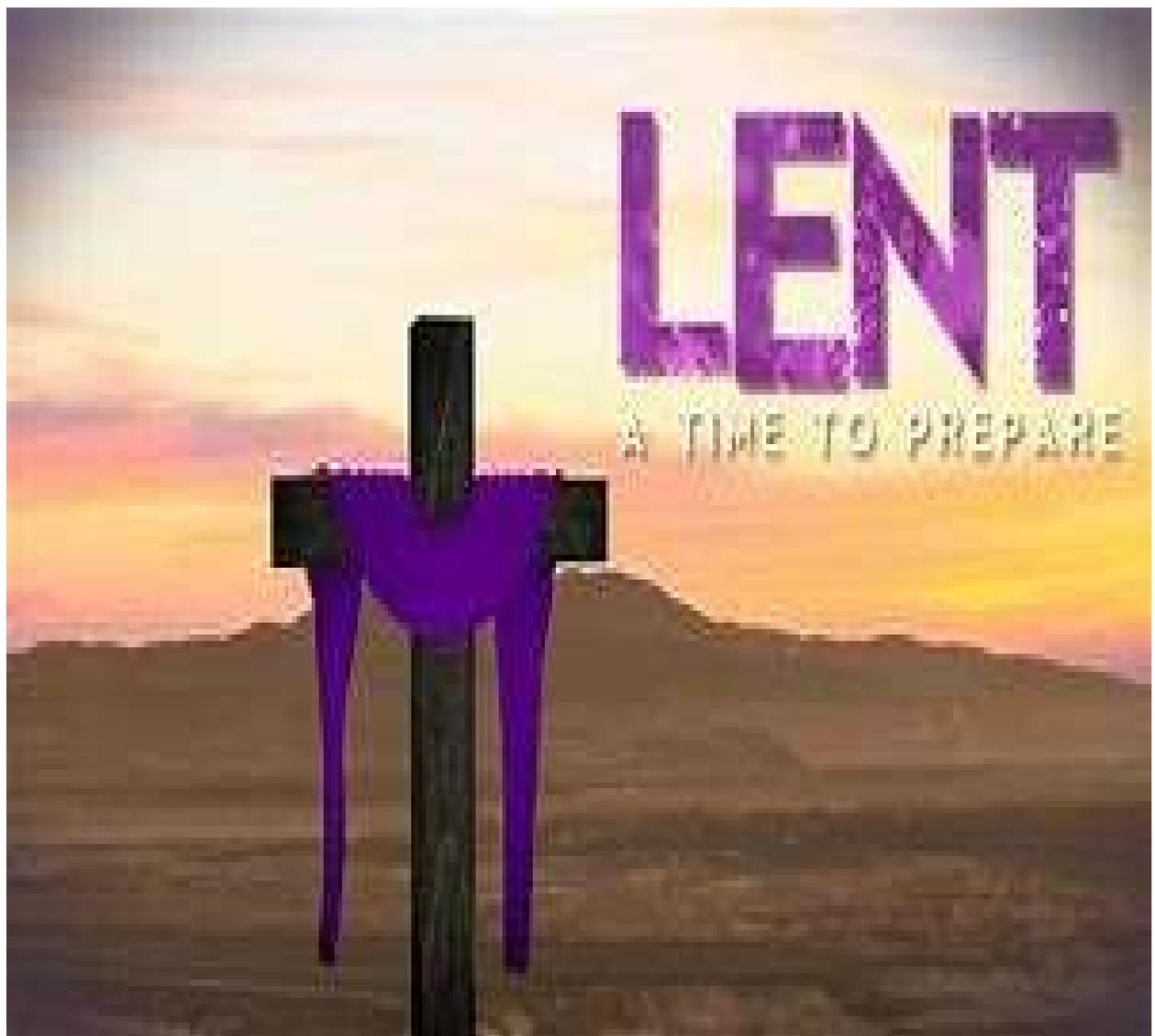


# Weybridge Methodist Church

## Newsletter March 2018





# Should Lent be interesting?

by Rev Dr Stephen Wigley.

‘Do you know of any churches doing anything interesting for Lent?’ It’s not an everyday question, but it’s one I was asked recently by a colleague who works in local radio. I think I know what she meant and was looking for; something different to the usual round of events to be found in church notices at this time of year, something which might contribute to an interesting radio programme.

My first thought was to rack my brain for churches which might indeed be doing something a little different, something beyond the usual round of lent lunches, midweek services and ecumenical bible studies. And I confess that my initial investigation couldn’t come up with anything much beyond the normal pattern of events, however valuable and well-intentioned.

Nevertheless, the question set me thinking. What do I make of Lent and who is it for? Is it just for Christians inside the church or should it be something of interest, able to speak to the wider world? Is it primarily a time for refocusing on our spiritual discipline, either giving things up or taking new commitments on ‘for Lent’? Or does this give the wrong idea about Christian faith and church, that it’s all about saying ‘no’ to things rather than saying ‘yes’ to life?

