

**STOUGHTON
METHODIST CHURCH**

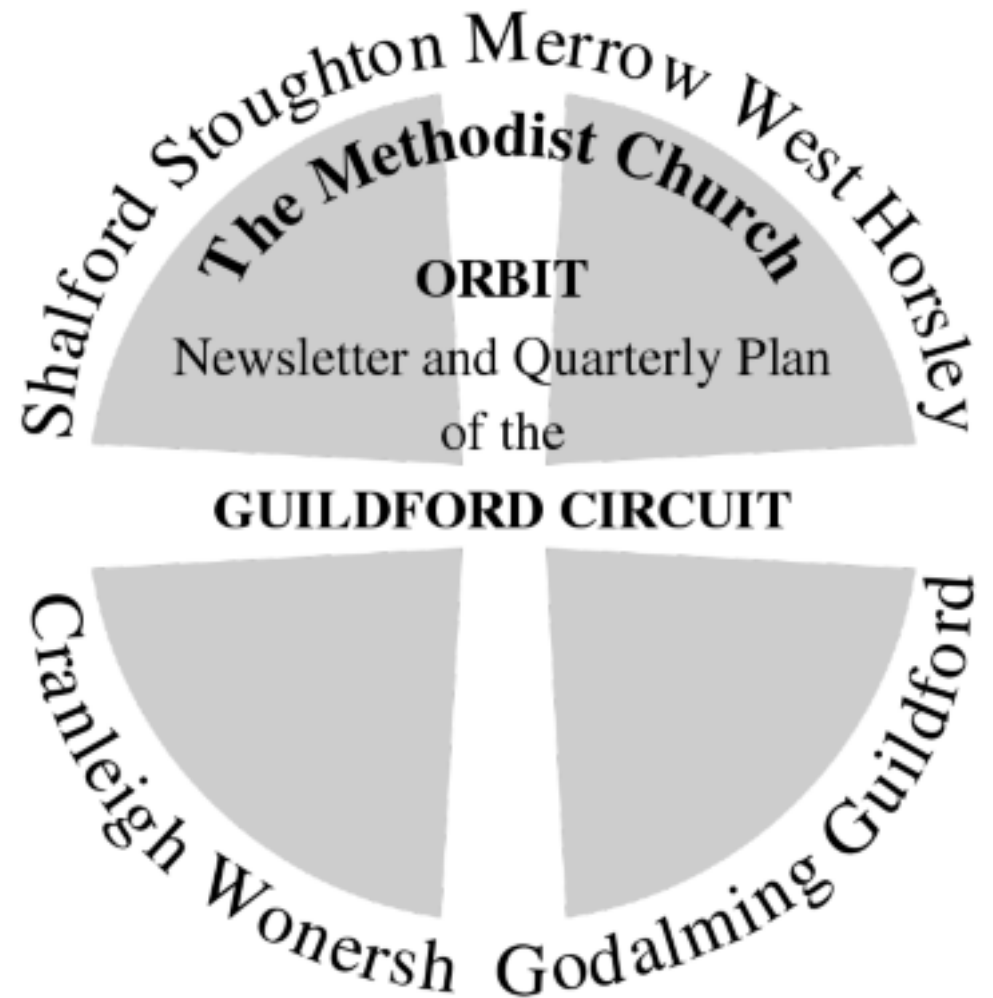
SATURDAY 5 JUNE 2010

7.30PM

**A TALK BY REV'D PAUL DEAN
'A VISIT TO ISRAEL' AS PART OF
THE CHURCH ANNIVERSARY**

**TICKETS: £4.00 PER PERSON
INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS**

**INFORMATION & TICKETS FROM:
821668 or 823514**



June to August 2010



and the Lord after speaking to them was taken up into Heaven to the Father... to which one of the disciples in a nervous outburst shouted out the words of Buzz LightYear ... **Mk 16:19, Lk 24:50-51**

GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT DIARY (CONT'D)

7.30pm Wednesday 14th. July

Fusion (Interactive Bible Study) at Guildford Methodist Church

9.30am to 5.00pm Saturday 17th. July

Circuit Away Day at Waverley Abbey with Rev'd. Ian Howarth
'Music and Mission'

3.00pm Saturday 14th. August

Cream Tea in aid of Action for Children at 8 Eastgate Gardens

6.30pm Sunday 22nd. August

Circuit Service at Shalford Methodist Church with Rod Boreham

7.30pm Thursday 2nd. September

Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at 2 Grove Road

7.30pm Thursday 9th. September

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at Cranleigh Methodist Church

10.00am Saturday 18th. September

District Synod at Redhill Methodist Church

10.00am to 4.00pm Saturday 18th. September

Book Sale and Cake Stall at Womersley United Reformed Church

7.30pm Wednesday 22nd. September

Circuit Meeting at Stoughton Methodist Church

10.00am Tuesday 23rd. November

Circuit Property Committee at West Horsley Methodist Church

7.30pm Thursday 9th. December

Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at Godalming United Church



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

8 Eastgate Gardens

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Several ladies at Guildford had worked very hard in the weeks running up to Easter to produce a large new banner for the church. The bold design shows three empty crosses, one draped with a white shroud, and the words 'HE IS RISEN' across the top. But who was going to hang it high up at the front of the church? The painter and decorator was approached and he agreed to go up the ladder after Guildford had hosted the united Good Friday service with folk from the Salvation Army, United Reformed Church and Upper Room Ministries. The banner was in place for the Easter Morning service and

GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT DIARY

dedicated by the Rev'd. Allan Taylor. All admired the creativity and agreed with the proclamation. The following week someone who had helped make the banner, but had been away on Easter Day, went into the church to see the banner in place, but alas, it had been taken down. Further investigation took place. Eventually the culprit was found. The painter and decorator had taken it down. When asked why, he replied, "Well I thought it was an Easter Banner, and as Easter is over, I took it down!"

We don't just celebrate the risen Christ on one day of the year, but every day of the year. We are Easter People.

I am thrilled by the enthusiasm which quite a number of people have shown towards the new Circuit venture called 'Fusion'. This is a midweek event based at Guildford Methodist Church every other Wednesday evening, beginning on the 5th. May, with a very varied programme. I do hope that you will want to come along and find out what is all about. The aim is to provide something that a small church would not be able to do on their own, to share out ownership around the Circuit, and increase fellowship. Look out for the programme of events on the posters and leaflets that have been circulated to all churches.

The Circuit Prayer Meetings are becoming an established part of the Circuit programme, being held on the second Sunday evening of the month around the Circuit churches. Their style and content has varied from venue to venue and according to who is leading them. Even if you are not able to get there why not spend some time praying for the Circuit whilst the Circuit Prayer Meeting is happening?

At the time of writing, the Circuit Appraisal Group are coming to the end of their visits to meet with local church leadership in each church in the Circuit. The three Circuit Stewards had a brief to listen to what local church leaders were saying about the local church as they look to the future, and how the Circuit can help meet some of their needs with training and resources. Specific areas being looked at are staffing, finance, property, nurturing of discipleship, learning and networking and partnerships.

7.30pm Wednesday 19th. May
Fusion (Airport Chaplain) at Guildford Methodist Church

10.00am to 4.00pm Saturday 22nd. May
Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Quiet Day led by Rev. Malcolm Rothwell at Ladywell Convent, Godalming

6.30pm Sunday 23rd. May
Circuit Service Rev. Dr. Hugh Osgood at Godalming United Church

7.30pm Thursday 27th. May
Circuit Leadership Team Meeting at Merrow Methodist Church

7.30pm Wednesday 2nd. June
Fusion (Contemporary Worship) at Guildford Methodist Church

7.30pm Thursday 10th. June
Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting at Shalford Methodist Church

6.30pm Sunday 13th. June
Circuit Prayer Meeting at Cranleigh Methodist Church

7.30pm Monday 14th. June
Fusion Review/Planning Meeting at 8 Eastgate Gardens

8.00pm Tuesday 15th. June (coffee/tea from 7.30pm)
Module A Safeguarding Training at Godalming United Church

7.30pm Wednesday 16th. June
Fusion (Treasure Evening) at Guildford Methodist Church

7.30pm Wednesday 30th. June
Fusion (Life & Faith) at Guildford Methodist Church

6.30pm Sunday 11th. July
Circuit Prayer Meeting at Merrow Methodist Church

The staff and ministers at Wesley's Chapel are very appreciative and easy to work with. The two hymns for each service are chosen in advance and emailed to me by the presiding minister. I am left to choose the voluntaries and the music for the "musical interlude" which always precedes the sermon.

Oh well! Next time I get a bright idea for a lunchtime maybe I should stick to nearby Spitalfields Market.

Mark Hargreaves

Council Members



The Central Finance Board of the Methodist Church (CFB) is currently looking to identify suitably qualified individuals to join its Council.

The CFB manages the £1.1 billion pension and charitable investment funds of the Methodist Church, and is a leader in the field of ethical investment. The Council is responsible for the monitoring of the activities of the investment team, including reviewing financial and ethical investment strategies, setting performance targets, monitoring their achievement, risk management strategies, internal compliance regime, and financial controls.

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate experience and skills in any discipline relevant to the Board's activities and attend 11 daytime meetings each year. These unpaid appointments offer the opportunity to share your expertise for the benefit of the wider Methodist Church.

**Apply to: The Secretary, CFB Methodist Church
9 Bonhill Street, London. EC2A 4PE
Telephone 020 7496 3600
admin@cfbmethodistchurch.org.uk**

The Group are meeting later in May to reflect on the outcome of the listening meetings and looking to the future mission of the Circuit.

Circuit events coming up in the future:-

The Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders are having a Quiet Day led by the Rev'd. Malcolm Rothwell at Ladywell Convent in Godalming on Saturday 22nd. May.

The next Circuit Service is planned for Pentecost Sunday, 6.30pm Sunday 23rd. May at Godalming United Church, with the Rev'd. Paul Dean presiding at Holy Communion, and the preacher will be the Rev'd Dr. Hugh Osgood, the Founder and President of Churches In Communities International.

