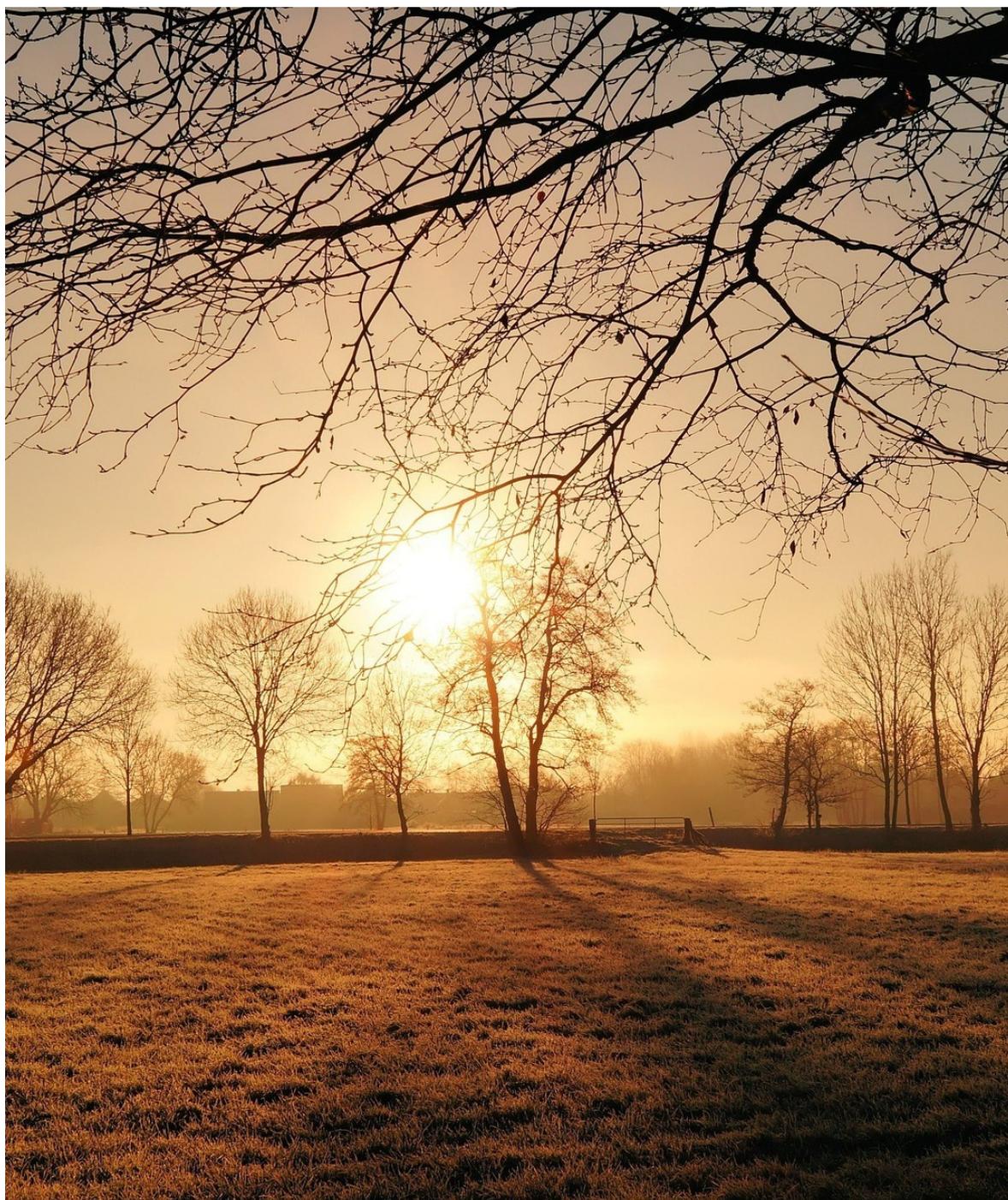


The Wey Forward

Issue 6, December 2017 — February 2018



A message from our Superintendent

Dear Friends,

We are entering the time of preparation. No doubt you have been dusting off advent rings, checking the candle supply, decorating the church Christmas tree, or ordering oranges to make Christingles. And that is just in churches. I expect that you will also be doing your own preparations for Christmas with food, decorations, gifts, and making plans with relatives and friends.



In a recent sermon, I was thinking about what it means to act on behalf of someone else. There are various images for this – one is the understudy. This is the person who has to be constantly ready, word perfect and waiting night after night in the wings in case they are needed. That is the sort of preparation we are called to make through this Advent season – properly prepared, expectant, and ready. I see this week by week in the people who teach in the Junior Church groups in many of the churches in this Circuit. They prepare good and challenging sessions every week, even though no children may come. We honour you for that commitment.

We are now preparing for this Christmas but also for so much more than that – for the end of time when Christ will return. We are called to keep ourselves constantly ready by the way we treat other people, and the way we choose to live.

This edition of Wey Forward takes us through Advent and Christmas, through Epiphany and the Covenant season and right into the start of Lent. Then we will be considering our discipleship and what it means to follow Christ. This is to be the season when each church in this Circuit is encouraged to begin to review its gifts and its life and its hopes. To do that at this particular time in the Christian calendar will remind us that his example lies at the heart of all we do and all we are.

May this be a time of hope for everyone.

Claire

Training/refresher session on leading prayers of intercession

revised date 4th February 2018

Our aim is to enable each church in the circuit to build a team of people willing to lead prayers of intercession. Many of us regularly lead prayers and this training will provide an opportunity to share expertise and ideas on this important part of our Sunday worship.

Training will take place at Merrow Methodist Church 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

To book a place please contact Lyn Mckay on 01483 533636 or lynwen.mckay@gmail.com

News from around the Circuit

Addlestone

We held our first evening service for many, many years on 17th September; it was well supported by our congregation and circuit church members, encouraging us to plan another one. We will be holding it on the 21st January and will be led by Rev Steve Green. All will be welcome.

From October we opened our Thursday coffee mornings early to enable the Bear Hugs Nursery mums to come in for a refreshment and a chat after dropping off their children. We are hoping it will encourage them, perhaps for the first time, to come through the church doors.

In August of this year the church began its sponsorship of Grace through the Compassion charity. Grace is a 8 year old girl living in Ecuador. In October we sent her a photograph of our congregation.

We have new lighting now in the church and it is very much like daylight. Also we have changed the heating to infrared. All well so far but colder weather will be the testing time.

Our Christmas Fair is on 14th November with stalls run by various charities.

Daphne Platt

Circuit Prayer Vigil

The Circuit Mission Group is organising a 24 hour Prayer Vigil over the weekend of 9/10 December 2018. It will commence at 8.00am on Saturday 9 December and finish at 8.00 am on Sunday 10 December. It is hoped that all those preaching on Sunday 10 will include a conclusion to this act of worship as part of their services.

