



March to May 2010

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Exploring Worship **CELEBRATION** and **RENEWAL**

**A day for Musicians, Preachers and Worship
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**Workshops led by
Michael Davies
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Barbara Young
Rob Newton
and others**

**High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden
Saturday 12th June 2010
10-00a.m. to 4-30 p.m.**

ArtServe is a new initiative of the Methodist Church Music Society (MCMS) and will support the use of all creative arts in worship

GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT DIARY (CONT'D)

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

6.30pm Sunday 9th. May
Circuit Prayer Meeting at Shalford Methodist Church

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

6.30pm Sunday 23rd. May
Circuit Service at Godalming United Church

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

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

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

6.30pm Sunday 11th. July
Circuit Prayer Meeting at TBA

Saturday 17th. July
Circuit Away Day at Waverley Abbey with Rev'd. Ian Howarth 'Music and
Mission'

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

7.30pm Thursday 9th September
Local Preachers & Worship Leaders Meeting at Cranleigh Methodist Church



LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Friends,

8 Eastgate Gardens

You should have all now recovered from the Christmas and New Year festivities. As I was on a diet for the University of Surrey Research Project, I had no sugar for Christmas, New Year, or indeed during my holiday! The aim of the study entitled "The Effect of Dietary Carbohydrate on Lipids" is to determine the effects of dietary carbohydrate in association with increased Cardio Vascular Disease risk by measuring changes in blood lipids and liver fat. The answers will provide valuable information for influencing future dietary recommendations for public health. I have now come to the end of the first twelve week period without non-milk extrinsic sugar (i.e. I avoided all processed sugar), and have spent a day at the hospital being monitored. I now get four weeks off before starting a twelve week period on high sugar. Yes, I realise that means that I will be on high sugar during Lent, but I randomly went on no sugar first!

So Lent will soon be upon us and you will be considering giving something up after the excesses of Christmas festivities. Perhaps I could advise you to consider giving up sugar! That certainly would be the case of not practising what I preach!

Dates for Easter vary considerably. In 2008 Easter was on the 23rd. March, and in 2011 Easter falls on the 24th. April. So the date for Easter, and therefore Lent, can vary by over one month. Why is this? The simple definition of the date of Easter is that it is the first Sunday after the Full Moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox. If the full moon falls on a Sunday then Easter is the next Sunday. But this is only the method used to determine

the date of Easter in Western Christian churches; the date used by the Eastern churches can be weeks later!

Lent is the forty-day period before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday, skipping Sundays when counting the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection.

Lent begins on the 17th. February 2010 and ends on the 4th. April 2010. Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

Shrove Tuesday is basically the day of preparation for Lent. The following day - the Wednesday is Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent. The word "shrove" is the past tense of "shrive". Shrive means to hear confession of, assign penance to, and absolve. Lent is a time of abstinence - traditionally of meat, fat, eggs and dairy products - so Shrove Tuesday was the day to consume all the fat, eggs and dairy products in the kitchen. The English custom of making pancakes is one way to use up fat, eggs and dairy products. Hence, this is how Shrove Tuesday came to be sometimes called Pancake Day. The origin of pancake racing is thought to have begun in 1445. A woman had lost track of the time on Shrove Tuesday, and was busy cooking pancakes in her kitchen. Suddenly she heard the church bell ringing to call the faithful to church for confession. The woman raced out of her house and ran all the way to church; still holding her frying pan and wearing her apron. One of the most famous pancake races is held at Olney in Buckinghamshire over a 415 yard course. The rules are strict; contestants have to toss their pancake at both the start and the finish, as well as wearing an apron and a scarf. The race is followed by a church service.