The subsequent Circuit Service is planned for 6.30pm Sunday 22nd. August at Shalford Methodist Church when the preacher will be the newly installed Guildford Town Centre Chaplain, Rod Boreham.

Details of the Circuit Away Day at Waverley Abbey on Saturday 17th. July when Assistant District Chair, the Rev'd. Ian Howarth, will lead us on 'Music and Mission,' are overleaf.

Sunbury Court Conference Centre has now been booked as the venue for the Circuit Weekend Away 14th. – 16th. October 2011 to be led by the Rev'd. Dr. Chris Blake, Principal of Cliff College.

God bless, Alan



Guildford Circuit Away Day

Saturday 17th. July 2010

Waverley Abbey House, Waverley Lane, Farnham GU9 8EP

'Music and Mission'

led by the Rev'd. Ian Howarth

Assistant District Chair &

Member of the Connexional Music Resources Group

Programme for the Day

9.30am Arrival and Refreshments

10.00am Session 1

11.00am Refreshments

11.30am Session 2

12.30pm Lunch and Free Time

3.00pm Session 3

4.00pm Tea Time

4.30pm Worship

5.00pm Depart

Cost £20 per person. As this is the first time that Guildford Circuit have used the facilities we are being offered a discounted all inclusive rate of £25 per person for the day. The Circuit are further subsidising the cost by £5 per person.

To make sure of your place please book by sending a cheque made payable to 'Guildford Methodist Circuit' to Margaret Faulkner, Sonning, Nightingale Road, East Horsley, Leatherhead KT24 5DZ by the end of June at the very latest. If you have any dietary requirements please identify these.

My confidence started to return and as my heart quickened I was directed to a little organ near the front of the chapel. One of the leaders helped me with the cover for the single manual. As the cover was raised an ancient hand written notice came into view which made my heart stop again. It said "This organ belonged to Charles Wesley and is similar in design to one made for George Frederick Handel".

Wow! To sit at Charles Wesley's organ playing Handel's tune written for Charles Wesley's hymn. With shaking hands I started playing Gopsal.... and low and behold the notes came out in the right place and at the right time. I think someone was helping me..!

Rev Jennifer asked me to play the tune three times – just enough for the "musical interlude" she had planned in the Order of Service. To think that Charles Wesley himself and possibly even Handel, whilst Charles listened to the new tune, might have played the same notes on the same organ manual.

I sat through the sermon not taking much in and worrying about another sheet of music Rev Jennifer had handed to me saying it would be the final hymn. It was not a hymn I knew and in an unfamiliar key. Rev Jennifer told me afterwards she had chosen the hymn for the words and did not know the tune well herself. We managed it together somehow.

Apparently they have shortage of volunteer organists and as a result of my attempt at a "quiet visit" to Wesley's Chapel I have now found myself on the organ rota playing about twice a month for their week day services. Some of these are held in the main church where the organ is a monster 3 manual affair with 50 stops installed in 1891 to celebrate 100 years following the death of John Wesley. The seating position at the organ is similar to a Harley Davidson chopper motorcycle with head held upwards to see the music, arms outstretched to reach the manuals and feet extended to reach the swell pedals (I haven't attempted the pedal board itself yet). I don't mind the position as I'm used to large motorcycles but I think I prefer Charles' small organ in the side chapel.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, CITY ROAD, LONDON EC1

Having practiced firstly in the West End and more recently in the City of London for many years, I recently thought it was about time that I paid a visit to Wesley's Chapel in City Road just outside the boundary of the City. Lunchtime services are held twice a week at the usually convenient time of 12.45pm and last for 30 minutes. The church is well staffed with 2 full time ministers and a number of associates, mostly supernumeraries. I had looked round the church on past occasions but I had not been to a service until recently.

I decided to attend on a Thursday in March. As I passed the statue of John Wesley and approached the main doors, I was ushered into the small side chapel where the service, led by the Reverend Jennifer Potter, had just commenced. The room was packed and there were no seats so I ended up squatting on the corner of a pew near the back. They had run out of Orders of Service and neither were there any hymn books left. The service proceeded none the less with the first hymn sung unaccompanied. I thought at the time this was a little odd. There followed prayers led by Rev Jennifer and a reading from the Bible. Rev Jennifer then said that the next part of the service should be a musical interlude before the sermon but that as there was no one available to play she would skip this - "unless there is a volunteer in the congregation?". In a moment of impetuosity and without any proper consideration of the situation I found myself standing up and asking what it was she wanted playing.

I was directed to the front of the chapel and handed a bundle of copies of pages from an organist edition of Hymns and Psalms and asked to choose one. To give me time Rev Jennifer said some more prayers (I think I said some myself too!) and I was relieved to find in the bundle of sheets a tune I thought I could manage straight off and without practice. It was the music for Handel's "Gopsal" written especially for Charles Wesley's famous hymn " Rejoice the Lord is King".

The Rev'd Ian Howarth writes:-

'Music and Mission'

Why do we use music in worship?

What does the music we use and the way we use it say about the God we worship?

What does it say about who we are, and who our worship is for?

The Guildford Circuit Away day will allow us to reflect on our use of music in worship, how it can help (and hinder) us in our relationship with God, and how it can help (and hinder us) in our relationship with those we seek to reach with the gospel.

It will be led by Rev Ian Howarth, our Assistant Chair, and also a member of the group that is producing 'Singing the Faith' the new Methodist hymn collection due for publication next year.

The day will give us an opportunity not only to think about the issues, but also to get involved in looking at the material in the new collection, thinking about how it can best be used. There will also be time to worship together.

We will be meeting in the beautiful surroundings of Waverley Abbey, and there will be a chance to explore the grounds in the breaks between sessions.

Music forms an important part of our worship, and however musical we are it is important that we use this gift of God appropriately and effectively to develop our spirituality and our mission. I hope you will take the opportunity this day offers.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

CRANLEIGH



We weather obsessed British have been basking in this early Spring sunshine with the snow long forgotten! However I do remember some white flakes once marring the green of a June cricket pitch!

No such problems on the grey tarmac/paving stones of Stocklund Square on Good Friday, but it was a very cold wind! Nothing daunted, however, about two hundred of us from all Cranleigh churches gathered to remember Christ's sacrifice on this most sacred day. Accompanied by members of the Godalming brass band, we sang familiar hymns, heard familiar readings and listened to an inspiring address from the rector of St John's Seminary, Womersley. Father Jeremy Garratt, his colleagues and students, joined with us as a special gesture of solidarity with our village, following the untimely death of a much loved priest Father Ken Freeman.

Other united events during Lent, organised by the committee of CTC (Churches Together in Cranleigh), included a weekly series of talks with discussions under the broad heading 'Christ and'. We met in different churches on Thursday evenings, and topics included money, values, education and medicine.

The popular series of science/faith lectures organised by the chair of CTC on the last Friday of the month, in the Baptist Church, continue to intrigue and interest the fifty or so people attending.

In our own church, there were two special services during these last months: the Mothering Sunday Service and the service of music and readings which has become the tradition on Passion Sunday. It was great to welcome Rev. Allan Taylor, the children of Blossom Nursery and the Junior Choir on Mothering Sunday and Mr Taylor used young volunteers effectively to help put over his message.

University Chaplaincy Update

On March 2nd, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Patron of the Multi Faith Centre, visited the university. The Archbishop was principal guest at a fundraising dinner in the university's Lakeside Restaurant at which the Vice Chancellor warmly commended the Multi Faith Centre project to the supporters and prospective donors present. Afterwards the Archbishop was interviewed by Professor Jim Al-Khalili, and answered, with great charm and openness, a succession of varied and searching questions as well as some from the floor, including "what is your favourite hymn" (answer : "And can it be"!).

The chaplains have all spent some time helping the university prepare a professional "case for support" to take to prospective donors for the Multi Faith Centre. At these meetings the chaplains shared their vision for the work of the Centre, including their hopes for future inter-faith teaching courses and high-profile international dialogue on inter-faith understanding.

A representative of the local charity Jubilee Action recently spoke to the Compass group about its relief work with children in Haiti and Uganda. This inspired one of the students to arrange a voluntary placement with a Jubilee Action partner in Uganda in the summer.

Compass visited Send Prison for an afternoon at the end of April and met with three women prisoners whose Christian faith helps them deal with daily life at the prison. It was clear from their conversation that the hardest part of being in prison is their separation from their families, particularly their children. Telephone charges are very high so the phone calls needed to keep them in touch with their families take most of the meagre wage they earn in prison. The students are thinking of mounting a campaign to reduce these costs.

Claire Hargreaves
May 2010

CREATING SAFER SPACE

Module A Training

If you were unable to attend any of the previous sessions of Module A training, a further session has been arranged.

Tuesday 15 June 8pm Godalming United Church

Coffee will be served for half an hour before the event.

A reminder that Module A is for

- Presbyters
- Deacons
- Lay workers
- Superintendents
- Children's/youth workers (and holiday clubs)
- Junior Church staff
- Uniformed organisations
- Parent and toddlers group leaders
- Others who work with children's choir/music group leaders
- Church/circuit stewards
- Property stewards
- Church council/circuit meeting secretary
- Local preachers
- Worship leaders
- Church safeguarding representatives

Please let your church safeguarding officer know if you intend to come to the session or contact Sylvia Kelley (tel. no 423261).

Usual weekly activities have continued: the two prayer/fellowship meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings; the fortnightly Wednesday Group with its varied programme and the Saturday coffee mornings which form such an important part of our outreach.

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to Peter and Mary Dawson who have retired after publishing our leaflet 'In Touch' for so many years. Jane O'Leary has taken over this task, broadened the readership, and added colour and advertisements. Thank you Jane.

People are again meeting to organise our sixth holiday club, which will take place as usual during the first whole week of the summer holidays. Overall leader is once more Sheila Holmes.

