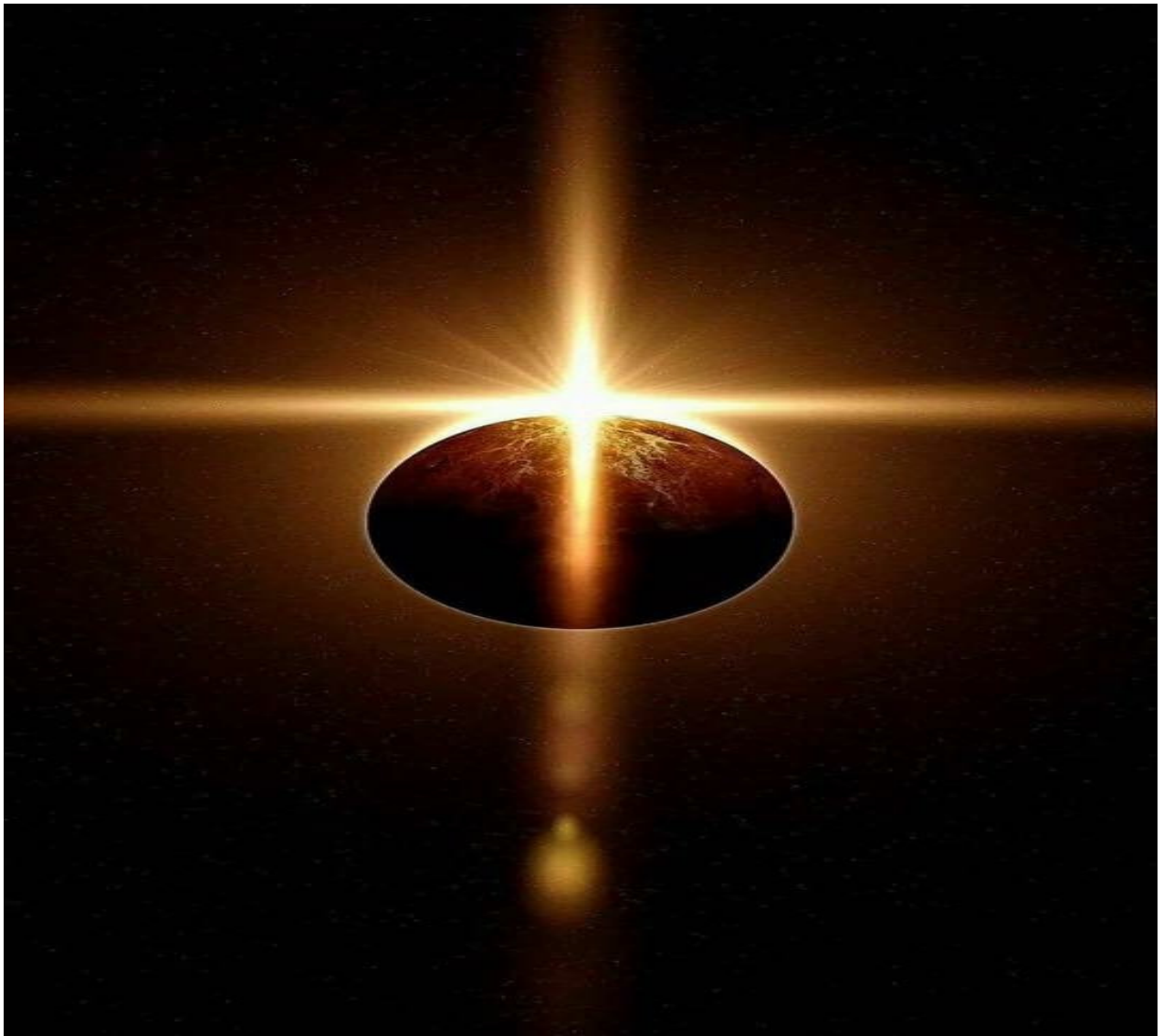


Weybridge Methodist Church

Newsletter September 2017



The solar eclipse – August 2017



Releasing gifts for the growing of God's Kingdom

**Come and celebrate together
Circuit Service to mark the start of our
second Connexional year as a
Methodist Circuit**



We will be exchanging the churches' gifts again so please
bring the gift your church received last year

All welcome

Sunday 3rd September 2017 6.30pm

Knaphill Methodist Church

Broadway, (between Lloyds Bank and Boots), Knaphill, GU21 2DR

For car parking, turn into nearby Englefield Road (alongside the
Co-op) and you will find a **free** public car park. There is an entrance to
the church premises from the car park, clearly marked.

