & cutlery