This is an event in which all may partake because it can be done from the comfort of your own home if you so wish and will require no more than an hour. Each circuit church will be allocated some hours across the 24 hour period and they can decide how best to ensure that prayer takes place during that period.

There is no prescriptive format or content although it is hoped that during each hour prayers will be said for our circuit churches and the Circuit. Those who are praying can get together to pray, either at their home church, someone's house, a coffee shop or even out doors at a local beauty spot (weather permitting).

Any insomniacs will be able to take the 'midnight hours' and enjoy prayer in total peace.

We do hope that you will all feel able to participate and sign up to this initiative, after all you can never have too much prayer! Your church representative will have more details closer to the time plus the sign-up sheet for your allotted time slots.

Circuit Mission Team



STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 11th NOVEMBER
from 10.30a.m. to 2.00p.m.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Stalls to include:

Home Produce, Books, Cakes,
Jewellery, Christmas Decorations,
Tombola, 'Red & Green', Raffle



Free entrance

Merrow Methodist Church

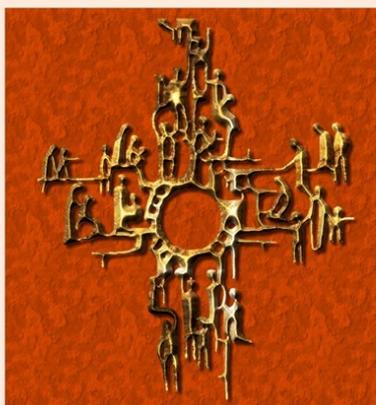


CAROL SERVICE

**FOR ALL THE FAMILY AND WE INVITE THE CHILDREN
TO COME DRESSED UP AS ANGELS!**

Come and join us on
Sunday 17th December 2017
at 4.30 pm

Practical Aspects of Christian Spirituality



St. Mary's
Quarry Street
Guildford
09.30 – 12.30
on
Saturday
9 December

Camilla White
on

**'How poetry can aid
our spiritual journey'**

This stand alone Saturday morning
session is open to all who want to take
their spiritual life deeper.

If you would like to attend
please email Richard Fox at richard@purposefullives.com



November 25th 3pm – 5 pm

During this session we will be thinking about the book of proverbs
such as Proverbs 15 v 1 'A soft answer turns away wrath,
a harsh word stirs up anger'

We will also be thinking about advent
and making the advent candle
and there will be an Advent Calendar to take away.



December 24th 3pm – 5pm Christmas Eve

We will be thinking about the shepherds and the surprise they had
when they got the news.

These meetings will take place in the Hall, Emmaus and Wesley
rooms.
All families are welcome.

There will be lots of craft things to do, some experiments and
songs to sing, games to play. Some tasty things to eat as well.

Do book the dates and come and join in.
If you can help in any way or want to know more do contact:
Jeannette 01932 221562, jeannettecurtis@gmail.com

Byfleet

“Christmas, a time for giving, for getting, forgiving and forgetting! A neat play on words and a wonderful reminder of four key truths at the heart of Christmas”. So reads the pre-cursor to our publicity for the Advent Bible Study course that we will be holding between the end of November and Christmas itself.

With so much going on in the run-up to Christmas, for our individual families as well as our church family, it is easy to overlook the true meaning of these weeks ahead of us. We try to balance the commercial/fund raising with the outreach that must be at the heart of our mission. Come and join us!

Dec 2 “What is the true meaning of Christmas?” – a mission stall on the village green, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Dec 2-3 Advent weekend celebrations including display of nativity sets, coffee morning, quiz & hot supper, Songs of Praise (see poster for full details). If you have a nativity set you would be willing to lend, please get in touch!*

Dec 10 10.30am morning worship including Junior Church nativity play and Gift Service for the York Road Project

Dec 15 Wey Voices Christmas Concert, 7.30pm. Tickets £7. See poster for full details

Dec 17 Carols by Candlelight at 3.30pm preceded by Church Christmas lunch

Jan 13 Coffee morning and Bring & Buy, 9.00am – 12.30pm

Feb 10 Coffee morning and Bring & Buy, 9.00am – 12.30pm

Feb 15 Film show and afternoon tea, 2.00pm

*For more information or to offer a nativity set for display, please contact Margaret on 01932 343489 or e-mail margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com

Margaret Watts

LITTLE TOWN, BIG STORY



A series of Advent Reflections

at

St Mary's, Quarry Street, Guildford

12.15 for 12.30 pm

Thursday 30 Nov: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Jo Trickey

Thursday 7 Dec: Christ is born of Mary

Sarah Hutton

Thursday 14 Dec: How silently, how silently

Lyn MacKay

Thursday 21 Dec: The great glad tidings tell

Russ Parker

The reflections will be followed by a Bread & Soup lunch

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Cranleigh

We live in a period of change and turmoil: the prayers in the last edition of this magazine, (pages 10 and 11), reflected the desperate needs of so many! We too have our different cares and concerns – for our nation's future, for our families and friends, who even in this affluent corner of Britain may be suffering financial difficulties. We face uncertainty within our own Circuit and in Cranleigh we are not immune from the anxiety which comes from shortage of funds to fulfil essential projects which we are sure will help our mission. Therefore, we continue to plan for our future in our building: many people in our church are increasing our revenue by often imaginative and productive means and there are signs of 'increase' as our forbears used to call ripening fruit and grain at harvest time!



We have in fact just celebrated Harvest Festival in our churches, always a fun time for us when we were children. Our minister, Claire, involved our youngsters in our Sunday morning service, incorporating a reference to One World Week, which seemed to me particularly appropriate, when many people are short of both food and water. Claire had an inflatable globe, and I was very impressed by the way the children found the countries she referred to!

On the Saturday evening, we adults were not short of fun at the Harvest Supper, when we also raised funds for 'All We Can' and for our building project.

It is good that Cranleigh Churches are still working well together, and this was demonstrated by the ecumenical harvest service held in the Baptist Church on October 8th at 6.30pm. Each of the four churches in Cranleigh was well represented and we all enjoyed a chat over refreshments afterwards.

An important development in our village, (apart from the immense development of relatively expensive housing and consequent roadworks!), has been the recent acquisition of a large house to accommodate Sunni Muslim refugees from Syria. There has been work going on for some time between Cranleigh Refugee Welcome Group and the local authorities from Waverley Family Support, and now at last a large extended family will be arriving shortly. None of the family speaks English, so we imagine our help will be needed in communication as well as in supplying essential ordinary household equipment. Our minister, Claire, has been the Chair and main contact of the local group.

In my last article I mentioned later events planned in Cranleigh, particularly at Christmas. The dates will again be advertised in the list on the cover, and we will be pleased to see visitors from the Circuit.

A happy Christmas to you all, and grateful thanks for all the kind words I received from so many after my husband died.

Glenda Sewell

Editor's note: Please look at the Circuit website's homepage to view Cranleigh's lovely harvest festival picture on the banner

Byfleet Methodist Church

Rectory Lane KT14 7LL

presents...



Friday 15 December 2017

7.30pm

Tickets £7 to include interval refreshment
available from Cynthia: 01932 406060
cyniel@ntlworld.com

Proceeds to Woking Hospice and Byfleet Methodist Church



ADVENT WEEKEND

Saturday 2 December
Sunday 3 December

Church open all weekend
Display of Nativity Sets
Organ Recitals, Refreshments

SATURDAY

9.00 - 12.30
12.30 - 4.30
6.30

Christmas Coffee Morning
Lunches and Teas
Quiz and Hot Supper

Tickets £6 (Under 16s £3) available
from 01932 340417 or 01932 343489

SUNDAY

10.30
2.30 - 4.00
4.30

Morning Worship
Afternoon Tea
Advent Songs of Praise Concert

A warm welcome to all!

Byfleet Methodist Church, Rectory Lane KT14 7LL

Enquiries to: margaret.watts10@ntlworld.com; 01932 343489



GODALMING
UNITED CHURCH
BRIDGE ROAD
GU7 3DU

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Seasonal crafts & games for all the family, based on the Nativity story.

Party Tea

SATURDAY DEC 16th 3-5 pm

Admission Free *Babies' play area*
Donation of £2 per child welcome



Merrow Methodist Church



Service of the

CHRISTINGLE

Come and join us on
Sunday 10th December 2017
at 10.30 am

when we shall be making Christingles during the service.

Godalming United Church

Across the summer our downstairs facilities have undergone a major extension and refurbishment. The River Room has been enlarged by 25% and now has step-free access to a patio overlooking the beautiful Lammas Lands and River Wey. In addition, the kitchen has been enlarged and totally replaced. Thanks to John Drake for project-managing the works and to Nicola Gidlow for securing the necessary funding.

In August the musical Rowling family – all keen members of Godalming Band – accompanied the National Methodist Youth Band on their tour of north-east Scotland, playing at churches and other venues – including Stonehaven’s amazing open-air swimming-pool. Immediately before this, William was playing percussion in a late-night prom in the Albert Hall!

We celebrated Rev’d Norman Edsall’s 50th anniversary “in the pulpit” on Sunday September 17th – the lessons being read by his two grandsons.

On October 8th the church was decked out in truly festive style for our café-style Harvest Festival, led by Rev’d Clive Chase, Chaplain of Charterhouse School, a long-standing friend of our church. The Lammas Handbell Ringers provided an unusual and enjoyable musical interlude between the courses of the bring-and-share lunch – what amazing teamwork to keep the music moving along!

Nights are drawing in, and preparations are already in hand for our winter pantomime – Puss In Boots. Again it has been specially written by local lad, Josh Dixon, with parts accommodating our various groups, who range in age from 5 to “mature”, making up a cast of approximately 50.

We continue to celebrate our 40th Anniversary - of the joining of the local Methodist and URC churches. The Anniversary Sightsaver appeal, (to fund 40 cataracts in The Gambia), has wildly exceeded expectations by raising well over £1000. The cataract specialist, trained up with support from our church, can perform each procedure for a mere £15! In December the Kelleys will lead a group of church members on a 10-day trip to The Gambia, including a visit to an ophthalmic unit, a school opening, and visits to local Guiding groups.

On November 4th we have a church away-day, (at the Clockhouse, Milford, so not so very far “away”!), when, as well as celebrating the past 40 years of being together, we can look ahead and even “dream some dreams” of our future.

Looking ahead you are invited to join us for:

- Sun Nov 26 10:30am* Cellar Roadshow. Find out more about The Cellar – Godalming’s Christian café, just off the High Street. Dr Chris Jagger, former local GP and charity Trustee, will help to lead our Morning Service.
- Sat Dec 2 6pm* Anniversary Candlelit Supper Tel 01483 416592 Cost £15 per person
- Sun Dec 3 10:30am* Hosanna Rock – short children’s musical to mark the first Sunday in Advent. Family Service with offerings of toys for the less fortunate in our community (distributed by The Cellar café)
- Sat Dec 16 3-5pm* Messy Church – Christmas Is Coming! Tel 01483 414778
- Sat Dec 16 7pm* Godalming Band Christmas Concert Tel 01483 428701
- Sun Dec 17 6pm* Carol Service with Christingles
- Sun Dec 24 10:30am* normal Sunday service
4-4:45pm Quiet time and Christmas Eve Communion
- Mon Dec 25 10am* Christmas Morning Worship
- Sun Jan 7 10:30am* Covenant Service
- Feb 3rd & 4th* Puss in Boots Pantomime – 4 performances Tel 01483 421268

Nancy Wilks





Christmas Concert 16th December Godalming United Church

Godalming Band and Godalming Youth Band invite you to join them for their traditional joint Christmas concert at the Godalming United Church on Saturday 16th December. They're rounding off their own 80th anniversary celebrations this year with a concert full of Christmas spirit and musical treats.

This Christmas season both of the bands will be busy, helping turn on the lights in Cranleigh on Saturday 18th November, Godalming's on the 25th, and then they'll be out and about carolling throughout December. They'll be playing in Godalming High Street on Saturday 9th December with Churches Together and on 16th December on the morning of the concert.

Their Christmas-themed CD, "The Festive Season", was professionally recorded just last year and it could make a wonderful gift for friends and family.

Concert tickets are £6 for adults, £3 for under 16s, available from Keith Rowling at Godalming United Church, or to reserve by phoning Dominic on 01483 355129.

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start on Saturday 16th December, at Godalming United Church, Bridge Street, Godalming.



Guildford St Mary's

Something of the Night

A Christian MP once described her former boss, the then Home Secretary, as having 'Something of the Night' about him and it wasn't intended as a compliment. From childhood, many of us associate the night with the sinister and being scared of the dark yet many towns come alive at night with people looking for entertainment and excitement. Guildford is no exception and we are fortunate to have teams of Street Angels showing the love of Christ to those out on Friday and Saturday nights.

At St Mary's, our Common Ground ecumenical initiative is seeking fresh ways of telling the Gospel and we've been venturing into the night in recent months with the launch of **Night Vision** on a Friday night. We've been experimenting with timing and content – our first in September ran from 7.30pm to 10.30pm and October's from 10pm to 2am. Our November one, focussing on 'Comedy and Christ' will start at 5.30pm as we 'test the market'.

We haven't publicised widely during this trial phase so those who have come in are genuine passers-by who have been attracted into the church to see what's going on or by personal invitation out on the street. Standing at the gate offering hot chocolate and inviting people into church at 11pm certainly took me beyond my comfort zone but was well worth it! On each occasion we've engaged with over 30 people.

In the first session some people stayed in the church and talked deeply for well over an hour. On the second occasion the visitors tended to be younger and primarily people who would never normally set foot in a church. The visits were generally shorter but they seemed to value an experience they certainly hadn't envisaged when planning their night out on the town. I suspect when they reached home some of our visitors had a bit of disbelief that they'd been into a church and their friends will have seen it from the "Selfies"!



We try to create a welcoming atmosphere with music, soft lighting, refreshments and prompts (like prayer stations) to set people thinking, as well as team members on hand to welcome, share experiences and answer questions.

This isn't at the expense of our daytime activities which continue to flourish, as you'll see from the adverts elsewhere in this magazine. We'd love to see you at St Mary's some time and I commend our Thursday lunchtime Advent Reflections to you

Nigel Campion-Smith

Reflections on church and worship

“Each of us is uniquely made, for the purpose of glorifying God.”

This was the opening statement of Rev John Hellyer, Chair of our District, at the recent Circuit Stewards’ training. Using Romans chapter 12 as the reference for his keynote address, John set the context within which the modern church must glorify God: he remarked that we live in a world dominated by fear; questioning of scientific developments and findings; diminishing natural resources around the world; and the redefinition of truth. He cited, as examples of these, that not since the Cold War has there been such uncertainty about nuclear war as is being created by the ratcheting up of rhetoric between the leaders of the USA and North Korea; developments in genetic engineering lead to ethical questions; the debate on climate change; scarcity of fresh, clean water in large parts of the world; and the emergence of fake news.

In addition, he pointed to changing attitudes to faith, noting that there are a variety of beliefs observed in the UK, and Christian observance is impacted by attitudes of choice versus duty. He stated that there is a view now that many have a vicarious faith: although they are supportive of the existence of church – so that the church can provide various rites of passage such as baptism and burial – and for someone else to provide this, they do not want to engage beyond these rites of passage.

He urged us to consider our own faith based on Romans 12: that it needs to be transformative, shaping the lives we live and how we participate in our communities Monday to Saturday. And he added that worship – which is central to having a faith that makes a difference – needs to be sacrificial: it’s about what we put in not what we get out of it. In other words, worship is about bringing ourselves to God, and offering all of ourselves in worship.

He challenged the church to be a place:

- of discernment of the calling of those in leadership, nurturing them by recognising and releasing them in their calling rather than a place where available and willing people fill roles
- of trust that God gives the spiritual and practical gifts needed for the church community to thrive. He warned that if we consider anyone indispensable in our community, then our community has a problem
- where we work together – not just being nice to one another, but caring for one another and the vulnerable and needy while being willing to challenge unacceptable behaviour inside and outside the church
- that is hospitable – how would we answer the question “Who has to fit into what?” when we come together or a new person joins us? He reminded us that Jesus was more often a guest than a host in the Gospel accounts, and that being the guest is the weaker/more vulnerable in the relationship, dependent on the goodwill of the host
- from which we live out our faith in the world – while we are to be a light as church, we are also called to be passionate about the world we live in, and to seek to bring peace and harmony into our communities. He noted that the Joint Public Issues Team (an ecumenical group) has advice and direction on current issues and how to deal with those affected who might be in our church or community (such as modern slaves).

Margaret Ireland
Senior Circuit Steward

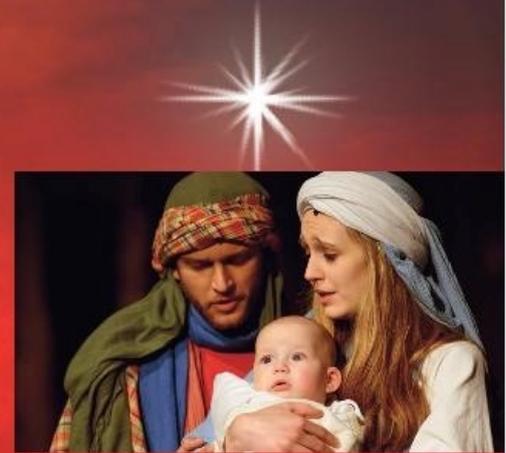

WINTERSHALL
Experience the story

THE NATIVITY

A PLAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Come and enjoy the
'real' Christmas story
at Wintershall

Stand with shepherds in the field and see Mary arrive on a donkey. Sit in the barn where the baby Jesus lies in his manger. A timeless, memorable experience for young and old as we bring the story of Christmas to life for you.



Adult £18 & Child £9
Family £50 (2 adults & 2 children)

13 December	4:30pm & 7pm
14 December	4:30pm & 7pm
15 December	4:30pm & 7pm
16 December	11am, 2:30pm & 5:30pm
17 December	2:30pm & 5:30pm

Each performance lasts approximately 90 minutes.

Holly Barn, Wintershall, Bramley, Surrey GU5 0LR
Wintershall CIO, Charity Number 1167111

**BOOK
NOW!**

Book tickets **now** on
our website:

www.wintershall-estate.com
or by calling 01793 418299





The **Fund for Human Need** was founded in 1960 by Methodists who believed they had a responsibility to heed Jesus' words and offer help to the poorest and most needy people .

It is part of Our Calling as Christians to "be good neighbours to people in need and to challenge injustice".

The Fund for Human Need (FHN) is run by Methodist volunteers and gives small one off grants of up to a maximum of £125 to tide people over when they are destitute and desperate. This includes:

- The homeless and hungry, people whose benefits have been stopped
- Asylum seekers living one day to the next
- Ex-prisoners trying to rebuild their lives
- Those with mental health and medical issues
- Those whose relationships have broken down

FHN's trustees would like to encourage each church to consider supporting them so that they are able to respond meaningfully to all who, in their very distressing circumstances, turn to them for help.

They are looking to establish 'Friends of FHN' in each District who, with their help and supplies, might run a stall twice yearly, at Representative Sessions of Synod. Other roles may be added later but in the first instance Rev David Palmer, Secretary of FHN, would be pleased to hear from anyone who is interested.

His contact details are: Tel. 01283 211671 or Email. david.g.palmer@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS TEA AND CONCERT



SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2017

2.00 for 2.30 PM - 4.45 PM

CRANLEIGH METHODIST CHURCH

AFTERNOON INCLUDES ENGLISH TEA AND CONCERT
TO INCLUDE CHOIR AND COMMUNAL CAROL SINGING

TO RESERVE PLACES PLEASE CALL SUE PINK ON 276374

OPEN TO EVERYONE TO ATTEND

DONATIONS FOR "ACTION FOR CHILDREN" WILL BE WELCOME



Words
Music
Stillness



A time for reflection
St. Mary's Church
Quarry St, Guildford
12.00 – 13.00 on Mondays

4 December
8 January
5 February

Coffee will be served from 11.45

Further details from: anna_jeffery@btinternet.com

Knaphill

As you will remember, in mid August, torrential rain in Sierra Leone caused fatal flooding and mudslides, killing at least 500 people, including 120 children. Christian Aid are working in the most vulnerable areas of Freetown to help over 200 families whose houses were washed away and £446.65 (plus Gift Aid) was raised at the Circuit Service on 3rd September at Knaphill.

Sylvia Peters

Stoughton

The first couple of months of the new Methodist year has been a busy time at Stoughton.

We welcomed a new pre-school to the premises in September and they share days with a Toddlies group resulting in plenty of noisy activity in the main hall throughout the week.

We were pleased to have historian David Rose join us for our Harvest supper and he gave an excellent talk on the local history of the Stoughton area. We were able to send £180 to All We Can. Our gifts from the Harvest Thanksgiving service were taken to the Salvation Army in Guildford.

The Bible study group continue under the guidance of Hilary Fletcher and we are grateful to her for the time she gives. The group have been studying Thessalonians and are now moving onto Colossians.

In October Philip and Evelyn Beastall organised an excellent concert of music with instrumentalists from other local churches and groups entertaining us.

We are now into preparations for our Christmas Fayre in November which will be closely followed by Advent services - is it really that time of the year again! In early December we will join with the local community for 'Carols on the Green' and provide refreshments in the church after the event.

With all good wishes for a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Linda Macbeth

Merrow

Inspired by Sheila Shackleton, silver award winner in the “Guildford in Bloom” competition, our Harvest Festival theme was “Grow Your Own.” The response was excellent and provided some colourful memories and pictures. Songs of Praise in the evening was preceded by tea and cakes.

Fundraising has been outstanding. Regular coffee mornings have been popular and raised money for many worthwhile causes. Roy Vinall, Jenny Jackson and Wendy Rockhill took part in the Memorial Walk 2017 and between them raised £700 for Alzheimer’s Research. We were able to directly help a lady with health problems who has been living in Beirut after fleeing from Iraq. Loose change dropped into the basin, when collecting a cup of coffee after the service on Sunday morning, can mount up!

The “Big Quiz” is at 7pm on Saturday 18th November. Contact Suzanne Burnham for tickets. The following week we will be dedicating our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

The House Group have enjoyed talks and discussion with the Reverends Allan Taylor, Peter Hill and Paul Hulme with Asif and Claire coming next month.



The Outlet group has continued to flourish and brought in many people from the community, which was its original aim. The next meeting will be a talk entitled “Why did Quakers become chocolate makers?”

Further community links were fostered during the Merrow Fun Day and the successful “Carols on the Green” is being organised.

We have welcomed Derek and June Varley from Bishop’s Stortford and now living in Merrow to be near their family.

It was also a pleasure to offer congratulations to friends, Brenda Cakebread and Lydia Quinn, on reaching the age of 100.

An “Appreciating Church” working party has been set up to review in detail all the returned forms and to agree a resulting Action Plan. The forms identified many potential new volunteers to take on roles within the Church. All this is most encouraging and an assurance of God’s presence with us.

Iris Walker

*Charity
Christmas Fair*

on Saturday
25th November 2017
10am - 2pm

at Addlestone Methodist Church,
Station Road

Gift Stalls, etc, by
various local charities

Come and get your Christmas Presents

Tombola




A joyful start to Christmas

Carol Praise



**Saturday Dec 9th
7.00- 9.00 pm**

Horsley Methodist Church
(next to W. Horsley Village Hall)

**Come and sing your favourite carols.
With a break for refreshments and
mince pies, etc.**

Phone requests to 01483 282474

**Everyone should have
enough to eat this Christmas**

**Enough
for Everyone**
Christmas Appeal 2017



'I pray for health. I ask God to make my children healthy. When they are healthy, I can go to work and earn all that we need'

christianaid.org.uk/christmas

**An evening of inspiration
celebrating St Andrew's Day**

With guest speaker and musician
Abraham Mwangi
Programme Coordinator for Maternal and Child Health Project in Kenya

St Mary's Church, Quarry Street, Guildford. GU1 3UA
30th November 2017, 7.30pm
(doors open at 7pm)

For all enquiries call **020 75232105** or email LSE@christian-aid.org

Raising funds to fight hunger and malnutrition in Burkina Faso and South Sudan
In association with Cannon Ground Guildford

 We believe in life before death

 Matching your donations with

Twice the impact! For every pound you give, the UK Government will give a pound more.* That's double the support for people living in poverty.

* Donations made to the Christmas appeal between 6 November 2017 and 5 February 2018 will be matched up to £2.7 million. Christian Aid will use your donation where we consider the need is greatest. The UK Government's match will fund our work in South Sudan.



**Coffee
&
Cake
at
St Mary's**

**Take a break from your shopping & meet
up with friends**

Thursday 25 January
10.30 am – 12 noon

*featuring Turning Point Trust
- a project working in the slums of
Kibera, Nairobi providing children with
food and a Christian education*

Everyone welcome



Circuit Ministry

I want to acknowledge the confusion many people have felt since they were informed in September of my decision to request a curtailment of my appointment in this Circuit. I am sorry that my decision has caused some shock. When a minister requests a curtailment, the Circuit Invitation Committee meets to consider the request and they have the authority to decide on a response to that request. Our Circuit Invitation Committee have agreed to my request to conclude my appointment in this Circuit in August 2018.

The process can include personal information, and therefore has to remain confidential. The fact that only a small group of people are permitted to know the reasons for my request has, I know, caused some concern. Because of that, I want to take this opportunity to tell you as much as I am able in answer to some of the questions I have been asked in recent months.

1. This was my request. The Circuit did not ask me to curtail.
2. It is not related to any other minister's situation. There have been various previous curtailments and ministers who have suffered ill-health in recent years. The reasons for each of those situations are individual and separate. Please do not think that there is anything fundamentally wrong with the Circuit. It has its pressures and issues like any group, but that does not make it impossible to be a minister here. Indeed we have a caring and trusting leadership team in the Circuit.
3. However I cannot pretend that my reasons were not serious. This is fairly significant decision for any minister to make. Those reasons have led me to the conclusion that this is the right time for me to leave. The new Circuit is now operating well and I have great hopes for its future. It is time for someone else to lead it into its next chapter. I shall be watching with interest!
4. My decision has nothing to do with what I am going on to do. At the time of writing I have no idea what lies ahead for me. So I am not leaving because I have been asked to go anywhere else or to do anything else. It was important for me to make the decision about leaving before I thought about my next steps.

I hope that these points might help those people who are concerned about this.

John and I are enormously grateful for the assurances of support and prayer we have received.

I would now like respectfully to ask that we try not to speculate any further. I would like us all to travel on together through this year with positive hope as we discover more signs of the Kingdom of God in our Circuit and learn to cooperate with his work here.

With love

Claire

Walton on Thames

Singing Carols at Walton Station

Members from Walton will be singing at Walton railway station on Monday December 11th starting at 5.45pm. Parking is available in local streets. We normally carry on until about 7.30pm We sing on behalf of Action for Children. This is an annual event and some of us don't think we have started Christmas properly until this night arrives. It is a lovely evening and puts you right into the mood for a season of goodwill to all men.



We sing unaccompanied and under cover at one end of the tunnel under the tracks! We see hundreds of commuters and our collection generally gets over £200 and last years was a record at £316.00.

Wrap up warmly if you come and wear something red or sparkly. A bit of tinsel round the neck or a red hat or reindeer adornments all look absolutely fine. Bring a drink, hot or cold if you need to lubricate the throat. Carols provided! Last year we had a 6 year old performing a solo.

Afterwards we are invited back to Colin and Sandra Wright's place for light refreshments. That is very local to the station. You would be very welcome to join us. Please ring Duncan Curtis on 01932 221562 if you need more information.

Duncan Curtis

Merrow Methodist Church

Board games

Jigsaws

New Year Church Family Afternoon
'Get-together'

Sunday Jan 7 2.30 - 5.00pm

Please bring along your favourite game

Come and meet your friends to play a game or have a chat, followed by afternoon tea.



St. Mary's
Guildford

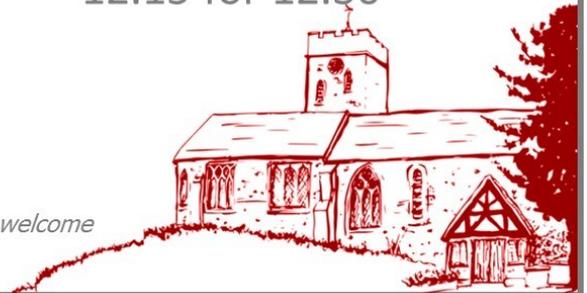
It may seem a long way
away but ...

... weekly series of
Lent Reflections
followed by a bread & soup lunch

Thursdays

15 February – 29 March
12.15 for 12.30

Everyone welcome



ReImagine Forum

Hosted by the Southern & Islands Region

Reigate Methodist Church
High Street, Reigate, RH2 9AE

Saturday 27th January 2018
10am for 10.30am—4pm



REIMAGINE

Nurturing mission-shaped
churches and circuits

This is a day for those interested in revitalising and starting churches. Nothing in organised religion works the way it used to. Real change requires more than doing conventional things better. We are interested in cultivating new models and equipping leaders who can serve creatively and flexibly amidst seismic cultural shifts.

Bring a team of people from your church for a panel of diverse practitioners, facilitated break-out groups for your ministry's next steps, and a keynote address by Trey Hall, pioneer, writer and Birmingham Mission Advisor.

FREE EVENT & LUNCH PROVIDED BUT BOOKING IS REQUIRED
contact deadmank@methodistchurch.org.uk or 07799 902571

Weybridge

Harvest display with gifts for the Food Bank and the Old Folks Club



Thanks to the generosity of the few regular members the church was able to take, quite literally, a car boot full of groceries to the local food bank and a huge box of produce to the Old Folks day centre. The old folk are able to help themselves to fresh produce without buying in the quantities sold by the supermarket – they might take two potatoes or one onion or half a cabbage. A collection tin is left for voluntary donations which are then passed to charity so everyone wins.

The Clothes and Bedding Bank continues to grow. Over the summer the organisers have had meetings with Home Start and the families department at the local council and these two organisations now hold vouchers in addition to Sure Start so a busy autumn is anticipated. The clothes bank is held in the church hall on the third Saturday of the month although there has been an increase in demand for ad-hoc appointments.

The Weybridge Old Folks club is settling into the new premises: these are not ideal because, although the new space is clean and bright, it is rather cramped compared to the previous venue. Two of our church members have now become formally recognised as regular volunteer helpers in addition to the churches monthly 'tea' duty.

As with many churches our members have difficulties in finding time to pray together and share prayer needs. There is a midweek prayer group which is attended by a faithful few, and a short time of prayer prior to worship on a Sunday but family and other time constraints make it difficult for everyone to attend. In an attempt to address this situation the church has embraced technology and has set up a 'virtual' prayer group using the WhatsApp application available to all smart phone users. In this way any member can post prayer requests and respond to others at a time suitable to them. We are aware that this excludes those who do not have smart phones but between the meetings and technology we have just about covered all bases.

Weybridge continues to host a monthly coffee morning on the second Saturday of the month on the Addlestone Methodist church premises. This allows Weybridge to take advantage of their prime position on the high street but also assists AMC's aim of having the church open every Saturday without calling on the AMC member's every week.

We look forward to welcoming Rev Claire Hargreaves to Weybridge for a Café Church on 28 January 2018 when we hope that Claire will be able to include an update on her refugee work.

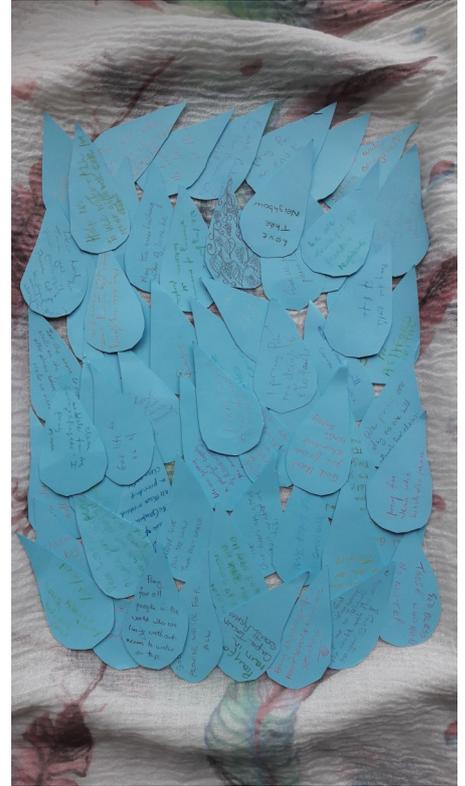
Linda Weedon

Trinity, Woking

Trinity Harvest Festival

This year we celebrated the Harvest of Water, with special emphasis on the The Gambia. During the service, led by Vivian Gerhold we compared the use of water by a family in The Gambia and a family in Woking. Vivian provided us with cut out raindrops and we were encouraged to write a prayer on them and place them in a bucket after the service, (picture opposite). Our prayer group took these raindrops and every prayer was read out at the prayer group meeting. At our Harvest Supper we shared a Gambian meal of stew (beef, chicken or vegetable) served with rice kindly provided by our Chinese congregation

During the evening Bill Lindop, one of our members, gave us a talk on his work in The Gambia and we were able to see how providing water changes the lives of people there. Bill does a tremendous amount of work in The Gambia and has a special interest in providing wells for the villages without a proper water supply, and so it was fitting that our harvest appeal supported his work. Once gift aid has been claimed we will have raised about £1,000.



Jean Normington

CURTAINS UP!

8th & 9th March 2018

at 7.45pm

10th March 2018 at 7.15pm



‘Clara’s on the Curtains’

By Arthur Lovegrove

And Music to entertain

Walton Methodist
Church Hall
Terrace Road
Walton-On-Thames

Tickets £12 (includes refreshments)

*Speak to any cast member or visit our page
on waltonmethodist.com to get tickets!*

The Mine — Regional Conference for Lay Employees



The Mine, the regional conference for lay employees, took place on Thursday 28th September and was held within our circuit at Trinity Methodist Church.

This conference was a marvellous opportunity for lay employees from all over the region to come together in worship, workshops, learning, conversation and colleague-ship, and to 'dig-deep'; to discuss, question and reflect on our purpose, mission and values within the Methodist Church. It was open to all lay employees of the Methodist Church within the Southern & Islands Region - whether from the South-East, Southampton or Channel Islands districts; whether working at a local church level, circuit level or district level; no matter what the role.

As well as time together, this conference offered three streams to enable specific focus on the work of those lay employees involved in Pastoral Care, Children's, Youth & Families work, and Administration.

“It was fantastic to get the Southern Lay Employees in one Church - people came from as far as Brighton and Hove! I had a great time meeting people and receiving some helpful tips from Natalie Newton including seeing how our day to day roles, behind the scenes, are part of building God’s Kingdom. Andrew Bagwell also offered some great advice on Administration. It was also extremely helpful discussing and learning different strategies to our work with other Lay Workers.”

Jess McNutt – Trinity Methodist Church’s Administrator.

SAVE THE DATES

There are two Lenten Retreats for Lay Employees coming up:

Tues 27 February 2018, 10am to 4pm—Ashburnham Place, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 9NF
Go to <https://lay-employees-retreat-eastsussex.eventbrite.co.uk> to book a place

Weds 14 March 2018, 10am to 4pm—Lox Lane Farm, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 9PU
Go to <https://lay-employees-retreat-dorset.eventbrite.co.uk> to book a place

Circuit Mission Supper 2018

We are delighted to have Dr Olubunmi Olayisade, Methodist Church Partnership Coordinator for Africa, as our speaker for our next Circuit Mission Supper.

Bunmi, as she likes to be known, is continually working with Methodist partners in Africa. Her frequent reports in the Africa Visit Reports section of the Methodist Church website show how busy she is – she has recently been in Zambia, Uganda and Rwanda.

This should be an excellent evening – so please save the date in your diaries!

Trinity Methodist Church, Woking

Saturday 24th February 2018

6.00pm for 6.30pm



West Horsley

On 2nd October the chapel was overflowing as we gave thanks for the life of one of our centenarians, Renée Denew. Renée first came to West Horsley when she was 16, was confirmed as an Anglican at St Mary's, but after she met her future husband, Stan and his sister Mollie, she soon joined the Methodists and gave a lifetime of service to our chapel in so many different ways. She will be sorely missed.

Our stand at the West Horsley Fete, held at West Horsley Place in September, was very successful. The children's competition, organised by Graham England, was a big attraction and raised some funds for Action for Children.

Our monthly House Group has been generously supported by people from the Circuit. As well as our own minister, Claire, we are grateful to Natalie Newton, who talked to us about the Appreciating Church process, and to Barrie Tabraham for his talk about the Wesleys. Future meetings will be blessed by Rabson Ziso, bringing us up to date with the situation in Zimbabwe, and Peter Hills, telling us about his time as an Army Chaplain.

Our weekly Coffee Morning has attracted some new members. Please drop-in if you are ever in West Horsley on a Thursday morning, from 10.30-12.00, we will be pleased to see you.

May I remind you to put Saturday 9th December in your diaries, when we will be holding our annual Carol Praise evening at 7.00pm. This is an occasion which starts the season of Advent in a joyful and, perhaps, reflective manner. We will be delighted to welcome people from around the Circuit. Any requests should be made to 01483 282474.

Margaret Faulkner

Circuit Worship Resources Group

At our October meeting we concentrated on looking at all the resources available in the circuit and the best way to share expertise and learn from each other. It is good to know how much enthusiasm for worship exists in the circuit. An encouraging number of people signed up for the training in leading Prayers of Intercession, 12 November, and we hope to arrange refresher training for those who volunteer for Bible readings in worship. We ask all who read in church to ensure that they try out the microphone and receive feedback from the congregation, so that **all** can hear God's Word.

We would like to encourage more church members to take part in worship. If you would like to help with prayers, introduce a hymn, take part in drama, involve children, please have a word with the appointed preacher. We are contacting music groups to ask if they would occasionally be willing to travel to other churches. All our screen and projector operators are to be invited to a meeting to share expertise and benefit from each other's experience.

Discussion on a sermon series was postponed to our next meeting in January, with a view to setting this up for the June Quarter. Please continue feedback to preachers on the things that help you to hear God's voice during worship.

We are hoping to encourage anyone who plays a musical instrument to do so in the context of worship. Sometimes there is someone who would like to play in a band, but does not know anyone else in their own Church who would like to join with them. It would be good to assist people to find others in the Circuit with whom they could meet up. This might be for a group consisting of guitars and drums, or perhaps a wind or string band. We are also seeking to assist those who play the piano to feel confident to do so in the context of worship.



Additionally here will be a workshop to introduce those who play the piano to the organ, the date will be decided to suit the workshop leader and the participants - so far six people have expressed an intention to take part. If you are interested in any of these possibilities please contact Philip Beastall on phil.beastall@ntlworld.com

Lyn McKay and Philip Beastall
Circuit Worship Group

Trinity, Woking

.....to set budding more
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease;

J. Keats.

Summer has seen the main island bed bursting into bloom with spires of deep blue salvias, massed dark red Bishop of Llandaff dahlias and bright yellow rudbeckias cheering up the rather gloomy weather. The bees love the catmint, and the sedums have now turned deep pink and are attracting all sorts of winged insects.



In the side beds the sunflowers and sweet peas are now over, but are replaced by a spectacular display of zinnias. The dazzling colours of these amazing flowers, which grew from seed sown directly into the ground in May, are causing great deal of interest to passers-by.

The screening of the compost waste bins is now complete, and already there has been a beautiful display of pink, blue and purple clematis on the trellis.

These have looked lovely and create a really pretty area, offset by the lawns which have settled down under Ian's care.

It will soon be time to overhaul the Advent pots and to think about the stable for Christmas!

There have been so many complimentary comments from people who pass by, or through, our premises.

Some just smile and as they pass say that the garden looks lovely , but others stop and chat.

There is a cheerful man that we now know is a member of Christ Church who comes most weeks, and who loves the garden. There is a lady with a grandson in a pushchair who says that every time she comes to Woking to visit her family, she always make a point of coming to see what we are doing. Just this morning a lady paused to say that she walks through the garden every morning on her way to work, and that the flowers 'give her a lift'. One man jokingly told his wife that they had no need to go to Wisley after seeing our zinnias! The Cremona Dance School parents enjoy seeing the plants, and there is one young Dad who pops round when his daughter is dancing to ask gardening questions, as he has recently got a new garden and is a bit daunted.