Finally, we are grateful for help we received during Marie's absence on Sabbatical at Easter: James Strawson organised our own Good Friday Service before the witness in Stocklund Square; our Superintendent Minister celebrated early morning Communion on Easter Sunday and Dr. Bill Strawson performed that office at the 10.30 service. Thank you to them all.

Glenda Sewell

ORBIT

The next edition of Orbit will be published in August 2010. Anyone can submit items for inclusion but news about Methodist activities at local and wider levels is particularly encouraged. Photographs of children and vulnerable people can only be included if consent has been obtained.

Please let me have your dates and items for inclusion in the next issue by the end of July 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 and to Maureen and Jane for putting it all together.



GODALMING

Our last Church Meeting reminded us of our strong international links.

Firstly, our minister Paul Dean treated us to a very informative account of his Sabbatical work with the Ecumenical Accompaniers in Israel-Palestine. The daily difficulties experienced by Palestinians were illustrated by a series of telling photographs ... the long checkpoint queues (starting at 2:30 a.m.) to cross through the infamous “fence” to get to work ... the barrier down the middle of the street in Hebron (Palestinians allowed on only one side) ... the children’s playground furnished with razor-wire ... the Palestinian family forced to live in a tent outside the house that is rightfully theirs but is occupied by an Israeli family ... the provocation of Palestinian children by Israeli schoolboys. Every day the Accompaniers “lower the temperature” at these potential flashpoints by their calm, consistent presence.

Secondly, Ryan Kelley spoke of his and Sylvia’s recent trip to Sierra Leone – still war-damaged, but, with new schools & churches, showing signs of resurgence. We saw the school supported by our own Vision Fund, and were delighted to see the “home church” of one of our congregation, Moses Koroma, whose father, the local MP, organised its rebuilding after the civil war.

In Godalming the run-up to Easter was, as usual, marked by a series of Lent groups – each hosted by different churches, and all following the 2010 York Course “When I Survey”. As ever it has been good to take “time out” to share and deepen our faith with friends old and new.

Good Friday was marked by the Godalming’s Walk of Witness – a powerful statement of faith amidst the “busyness” of Bank Holiday shopping. On Easter morning itself scores of early-risers met for the town’s annual Sunrise Service at the Minster Field (followed by refreshment in nearby

Dates for your diaries

Sunday 20th June Open air songs of Praise Service on the common by the pond opposite Shalford Methodist Church 6.30pm. Music by Sounding Brass a local Brass Quintet. If wet the Service will be held in the Methodist Church. Refreshments served after the Service.

Saturday 18th September Used book sale and cake stall at Wonersh URC – Please do collect any books you and your friends may be looking to dispose of and give them to us as soon as you wish or contact me on 01483 892579 if you need transport.

Sunday 3rd October Harvest Festival Youth Service - Music by “the Pulpit Brothers and Sister”.

Tuesday 5th October Our Charity Quiz night with Sausage and Mash supper in aid of CHASE 7.00pm at the Scout Hut - teams of six. Cost £6.50 per person. You can enter your team now if you wish!

Sunday 5th December Annual Toy Service and Christingle family Service 11.00am. Music by “the Pulpit Brothers and Sister”.

Chris Cozens tel 01483 892579
email candmcozens@tiscali.co.uk



best. Many thanks to the good people at Shalford Methodist Church for their hospitality and to the National Trust at Dapdune Wharf which we used as our lunch stop. Our route took us to Shalford Parish Church and Guildford Methodist Church.

Family Services

Our grateful thanks to Janet Gardham for guiding us in the planning in March, and then leading our Spring Youth and family Service held last Sunday morning (2nd May). We had a very good attendance from all sections of the various Guide and Scout units in the village, especially as many were parading at the St Georges Day Service at the Cathedral only the week before. We were very pleased that so many parents also supported our Service. It was really good to see our friends from Shalford Methodist Church were able to join us too.

Janet's theme for the Service was "new beginnings" which was expanded on by the young people themselves who talked about the new things they were looking forward to doing this summer in their units. They also produced posters too.

At the request of the congregation the collection will be used to help offset the cost of the restoration of the South Windows.

We were once again grateful to the "Pulpit brothers and sister" for accompanying the hymns, which incidentally were chosen by various leaders from the uniformed youth groups.....

Fact file.....The "sister" in the band is none other than Sam Honey an actress who also sings in the Rock band "One eyed dog" who the Pulpit brothers usually call themselves when they are not playing for us.

One eyed dogare generously supporting the Shalford Scout Group at their annual Car boot and fete on Sunday 6th June by playing for an hour from about 1.00pm. Why not go and listen to the Band and support the Scout Group too - you know it's a good cause!

Ladywell Convent). Minster Field, with its shrine marking the underlying remains of a Saxon church, is Godalming's oldest Christian site – a tranquil place where folk have worshipped for over 1,000 years. Why not pay it a visit ... at Grid Ref 978423 ... and enjoy a walk through the bluebells of nearby Busbridge Woods?