Life and death

As I write, the tragic case recently hitting the news headlines, of baby Charlie Gard, has drawn to its deeply sad conclusion. Charlie was born with a genetic defect; he had a rare mitochondrial disease that causes the body's cells and organs to shut down, so that he had brain damage, was deaf, blind, and unable to breathe or move by himself. Earlier this week Charlie's parents, Connie and Chris, conceded to Charlie being allowed to die in a hospice, and now baby Charlie has died: the close of a long journey, even if a relatively short one chronologically. This journey has taken the parents from a battle with the courts, seeking to permit them to take their son to the US for experimental treatment; to an agreement to allow Charlie to die when Charlie's condition deteriorated and the treatment, which was always extremely limited in its possibilities, no longer offered a possibility of meaningful life; through the fight to allow him to return home to die, but because of the difficulty in providing the necessary ventilation requirements at home, coming to the agreement that Charlie would die in a hospice. Yet, even this was complicated, Charlie's parents wanted him to be kept alive in the hospice for a week or so, to spend some final peaceful time with him, but there were financial and practical constraints – the need of finding and possibly funding a team who would support him during that time. It wasn't possible and shortly after being moved to a hospice, Charlie died.

This case has given rise to emotionally charged, emotively expressed feeling and language, even as far as death threats being issued against staff at Great Ormond Street Hospital by some 'supporters' of Charlie. There have been numerous opinions expressed about the state 'playing God'; about court and medical control overriding the wishes of parents; about suffering and the inability to cure all illnesses; about the right to life and the right to be able to die in dignity, without the prolongation of pain; about parental needs and desires, and what is best for the child.

The issue has been rife with ethical dilemmas and the difficulty is, it is possible to empathise with the various positions. Of course the parents wanted their child to live, and be well, and flourish; of course the needs of the child are paramount: was he suffering? What sort of life would he have lived, even if the hoped for treatment had enabled him to do so? Of course doctors are committed to doing what is best for each child they treat; and

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how hard for the judge to make decisions which determine the future lives of all those intimately involved. Many became involved in the debate – Donald Trump, the Pope, journalists, contributors to Twitter and Facebook with opinions on all sides.

For the parents, Connie and Chris, their reality is that much has had to be relinquished, and the decisions they have had to make have been from a place of deep grieving and loss.

It is a characteristic of our generation that we find such relinquishing, such powerlessness difficult. We want it all. We want to be able to control, to make things happen; and the advances in science, medical treatments, and understanding about living a healthy lifestyle, offer so much more hope for that generally.

But the reality of human life is that we can't have everything the way we want it. We can't have life without death. Death is a reality of our existence. We have pushed the experience of death as far away as we can. The Christian gospel, however, is about death and resurrection. Jesus does not avoid death. Indeed, his death and resurrection is the central focus of our faith, the means through which salvation comes to us.

We need to be able to relinquish; yes of course to love and to care and to fight for the best, but also, when it is necessary, to relinquish, to embrace death, and to grieve, trusting to the resurrection life God offers. The work of relinquishing is, according to Richard Rohr in *Falling Upwards*, the work of the latter half of life. The first half of life being about accrual, gathering to oneself; the second half is about letting go, relinquishing, simplicity. There are no set ages when these stages take place. For Charlie's parents relinquishing their son has come very early in life. But the spirituality of relinquishing is something we all need to embrace.

Nothing can prepare us for the sort of relinquishment that faced Connie and Chris Gard. Yet, ultimately, we are all called to relinquish all to God. This spirituality of letting go of power, of the desire to control, of simplicity, lies at the heart of who we are and what we believe; 'I am no longer my own, but yours.'

Revd Julie Lunn . *Chaplain, Lecturer in Practical and Social Theology*

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September Birthday wishes to.....

- Hugh Smith
- Amelie Sansom
- Angela Miller
- Linda Weedon
- Brett Miller

Apologies to Tiffany, Martin & Samuel who's August Birthdays were omitted from the last newsletter. We hope that you had a great time.

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### **Prayers: Please pray for**

- Claire
- Mary & Stan
- Brenda & Keith
- Rev David Faulkner and family
- Mel Quennell

*Remember that Lili holds a time of prayer every Sunday before the morning service in the small hall from 9.45 am. – Note Change of time*

*Barnabas prayer group aims to meet every Tuesday between 7.30 – 9.30 pm at Stan's home. Please contact Jose or Stan for more details.*

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Thanks to

- Carol for all her help with the annual Lettings paperwork and for assisting with stewarding duties.
- Robert for all his work with the financial affairs of the church.
- Stan for his continued work with property matters.
- Carol & Claire who will represent our church at the Circuit Service on 3 September and return the 'gift' from Stoughton Methodist church which we were loaned last year and accept a 'new' gift from another of our sister churches for the coming year.
- All those who provide refreshments for us after service.
- Brett who continues to keep the website updated.
- Those who attended the Stationing workshop in July.

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## Harvest Festival, 17 September 2017.



Our harvest service will be led by Rev David Faulkner and will include Holy Communion.

Gifts of groceries will be donated to the Food Bank and fresh produce will go to

The service will be followed by a shared lunch to which all are welcome. Please let Carol or Linda know if you will be joining us so that we can ensure that there is enough for all.