These questions stayed with me as I set off to take my normal round of Sunday services. But as I drove in my car, I was struck by the number of other people out in the wind and rain on a fairly miserable Sunday morning in March. There were runners in fluorescent vests, cycling groups in lycra struggling up and whizzing down hills, and even some early morning rowers out on the river Taff, all puffing and panting away.

None of them were in Church; but all were undertaking some significant physical exercise, doing something which required a regular commitment week-in week-out, and which for many of them involved doing it in company, alongside others. This outdoor exercise seemed to be something they considered it valuable enough for their well-being to

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be out doing in all sorts of weathers. That kind of discipline, that level of commitment didn't put them off – rather it was part of the appeal, part of what made the exercise, whether running, riding or rowing, so valuable and worthwhile.

It made me think about our understanding, indeed my own discipline and practice of Lent, beyond that commitment over the years to simple lunches and times of prayer and study; that it may not be a time which appears particularly interesting or entertaining to others, but is one which reminds us of the need to commit and be serious about our faith; and that the God who comes to share with us in Jesus Christ is a God who makes some pretty demanding calls upon us – and asks us to 'shape up'.

It suggested to me that this may be something which folk in the wider world already know, indeed are willing to recognise and understand; namely that the things which matter most are the things which are worth committing to – and that if we were a little more serious about our commitment to the faith we profess, then others might be a little more willing to take it seriously. And maybe that's the message of Lent; that it's a time for being serious rather than interesting – but who knows – taking things seriously may just make us and our faith a matter of more than local interest.

## SIX FOR LENT

A reminder that following our successful 'Reverse Advent' at Christmas we are now supporting 'Six for Lent' whereby we are asked to donate something to the Food Bank every week for all six weeks of Lent.



We will bring our gifts for dedication on Easter Sunday.

We received a certificate of thanks for the Food Bank for our Christmas collection and a letter of thanks for the cash donation

## Thank You

- To those who represented our church at the Women's World Day of Prayer
- To those who have promised to help serve and clear up refreshments for Circuit Meeting on 15 March
- To David Smith for completing more 'little' jobs'
- To the volunteers at the Old Folks Club, Bedding & Clothes Bank
- To those who support the Barnabas Group and weekly prayer session



Please pray for:

- Anna who has been unwell
- Brenda & Keith
- Nancy
- Linda
- Our Church and all who use it.
- Brett who has been hit by 'flu.

### Prayer Time:

The Barnabas Group meets every Tuesday evening from 7.30 – 9.30 pm at the home of Stan and Mary. Pop in for some, or all, of this time to pray together.

Lili meets for prayer at 9.45am on a Sunday morning before the service. Join her for this time of prayer.

The 'mobile' prayer group is open to all. Please add prayer needs as they occur to you. If you wish to be added to this group, contact one of the stewards

Happy Birthday wishes to.....

February: Brenda, Nancy, Lili (sorry that you were not included in last month's newsletter plus the Richardson twins in sunny Australia

March: Rev David Faulkner plus Kelaai and Louella in sunny Australia

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## Dates for the diary

Friday 2 March 2018	1.30 pm Women's World Day of Prayer	Weybridge United Reformed Church
Saturday 3 March 2018	6.30 pm Beetle Drive	Byfleet Methodist Church
Sunday 4 March 2018	10.30 am Morning worship	Mr John Oborn <i>Steward – Jose</i> <i>Music – i-Pad</i> <i>Refreshments - Paula</i>
Thu/Fri 8 & 9 March at 7.45	Clara's on the Curtains	Production by Walton Methodist Players
Saturday 10 March 2018	10.00 am Coffee Morning	Run by us at Addlestone
Sat 10 March at 7.15	Clara's on the Curtains	Production by Walton Methodist Players
Sunday 11 March 2018	10.30 Morning Worship	Rev Paul Chesworth <i>Steward- Pru</i> <i>Music – Jose</i> <i>Refreshments - Lili</i>
Wednesday 14 March 2018	12.30 Munch with Mozart	Weybridge United Reformed Church
Thursday 15 March 2018	1.45 pm Old Folks club	Weybridge Hall
Thurs 15 March 7.45	Circuit meeting	Church Premises
Sunday 18 March 2018	10.30 Morning Worship	Rev David Faulkner <i>Steward – Linda</i> <i>Music – Adrian</i> <i>Communion - Paula</i> <i>Refreshments - TBC</i>
Sunday 18 March 2018	6.30 Café Church 'Where God Leads'	Led by our good friend Mr Dave Ingoldby.
Saturday 24 March 2018	11.30 – 1.30 Bedding & Clothes Bank ( <i>note change of week</i> )	Church Hall

Sunday 25 March 2018	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 10.30 am Morning worship	Mr David Paterson <i>Steward – Carol Music – Jose Refreshments - TBC</i>
Thursday 29 March 2018	<b>Maundy Thursday</b> Worship & Communion 7.30pm	Weybridge United Reformed Church
Friday 30 March 2018	<b>Good Friday</b> 09.45am for a 10.00am start at St James Parish Church	Churches Together in Weybridge 'WALK OF WITNESS'
Friday 30 March 2018	<b>The Passion of Christ</b>	Wintershalls Estate, Cranleigh. Performances at 12.00 and 3.15 pm

