

Circuit letter 28.6.23

*Rev Dr Paul Glass*

I stood on the very ordinary tiled kitchen floor of a very small council house kitchen and in a strange way felt that I was standing on hallowed ground.

The very ordinary tiled kitchen floor of the small council house was at 20, Forthlin Road, Liverpool. And as I stood on the floor the guide, who was showing us around the house, said, 'I just want you to picture the fact that Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison all stood on this exact same floor 60 years ago.'

20, Forthlin Road, of course, is the teenage home of Paul McCartney. It is now owned by the National Trust who open it up for booked tours (along with the childhood home of John Lennon on Menlove Avenue).

The McCartneys were not able to stay in the house for very long. When Beatlemania hit in 1963 it became impossible for them to continue living there. Paul's father woke up one morning to discover that fans had pitched a tent in the very small front garden overnight hoping that Paul might be in!

I had seen Forthlin Road on television. James Corden had done a very special 'Carpool Karaoke' with Paul McCartney (still available on YouTube) where they had visited the house and the home had also featured on the recent TV series 'Hidden Treasures of the National Trust.'

To visit it was something else. It felt like a very special space. Ground that was hallowed in some way.

It set me to thinking about other spiritual spaces. Sometimes that space is special specifically to us because of something that happened there (Leatherhead Methodist Church is hallowed ground to me because it is a massively important part of my spiritual journey). Sometimes the space is special for large numbers of people because of what it represents (thousands of people visit Canterbury Cathedral every year because of its importance in the history of pilgrimage).

What are those hallowed spaces for you? And is it the physical space that is important for you or what you experience there? God, of course, can be encountered anywhere but are there specifically 'thin' or liminal spaces where the space between heaven and earth is especially clear?

What is our relationship to the 'hallowed ground' of our lives? Those places where we have encountered God.

Paul

### **Announcement**

You may have seen that Revd. Martin Broadbent (who was a very good friend of the Circuit) has sadly passed away. A service will be held in Bath Abbey on Thursday 27th July 2023 at 2.00pm to celebrate the life of Martin.

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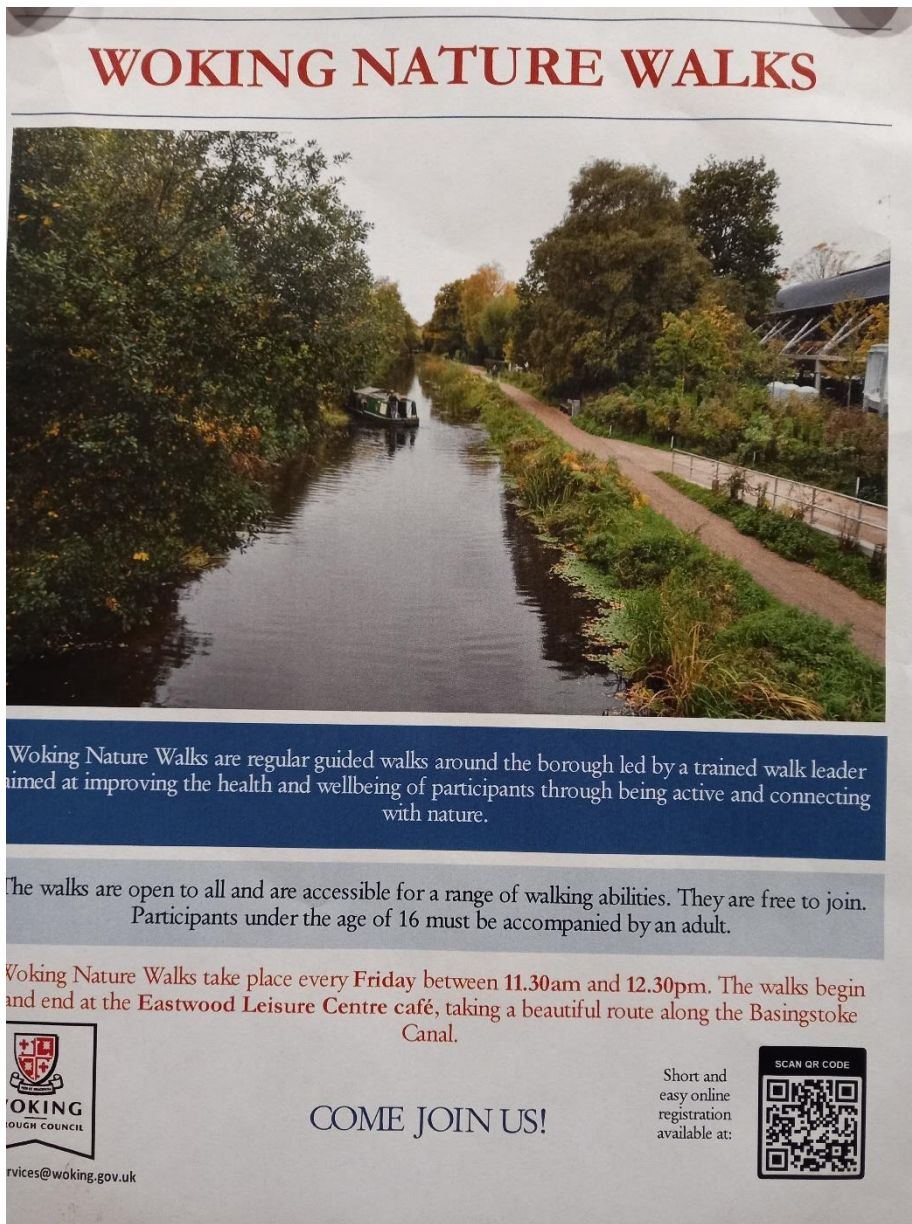
The family realise that people may not be able to attend but if you are hoping to, please would you send a message to Martin's daughter, [helen@shellard.plus.com](mailto:helen@shellard.plus.com). Refreshments afterwards will be at The Architect in central Bath. The Architect, The Empire, Orange Grove, Bath, BA1 1LP.

### Resources/Good News

#### **World Wellbeing Week 2023**

Held annually during the last week in June, World Wellbeing Week provides the opportunity for participants worldwide to celebrate the many aspects of wellbeing, from meaningful, purposeful work to financial security, physical, mental and emotional health, social resilience and empathic corporate and civic leadership, community relations and care for the environment. To read more about it, have a look at [World Wellbeing Week 2023](#) and for a useful resource, have a look at the NHS Guide to [5 Steps to Mental Wellbeing](#).

On the same theme but more local, nature walks take place every Friday in Woking.




**WOKING NATURE WALKS**

Woking Nature Walks are regular guided walks around the borough led by a trained walk leader aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of participants through being active and connecting with nature.

The walks are open to all and are accessible for a range of walking abilities. They are free to join. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Woking Nature Walks take place every Friday between 11.30am and 12.30pm. The walks begin and end at the Eastwood Leisure Centre café, taking a beautiful route along the Basingstoke Canal.

 **WOKING**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

services@woking.gov.uk

COME JOIN US!

Short and easy online registration available at:

