

Weybridge Methodist Church

Newsletter November 2017



**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.**

Remembrance Day



We come together today as citizens of earth and of heaven to remember:
To remember with pride and appreciation those who have given their lives
in service of others

To remember with dismay the suffering, destruction and pain caused by
human conflict

To remember with gratitude those whose lives, love and friendship, ours
has been the privilege to share

To remember with sadness those whose death has caused us loneliness
and pain

We come together not to glorify or celebrate war and conflict but to
recognise its cost and commit

Whatever our view and whatever part we may have had to play in the
theatre of war and conflict, we express our common humanity by pausing
to recognise the value and worth of every life lost, and so express the
mystery that to be human is to be both marred by our common failings yet
fashioned in the image of our Creator.

And in our remembrance we give God thanks for memory itself through
which we are forever warned by the mistakes of the past and enriched by
experiences that can no longer be known in the present.

✚ The Methodist Church in Weybridge

Café Church

The Calling of Matthew



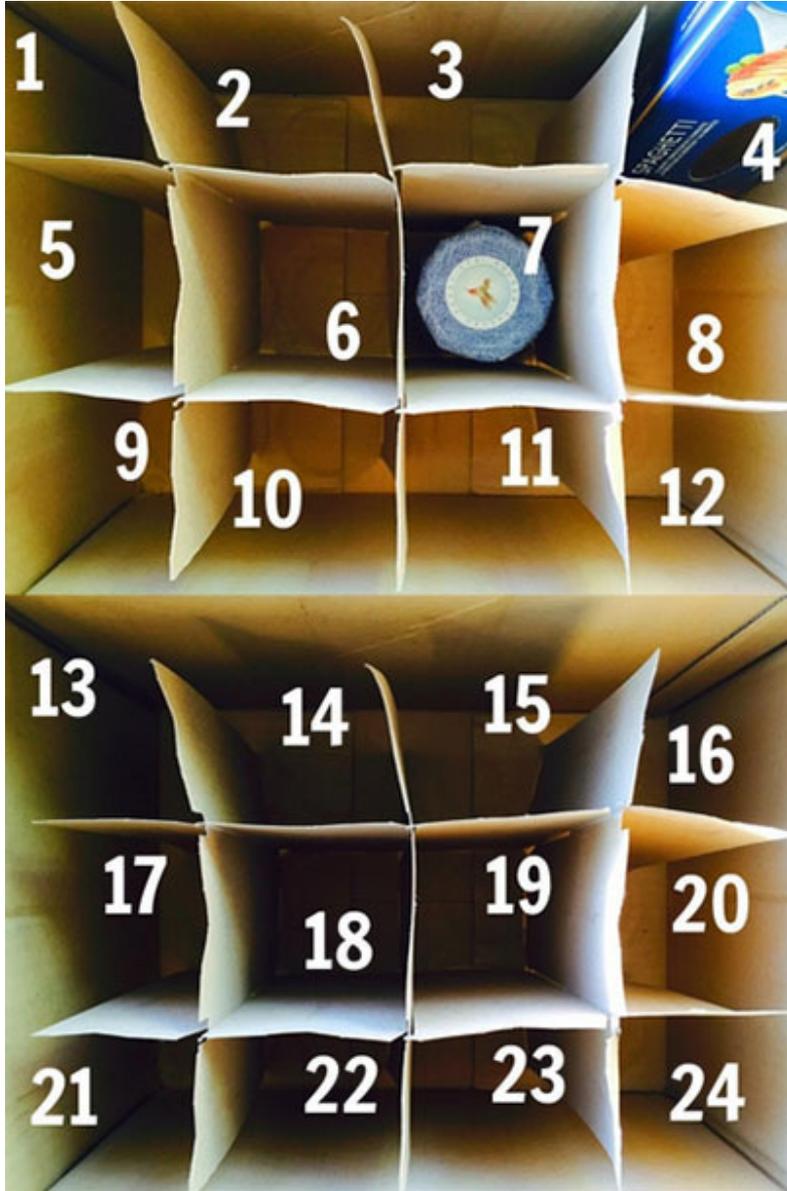
Led by Rev Dr Claire Potter

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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REVERSE ADVENT



At our extra Church Council meeting there was a discussion about supporting the 'Reverse Advent Initiative'. It was unanimously agreed that we would do so.

Everyone loves **advent calendars** to count them down to Christmas Day. Most children adore receiving one at the beginning of December because it gets them excited for Santa coming and every surprise that they open on the way is a promise of what's to come.

But if you want to try something a little different with this year, you can create an advent calendar that you can put something into every day instead of taking something out.

What is a reverse advent calendar?

Reverse advent calendars work by you filling them every day with items of food that can then be taken to the food bank in order to help those less fortunate who are struggling at Christmas time.

Not only is this a fun thing for the whole family to do together, from creating the advent calendar structure itself to picking the goodies to go in it, it more

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importantly reminds us of the importance of helping others and seeing the bigger picture at Christmas.

There is no requirement to make the box shown above, merely place an item of food in the box or bag each day. We will bring our boxes/bags to the Carol Service on 17 December – either with 17 gifts or the full 24 if you wish.

We will try and arrange to get the gift boxes to the food bank on Wednesday 20th December.



Angel Tree gives prisoners the opportunity to send a Christmas present to their children.

Christmas is especially difficult for prisoners and their children. *Angel Tree* lessens the devastation experienced as a result of parental absence by not only helping families connect and build relationships, but by providing children with much-needed joy.

Local Prison Fellowship volunteers work with churches and prison chaplains to buy, wrap and deliver the presents. As long as prisoners are allowed access to their children, they are given the opportunity to apply for a gift to be sent to them.

Each gift is dispatched as though from the parent in prison and is accompanied by a personal message written by the parent for their child to make the gift extra special. The parent is also given the option of including an age-appropriate Christian story book in their child's gift.

Each Angel Tree gift is £15 including Postage and packing.

The money raised by our Silver Tree collection on 10 December will be donated to this initiative. Please give generously

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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 12th 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 15th 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, 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.

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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,

Clare Potter

Appreciative Enquiry

At the church council meeting in October we referred to the letter to all churches from Rev Dr Claire Potter – re printed above - and agreed that we would undertake a review of our church using the suggested approach of 'Appreciating Church'. As requested we approached the circuit team who are championing this process and a representative will come and work with us after service on Sunday 26 November. It is suggested that we have a buffet lunch whilst we work things through. This should position us well to enable our Circuit meeting representatives to provide the requested report for the Spring Circuit meeting.

Appreciating Church is based on Appreciative Enquiry.

What is Appreciative Inquiry?

“At its heart, Appreciative Inquiry is about the search for the best in people, their organizations, and the strengths-filled, opportunity-rich world around them. Appreciative Inquiry is not so much a shift in the methods and models of change, but is a fundamental shift in the overall perspective taken throughout the entire change process to 'see' the wholeness of the human system and to “inquire” into that system’s strengths, possibilities, and successes. ”

There is a book about this approach which was given to attendees of the Appreciating Church course run during June 2017. Linda has a copy which is available for loan ahead of this session.

Membership of the Methodist church across the whole Connexion is in decline as is membership across our circuit. We all have a responsibility to look at ourselves and see why, when we have the greatest message to give to everyone, we seem unable to do so.

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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There are now seven members of the 'WhatsApp' prayer group. If you wish to join the group it's easy. Ask Linda

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As you will be aware the circuit is in stationing this year. If we are lucky enough to be selected to receive a presbyter to visit, the Circuit leadership team and the Circuit Invitations team plus the leadership teams from Guildford St Mary's and Cranleigh will be meeting him or her over the weekend of either 11/12 or 18/19 November. Please pray for all those involved with this stressful process both in our Circuit, District and across Connexion.

Please pray for our minister and his family who are all suffering from a virus which they seem unable to shake off.

Please pray for Mary Barnes and Fiona McDonald who have both experienced ill health recently.

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Diary Dates for November 2017

Sun 05 Nov 10.30 am	Morning Worship Mr Mike Widdup	<i>Steward: Pru Music : i-pad Refreshments :Paula</i>
Sat 11 Nov 10 - 12	Coffee Morning	<i>Addlestone Methodist Church</i>
Sun 12 Nov 10.30 am	Remembrance Sunday Communion Rev David Faulkner	<i>Steward: Carol Music : Adrian Communion: Paula Refreshments :Lili</i>
Sun 12 Nov 3.00pm	Civic Service of Remembrance	St James Parish Church
Sun 12 Nov 6.30 pm	Café Church Rev Dr Claire Potter	
Tues 14 Nov 2.30pm	All our Yesterdays – favourite hymns & readings	St James Church
Sat 18 Nov 11.30 – 1.30	Bedding & Clothes Bank	
Sun 19 Nov 10.30 am	Morning Worship Rev Andrew Smith	<i>Steward: Linda Music : Jose Refreshments: TBC</i>
Thu 23 Nov 2 – 4 pm	Weybridge Old Folks Club	<i>Our Turn for tea.</i>
Sun 26 Nov 10.30 am	Morning Worship Mr John Oborn	<i>Steward: Jose Music : Adrian Refreshments : Linda</i>
Sunday 26 Nov 12.00	Appreciating Church	Sandwich lunch



Church Premises

Our premises are now in constant use with hardly a spare hour. This makes it rather difficult to get contractors in but over the past few weeks we have managed to ensure that the recommendations of the five year electrical inspection have been completed; the boiler has been serviced. All the strip lights have been replaced by LED fittings. The external security lights are still causing concern but investigations have established that new fittings are required. These should be fitted shortly.

The thermostats in the ancillary premises have been replaced such that the Users will now be unable to adjust them. This should reduce the complaints for users about the heating being off.

Thanks are due to David Smith who has effected repairs on the bolt of the garden gate on the north side of the building, fixed the loose door fitting on the glazed link door, fixed the loose diamond pane in the window above the organ, replaced the leaky valve on the hot water heater in the kitchen and replaced a plug on the one portable device which failed the PAT testing.

David also has work in hand to inspect the 'mock steeple' above the church.

We hope to progress the work on the drains during the Christmas break and, if volunteers are found, replace all the fittings on the Mayfield Hall curtains such that they can be closed correctly.

Early next year we will need to address other work identified by the last quinquennial inspection.



ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Come and join us for half an hour of favourite hymns and readings.

Especially suited for people with dementia and their carers.

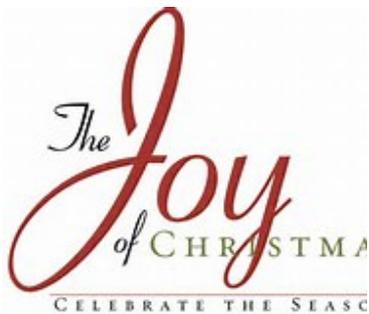
Refreshments and social time.

**TUESDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
AT 2.30PM**

**ST.JAMES' CHURCH IN
WEYBRIDGE**



CHRISTMAS IS COMING



Dates for December

- 3 December Advent Sunday**
- 10 December Gift Service for The Angel Tree initiative**
- 17 December Carol Service, Communion, Gifts for Reverse Advent
Christmas lunch**
- 24 December Morning Worship
Midnight Communion at the
United Reformed Church,
11.15pm**
- 25 December Christmas Morning Worship**
- 31 December Morning Worship**



reImagine forum

a day for those interested in
revitalising + starting churches



Exploring
different ways
of being church
for the 21st
century?

Need some
practical
support to move
from ideas into
action?

Passionate
about
innovation,
inclusion and
risk-taking?

Nothing in organised religion works the way it used to. Real change requires more than doing conventional things better. We're 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.



Hosted by the SOUTHERN & ISLANDS REGION
REIGATE METHODIST CHURCH
HIGH STREET REIGATE SURREY RH2 9AE

SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2018

10:00 for 10:30am - 4:00pm

FREE EVENT + LUNCH PROVIDED, BUT BOOKING IS REQUIRED:

Contact deadmank@methodistchurch.org.uk or 07799 902571



Discipleship & Ministries Learning Network

The **Methodist Church**

www.veybridgemethodistchurch.org.uk
Weybridgemethodistoffice@gmail.com

BYFLEET METHODIST CHURCH

Bringing Christ to the Community



ADVENT WEEKEND

Saturday 2 December
Sunday 3 December

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

SATURDAY

9.00 – 12.30

Christmas Coffee Morning

12.30 - 4.30

Lunches and Teas

6.30

Quiz and Hot Supper

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

SUNDAY

10.30

Morning Worship

2.30 – 4.00

Afternoon Tea

4.30

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

www.veybridgmethodistchurch.org.uk

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Knaphill Methodist Church's



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SATURDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

10AM TO 2PM

MANY STALLS

REFRESHMENTS

RAFFLE

**FREE
ADMISSION**



MERROW METHODIST CHURCH

?

Saturday 18th November

at 7.00pm

Fish and Chip supper, plus dessert

£12

Tickets from Suzanne Burnham

01483-561865 or

suzanne.burnham@virginmedia.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



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



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