### Advance Dates

Sunday 1 April 2018	<b>Easter Day</b> 10.30 am Morning Worship	Mr Graham Pearcey
Sunday 8 April 2018	6.30pm Café Church, Addlestone	Mrs Elizabeth Gurd
Sunday 22 April	6.30pm Pudding & Praise, Walton	Rev Claire Hargreaves

**Old folk club dates for 2018: 19/4, 17/5, 21/6, 12/7, 20/9, 18/10, 22/11**



The eagle-eyed amongst you will have spotted the scaffolding in the church. We expect it to be in situ for two weeks whilst the church is being decorated. We thank you for your patience while this very necessary work is underway and will endeavour to keep the dust to a minimum.



A reminder that the coffee collection tin is waiting to collect donations at the after service refreshments. All refreshments are donated – for which we extend grateful thanks – so the tin is there to accept your small change. At present proceeds will go towards the church re-decoration costs.

*n.b if you would like to take a turn on the refreshment rota please contact one of the stewards*



WMP Presents...

# CURTAINS UP!

**A PROGRAMME OF MUSIC AND DRAMA**

Thursday 8th March @7:45pm  
Friday 9th March @7:45pm  
Saturday 10th March @7:15pm

**Tickets: £12**  
*(available at [waltonmethodist.com](http://waltonmethodist.com) or  
by calling 01932 429184)*

Walton Methodist Church Hall, Terrace Road  
Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2SR

***Your opportunity to see church members in a different light!***

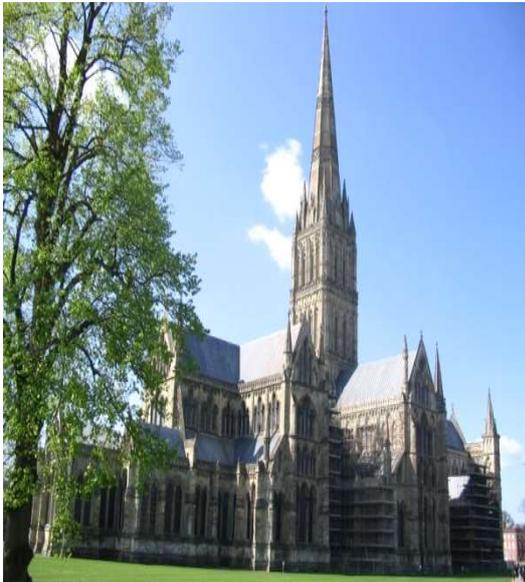
***Tickets available from Carol, Claire or Linda***

At the Café Church service in January, which was led by Rev Claire Hargreaves, we had an optional retiring collection. This rased £137 which was sent to 'All We Can' for their continuing work with refugees. This is the thank you letter they sent to Claire who has forwarded it on to us.



## A Day out in SALISBURY

Salisbury Cathedral.



By far the most popular attraction in Salisbury is the Cathedral, the full name being The Cathedral Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The foundation stones were laid in 1220 and the building dedicated in 1258. The Bell Tower and spire (the tallest on any church in the United Kingdom, 123m/404ft) were completed in the 1330's. The Bell Tower was demolished in the late 1700' and was the subject of a Channel 4 Time Team program in 2008.

When visiting the Cathedral be sure to view the best preserved original copy of the Magna Carta and the 13th century stone frieze of bible stories both of which are in the Chapter House. The Cathedral also has the world's oldest working clock (AD1386) and the largest and earliest set of Quire stalls in Britain.

One of the most famous pictures of the Cathedral is the view from the Bishop's Palace by John Constable.

In the Cathedral Close is Mompesson House, an elegant and spacious 18th-century house. It was used as a location in the 1995 film adaptation of Sense and Sensibility. This is a National Trust property which is well worth a visit.

The Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum, housing many artefacts from Salisbury's past including the Stonehenge Gallery and the Rifles Museum, a military museum dedicated to the Berkshire and Wiltshire regiment, are also worth a visit. Both can be found in the Close.

There are plenty of places to eat but the ideal spot for a picnic with views of the cathedral to the east and the River Avon to the south is the Queen Elizabeth Gardens on Mill Road.

The Poultry Cross marks the centre of the old market and the shopping streets radiate from here. For those who like shopping, as well as the usual and not so usual High Street stores, there is the Charter Market;

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the charter was granted in 1227 and the market is held every Tuesday and Saturday (except the third Tuesday in October). You name it and a stall in the market will sell it. On the run up to Christmas there is also a large Christmas market



Other place to visit in the Salisbury area are the prehistoric monument of Stonehenge. *n.b if you are a National Trust member entry is free*



Wilton House (country seat of the Earls of Pembroke for over 400 years.)



Old Sarum, the original settlement dating from 3000BC.

How to get there: -

By car: - There are car parks in the city centre or use the Park and Ride (P & R) facility

By Train: - Salisbury station is a 15 minute walk from the city centre.

Useful links:

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mompesson-house/>

<http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/>

<http://www.stonehenge.co.uk/>