

# Weybridge Methodist Church

## Newsletter October 2017



**✚ The Methodist Church in Weybridge**

## Café Church

### The Calling of Matthew



**Led by Rev Dr Claire Potter**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> 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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## Icons – pointing to what?

By Rev Gareth Powell.



The death of a 36-year-old mother of two in a road traffic accident and the temporary silencing of the chimes of a clock, both having attached to them the language of iconic. One, twenty years after the event, continues to see the person described as an icon, with photographic images venerated. The second, an inanimate object but one that marks time, marks occasions and is considered a landmark. At various points in the life of the late

Diana, Princess of Wales commentators use the language of icon more because of perception than because of human dignity and the language is simply applied to Big Ben as the most photographed building in London.

Contemporary icons seem to have about them little by way of a common thread. They are defined by a plethora of commentators, and are a long way from icons in the Christian tradition and those that caused such controversy at the second Council of Nicaea. In the great sweep of the Christian Church icons are very much more than items of religious art, rather icons express central doctrines of the faith. They are more than visual aids, they are created (written) with great devotion and are only understood fully within the context of worship. Icons give a visual expression to the surrounding cloud of witnesses, and of course to Christ. They present the believer with a visual embrace in the economy of God. Moreover, they offer windows on the divine.

So, our use of the word now offers us a challenge. What are modern day icons a window onto? In a Christian tradition that has not paid very great attention to the visual, what sort of icons do we need so that we may see God; see the holiness of the created order and all in such a way as to transform?

When compared with the great icons of the Eastern Church Big Ben seems a small, modern image. Innocent enough. On the other hand, a 36 year

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old mother of two killed in a road accident has about it much more than worship at a shrine of flowers. There was a human soul at the heart of that accident and two grieving sons, still.

The language and definition of icons has developed and it is unlikely that the more overtly 'religious' use of the term will in any way be narrowly defined again. It may be then that we need to rediscover (reclaim?) the language, and our task is to work harder at offering a critique of icons that can all too easily point to a shallow understanding of human worth and dignity. There is nothing wrong with iconic buildings, but when the icon prevents an encounter with what holds human life and death, we have to reassess our priorities. The Eastern Icons were about encounter.

In some traditions icons are treated with great respect and care, reverence even. From time to time our cultural icons are similarly treated. The reasons for this may be ambiguous and from time to time a challenge of such an icon is necessary in order to break the myth and let what really matters take center stage. If we want an icon to point us to something different we have to work at understanding the breadth of the world. The icons of the present moment may in fact be nothing more than memorable events, noteworthy points in discourse, significant markers in a given discipline, or popular people. The language of icons however has a deeper definition. John of Damascus reminds us that the icon is a song of triumph, and a revelation, and an enduring monument to the victory of the saints and the disgrace of the demons.

The same could be the case for our definition and contribution to public discourse. The purpose of the image in iconography is to give a sense of direction. 'In being offered a sense of direction we are, in turn, brought into a new place and a new perception.' When applying the language of icon there is a theological task to offer some views on how we interpret the world and see that which is ultimately of value as part of God's creation.



As we begin the 2017/2018 Connexional year, may we remind ourselves what our founder, John Wesley, urged to his followers.

*Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can*



*Barnabas prayer group aims to meet every Tuesday between 7.30 – 8.30 pm at the home of Stan and Mary*

*Lili holds a time of prayer every Sunday from 9.45 – 10.15 am before Service. Do join her in praying for whatever is lying heavy on your heart.*

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How many of you use the social media tool 'WhatsApp' ? With all the calls on our time we struggle to make a prayer meeting but we could have a virtual prayer group. Interested? See Linda

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## Harvest Festival, 17 September 2017.

Our harvest service was led by Rev David Faulkner and included Holy Communion. We have the opportunity to give to others whilst receiving the ultimate gift from God. Thanks to your generosity we had a splendid display of fresh produce which was displayed around the whole church and also many groceries.