Nancy Wilks

GUILDFORD

So from news about our Christmas handicrafts in the form of Chrismons in the last Orbit, we now bring you news of our banner making for Easter. Inspired by various books we had amongst us, we decided to make one out of strips of silk using vivid colours to dramatic effect. Having now done one, we are looking to do a further one for Harvest, but may also slot one in for Fusion.

Activities that took place during Lent were the ever popular Lent lunches at the home of church members where homemade soup was served with donations going to a charity. This year we supported the Huntingdon's Disease Group as one of our member's wife suffers from this.

The profits from the Church Lunch on Valentine's Day also went to this good cause. Around 40 people sat down to homemade beef casserole, mashed potatoes and vegetables followed by fruit fool and heart shaped shortbread biscuits. Many were asking "What sauce did you use for the casserole?" The answer – Heinz Oxtail soup – if you have never tried it, give it a go even if you would say like I do that I do not like oxtail soup!

WONERSH

Lent housegroups were held at the Manse where clips of films were watched and then analyzed under the heading “The Power of Small Choices”. The films used, were The Shawshank Redemption and Babette’s Feast. Have you watched them? – try to, they are very good viewing and very different to each other.

Since the end of February, we have had the pleasure of the company of The Salvation Army with us on a Sunday morning as they moved out of their premises which are undergoing major refurbishment. We have all benefited from the fellowship we have shared with each other and enjoyed having the brass band to accompany the services on a couple of occasions. It will be with great sadness when we say goodbye to them around June but trust that new links will have been forged and be allowed to grow even if in separate buildings.

A joint BBQ has been arranged for August which we look forward to and of course you are ALL invited to the Manse garden for afternoon/cream tea later in August

Our window sills are full of summer bedding plants as they have been potted on from plug plants – about 400 in total and so are now just waiting for them to be hardened off before planting them in the garden.

There is always the conflict of planting out the summer bedding plants against pulling up the wallflowers before they have died. This year the Manse garden is very colourful at this time with the yellows, golds and reds of these lovely spring flowers which lie dormant in winter and then shoot up in Springtime with vibrant colours, reminding us of God’s wonderful creation and the ever changing seasons of life.

Alan Thorpe

Fundraising

Firstly we would very much like to thank all those people who donated books and cakes or helped at our sale on 13th March. I am delighted to tell you that it was a very successful event – our best yet. From memory the final net total came to around £850 (very useful, for as you can see from the photo, we have now started on the Window restoration project and the final bill for that is likely to be around £3,000!).



The windows being removed by a team from Sheppard Glass, hopefully they will be restored and refitted by the end of May.

On Your Bike!

Small is beautiful they say and so it proved as we had just four riders on our annual mountain bike ride endeavouring to link churches in and around our circuit on 29th April. The event started and ended at Wonersh URC and it was really great to be out riding on such a lovely Spring day. Quite a bit of the route was along the River Wey navigation tow path which was looking at its

WEST HORSLEY

Having successfully negotiated our April LA by using the very helpful Easter Offering service provided by Network, we were momentarily disquieted when we heard that Darlene was marooned in Naples when we were expecting her to take a Baptism service. However, we were rescued by Janet Gardham who, with very little notice, stepped into the breach and, as a Local Preacher, took her first Baptism service; as expected, it was a delightful occasion led with great professionalism and charm. How lucky we are to have Janet who has helped us out on more than one occasion, quite apart from her preaching appointments and organ playing. She also led the circuit prayer evening at West Horsley which was a welcome time of quiet for prayer and meditation. Janet's daughter Catrina has also taken part in services and she made a beautiful Easter garden which has been on display in the chapel.

Darlene returned safely after a difficult time and somehow, thanks to her meticulous forward planning, she managed to get all her arrangements in place before leaving for Texas 6 days later to start her three month Sabbatical. Our very best wishes go with her.

Our 134th Chapel Anniversary was a happy and challenging occasion. We were fortunate to have with us the Revd Allan Taylor who is always a very welcome visitor. As well as looking to the future, he also reminded us of the importance of the past on which it is built. As our forebears built the chapel, so we now hope to replace the Wesley Room, not only for the present generation but also for those who come after us. Our fund raising has made an encouraging start and we are most grateful for the grant given to us by the Circuit and also for the generous contributions made at our Songs of Praise which was a joyful and well attended evening.

Our representatives were pleased to meet with the members of the Circuit Leadership Team when they came to West Horsley to share ideas about future circuit planning. I hope that they felt that we at West Horsley are still alive and ready for challenges.

Ruth Issac

MERROW



MARION SALMON **1917-2010**

We were saddened to learn of Marion's sudden death in her sleep in the early hours of Tuesday 9th March.

Her family attended the crematorium on Thursday 25th March and then joined us in a Thanksgiving Service at Church followed by refreshments. Marion was a highly valued, dedicated member of this Church and we will miss her tremendously. She took a full part in Church activities and held many offices.

Marion was born in Reading and was surrounded by music from her birth. Her grandfather and two uncles were organists and choir masters. Hence our first hymn at the Thanksgiving Service, 'Born in Song'.

Her love of music continued and as a teenager she accompanied junior and adult choirs on the piano of a new church in North Harrow, Middlesex.