## Diary Dates for September 2017

|                                                      |                                                   |                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun 3 September at 10.30                             | Morning Worship<br>Mrs Alison Sage                | <i>Steward: Carol</i><br><i>Music : Jose</i><br><i>Refreshments :Paula</i> |
| Sun 3 September at 6.30pm                            | Circuit Service                                   | Knaphill Methodist Church                                                  |
| Sat 9 September 10 - 12                              | Coffee Morning                                    | Addlestone Methodist Church                                                |
| Sun 10 September 10.30 am                            | Morning Worship<br>Patrick Coad                   | <i>Steward: Pru</i><br><i>Music : Jose</i><br><i>Refreshments :Lili</i>    |
| Tues 14 September 7.45pm                             | Circuit Meeting                                   | <i>Merrow Methodist Church</i>                                             |
| Thurs 14 September 1.30 - 4                          | Weybridge Old Folks Club                          | <i>Our turn to run the kitchen</i>                                         |
| Sat 16 September from 10.00                          | Decorating Church for Harvest Festival            |                                                                            |
| Sun 17 September 10.30 am<br><b>HARVEST FESTIVAL</b> | Harvest Worship & Communion<br>Rev David Faulkner | <i>Steward: Pru</i><br><i>Music : Adrian</i><br><i>Communion: Paula</i>    |
| Sun 17 September                                     | Harvest Lunch                                     |                                                                            |
| Sat 23 September                                     | Bedding & Clothes Bank                            | <i>Note change of week.</i>                                                |
| Sun 24 September 10.30 am                            | Morning Worship<br>Rev Denis Vernon               | <i>Steward: Linda</i><br><i>Music : TBC</i><br><i>Refreshments :TBC</i>    |
| Fri 29 September                                     | MacMillan Coffee Morning                          | Walton Methodist Church                                                    |
| Mon 02 October at 8.00pm                             | CHURCH COUNCIL                                    | Church vestry                                                              |



## CONGRATULATIONS.....



To Granny & Granddad (Carol & David) Smith on the safe arrival of their first grandchild.

Teddy William Smith arrived safely on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017 weighing in at 8lbs.

Love and prayers go to parents David & Hollie Smith, not forgetting Aunty Claire and Uncle Hugh.

*Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven – Matt 19 v14*

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**All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord,  
O thank the Lord,  
For all his love.**

*Matthias Claudius 1782*





REV PAUL HULME WARMLY INVITES  
YOU TO  
A GARDEN PARTY AND COFFEE  
MORNING  
AT THE MANSE,  
EPWORTH, CHARTERHOUSE ROAD  
GODALMING GU7 2AL  
ON  
THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER  
10.30.A.M. = 12.30.P.M.  
IN SUPPORT OF THE WHITECHAPEL  
MISSION



## **PRISON MISSION**

### **Have you heard of Prison Fellowship England & Wales?**

Prison Fellowship is a Christian Charity working through its more than 2,000 volunteers by supporting prisoners and their families across England and Wales in a several number of ways.

### **Do you know how Prison Fellowship started?**

Prison Fellowship was founded in the United States in 1976 by Charles W. Colson, following his release from prison after serving a sentence for a “Watergate” related crime. Prior to this imprisonment, Mr Colson had served as chief counsel for President Richard Nixon. His time in prison showed him the importance of a Christian witness in prison and on the basis of his experiences he founded Prison Fellowship in the USA.

It became a worldwide organisation - Prison Fellowship International, which is now the world’s largest and most extensive association of national Christian ministries working within the criminal justice field.

### **How did Prison Fellowship England and Wales start?**

At about the same time, in England Silvia Mary Alison believed God was calling her to develop Christian ministry in our prisons, but was not clear about the way forward. Once she heard about the founding of Prison Fellowship in USA, she believed this was the answer to her prayers, and so in 1979 Prison Fellowship England and Wales was founded.

### **What is its main core value?**

Prayer. Nothing of lasting value can be done unless it is bathed in prayer.

### **Be encouraged to think and pray towards making an everlasting impact on the lives of those who do not have hope**

Prison Fellowship England & Wales needs you! There are several ways you can make an everlasting impact on the lives of those who do not have hope.

1. Join one of our 115 prayer groups or start a prayer group
2. Stand for the community in one of our Sycamore Tree courses – victim awareness programmes- run in prisons
3. Get training in Letter Writing
4. Support prison chaplaincies; this may include helping with Sunday services, midweek Bible studies and administrative support

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[Weybridgemethodistoffice@gmail.com](mailto:Weybridgemethodistoffice@gmail.com)

5. Be part of Angel Tree by supporting prisoners' family relationships with the provision of a way for them to give Christmas presents to their children.

If you would like to have more information about this ministry and opportunities to serve, contact Lili on [lmassacane@ntlworld.com](mailto:lmassacane@ntlworld.com)

Prison Fellowship Registered Charity No. 1102254



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**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**



**Join us on Friday
29 September
from 10 – 12**

For

Tea/Coffee, Cake Stall and Bring & Buy Stall

At

**Walton Methodist Church, Terrace Rd, Walton,
KT12 2SR**



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 **The Methodist Church in Weybridge**

Café Church

The Calling of Matthew



Led by Rev Dr Claire Potter

Sunday 12th November 2017, 6.15 for 6.30pm

**Join us for coffee, tea and cake and a time of fellowship with
God and with each other**

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