



**December - February 2010**



## Christmas Services 2009

	<u>24th December</u>	<u>25th December</u>
Guildford	No Service	10.00am Thorpe
Stoughton	6.30pm Thorpe(S)	10.30am Wilshaw
Merrow	3.00pm McCarley Crib 8.00pm McCarley (S) 11.30pm McCarley (S)	11.00am McCarley
West Horsley	No Service	9.45am McCarley
Godalming	No Service	10.00am Edsall
Cranleigh	No Service	10.45am Greenwood
Shalford	11.30pm Hargreaves (S)	US at Wonersh
Wonersh	US at Shalford	9.30am Greenwood

**GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT DIARY**  
**(CONT'D)**

7.30pm Thursday 10th. June 2010  
Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at  
TBA

7.30pm Thursday 2nd. September 2010  
Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at 8 Eastgate Gardens.

7.30pm Thursday 9th. September 2010  
Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at TBA

10.00am Saturday 18th. September 2010  
District Synod at TBA

7.30pm Wednesday 22nd. September 2010  
Circuit Meeting at Wonersh United Reformed Church

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**ORBIT**  
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● The next edition of Orbit will be published in February 2010. Anyone can  
● submit items for inclusion but news about Methodist activities at local and  
● wider levels is particularly encouraged.

● Please let me have your dates and items for inclusion in the next issue by  
● the end of January 2010.

● Please send your material to the Editor, Mark Hargreaves, by post to  
● Warren Farm House, Warren Road, Guildford GU1 2HF, or by email to  
● pmhargreaves@reedsmith.com.

● Many thanks to all those who have contributed to this edition.  
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**LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Friends,

8 Eastgate Gardens

At the beginning of September we got the new Connexional year off to a good start with a wonderful Circuit Service. We celebrated one hundred years of preaching by me presenting Local Preaching Certificates to Rene Bullen and Allan Forster, hearing the Rev'd. Allan Taylor preach on the theme of 'A Charge to Keep', and worshipping God with the band. It was a great service, followed by refreshments with Rene's birthday cake!

Later in September an excellent presentation was made at the Circuit Meeting by Rev. Jenny Ellis the Connexional Spirituality and Discipleship Officer on Whole Life, Life Long and World Changing Discipleship. Many were particularly impressed with the drawing that she produced of many climbers in various positions on a mountain and asked us to consider which one of the climbers we thought that we were!

The following day the Circuit Leadership Team met with Rev. Graham Hindle, the District Development Enabler, who is helping us look at the District 'Mapping a Way Forward – Regrouping for Mission' that I mentioned previously. The Circuit Leadership Team agreed that there is a need to have a look at the Circuit, and before you all shout out to me, 'We did that three years ago!' can I say that I don't think you did. What was done last time was review the eight churches in the Circuit, not look specifically at the role of the Circuit and what it does. You may think that is just semantics as the eight churches make up the Circuit, but I would argue that the Circuit has a distinct role and purpose, and it is that which needs to be looked at, hence the need for a 'Circuit Appraisal'.

We spent the day with Graham at West Horsley. On the agenda for the morning, under the heading 'Raising the Standards', was a number of things that we felt the Circuit had a desire to improve, including worship, preaching, buildings, notice boards and publicity.

Then in the afternoon the agenda followed the District initiative 'Mapping a Way Forward – Planning for the Future' recognising that discussions need to take place regarding things such as outreach, ecumenical involvement, deployment of staff, neighbouring Circuits, again, to name just few issues. One thing that did come out of the day was the imperative to pray! The Circuit Leadership Team felt the need to seek God's guidance, will and vision for the Circuit as being very important. To this end we are to have a series of Prayer Meetings to which you are all welcome to attend. The first will be from 6.00pm to 7.00pm on Sunday 8th. November 2009 at Guildford Methodist Church. There will be individual prayer stations as well as times of corporate prayer. So please come along for this time of prayer for the Circuit. It is anticipated that these will be held monthly in churches around the Circuit, but the Circuit Leadership Team are to review which day of the week and time of day they are held.