It was her father's work as an Air Ministry accountant that took her family to Harrow. At the same time Robert's father also moved to Harrow Circuit as one of the ministers.

Marion and Robert left school in 1932 during the depression and they got jobs

in the same building society in Paddington, West London. Later Marion went on to the Royal Bank of Scotland and then Barclays Bank.

As a result of her father's job, the family moved to Coventry just before the war. All the family suffered in the Coventry blitz and this split them up for a time. Marion was surprised she survived.

In January 1945 Robert and Marion married at Hinde Street Church, West London where Robert's father was minister. When the manse was destroyed at Bromley Common, they lived in two rooms with a minister's widow for a few months. Conference then moved them to Wakefield where Jean was born and, few years later, to Norwich where Steve was born.

Marion's love of the piano became more than a hobby when she started work as a peripatetic pianist for day schools, first in Bristol and then in Barking and Dagenham. Later she played for ballet classes in Aldershot and Brighton. Marion and Robert have been greatly blessed by their children, four grandchildren and three great granddaughters.

Marion was part of the team that first started the Samaritans in Bristol. Moving to Ilford, Essex, she trained and became a marriage guidance counsellor for five years and then for a further five years in Aldershot, while they lived in Fleet. These experiences deepened her faith, expressed in many ways, not least in her commitment to her family, her home, friends and her church with generous hospitality.

Marion and Robert were placed in Merrow by the Methodist Housing Society nearly thirty years ago. She was always grateful to have received such a welcome here, enjoying the fellowship and serving as a pastoral leader. Marion continued using her musical skills as an accompanist for various local ballet schools and, to the end, she thoroughly enjoyed helping with the musical side of the church.

From the many tributes from grandchildren and friends we include the following:

STOUGHTON

By the time this edition of Orbit is issued we will be almost halfway through another year and here at Stoughton we are looking to the future and making changes to our church building. A legacy has provided a wonderful opportunity to refurbish areas of our church with a view to offer different types of services with bright and modern areas for lettings and social events.

We are replacing the pews with chairs and re-carpeting the sanctuary, the small hall and passageway. A programme of re-decoration is already underway and it is hoped that everything will be in place by the time we host the Circuit meeting in September.

There will, of course, be a period of time when we will not be able to use the sanctuary for our services and they will be held in the main hall as this is not being redecorated until the school summer holidays. God will not mind where we worship Him!

We restarted our monthly visits to the Queen Elizabeth Care Home just before Easter and shared a time of fellowship and worship with some of the residents with musical accompaniment kindly provided by the Manager of the Home.

At the beginning of June (5th/6th) we will celebrate 115 years of witness at Stoughton and, as part of the Anniversary weekend, we have invited Rev. Paul Dean to come on the Saturday evening and talk about his time spent in Israel during his recent Sabbatical. There will be a light supper provided so please give me a ring for more information if you would like to join us.

Linda Macbeth (Tel. 01483 532942)

We are hoping for an excellent attendance – do come if you are able. There will be a band, and we guarantee some of your best loved hymns. Refreshments will be available.

Our Garden Party will take place on **Saturday 3 July from 2 to 4pm**, come rain or shine, and all are welcome.

The Circuit service will take place at Shalford on 18 July at 6.30pm.

Eurios Kemp

Wonersh United Reformed Church
Another really huge Second hand Book Sale
And Cake stall
in the church rooms and scout hut
Saturday 18th September
10.00am – 4.00pm
Take your time and browse round our new stock of books
in a warm and friendly atmosphere
Refreshments served all day
All proceeds in aid of Church
restoration funds
For more information or to donate books
please telephone 01483 892579

The first is from Gillian Brierley:

“Marion was a constant part of my church life here at Merrow, whether it was Bible study, Sunday service, a church meeting or choir practice. She was a friend, my Class leader AND she was an alto! Marion was very musical and always supportive, always prepared to try new things and she always listened and watched me when I was conducting – not something you find in every chorister.

Marion’s was a gentle presence and yet she had a strength of purpose and faith which was an example to all. She was...a woman of grace and truth.”

The second is from Ken Mills:

“When Marion came to Merrow, on Robert’s retirement from active ministry, she was no longer THE minister’s wife and so could have more freedom to ‘do her own thing.’ It was wonderful the way she so quickly and readily became, with Robert, part of the family here, using her musical and other skills to the full. We are so glad that she remained active to the very end and we shall miss her greatly. We thank God for her valuable presence among us.”

LENTEN CROSS

In the last publication of Orbit we told you about our Lenten Cross. We brought posies of flowers to decorate it on Easter Day. Here it is in the front porch for all to see, together with the Garden of Remembrance.



CENTENARY OF GUIDING

It was a joy to see a large congregation join 15 Brownies from our 3rd Merrow Pack in a service to celebrate 100 years of Guiding. As we sang “Come on and celebrate” the flags were brought forward and a unique service followed. The Brownies, smartly turned out in uniform styles throughout the years, presented a history of Guiding before singing “This little guiding light of mine.” Helen Allin, for many years leader of the Guides at Merrow, read the lesson. The Lent Liturgy for the first Sunday in Lent was carried out by Megan Swayne with 27 years’ service (two as Tawny Owl when Audrey Heath was Brown Owl and 25 years as Brown Owl) and Janice Brownlee, who has 23 years’ service – five in Norway and 18 in Merrow as Snowy Owl.



