

Dear Friends,

God in the mess and the muddle

How's your Advent going so far?

Is it calm, tranquil, organised and all going to plan or chaotic, stressful, completely mad and all over the place?

Wherever you are – I'd firstly like to say a big – 'CHILL!' It's only the first week in December...you'll be fine!

But then, on a more serious note, I'd mostly like to say that – in all the mess and the muddle, God is here!

For our God did not wait until we'd got it all sorted, all straight and neat and tidy but came into our lives and our world in all their mess and muddle. One of the most reassuring books I have on my bookshelves is called - 'Messy Spirituality: Christianity for the rest of us' By Mike Yaconelli. I'm a great fan of this concept!

When we remember Jesus' birth – we so often (too often?) - 'pretty it up' in tinsel and choral niceties but the stable must have been mucky and uncomfortable, very crowded and, I guess, a bit 'pungent' too, with the animals nearby. Despite my love for the Carol 'Silent Night', I don't expect it was...with a small town full to bursting with people home for the census, a soon-to-be father's desperation at trying to find accommodation for his fiancée to give birth, a young mother's birth pangs and a new baby coming into a stark and strange new world, and those animals again – mooing and baaing their way through it all – 'O Holy (Racket) Night' must surely have been more appropriate!

However things are for you, for us this Advent, the wonderful, amazing truth that shines through it all is that God is there, right in the midst of it all. I expect that many of us have had challenging things to deal with in 2024 and no doubt there will be more to come as 2025 unfolds, but we have a God that comes to us IN PERSON, to walk with us through it all. Football fans of a certain persuasion may love to sing, "You'll never walk alone" but for us Christians, that's a fact. It's something to hold onto, wonder at and reflect on, as we continue our journey of faith through this special season.

I hope we can all find time, in the midst of all the hustle and bustle, to pause a while and to reflect on the most amazing gift of all – God's very self, in Jesus!

May you have a wonder-full Advent journey!

Sam Funnell.

'But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.'

(2 Peter 3:18)

Resources/Good News

Songs of Praise at Harpenden

At the end of October, Songs of Praise filmed one of their Christmas programmes at High Street Methodist Church in Harpenden.

Deacon Sarah Wickett shares her experience of what happened when Songs of Praise came to film.

[Songs of Praise at Harpenden - The Methodist Church](#)



You will be able to watch the edition on BBC1 on Sunday 8 December at 1:25pm and afterwards on [BBC iPlayer](#)

Hush the Noise this Christmas

Hey, I've Been Trying to Reach You | Christmas Short Film 2024

This time of year can be a lot, can't it? The noise of all those expectations can be so loud! This Advent and Christmas, you are invited to HushTheNoise.

[Christmas Short Film 2024](#)



A SERIES OF REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT

WOMEN OF THE NATIVITY

- IMAGINING THEIR ROLES,
FACING THE HARSH REALITIES

ST. MARY'S GUILDFORD GU1 3UP

THURSDAYS 12.15 FOR 12.30

28 NOVEMBER ELIZABETH: WEARY OF GOSSIP
ALWYN MARRIAGE

5 DECEMBER MARY: WHISPERS OF SCANDAL
ROSEMARY LEE

12 DECEMBER RACHEL: WEEPING IN RAMAH
SARAH HUTTON

THE REFLECTIONS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A BREAD & SOUP LUNCH

THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER: CAROLS AT LUNCHTIME

Stained glass window: St Mary's Church Guildford



STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)



“COFFEE CORNER”



Fortnightly on Tuesdays from 10.00 a.m – 12 noon

3rd and 17th September

1st, 15th and 29th October

12th and 26th November

10th and 17th** December

** 17th December will be in aid of Cherry Trees, Clandon

Enjoy Coffee & a Chat, Coffee & a Game, or Coffee & a Book

The choice is yours!



Everyone welcome – bring a friend!



It's A Boy!

The Christmas comedy musical for the young and young at heart

Date: 7 December 2024

Time: 2:00 – 3:30pm

Venue: Trinity Methodist Church
Brewery Road, Woking, GU21 4LH

Price:

Adult: £12

Child: £6 (under the age of 12)

Family: £25 (2 adults + 2 children)

Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Price includes a goody-bag for each child.

Refreshments on sale.

All are welcome.

**A Lolbear
Theatre Production**



Ask for details or book online!

<https://trinitywoking.org.uk>



Sunday 8th December 2024

at 4.30pm

Merrow Methodist church



From Loss to Light



Take this opportunity to pause and remember
those who are no longer with us.



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



Godalming Band & Godalming Youth Band

present an evening of festive **music & cheer**
at a joint

Christmas Concert



Saturday 14th December, 7pm
at Godalming United Church, Bridge Street

Tickets: **£8** adults, **£4** under 16, **£20** family (2 adults, 2 U16)

Book online at www.godalmingband.org.uk or scan the code >

Scan the QR code
to buy tickets



Registered charity no. 1025290, www.godalmingband.org.uk



Godalming Community Gospel Choir

Registered Charity Number 1210363



CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2024 7.30PM

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Godalming GU7 1EW



**MUSIC DIRECTOR
KATHY MCLEISH**



**VAUGHAN LARMOND
AND BAND**

ADULT TICKET £10 CHILDREN FREE

TICKETS AT gcgcinformation@gmail.com BUY AT RECORD CORNER CASH ONLY OR PAY ON DOOR CASH & CARD

WINE AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE DURING THE INTERVAL



GASKIN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHES 2024

21st December

GET TOGETHER FOR A SIT-DOWN MEAL

WOODY'S RESTAURANT
MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE,
WORPLESDON, GUILDFORD, GU3 3PE

ARRIVE 13:00PM FOR LUNCH AT 13:30PM

24th December

FREE DELIVERY TO YOUR HOME

PLEASE CHOOSE ONLY ONE OF THE
ABOVE OPTIONS

INFO@FREECHRISTMASLUNCH.COM
MARTA 07855846957

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR MEAL
PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A FREE EVENT
LONELY, STUDENTS; HOMELESS,
VULNERABLE, EVENT OPEN TO
EVERYONE IN NEED