As I write, I am very much looking forward to the Circuit Weekend at Abingworth Hall with the Rev'd. Ken Howcroft, 'Walking the Talk, and Talking the Walk, with Jesus.' I trust that we will have a refreshing time in more ways than one!

Just to remind you that there is to be a Circuit Service at 6.30pm on Sunday 7th. February 2010 at Merrow Methodist Church with Heather Clements the Bible Society Regional Manager, and that the Circuit Missions Supper is planned for 6.30pm Saturday 6th. March at Cranleigh Methodist Church when a former colleague of mine, the Rev. Marie-Anne Kent, Superintendent of the Tonbridge Circuit, will speak about Uganda.

For those of you who are interested in these things, the Rev. David Perry, one of my former Chair's of District (of the Lincoln and Grimsby District) has won an award for best Christian blog.

## **GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT DIARY (CONT'D)**

10.00am Wednesday 3rd. March 2010  
Ministerial Synod at Guildford Methodist Church

10.00am to 12 noon Saturday 6th. March 2010  
Circuit Safeguarding Training at Guildford Methodist Church

6.30pm Saturday 6th. March 2010  
Circuit Missions Supper at Cranleigh Methodist Church with the Rev'd. Marie-Anne Kent speaking about Uganda

7.30pm Wednesday 10th. March 2010  
Circuit Meeting at Godalming United Church

7.30pm Thursday 11th. March 2010  
Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at TBA

10.00am Saturday 17th. April 2010  
District Synod at Kent College, Pembury

7.00pm Saturday 17th. April 2010  
Songs of Praise at West Horsley Methodist Church

7.00pm Saturday 8th. May 2010  
Simeon Wood Concert at Guildford Methodist Church

7.30pm Thursday 27th. May 2010  
Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at 8 Eastgate Gardens.

## GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT DIARY

7.30pm Thursday 26th. November 2009

Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at 2, Grove Road

7.30pm Thursday 10th. December 2009

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at Guildford

6.30pm Sunday 10th. January 2010

Circuit Prayer Meeting at Merrow Methodist Church

7.45pm Thursday 4th. February 2010

Circuit Missions Committee at Shalford Methodist Church

6.30pm Sunday 7th. February 2010

Circuit Service at Merrow with Heather Clements, Bible Society

10.00am to 1.00pm Saturday 13th. February 2010

Circuit Safeguarding Event at Godalming United Church

6.30pm Sunday 14th. February 2010

Circuit Prayer Meeting at Godalming United Church

7.30pm Thursday 18th. February 2010

Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at 2, Grove Road.

10.00am to 12.30pm Saturday 27th. February 2010

"Encircled in Care" led by Revd Paul Dean at Godalming

Evening of Saturday 27th. February 2010

Concert by the Godalming Town Band at Godalming United Church

Take a look at <http://davesdistrictblog.blogspot.com/> and see why it won the award, it is excellent, with superb photographs and thought provoking comments.

Finally, just to let you know that the Circuit has now registered a Circuit Website domain name and signed up with a Host. So if you look at [www.guildfordmethodistcircuit.org.uk](http://www.guildfordmethodistcircuit.org.uk) you will see the bare bones of the site as at the moment it is very much 'work in progress'. I am slowly providing information for Alex Briggs who is compiling the site, but would appreciate any comments, thoughts, additional information etc. that you feel is required.

God bless, Alan

P.S. There were forty people at the Circuit Weekend, and it all went extremely well. The food and fellowship were excellent, the teaching informative and challenging. I was asked by someone over the weekend if the Circuit could provide more Bible teaching. This prompts me to write that I am very prepared to run the Faith and Worship Course at 8 Eastgate Gardens in the near future. Although this is the training course for people becoming Local Preachers it can be done by anyone interested in wanting to learn more from the Bible. Please let me know if you would be interested in doing this and I will provide you with more information.

### Merrow Methodist Church

**Wednesday 25th November  
5.00pm-6.00pm**

### BRING AND BUY

**arranged by the Brownies  
In aid of Action for Children.**

# NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

## CRANLEIGH



It scarcely seems possible that we are once more thinking about and preparing for Advent and Christmas. Members of our catering committee having only just organised our Harvest Supper, are now planning the menu, costs and advertising for the Christmas lunch, due to take place on December 19. Sheena Treharne is in charge of this meal, which caters for our own members and perhaps more needy guests, and is popular with everyone as well as being an important part of outreach.