Our youngest Brownie, Mia, with the first Brown Owl, Audrey Heath, cutting the cake made by Megan Swayne

SHALFORD



We held a table-top sale in March which generated a useful sum for church funds, and thanks are due to the volunteers who made this possible.

The 11th anniversary of our Church rebuilding was celebrated on 21 March in a joint service with members of Wonersh URC. A week later we were delighted to welcome in baptism the newest member of our Church community.

Claire led an evening service on Maundy Thursday, and on Good Friday morning she held a short service of prayer and meditation, when we were joined by members of St. Mary’s. Claire also presided at our service of Holy Communion on Easter day.

Our regular activities in the Church hall continue:

- Chat mornings on the first Monday of the month
- Bible Study groups every second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm
- Parent and Toddler Group every Wednesday at 10am during term time
- Thursday coffee mornings from 10 to 12

As well as the chat mornings, housegroups are held in a local home every six weeks, providing a relaxed environment in which to discuss current topics from a Christian point of view.

Claire also holds the popular Pram Services from time to time, and these are valued and enjoyed by all who attend.

Forthcoming events:

We are very much looking forward to an Open Air Songs of Praise which we are planning jointly with Wonersh URC and the Parish Church of St. Mary’s on **Sunday 20th June at 6.30pm** on Shalford Common opposite the church.

Humbled beneath Your mighty hand.
Have mercy on our stricken land,
Humbled beneath Your mighty hand.

Our broken hearts cry out in pain:
Hear us from heaven! Lift us again,
Strengthen the things that now remain.
Let healing fall like gentle rain;
Cause springs of joy to rise again.

Amid the fires of grief and loss
Faith is refined. Purged of our dross,
We see the Man nailed to a cross,
Suffering to redeem our loss,
In agony upon a cross.

We look to Him, and hope revives.
Lover of souls! Healer of lives!
Through every torment hell contrives
We look to You, and hope revives:
Giver of life, come heal our lives.

Saved as a remnant from the 'quake,
Deep in our hearts, though they may break,
Christ is the treasure none can take;
Built on the rock that cannot shake,
We will rejoice! Zion, awake!

As most of you will know our minister, Darlene, will be on sabbatical during May, June and July. Recently we had a foretaste of her absence when she was stranded in Italy during the volcanic ash problem. Our good wishes and prayers go with her and we hope that she will find the time refreshing and stimulating.

Iris Walker

Our Minister, Rev. Darlene McCarley, spoke on the theme: "Lend a hand and be prepared" which resonated with all in the packed church. Prayers were written and read fluently by the Brownies and there was a hearty singing of "When I needed a neighbour were you there?" Yvonne Peach, District Commissioner, led a RENEWAL OF PROMISES, when Brownies of all ages stood to renew their Promises, some made as long ago as 80 years in places as diverse as Norway, the Netherlands, Scotland, Ireland, Hong Kong and Singapore.



**Brownies at the
service to celebrate
the centenary
of guiding**

After a universal heartfelt singing of “Now thank we all our God” the Brownies left with the flags, singing the first round of “Go well and safely.” Darlene had led a very happy, thoughtful service, encouraging all to celebrate. This continued as people looked at the fascinating exhibition of memorabilia and enjoyed the superb cake made by Megan, who reminded us how things have changed for girls compared with 100 years ago. Our thanks go to all who were involved in this service of celebration.



**Youngest Brownie,
Mia, with Karen
Brownlee, who took
her Brownie
promise in Norway
80 years ago**

On **6th June** we celebrate our **Church Anniversary at 10.30am** with a service including Holy Communion, led by the **Rev. Alan Thorpe**. We look forward afterwards to Megan Swayne’s celebration cake.

Throughout the summer **Lyn McKay’s house group** will be meeting monthly with the hope that August weather will allow afternoon tea in her garden.

UNSHAKEN FAITH

This song was written by Gillian Brierley’s sister, **JOAN BRUHIER**. It was inspired by a newspaper article which Joan read, telling how, the morning after the Haiti earthquake, large numbers of survivors were singing of their faith in God and thanking Him for their lives in Port au Prince, although many had lost family and homes and their cathedral lay in ruins.

Gillian sang this song, accompanied by Joan on the piano, during the morning service at Merrow on 14th February. We thought that our readers would like to think about the words again.

Almighty God, in You we trust;
Although our world lies in the dust
We know that you are good and just.
We bless your Name, in You we trust:
Our shattered world lies in the dust.

Creator God, You made the earth,
Fashioned a man, brought us to birth;
Is life so cheap? Have we no worth?
Was it Your wrath that shook the earth?
Buried the sons You brought to birth?

Spared in the shaking of our land,
Somehow we live, by grace we stand,