In some cultures, it is traditional to eat as much as possible on Shrove Tuesday, up to 12 times a day! Shrove Tuesday is indeed a day for partying. It is not that surprising that alternative names for Shrove Tuesday - Mardi

GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT DIARY

7.30pm Thursday 4th. March
Circuit Safeguarding Training at Merrow Methodist Church

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

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

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

7.30pm Thursday 11th. March
Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at West Horsley

10.00am to 4.00pm Saturday 13th. March
Book Sale and Cake Stall at Wonerish United Reformed Church

6.30pm Sunday 14th. March
Circuit Prayer Meeting at Stoughton Methodist Church

10.00am to 12 noon Wednesday 24th. March
Mental Health Issues "Encircled in Care" Pastoral Visitor Training at 8 Eastgate Gardens

6.30pm Sunday 11th. April
Circuit Prayer Meeting at West Horsley Methodist Church

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

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

10.00am to 12 noon Wednesday 21st. April
Loss and Bereavement "Encircled in Care" Pastoral Visitor Training at 8 Eastgate Gardens

ORBIT

The next edition of Orbit will be published in May 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 April 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.

Gras and Carnival - have come to describe parties, big parties. The French 'Mardi Gras' translates to 'Fat Tuesday' and 'Carnival' derives from 'camera levare', the 'taking away of flesh'. If you have pancakes (or a party) on Shrove Tuesday, do remember why, and spend Lent reflecting, taking stock and preparing for Easter.

Further to my last letter, six people have come forward to do the Faith & Worship course, and by the time you read this, the Rev'd Allan Taylor, the Circuit Tutor, will have started this course.

The planning meeting for the Circuit mid-week event was postponed because of the snow, so this is now taking place at 7.30pm Wednesday 24th. February at 8 Eastgate Gardens.

Following the success of the Circuit Weekend it has been decided to organise a Circuit Away Day this year, and a Circuit Away Weekend next year. This year, Waverley Abbey has been booked on Saturday 17th. July when Assistant District Chair, the Rev'd. Ian Howarth, will lead us on a day entitled 'Music and Mission'. Ian has been part of the Music Resources Group producing a new Methodist hymn book which should be approved by the Methodist Conference just before the Away Day. The Rev'd. Dr. Chris Blake, Principal of Cliff College, has been booked to lead a Circuit Weekend Away 14th. – 16th. October 2011. Dates for your diary!

Just to remind you 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'd. Marie-Anne Kent, Superintendent of the Tonbridge Circuit, will speak about Uganda. The Circuit Prayer Meetings are continuing on the second Sunday evening of each month, circulating around the Circuit. 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 we are hoping the preacher will be the Rev'd Dr. Hugh Osgood, the Founder and President of Churches In Communities International.

God bless, Alan

MRS VERA JOAN HAVIS

Local Preacher Joan Havis died on 21st January 2010 aged 91. Joan had been a member of Shalford Methodist Church since 1947 and will be missed greatly by the fellowship. The following Tribute was compiled from information from her daughters, Christine and Stella.

Joan was born on 21st August 1918 in Maldon, Essex. She spent a happy childhood with her parents Emily and Percy Vince and her older brother Victor. She loved the outdoors and with her lifelong friend Edna, enjoyed exploring the salt marshes around the tidal river Blackwater and swimming in the outdoor salt water swimming lake. It was during this time that Joan grew to love nature and especially wild flowers.

Joan was a keen Girl Guide and an active member of Maldon Methodist Church. After grammar school, she joined the Civil Service Customs and Excise department in London.

At the start of the Second World War, Joan's office was evacuated to Buxton in the Peak District. Joan enjoyed the Derbyshire countryside and often returned for visits.

In 1942 Joan went back to Maldon and married Wesley Havis, a local boy. Christine was born in Maldon in 1944 and in 1947 the family moved to Shalford where Wesley, a Local preacher and lifelong socialist, worked with the Cooperative Society. Stella was born in 1952 and Joan continued to be active at church, running the girls club, assisting with Sunday School, Women's Fellowship, flower arranging and supporting the many church activities.

The 1960s brought a period of sadness in Joan's life. Both her



A day of vocational exploration

hosted by the Regional Training Officers
with Rev Dr Mark Wakelin

Bromley Methodist Church, Kent BR1 3NS
Saturday 1st May 2010, 10—4 pm

Do you have questions about lay or ordained ministry?
Opportunities to meet with students and staff of learning institutions,
mentors and others who can help with your exploration.
Group discussion and one-to-ones. Worship. Quiet Room.
Lunch and refreshments provided.

Organised by the South East
Regional Training Network of the
Methodist Church.
Open to all.