Our Harvest Festival went well. The Sunday morning service (on October 11) was conducted by our own minister Marie who involved members of the Junior Choir in appropriate fun activities, also enjoyed by the congregation of over 80 people. Three groups of singers (the adult choir, the Junior Choir and the children of the Blossom Nursery) performed various songs. The Junior Choir particularly are singing with increasing confidence and obvious enjoyment.

We are currently trying to plan Bible Study for Advent, probably in groups, which we hope will be ecumenical and run under the auspices of Churches Together. Meanwhile, two regular prayer / fellowship meetings continue to attract loyal members (not all from our own church!). Early risers meet in church on Tuesdays at 8.30am for half an hour, and others on Wednesdays at 10.30am in different houses.

The Wednesday (evening) Group has begun its new programme and will doubtless proceed with its usual success, though of course a great deal of work is involved in the organisation. A popular event is a pre-Christmas carol singing evening in the church. Both our choirs and the instrumental group are rehearsing already for the Christmas programme which begins with the Carol Concert on December 12 in our church at 7.30pm. All proceeds from this concert will go to Action for Children. (We repeat the concert at Elmbridge Village on December 17 at 3.00pm). The Gift Service (conducted by Marie)

the language of his listeners; he was tuned into how they spoke and lived. And as Jesus' disciples we are challenged, no commanded to do the same; Matthew 28; 19 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations'.

From a Circuit viewpoint it was great to mix us up, six of the eight Circuit churches were represented, and all our discussion times (or buzz groups) were a mixture too of the people.

So what happens now; was it just a good weekend or will something positive come out of what we've gained?

Well that's up to all of us (And I don't just mean those from the weekend!) All of you reading this make up our Circuit AND as believers have responsibility for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The first plan is to have a follow up get together on Wednesday 11th November (which may be before this is published). There are also some Circuit wide sessions arranged for us to get together and pray to ask God to show us what He wants of the Guildford Circuit of churches; the first of those again soon (8th November) and the next ones in January and February. Perhaps praying in smaller groups would be a great place to start; either way we won't know what God wants from any of us unless we're listening to His voice through studying our Bibles and talking with Him (more commonly called praying!) So part of the reason for writing this is to have some accountability that something positive comes from this weekend, that it doesn't just get swallowed up in the ether. So let's hold each of us accountable as we walk the talk and talk the walk with Jesus. And if you want to know what that means, speak to someone who went on the weekend and discover what's changed for them.



### **ANN WOODWARD REPORTS ON THE CIRCUIT WEEKEND**

I have just returned home from the *Circuit weekend* at Abingworth Hall near Storrington, West Sussex. Apart from the fact that the material covered and insights gained need some thought and prayer, my immediate response is that it was a challenging, inspiring, thought provoking as well as a not always comfortable experience! And I don't mean the beds were lumpy or the food inedible! The hospitality was of a good standard, the location was great (lovely views certainly from our walk on Saturday pm, though I won't dwell on the awful smell of the mushroom factory!), the food was plentiful and my room certainly was comfortable. The teaching and discussions led by Ken Howcroft (Assistant Secretary of Conference) made me think about my walk with God, my talk with those I have contact with and how the two are inextricably linked. I suppose the uncomfortable bit came with thinking about my role within my church, my community, my friends and family; and how I could be more effective. Just as a taster we considered how Jesus spoke biblically while at the same time talked

will be on December 13, when the Junior Choir will sing and Blossom Nursery will also take part.

We continue with our efforts on behalf of Christian Aid and other charities. Our Quiz in September raised about £170.00 for Christian Aid and our Harvest Supper £154.00 for MRDF. David and Hazel Lipman set up their Traidcraft stall every month to help farmers and growers in the Third World, and our church is now a 'Fair Trade' one. I have already mentioned our Christmas efforts for Action for Children, whose activities on behalf of neglected youngsters have been highlighted on television. More charitable events are planned.

