

Friends in the Wey Valley Circuit,

As I write these words, I am mentally preparing myself to be an emotional wreck for most of the day. Last Friday, our eldest, Lizzy, finished her last exams at Broadwater School. Tonight, she goes to prom. The dress is ready to go. Hair style has been chosen. Yesterday was filled with practicing makeup.... It seems like only yesterday that I was holding this little girl in my arms and having to tie her shoelaces. She used to call me "Daddy". Now it's mostly "Dad!" in that exasperated teenager voice (you all know what I'm talking about). How could life possibly have moved this fast?!?

I know I'm not the first parent to cry this lament, nor will I be the last. (I will say, though, that it's hitting me a little earlier than I expected). In America, kids stay in secondary school until they're about 18, so I'm being made to feel old two whole years early!). Anyone who's ever had children knows the paradox of parenthood: we can't wait to see who this child will become, what they will accomplish, to see what's next.... Yet at the same time, we want to hold on to every precious moment of "now".

The Roman philosopher Seneca once wrote, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." I have no doubt that this is the beginning of a new chapter for Lizzy. We are actually quite excited for her to go to college as we think that style of learning will suit her far better than the rules of secondary school, but at the same time, we don't want this chapter to close.

I wonder how often we do this in our lives of faith. How often do we resist the changes that God has in store for us because we're afraid of letting go of what we already have? How often do we cling to the past at the expense of the future... or even the moment?

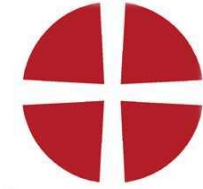
I know it's a bit trite to quote Ecclesiastes on these occasions, but it does remind us that there is a time for everything. "A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot...a time to weep and a time to laugh" and, if I could humbly add my own line, "A time to hold on and a time to let go."

Celebrate the past, remember it with thankfulness and joy, but don't hold on to it in an unhealthy way. God has plans for you, your family, your church, your community. Those plans, however, sometimes depend on us letting go of the past and being willing to embrace the future, no matter how painful that may be.

Good luck, Lizzy. We're so proud of you.

-Adam (Daddy)

## Resources/Good News



### **The Methodist Conference | 27 June - 3 July**

The governing body of the Methodist Church is meeting in Leeds. Find out more, including how to follow proceedings on our live stream.

[The Methodist Conference 2024](#)

### **Armed Forces Day | Saturday 29 June**

To celebrate Armed Forces Day, RHS Garden Wisley is offering free entry to former and current armed services personnel. Show a valid service personnel ID card or veterans card at the entrance to gain free entry for yourself and family guests.



[RHS Garden Wisley](#)

[Armed Forces Day](#)



## **Whitechapel Mission**

Godalming United Church, Bridge Road, GU7 3DT will be holding its annual collection in support of the Whitechapel Mission which supports homeless people in London. We are collecting men's clothing, non-perishable breakfast foods and toiletries between 28th June and 8th July 2024. Please see church website to check items which are in need and the times when you can drop off any donations. [www.guc.org.uk](http://www.guc.org.uk)

Any queries please contact Ryan Kelley 01483 423261 or Kate Parminter [kateparminter@gmail.com](mailto:kateparminter@gmail.com) or visit [www.whitechapel.org.uk](http://www.whitechapel.org.uk)

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# COFFEE AND CAKE

AT ST. MARY'S  
QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP

## Cut Out Cancer

*– Royal Surrey's appeal for  
ground-breaking robotic  
surgical equipment*

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**THURSDAY**

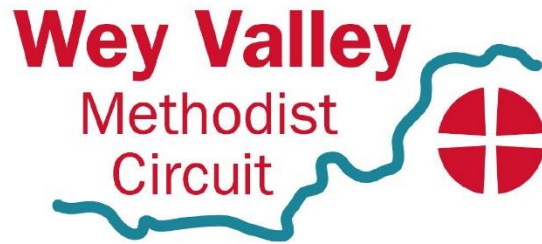
**27**

**JUNE**

**10.30 – 12.00**

*Everyone welcome*





## **Circuit Service**

To bid a fond farewell to  
**Rev Sydney Samuel Lake**  
and  
**Mrs Anna Carrington**



**All welcome**

Refreshments will be served after the service

**Sunday 14th July 2024 3.00pm**

**Byfleet Methodist Church  
Rectory Lane, Byfleet, KT14 7LL**