Contact Wendy Cory by 15 April 2010 to book.
Tel 01293 813970;
Email wendy.cory@methodistsoutheast.org.uk

5. A small group of people are needed to organize the planning of these events. If you are prepared to be on that planning group then please let me know.
6. This is important for the Circuit! What do we give up in order that this can succeed? We need to acknowledge that churches may have to stop doing other things in order that this can happen.
7. A Circuit Prayer is written that is used in all Circuit Churches every Sunday in the coming weeks.
8. Everyone prays for the Circuit at least once a week at 9.00pm every Wednesday.

Alan Thorpe 12/11/09



parents died unexpectedly within 24 hours of each other just after Christmas 1962. This was a shock which affected Joan for the rest of her life. Wesley's health deteriorated and he died in 1969 at the early age of 59. Joan was 51 when she was widowed and survived Wesley by 40 years.

Joan took part time employment with the Canada Life Insurance Company and the Ministry of Agriculture in Guildford. She developed her interest in painting and drawing, attending art classes in Guildford and exhibiting many of her paintings. One of her sketches featured on notelets sold to raise funds by Shalford Methodist Church.

Joan trained to be a Methodist Local Preacher after the death of her husband. She was an excellent preacher and was always proud of the positive feedback she received from the congregations.

Christine and Stella each had three sons and Joan took great interest in their activities and achievements and was also fond of her two son-in-laws, David and Mike. Her first great-grandchild, a beautiful little girl, was born a week after Joan died.

In 1983 Joan moved to a flat in Castle Street where she was very happy, taking great pleasure in the gardens of Guildford Castle nearby. Joan kept up her painting and preaching links and was also a volunteer helper with the H Club and the Save the Children charity shop. In the last few years, Joan became increasingly retiring as her mental and physical strength declined. However she never lost her love of God's creation and appreciation of the beauty of nature, so expertly and enduringly captured in her flower and landscape paintings.

Rev Claire Hargreaves 14.2.10

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES



CRANLEIGH

In common with many others, our members had great difficulties with the snow, which has now (temporarily?) disappeared. Two good things about it: its beauty and the effect it had on the innate goodness of one's neighbours. Trips (on foot) to local shops to buy bread and milk were readily offered and accepted by grateful house-bound elderly folk. This season 'of goodwill' was extended well into the New Year.

Our planned Christmas activities were fortunately not affected by the weather, and carol concerts, services and Christmas lunch went ahead successfully. Large amounts of money were raised for Action for Children and Women's Network, thanks to the hard work of many people.

The pre-Christmas Gift Service, conducted by our own minister Marie, was also successful and well attended by members, parents and families of nursery children and the Junior Choir who participated in the service. Gifts (mostly of money) were donated to Action for Children.

Our local committee of Churches Together was busy during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We were invited to St John's Seminary at Womersley on the evening of January 20 and about seventy people from all denominations heard an inspiring address from Sister Margaret Crinyion, a local hermit, who isn't normally involved in parish work. The Rector of the Seminary, Father Jeremy Garratt, his colleagues and students, welcomed us warmly and gave us refreshments afterwards.

On Sunday evening January 24, a very large congregation, again from all local denominations, gathered in our church for a united service, led by Marie. Our choir was augmented by members of other local choirs and representatives of other churches read lessons. The sermon was preached by Dr Colin Connolly, an Anglican lay reader, retired senior scientist, and current chair of Churches

GUILDFORD METHODIST CIRCUIT WEEKEND AWAY AT ABINGWORTH HALL

Friday 30th October – Sunday 1st November 2009

40 adults and 2 children from six churches enjoyed good food and fellowship, with informative and challenging teaching by the Rev'd. Ken Howcroft on the theme 'Walking the Talk, and Talking the Walk with Jesus.' The four sessions were entitled:-

- Session 1 Walking the talk – not strangers but pilgrims and disciples
- Session 2 Talking the walk – speaking biblically in the present age
- Session 3 With Jesus - learning and following
- Session 4 What is the spirit saying to the churches?

The many and varied discussion groups at the weekend concluded that the success of the weekend should be built on by arranging follow up meetings after the weekend to decide 'What happens next?' Two follow up meetings were arranged for the afternoon and evening of Wednesday 11th. November to which 23 people from five churches came.