Glenda Sewell





## GODALMING

Harvest weekend was a truly joyful occasion here in Godalming. Saturday's Celebration Meal kicked off with an affectionate Dad's Army sketch (yes, our talented events- committee brought Mainwaring, Wilson, Pike and co to life with all their famous mannerisms) and concluded with a lavish wartime tea and songs led by our very own "Home Guard". Sunday's Harvest Thanksgiving was a packed family service with record offerings of non-perishable food-stuffs (for good causes in Guildford) and splendid displays of flowers and garden-produce.

Harvest-time was our Minister's last weekend with us for some months. Paul Dean is going on sabbatical leave until February, and will spend eight weeks based in Jerusalem. He believes passionately in the promotion of peace in the Middle East, and his sabbatical work links this with his ongoing PhD studies. Paul is the nonconformist member on the policy group of EAPPI – the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel. EAPPI sends volunteers from Europe, N America & Australasia to accompany both Palestinians & Israelis as they go about their non-violent daily lives (border crossings being especially sensitive places), monitors violations of human rights and works with non-violent peace activists Paul will be interviewing people working on the ground with EAPPI.

To mark One World Week in October we were treated to a talk by Claire Hargreaves on her role as interfaith chaplain at Surrey University. She works as a Christian witness alongside other world-faith-representatives on the campus promoting dialogue between the faith groups. We learned that "our" university now numbers 17000 students, the majority being from abroad, and including 4000 Moslems, as well as Jews, Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus and those of no faith. There are well-advanced plans for an imposing multi-faith centre (ground-plan based on a flower design), with work due to start next year. Guildford will be only the second university in the UK with such a beacon of world-faith on its campus. Plenty of scope for Claire's work!

## VETTING AND BARRING SCHEME (A NOTE FROM SYLVIA KELLEY)

The new vetting and barring scheme for people working with children and vulnerable adults came into being on 12 October. For employees and volunteers in church life the most evident result of this scheme will be that all those who work with children and vulnerable adults will have to be registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority. This registration will start in July 2010 for new workers and those whose Criminal Records Bureau disclosure needs renewing at that time. Registration will be through a revised CRB form which will be available in the summer of next year.

Any change is confusing and it has not been helped by the misinformation that is currently circulating. The circuit has arranged for Donald Findlater who is on the board of the Independent Safeguarding Authority to run a session on the Vetting and Barring Scheme on 13 February 2010 at Godalming United Church from 10am -1pm. All who are interested or involved in implementing this scheme in their churches will be most welcome.

### Cranleigh Methodist Church

**A concert of Christmas music and readings  
featuring the choir and instrumentalists.**

**Saturday 12 December at 7.30pm**

**Admission £5.00 including good refreshments.  
All proceeds to Action for Children.  
Please support us if you can!**

## GUILDFORD AND WOKING AND WALTON CIRCUITS

### TRAINING - CREATING SAFER SPACE

The Methodist Church is developing new training materials on safeguarding children. Module A has been published, and the training will be available in the circuits from December 2009. Each session is for up to 20 people. A DVD is also being prepared to raise the awareness of our congregations. It is hoped to run sessions of Module A at various venues in the two circuits to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend.

The first session will be on Wednesday 9th December 2009 8-10pm (7.30 for coffee) at Knaphill. Further dates will be advertised when confirmed.

If you would like to attend this session please let Sylvia Kelley know.

Module A is for-

- presbyters
- deacons
- lay workers
- superintendents
- probationers
- children's/youth workers (and holiday clubs)
- Junior Church teachers
- uniformed organisations
- parent and toddler group leaders
- others who work with children choir/music group leaders
- church/circuit stewards
- property stewards
- church council/circuit meeting secretary
- local preachers
- worship leaders
- church safeguarding reps

As the nights draw in we look forward to Christmas and New Year celebrations. Rehearsals are already well under way for our annual pantomime (Cinderella – to be staged Feb 6-7) and we will prepare for Christmas with three new-style Advent Sunday evening sessions – “Angels aren’t just for Christmas!” Why not join us for these seasonal happenings?

Apologies to Orbit readers for the error in the last issue’s contribution from Godalming – the guest preacher at our Anniversary in June was, of course, Howard Starr.