The service was followed by a shared lunch which allowed for wonderful time of fellowship.

Thanks to Carol for taking the fresh produce to the Weybridge Centre and to Tiffany for delivering the groceries to the Food Bank for us. Both organisations were extremely grateful for the gifts.

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A word of thanks to Linda and Carol for the Harvest lunch. It was a special time of friendship and fellowship. It was lovely that our minister, the Rev David Faulkner and his wife Debbie were able to join and share with us.

Thank you to all the other helpers on the day.

God bless you all

Anna

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**Further thanks:**

The circuit team wish to extend a big thank you to everyone who generously gave up their time on Saturday 23 September to help at the District Synod held at Trinity Methodist church. The number of volunteers allowed tasks to be shared out and completed swiftly and efficiently resulting in a successful day and allowing all district delegates to enjoy a fruitful time together.

Once again, thanks to all who were involved.

God bless

The Circuit Leadership team

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Trinity Methodist Church, Woking send their thanks and appreciation to Weybridge for the loan of your china mugs on Saturday 23 2017 September when we at Woking played hosts to District Synod. It made life for the kitchen team much easier to have a plentiful supply of mugs to provide refreshments for the 186 delegated

God bless you all

Trinity Leadership Team

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Thank you to Mrs Ruth Evans who came to us from Walton on 24 September to play the piano for our worship. We are grateful for her service to us. We presented Ruth with some flowers as a small token of thanks.

## Diary Dates for October 2017

Sun 01 Oct at 10.30	Morning Worship Mr John Mitchell	<i>Steward: Linda Music : Jose Refreshments :TBC</i>
Mon 2 Oct at 8.00pm	Church Council	Vestry
Sun 08 Oct 10.30 am	Morning Worship Rev Peter Hills	<i>Steward: Pru Music : Adrian Refreshments :Paula</i>
Sat 14 Oct 10 - 12	Coffee Morning	<i>Addlestone Methodist Church</i>
Sun 15 Oct 10.30 am	Morning Worship Rev Andrew Smith	<i>Steward: Linda Music : Jose Refreshments: TBC</i>
Thu 19 Oct 2 – 4 pm	Weybridge Old Folks Club	<i>Our Turn for tea.</i>
Sat 21 Oct 11.30 – 1.30	Bedding & Clothes Bank	
Sun 22 Oct 10.30 am	<b>Church Anniversary</b> & Communion Rev David Faulkner	<i>Steward: Carol Music : Adrian Communion: Linda Refreshments :TBC</i>
Sun 29 Oct 10.30 am	Morning Worship Rev Allan Taylor	<i>Steward: Linda Music : Jose Refreshments: TBC</i>



As you will see from the above table, the refreshment rota is rather empty. Please offer yourself for a week on the rota so that we can continue this important time of social interaction.



## **FREE Adult Ballet Taster class!**

**Ballet was originally intended as a discipline to inform French courtiers (of all shapes & sizes) on how to “carry themselves”.**

### Why you should try Beginners Adult Ballet

1. It is a discipline of mind and body that will give you the benefit of exercise.
2. Simple rules for a straight forward use of muscles that will enhance posture
3. The relationship of Ballet and music makes for a perfect support of your movement

### Who is Beginners Adult Ballet for?

For anyone who wishes to enhance the strength of the Body that they live in.  
For anyone who wishes to learn how to move their own body in a confident way  
**For anyone regardless of age or lack of previous dance experience.**

### What should you wear?

Comfortable exercise clothing with bare feet or ballet shoes i.e. leggings and T shirt