The Following Recommendations were made by the two groups:-

1. A Circuit Away Day to be held on a Saturday in June 2010 at Waverley Abbey.
2. A Circuit Away Weekend to be arranged for Autumn 2011.
3. Circuit fund raising to be organised so that no one is prevented going on either of these by lack of finance.
4. A Mid Week Circuit Event to start early in the New Year 2010 (realistically February), on the 1st. and 3rd. Monday or Wednesday at Guildford Methodist Church. The Event to have a varied programme with many suggestions put forward e.g. Praise worship, Cafe Style, Messy Church, Taize, Bible Study, Discussion Groups, Teaching etc. whatever would energize people.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

1. Training - Creating Safer Space

Module A- Basic safeguarding awareness for work with children and young people

Tues 2nd February	10am	Weybridge Methodist Ch. <i>Full</i>
Thurs 4th March	7.30pm <i>for 7.50pm</i>	Merrow Methodist Church <i>2 spaces remaining</i>
Sat 6th March	10am	Guildford Methodist Church <i>Full</i>
Sat 17th April	10am	Woking Methodist Church <i>Still spaces</i>

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

AND

2. Saturday 13 February at Godalming United church from 10am to 1pm – a training session led by Donald Findlater of the Independent Safeguarding Authority on the recently introduced Vetting Barring scheme for those working with children and vulnerable adults.

Together in Cranleigh. Colin's style and subject matter were very different from Sister Margaret's but he gave us much food for thought. The whole atmosphere of the service and the following refreshment time was of friends meeting together, sharing a common belief.

We have been encouraged too by the presence of a few new friends in our ordinary services. Some have been prepared to take a fuller part in our activities and we greatly welcome this. May this trend continue!

Finally, our thoughts and prayers go with Marie as she starts her Sabbatical at the end of February. We hope she will gain great benefit from these months of thought and refreshment.

Glenda Sewell

Wonersh United Reformed Church
Another really huge
Second hand Book Sale And Cake stall
in the church rooms and scout hut
Saturday 13th March
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

GODALMING

THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING

23rd January: an amazing day in the life of GUC

Russ Parker, Director of the **Acorn Christian Healing Foundation (ACF)**, proved to be an enthralling facilitator - with the talent of engaging both a group and the individual simultaneously ... challenging, comforting, amusing by turn. Above all, a big-hearted Christian.

We came to see that Christian healing – of anxiety, depression, bereavement, illness and all kinds of hurt – is a journey of reconciliation. Healing is a sense of wholeness (not always involving medical cure – though sometimes it does). And reconciliation is intimately linked with listening ... listening to others ... listening to ourselves ... listening to God. We learned that “good listening” was – and is – at the heart of Jesus’s ministry.

So our day fell into three parts:

How to Listen - the most necessary gift we can give others – (be non-judgemental ... & remember that listening is not the same as counselling!)

Listening and Prayer – when, how, where can we listen to God?

Stories – listening to our own life-stories and those of others. Our own church has a story - what is it’s narrative - how will it develop?

Sister Anne at Ladywell’s Retreat Centre provided us with quiet hospitality in a splendid venue– including a hearty lunch!

To sum up – an enriching and memorable “time out”, which we hope has helped us grow as Christians. We learned the value of silence and of quiet (holy) places in which to make time and space for God every day (a comfy chair will do!).

UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

Last November, 6 members of the Compass group of students and two chaplains (Canon Jonathan Frost and myself), travelled on pilgrimage to Lindisfarne via Durham Cathedral. We spent time together exploring the history and spirituality of Holy Island, praying and walking around the beautifully bleak island, and joining in morning and evening prayer at the Parish Church. We stayed at a retreat house run by a religious community who have a ministry of hospitality and who also support inter-faith children’s work in Bethlehem. It was a time of rich blessing for all of us.

Compass weekly Monday evening meetings continue with a core attendance of 8 or 9 students. Topics for discussion have included “good news in God’s world?” exploring Christian witness in difficult situations, especially Haiti; the meaning of Candlemas; “Love, sex and marriage” and “The church’s attitude to homosexuality and same-sex partnerships”.