### CHAPLAINCY WORK

The new academic year began with a full day at Freshers Fair where I met a lot of first year students and made myself known to the various student societies running stalls. I continue to co-lead the Compass group which meets every Monday evening and recently led a discussion on "loss and parting" using art and literature. The multi-faith chaplaincy team meets every fortnight and we are currently developing ideas for a seminar involving Jewish, Muslim and Christian students during inter-faith week.

Please uphold this mission work in your prayers.

Claire Hargreaves

## MERROW

We can't believe it is two years since we started our children's Sunday club. On September 13th we had a lovely celebration of the Anniversary, joined by some brownies, we went into the church for part of the service. We had a birthday cake which was shared by all and the morning ended with lunch for the children.

Our HARVEST THEME THIS YEAR WAS "GROW YOUR OWN". We had displays around the church put together by groups and individuals, one of which was entitled "grown in Gloucester" (all grown by Catherine Winder). The main display was a garden scene complete with a wheelbarrow. We thank Sheila Shackleton for coming up with this theme and involving so many church members. Our Harvest gifts were distributed to the sick, our Women's fellowship, housebound and to Project 5, Mulberry House and Woodbank.

Those of you who visit us at Merrow will notice that our 5 yearly decoration and clean down has been completed this being finished in time for the "Back to Church Sunday" when we were able to welcome familiar faces and produced an encouraging return from all who took part. While attacking the hedges around the church we found the original boundary consisting of barbed wire and wooden posts, these too will now be brought up to date which again will not be a cheap exercise. Two other things we are having:- a new notice board so that all can see what we at Merrow are doing and believe it or not we are moving into the 21st century and bringing us in line with the circuit, we are getting a Projector with a view to this being a permanent installation in the church.

Finally we shall be having the usual Christmas services with one innovation that as well as Christmas Eve Service there will be an earlier one for those who cannot come out very late at night and of course you are all welcome to join us.

The Church Quiz is on Saturday 14 November at 7.00pm. Tickets cost £10.00 including Fish 'n' Chips supper plus dessert. Proceeds to Church funds. Please contact Suzanne on 561865.

We thank Pauline Daniels and Roy Fullelove for these items.

## WEST HORSLEY

On 11th October we held a special service, led by Darlene, to celebrate John Lawn's 80th Birthday and to thank him for all he has done for West Horsley..John first joined us at West Horsley in 1992 when he became leader of our House.Group and he was subsequently appointed Pastoral Assistant (now called Lay Worker). A period of growth followed thanks to John's dedication and commitment to pastoral visiting and his wise advice. The service was followed by a birthday lunch in the Wesley Room; it was good to have with us John's wife Ruth , their daughter Mary and son-in-law Malcolm and grandson Ben. It was a very special day for all of us.

Harvest Festival was a Local Arrangement Sunday and the service was led by members of the congregation. We used material provided by MRDF entitled First-fruits and giving examples of farmers in India whose lives have been transformed by the help received from MRDF. £147 was sent to MRDF from donations and the sale of Harvest goods.

Thanks to Liz Hart, and her husband Ted, our chapel garden again won a Silver Award in the "Non residential garden" category of the Horsley in Bloom annual competition.

We are currently raising money for our Building Fund with the aim of replacing the Wesley Room, probably with a timber framed building. This is a long term project ; we are investigating possible sources of grants while at the same time making small beginnings by having a book sale and filling Smartie tubes.

Date for your diary:

**Songs of praise at West Horsley on 17th April 2010 at 7.00 pm.**

Ruth Isaac

The annual Charity Quiz night and Supper in October was a great success, twelve teams attended and a profit of £350 was handed over to CHASE. The event was won by a team made up of people from Wonersh URC and Merrow Methodist Church.( It is not true that they paid me the biggest bribe either!) Much to our pleasure the event was a genuine village one but highlighted the different churches from quite a distance who entered... As I may have said before Optimism rules OK!!!