### Who will teach you?

Sally Sumner AIDTA BT,

- Trained professionally at the renowned Bush Davies school for theatre Arts
- Professional stage career in Europe, Middle East and Bahamas
- Teacher status by mutual consent with the RAD to teach it's syllabus and deliver RAD exams
- Sally is highly experienced teacher of both adults and children. As a teacher of a certain age she is personally aware of the physical limits that time imposes on us all. She is however determined that there is still much to be gained from keeping dance in all our lives.
- **Free Trial Class at the Weybridge Methodist Hall, 17 October 2017  
Time 1pm to 2 pm, Tel. 07881 384833. Email. [sesumner@hotmail.com](mailto:sesumner@hotmail.com)**

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Guildford  
GU1 4AZ  
18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## **A LETTER TO ALL CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAMS OR CHURCH STEWARDS' TEAMS IN THE WEY VALLEY CIRCUIT**

This letter is the result of a decision made by the Wey Valley Methodist Circuit Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

I am writing to encourage you strongly to carry out a process of discernment about the future of your church between the date of your Autumn Church Council meeting this year and the beginning of February 2018. This is so that a report can be given from every church to the Circuit Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018. The intention is to help each local church to discern where it is, where it is going, to celebrate the gifts it has and to build on them. This will help each church to plan for the future in an appropriate way for its own unique situation.

### **The background**

Since the Wey Valley Circuit was formed in September 2016, there have been a number of discussions about formulating a sustainable strategic plan for the Circuit and its constituent churches. In June 2017 the Circuit Meeting approved a staffing plan for 2021-22. The consultations involved in the formation of this plan indicated that some parallel work was needed to consider all of our resources and our focus as a Circuit. Similar issues have been raised by the Circuit Grants Committee and in local churches. These issues are in tune with the recognition by the Methodist Conference this year that churches are living through challenging times. The Circuit set up taster sessions for the 'Appreciating Church' model in June 2017, which helps churches to consider and focus on their strengths and gifts.

### **The process**

It is recognized that many of the churches in the Circuit are already in the process of carrying out reviews. Churches may choose to continue with these or to adopt the "Appreciating Church" model, tailored to their own situation. But whatever model local churches adopt, the reviews need to be purposeful, relying on an open,

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honest and sensitive appreciation of each church's situation. They also need to recognise the immense commitment of many members to sustaining mission and outreach in their local areas.

### **Resources available**

For some churches, this will feel very comfortable because they are already doing some form of this work. For others it will seem like an enormous task. However no church is being left to do this alone. Circuit officers and facilitators can assist churches in planning Appreciating Church reviews.

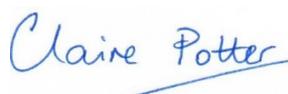
### **Next steps**

1. Discuss this at your Autumn Church Council meeting. If there is not enough time, please try to schedule another meeting of your whole congregation or of the Church Council as soon as possible where this can be fully discussed. Circuit stewards will have an outline of 'Appreciating Church' when they attend your Church Council.
2. Identify any review processes you are already engaged in and consider if they are answering the questions you need to address as a church.
3. If you would like to explore the 'Appreciating Church' model please contact Margaret Ireland on 01483 890209. You will be helped to work out an outline process for your church.
4. Develop a timetable and a plan for your review and make sure as many people in your church as possible understand it and are part of it.
5. The Circuit encourages every church to provide the following information by **1st February 2018**, and send it to Jenny Jackson, Secretary of the Circuit Meeting:
  - a. An outline of the review process that church is planning.
  - b. What has been achieved so far.

I hope you regard this as a positive process. You are not being asked to complete a review of your church by February 2018, just to indicate how you intend to carry it out.

Wishing you all well as you embark on this process.

Yours faithfully,



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presents

## Season's Greetings



A seasonal comedy  
by  
Alan Ayckbourn

*After this,  
your Christmas  
will seem  
quite normal*



Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>

November, 7:45pm

with a Saturday matinee 3:00pm

Stanwell Village Hall  
High Street  
Stanwell  
TW19 7JR

Tickets £10.00, Concessions £9.00  
Become a Member and get 50p off  
Call 01784 511015 or book online

Book by 8<sup>th</sup> October to get your £1 earlybird discount!