I have now been formally appointed non-stipendiary Methodist Chaplain by the University; there are many needs and opportunities in the university community for spiritual input so please pray for guidance in how I and the Methodist Circuit can best serve God on campus.

The Multi-Faith Centre is almost a reality - and in March the fundraising profile will be raised by a day-long visit from The Archbishop of Canterbury.

Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Rev Claire Hargreaves

Methodist Chaplain to the University of Surrey

National trust centre at Dapdune wharf and returning to Wonersh URC for T@3. All you need is a mountain bike and to be happy to ride on and off tarmac roads ! Contact Chris Cozens on 01483 892579

Sunday 2nd May Our annual Spring Service for families and the various Scout and Guide units at Wonersh URC 11.00am Music by “the Pulpit brothers and sister ”

Saturday 18th September Used book sale and cake stall at Wonersh URC

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

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

Could they have meant me ?

.....I’m not sure whether it was aimed at me or not, but the last time I was doing a very little segment at one of our family services a young lad was over heard saying to his friend “I do hope that the collection money will be given to that man in the pulpit today because my mum and dad think that he is a very poor preacher”.....

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

Russ is sending me a copy of his powerpoint outline for the day – which I can email or print off for anyone interested. And how about a visit to the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation’s weekly Service of Healing and Wholeness at their Bordon Centre on Tuesday mornings?

Whitehill Chase, High St., Bordon GU35 0AP
www.acornchristian.org tel 01420 478121

Nancy Wilks

GUILDFORD

WE HAVE LIFT-OFF!

Guildford wants to get back into Orbit – apologies for our absence from recent issues so for this issue we’re offering updates from 2 viewpoints. We’re involved in some exciting things, most in conjunction with other Churches, which we’d like to share with you.

Sharing is at the heart of our activity, as our premises are made available throughout the week to a variety of organisations, including a number of Christian groups. Over the coming months we’ll be taking this to a new level as we share Sunday morning worship with the congregation from Guildford **Salvation Army**. They are near neighbours on Woodbridge Road and will join us for worship while their premises are refurbished. As well as offering hospitality, this will bring variety to our worship and the opportunity to make new friends.

We have been supporting, from the start, the Guildford **Street Angels** initiative which has been well received by the Council, Police and businesses involved in the night-time economy of Guildford, as well as those from Guildford and the surrounding area who are helped by the Street

Angels on duty Friday and Saturday nights from 10 pm to 4 am. A recruitment drive will be launched in the next few weeks to boost the number of volunteers.

Street Angels work under the auspices of the charity, Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy which has now embarked on the second phase of its plans for outreach and service to the community through appointing the first full-time **Town Centre Chaplain**, Rod Boreham. Fittingly, Rod was commissioned by Christians of many denominations at the end of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity in late January. His role will be to develop links with those living, working and visiting the Town Centre and strengthen relations with the public authorities and businesses. To help with pastoral care, we hope to appoint a number of volunteer chaplains to focus on particular businesses or sectors. It's exciting to see practical cooperation between so many different Churches to bring the message of Christ to our town.

Obviously, these initiatives cost money and GTCC hopes to boost its funds with sponsored climbs of **Kilimanjaro** this summer, one of which will be led by our son, Tim, in June. We'd appreciate offers of sponsorship, please. The teams will be contributing to local projects in Tanzania by working with them for a week after the climb and donating part of the sponsorship to those projects. Projects have been selected which work to meet the needs of young people, including street children.

On a different note, we welcome back a talented Methodist musician and entertainer for **An Evening with Simeon Wood** on Saturday 8 May. I'm sure all those who attended the previous such event will tell you to expect a really enjoyable evening. It's something to which you can confidently invite your friends with a varied programme of light music and anecdotes. Tickets will be on sale soon – watch out for the publicity and book your places for a great evening out.

If you'd like more information about any of these activities please contact me on 570102 or nigel.campion-smith@lw.com.

Nigel Campion-Smith

WONERSH

We would like to wish our Minister Rev Marie Greenwood an uplifting and enjoyable sabbatical, and we look forward to hearing about the projects she plans to undertake on her return in May.