It is not only garden comments we receive. One man was keen to start a theological discussion. He was visiting his mother and I was glad to see him in church the next day. A young lady asked if she could go into the church to light a candle and pray. We couldn't manage the candle but we found her a peaceful place in the Sanctuary.

The garden at Trinity gives people happiness and witnesses to God's love, and is a great point of contact with our friends and neighbours.

People talk to us when we are watering and weeding in a way that they otherwise would not. It must be the grubby hands and old clothes that make us approachable!

Elaine Slatter

Publicity, Marketing and Communications

What can good publicity, marketing and communications help us with? Here are just a few ideas.

- To reach potential new church members.
- To build new bridges and links into the local community.
- To improve contact with existing users of our premises.
- To raise the visibility of our churches in terms of premises, community service and contemporary worship that it might be seen as integral to the community.
- To welcome community participation, as well as financial contributions, to activities to benefit the wider society and world.

An initial meeting was held on 8th November to discuss how we can all help each other to get our messages across. The idea is to set up a small resources group who will be able to help and advise on a whole host of issues such as writing press releases, websites, posters, newsletters.



So if you are interested in getting involved please call Sue at the Circuit Office on 07808 046451.

A Message From The Editor

I hope you have found the latest edition of 'The Wey Forward' both interesting and useful. Thank-you to everyone who contributed to the articles. It has been a real pleasure to receive and read each item as I put the newsletter together.

If you would find a large print version of the magazine useful then please let me know and I can arrange that for you.

The magazine gives you the opportunity to showcase the work of your church across the Circuit so please keep that at the back of your mind in the coming months. Is there something going on in your church you would like to share?

The deadline for Issue 7 is 26 January 2018

**Please send you items (and photos) to
weyforward@weyvalleycircuit.org.uk**

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sue Howson

Diary Dates

Date	Time	Event	Venue
November 2017			
Sat 11 Nov	10.30am—2pm	Christmas Fayre	Stoughton
Sat 25 Nov	10am—2pm	Addlestone Christmas Charity Fair	Addlestone
Sat 25 Nov	3pm—5pm	Messy Church	Walton
Sat 25 Nov	10am—2pm	Knaphill Christmas Bazaar	Knaphill
Sun 26 Nov	10.30am	The Cellar Service, (Christian café)	Godalming
Thurs 30 Nov	12.15pm for 12.30pm	Advent Reflections followed by bread and soup lunch	St Mary's, Guildford
Thurs 30 Nov	7.30pm	An Evening of Inspiration— celebrating St Andrew's Day	St Mary's, Guildford
December 2017			
Sat 2 Dec	9.30am—12.30pm	"What is the true meaning of Christmas?" - mission stall	Byfleet village green
Sat 2/Sun 3 Dec	9.30am—6.00pm	Nativity Sets from around the World with coffee morning, lunches, teas	Byfleet
Sat 2 Dec	6pm	Anniversary Candlelit Supper (01483 416592 £15pp)	Godalming
Sat 2 Dec	6.30pm	Quiz Evening and Supper	Byfleet
Sun 3 Dec	2.30pm—4pm	Afternoon tea	Byfleet
Sun 3 Dec	10.30am	Hosanna Rock—short children's musical	Godalming
Mon 4 Dec	12pm to 1pm	A Time for Reflection	St Mary's, Guildford
Thurs 7 Dec	12.15pm for 12.30pm	Advent Reflections followed by bread and soup lunch	St Mary's, Guildford
Sat 9 Dec	Morning	Coffee Morning	Addlestone
Sat 9 Dec	9.30am—12.30pm	Practical Aspects of Spirituality	St Mary's, Guildford
Sat 9 Dec	7.00pm—9.00pm	Carol Praise	West Horsley
Sun 10 Dec	10.30am	Worship includes Junior Church nativity play and Gift Service for the York Road Project	Byfleet
Sun 10 Dec	4pm	Children's Party and Christingle	Cranleigh
Sun 10 Dec	10.30am	Service of the Christingle	Merrow
Wed 13 — Sun 17 Dec	Various	The Nativity	Wintershall
Thurs 14 Dec	12.15pm for 12.30pm	Advent Reflections followed by bread and soup lunch	St Mary's, Guildford
Thurs 14 Dec	10.30am	Coffee morning in aid of AFC	Merrow

Continued overleaf....

Diary Dates continued

Date	Time	Event	Venue
December 2017 continued			
Fri 15 Dec	7.30pm	Wey Voices Christmas Concert	Byfleet
Sat 16 Dec	2pm	Community Tea and Concert. Collection for AFC	Cranleigh
Sat 16 Dec	3pm—5pm	Messy Church—seasonal crafts and games	Godalming
Sat 16 Dec	7pm	Godalming Band Christmas Concert (01483 428701)	Godalming
Sat 16 Dec	4pm	Carols on the Green	Merrow
Sun 17 Dec	10.30am	Carol Service	Addlestone
Sun 17 Dec	3.30pm	Carols by Candlelight preceded by Church Christmas lunch	Byfleet
Sun 17 Dec	4.30pm	Carol Service for all the family	Merrow
Tues 19 Dec	3pm	Community Concert Proceeds to AFC.	Elmbridge Village Hall
Thurs 21 Dec	12.15pm for 12.30pm	Advent Reflections followed by bread and soup lunch	St Mary's Guildford
Sun 24 Dec	3pm—5pm	Messy Christmas	Walton
Sun 24 Dec	11.30pm	Communion at Midnight	Merrow
January 2018			
Sun 7 Jan	2.30pm—5pm	Family afternoon	Merrow
Mon 8 Jan	12pm—1pm	A Time for Reflection	St Mary's, Guildford
Thurs 11 Jan	10.30am	Traidcraft Coffee Morning with Traidcraft goods on sale	Merrow
Sat 13 Jan	10am—4pm	Managing Lay Employees—course for superintendents, circuit and church stewards responsible for managing lay employees	Trinity, Woking
Sat 13 Jan	9am—12.30pm	Coffee morning and Bring & Buy	Byfleet
Thurs 25 Jan	10.30am—12pm	Coffee and Cake	St Mary's, Guildford
Fri 26 Jan	5pm	Deadline for copy for Issue 7 of The Wey Forward	
February 2018			
Sat 3/Sun 4 Feb	TBC	Puss in Boots Pantomime (4 shows 01483 421268)	Godalming
Mon 5 Feb	12pm—1pm	A Time for Reflection	St Mary's, Guildford
Thurs 8 Feb	10.30am	Coffee morning in aid of Oakleaf, a local mental health charity	Merrow
Sat 10 Feb	9am—12.30pm	Coffee morning and Bring & Buy	Byfleet
Thurs 15 Feb	2pm	Film show and afternoon tea	Byfleet
Thurs 15 Feb - Thurs 29 March	12.15pm	Weekly series of Lent Reflections	St Mary's, Guildford
Sat 24 Feb	6pm for 6.30pm	Circuit Mission Supper	Trinity, Woking