### **What's on at the Wonersh United Reformed Church**

#### ***All age family Services***

(Every Service starts at 11.00am and ends at 11.45am)

**6th December** Christingle and Toy Service with Marie Greenwood and Music by the Pulpit Family Band  
Coffee and soft drinks etc served at 10.30am and 11.45am

#### ***Christmas Services***

**Christmas Eve** We meet with our friends at Shalford Methodist Church 11.30pm for a communion Service.  
**Do please join us**

**Christmas Day** Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with us.  
9.30am to 10.00am at Wonersh URC.

Chris Cozens Wonersh URC Tel 01483 892579



## **SHALFORD**



We held a very successful Church Open day on 19 September, the occasion being well attended by residents of Shalford and further afield, as well as members. A generous repast was laid on, enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who prepared, baked, served the tea, washed up, gave lifts and generally contributed to the success of the afternoon.

The Harvest Festival on 11 October attracted a full church, with extra chairs having to be found. The Beavers and Scouts participated in the service, and it was wonderful to welcome so many parents and children. The harvest produce was donated to a good cause, Project 5. The service was followed by a bring and share lunch which was much enjoyed by church goers and visitors.

Our Bible Study groups continue to meet in the Church Hall every second Tuesday of the month at 2.30, and are much enjoyed and appreciated. The Monday morning chat group meets every first Monday in the month and the housegroup hosted in a local home continues to meet every six weeks. Both these meetings are opportunities for social contact and lively debate on current topics from a Christian perspective.

The Church Hall is the place to be on Thursday mornings from 10 to 12 – a warm welcome is assured, and tea and coffee flows, as does the conversation. Claire's short services are now a regular feature and looked forward to. Again we must record our thanks to the ladies wielding the tea pot and the tea towels, week in week out, come rain or shine! Everyone is welcome to drop in.

The Parent and Toddler Group meets in the Church Hall on Wednesdays at 10 and continues to thrive. Claire has held a number of Pram Services, which have been very successful, and the opportunity to maintain contact with young people is most welcome.

Our Christmas services will be as follows:

20 December - Carol Service 10.30am

24 December - Candlelit Service 11.30pm

25 December – Joint Service at Wonersh URC 9.30am

Our first service of the New Year will be the Covenant Service on 3 January.

Wishing everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Eurios Kemp



## WONERSH



It is that time of year, and so our congregation would very much like to wish the congregations of all the other Churches in our circuit a very happy Christmas and of course a peaceful new year with every blessing.

Being a “small church” isn’t it easy to drop in to the habit of being pessimistic and thus allow an air of gloom to pervade the air?

But although our numbers have not grown significantly this year we have achieved much to be pleased with. For a start our project to enlarge the car park funded jointly with the preschool has been a spectacular success, you only have to drive by on sunny days to see half the car park neatly fenced off

and see many young children on the secure side having fun, with their teachers encouraging them to enjoy themselves safely.

We have had a successful year with our friends in the Scout Group next door too. Our Youth Services have been well attended and relations with the Group have been improved, so much so that if you look at the Scout group minibus when next it goes by you will see proudly emblazened on the rear doors the following sign - “1st Wonersh Scout Group Helping young people get the best out of life in partnership with Wonersh United Reformed Church”.

All in all, I think that a positive attitude is the right approach - Optimism definitely rules OK!

Our new style family services which started in June have been slow to get off the ground so much so that in fact the July one which we ran ourselves didn’t actually have any families attending! But all who were there enjoyed our efforts and we learnt a lot. We didn’t have a family service in August but September saw eight young people and their parents / relatives attending so it really is a case of “one more step along the road we go”.

As we now include our three services in which the Youth organisations attend as part of our family services, I believe that in 2010 we can build on the foundations we have laid in 2009 - Optimism rules OK - yes?

### More reasons to be cheerful

The Book and cake sale held in September raised £802 which will go towards the ongoing church renovations. Thank you for your books and support. Our next sale is planned for March 11th 2010.

At our recent annual Harvest festival family Service which was attended by the local youth organisations, the Church was packed to hear the Harvest message, and through the generosity of the congregation, six large containers of food gifts were delivered to local worthy causes. Our theme was “let’s kick poverty out” and part of the collection was sent to India in support of a Methodist Church initiative ....