Christingle / Toy Service

Marie our minister was highly delighted with the response from the various organisations who operate from or around the Church and village at our Christingle / toy service held in December. We had quite a few more parents attending too, so much so that we counted some 140 people in the pews - is this a record ?

The Christingle part of the Service was very much a combined effort with by adults making over 100 Christingles and young people parading them in a carefully managed and huge candle lit procession and singing "Shine Jesus Shine".

A large pile of gifts was donated to the Christian Women's alliance hostel in Guildford, A cheque value £70. was also given to the refuge - as agreed with the Scouts and Guide leaders who helped plan the Service.....

The Musicians at this Service were once again "*The Pulpit brother and sister*" - David, Andy, Steve and their singer Samantha Honey who led us in the Carols. There was a surprise end in store when the band struck up with Noddy Holder's "Merry Christmas- everybody's having fun " to close a truly lovely Service.....

Dates for your diaries

Saturday 13th March Used book sale and scrummy cake sale 10.00am to 4.00pm see else where in this magazine for details.

Thursday 29nd April Our annual mountain bike ride linking local URC and Methodist Churches - Coffee at Shalford Methodist Church, a visit to the Guildford Methodist Church if it is open for casual visitors, lunch at the

WEST HORSLEY

This Christmas we decided to put a blue star on the outside wall of the chapel. When it was switched on in the evenings it proved most effective in making the chapel more visible and identifiable to those outside. Our Christmas services were well-attended and happy occasions, the Carol service being a 'Local Arrangement' Sunday.

We were fortunate on the Big Snow Sunday to have both preacher and organist within walking distance. We were expecting a congregation of no more than half a dozen, but sixteen hardy souls turned up and were treated to an excellent service, led by Janet Gardham, with a sermon featuring T.S.Eliot's memorable poem, the Journey of the Magi.

The week of prayer for Christian unity was celebrated by a service at All Saints Church, Ockham, led by the Revd Clive Kirk and supported by representatives of three Parish churches, one Methodist church and one Roman Catholic church. The churches will also be joining together for Lent House Groups, for a Lent Lunch, for an open-air service on Good Friday in East Horsley village and for a Women's World Day of Prayer service.

We continue to have our twice monthly Bible Study and are currently studying some of the history and religious development of the Israelites. We hope that you will be able to join us for our Songs of Praise on Saturday 17th April at 7.00 p.m. The 18th April is our Chapel Anniversary when the Revd Allan Taylor will be leading the service.

Ruth Issac

.....And another entry into Orbit from Guildford Methodist Church – this time from Anne Thorpe.

This edition of Orbit always comes out sometime after Christmas but I think it is still important to let others know of what happens in our churches at this time of the year.

This year we did not have a Christmas tree in church, but a Chrismon Tree and on 13th December our morning service included the decorating of this tree together with bible verses and hymns relating to the theme. A Chrismon is made up of 2 words ;CHRIST and MONOGRAM and are primarily symbols that are associated with Christ. They can be made from any fabric that is white which then may have gold incorporated in it. For a number of weeks before Christmas a few of us met at the Manse once a week to have a craft evening making Chrismons as well as people making some in their own homes. When hung on the tree we had nearly 100 and the effect was stunning.

If you would like to consider doing this in your church and want some advice, I would only be too pleased to help.

The craft evening has inspired us to have a new project which is to make banners for the church which we will start shortly.

We had a Christmas quiz and party one Friday evening where Alan was again Quiz master. It was a fun evening and much fellowship enjoyed by all. On the 1st. Sunday in Advent Rev Judith Rossall was our preacher and to continue the fellowship afterwards we had a lunch for around 30 people. After the costs were taken out we were able to give £130 to Kiberia where Rosamund Trembath had visited earlier in the month taking out vital supplies. "Getaway" the Tuesday toddler club run by church volunteers ventured into new ground during Advent by holding a session on a Sunday morning as a form of outreach for those who may also like to come to church. Sadly there was little response apart from one person – namely our granddaughter who had come to stay for the weekend. You can imagine what fun she had playing with all those toys!! They are planning to hold another one next month (and

guess who is coming to stay again!) and so we pray that this form of outreach may touch some families.

Anne Thorpe



STOUGHTON

I hope it's not too late to wish you a happy and peaceful new year from everyone at Stoughton. The year already moves on quickly but we joyfully remember our Advent and Christmas services as we celebrated the birth of our Saviour. Our Gift service included a time for presents to be handed over to the representative from CHASE. Our Carol Service and Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service were led by Alan and both provided a time for joy and reflection. A lively service on Christmas morning was led by George Wilshaw and Rev. Allan Taylor began the new year inviting us to renew our Covenant with God.

We tried a new venture at the beginning of December when we held a Christmas Dinner for 40 members and friends. Turkey with all the trimmings was followed by Frances' wonderful homemade Christmas pudding. After we had also managed to eat mince pies we sang carols to end a special evening. It was the first time we had used our new oven to cook a meal for a large number of people and we were told that both catering team and oven passed the test!

For the last five and a half years a team from Stoughton have visited Queen Elizabeth Care Home each month on Saturday mornings for a short service of hymns, readings and prayers. Mark Hargreaves led this team until last December and we would like to say thank you to him for his caring leadership and assure him that we will carry on this mission and outreach.

Linda Macbeth

Normal service has been resumed in the Church Hall, the centre for many of our activities, such as:-

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

In addition, a housegroup is hosted in a local home every six weeks. This, and the Monday morning Chat group, provides an opportunity for lively discussion on topics of the day from a Christian perspective in an informal social environment.

Claire has held several Pram Services, which have proved very popular, and further services are planned.

On the last Sunday of January, on arrival at Church, we discovered that we had suffered a power cut. We were expecting our friends from St Mary's Parish Church, for a joint service. The outlook was not good – no heating, no organ, and worst of all no kettle! However, we had a full church and rousing hymns, which helped with the temperature, Mark had brought his guitar, and a quick-thinking member of St. Mary's arrived with hot water in several thermos flasks – so all's well that ends well.

Eurios Kemp

MERROW



A WELCOME TO ALL at the **Circuit Service** on 7th February in our Church at 6.30pm. It is to be led by Heather Clements from the Bible Society.

It would also be good to see you on 21st February at our 10.30am service for a special **CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF BROWNIES AND GUIDES**. There will be a display of photos and memorabilia so if you have anything you would like to contribute to this, let us know. Bring along your Brownie uniform with all of its badges!

JOURNEY TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD



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We would also be pleased to meet you at the **OUTLET** meeting at 7.45pm on 8th February when Paul Whittle will give an illustrated talk entitled “**Toy Train to the Clouds**”, about the train that climbs up to Darjeeling one of the world’s great railway journeys. This is an open meeting for all your family and friends.

On 8th March the Karisma Barbershop Quartet will present an introduction to barbershop singing

We have been pleased to support the following:

The Women’s Fellowship raised £95 at their Carol Service. Proceeds went to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Their Christmas party collection raised £50 which was sent to the Chase Hospice.

Action for Children gift vouchers raised £738, which was divided between the Phoenix Project, Wimbledon, the Bayswater Families Centre and the Foster Care Project based at Fareham.

The total raised by **Action for Children** at Merrow Methodist for 2009 was £5,629.63p, compared with £4,158.02p raised in 2008.

Our **CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS** enabled us to make contributions to:
Methodist Relief and Development Fund - £104
CHASE -£285.15
BibleLands sponsored child - £171.11

The **Church Quiz** on 14th November raised £500 which helped in the purchase of the projector, now in use in the Church. So, no longer need there be a search for spectacles and a leafing through the hymn book! Thanks to the projector the entire service is thrown up on to large screens, enabling all to follow the proceedings. Experimentation is still taking place with colour schemes to determine the best combination for visibility. It is stressed that there is no intention of replacing the hymn books, which will remain in the pews for all to use if they so wish.

Our Christmas Carol Service, followed by a buffet lunch, was very well attended and enjoyed by all, and thanks are due to the many helpers who contributed to the success of the occasion. Also well attended was the late night candlelit Christmas Eve service, and the Christmas morning service at Womersley URC .

The New Year started off with our Covenant Service. The following week in common with some other churches in the circuit, the snow prevented a service being held, a very rare occurrence.

On a sad note, very long-standing member and local preacher Joan Havis passed away on 21st January.

The Church Hall was out of use for a short while during December and January for the installation of new kitchen facilities and redecoration. Much behind the scenes planning went into this and we are all grateful to those who gave up their time to bring this to fruition and delighted with the results.



SHALFORD



Writing at the end of January for this edition of Orbit, by the time this is read there should be signs of Spring and warmer weather round the corner. Just now the cold and frosty conditions are still with us, and the difficulties created by the snow and ice 3 or 4 weeks ago only too fresh in our minds. On the positive side, the overnight transformation of familiar surroundings into an alpine landscape was quite stunning; children had fun sledging and snowballing, quirky snowmen appeared, and Shalford became famous for a beautifully constructed igloo next to the cricket pavilion - well worth a trudge through the deep snow on the common for a close up inspection.

Despite the heavy rain, the Christmas Fair on 14 November raised useful funds, and thanks are due to everyone who contributed goods for sale and their time manning the stalls and making hot drinks, as well as the faithful supporters who braved the wet weather.

We were again very pleased to welcome the Onslow Singers on 18 November for a wonderful evening of music, in support of their worthy causes, the programme including many fondly remembered traditional songs. Thank you to all who participated.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We collected 103 shoe boxes on Sunday 22nd November. The Junior Church made eight in their club. The Brownies made 39. This could not have been achieved without everyone who gave a donation of money to the Brownies for the shipping costs. This year ours are going to Bosnia.



Brownies and their Boxes

We had a thriving **HOUSE GROUP** in the autumn held in the home of Lyn McKay, with a Bible Study based on the film "Iris", the story of the author Iris Murdoch, with themes of living, communicating and dying. There are four further Bible Study sessions before the ecumenical house groups take place during Lent.

The **ADVENT LITURGY** challenged us afresh through song, poem and prayer. We were able to reflect further on their content by taking home the printed material

It has been agreed that in the morning worship service the **LENTEN CROSS** will be used again this year with a garland of flowers surrounding it on Easter Day. After the Easter Day Service it will be put in the Church porch for all to see.

We are saddened to report these deaths:
Grace Josephine Mary Blake
Janet Heighes
Margaret McConnell
Brian Raynes [son-in-law of Dora Newell]

A MEDAL FOR CYNTHIA



Cynthia Winder

We were delighted to hear that Cynthia Winder was among the code breakers of Bletchley Park honoured for their vital contribution to winning the Second World War.

The highly secret work at Bletchley Park – judged by historians to have tipped the balance of the war - led to the breaking of the Enigma Codes which, as well as enabling the Allies to stem the losses of the Atlantic convoys, helped Montgomery in his victory at El Alamein and played an important role in the

D-Day landings. Now, after years of keeping the secrets of her work, Cynthia and her surviving colleagues have received a specially created Service medal to mark their “selfless public service.”

The medal, inscribed “We also served”, comes with a certificate, signed by the Prime Minister which reads: “The Government wishes to express to you its deepest gratitude for the vital service you performed during World War Two.”

Cynthia joined the WRNS in 1944, as soon as she was old enough. At that time her father was an Army chaplain living in Aldershot. Following her training at Mill Hill she was selected to work at Bletchley Park, under top-secret conditions. “I took an oath under the Official Secrets Act never to discuss my work,” she says. “At the time I told my father that I was on special duties.” Even after the war all who worked at Bletchley Park were sworn to secrecy about their time there. Much still remains classified. “Even I do not know anything about her work,” says husband Frank.

Cynthia and her WRNS colleagues were stationed at Woburn Abbey and travelled the six miles by bus to Bletchley Park where work went on 24 hours a day. “There were three watches – midnight to 8am, 8am to 4pm and 4pm to midnight,” Cynthia recalled. “The worst was the midnight to 8am.”

While she is proud of the valuable work in which she took part Cynthia is keen to stress that she was “just one tiny part” of it all. She is sad that many of those who worked alongside her are no longer alive and thus unable to receive their honour but is pleased that a Book of Remembrance will be established.

Iris Walker