

Dear friends,

Speaking through Jeremiah, God said to those in exile in Babylon, “seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare”. (Jeremiah 29.7 NRSVUE)

It wasn't quite Babylon but it was West Byfleet where I went on Sunday afternoon to attend the Civic Service at St John the Baptist Church for the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Amanda Boote. Amanda is a local councillor for Byfleet and West Byfleet in the Borough of Woking. It was a lovely occasion in which we sought and celebrated the welfare of our community.

Amanda shared how she began taking an interest in local issues, moved on to campaigning, became an elected councillor and ended as Mayor of Woking. Those who know her are rightly proud of what she has achieved.



Cllr Amanda Boote and Mace Bearer at the Civic Service

Local councillors are the key building block of politics in our nation (whether they are party political or independent as Amanda is). Local and national politicians are supported by activists who deliver leaflets, knock on doors, make telephone calls and assist in sorting out problems facing residents.

Yet politicians get a bad press. The level of scrutiny gets even more tough. Social media can be a bear pit. Politicians speak of the intolerable pressure put upon them and their families as they seek to serve the public. Angela Rayner recently said how she had spoken to her family about ‘packing it all in’ following the controversy around her new home. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the case, it seemed to me that apart from a few notable exceptions, there was not much sense of humanity in the furore. Perhaps that’s what politicians sign up to, but maybe all of us could do better.

Throughout my ministry, I've known politicians and activists of all parties who seek to serve others and make the world a better place. However, they often do so at great cost to them and their families with little thanks. In a previous Circuit appointment, I was speaking to a local councillor who that day had received a telephone call to thank her for her help in sorting out a problem for the caller. She said that after all her years of public service as a councillor, it was the first time anyone had phoned her to say thank you.

At the civic service on Sunday, Amanda promised to serve the community of the Borough of Woking to the best of her ability. However, she wasn't the only one who made a promise. All of us in the congregation were asked to promise that we would do all that we can to support Amanda in her work as Mayor. We all responded with a loud, "WE WILL".

Shaun

Resources/Good News

Surrey Youth Voice Awards 2025

Let's celebrate Surrey's inspiring youth

Every day, young people across Surrey show resilience, kindness and courage. They support others, challenge themselves and achieve things, big and small that deserve to be recognised. Do you know someone like that? Maybe they're someone you live with, teach, support—or maybe they've even helped you.

[Now's the time to nominate them for the Surrey Youth Voice Awards 2025.](#)

Nominations close at midday on Friday 3 October 2025.





**St Mary's Church Quarry St
Guildford GU1 3UP**

Heritage Open Days

12 – 14 September

Friday & Sunday 12.00 – 16.00

Saturday 10.00 – 16.00

**also open 16 & 18 September 11.00 – 15.00*

including

‘OUR TIME 2’

exhibition of art

from prisoners at HMP Send

Refreshments available

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



5th August

12th August

19th August

26th August

2nd September

9th September

16th September

23rd September

30th September



Enjoy Coffee & a Chat, Coffee & a Game, or Coffee & a Book

The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!

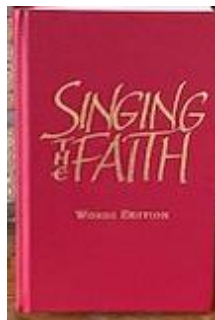


70 years at
MERROW METHODIST CHURCH

Join us for a

**SONGS OF PRAISE
SERVICE**

On
SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER at 6.30PM



Weyfarers

The circuit book reading and discussion group, which began way back in 2009, has decided to adopt a new name. Henceforth it will be known as WEYFARERS travelling the Way and the Wey.

In recent months we have lost a number of members through illness, death, house moves etc but we have also gained some new members. We meet fortnightly on Friday afternoons either in members' homes or in one of our churches.

Over the years we have read many books by a rich diversity of authors e.g. Bishop Tom Wright, Oxford Professor Keith Ward, Chair of District Tom Stuckey, Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sachs, Archbishop Rowan Williams and many more.

For more information, contact me on 07708 573661 or jat.hoschap@yahoo.co.uk

Do come and join us!

Revd. Allan Taylor

Saturday 20 September 2025 2.00-4.00pm

Knaphill Methodist Church, The Broadway, Knaphill GU21 2DR

(between Boots & the old Lloyds Bank)

Clothes4U

a clothes bank supporting the local community

To claim your FREE clothes, collect a voucher from 30+ places in Surrey.

Email us to find out where they are: clothes@knaphillmethodist.co.uk

Due to huge generosity lately from the residents of Knaphill and beyond, clothes donations are not being accept at all for the time being.



COFFEE AND CAKE

AT ST. MARY'S

QUARRY ST. GUILDFORD GU1 3UP

**SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER
2025**



Thursday 25 September

- - -

Thursday 23 October

- - -

Thursday 27 November

(first Advent Reflection)

10.30 – 12.00

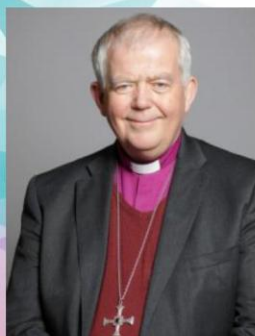
- each month features a different charity

Everyone welcome

Study Day: Speaking of Justice in Worship and Preaching



Rachel Lampard
Director of Social
Justice & Social Action
for The Methodist
Church
She is talking on
Politics in the Pulpit?



Right Reverend Nick Holtam
Bishop of Salisbury from 2011
until his retirement in 2021.
He is talking on *Study this
age, sense its need, preach
to its condition – preaching in
such a time as this.*

Saturday 11th October 2025 from 10.00am to 2pm

At Dorset Gardens Methodist Church, Brighton, BN2 1RL dgmc.org.uk

Refreshments: Tea, coffee will be available from 9.30am.

Please bring a packed lunch, hot drinks & soup will be available.

Rachel Lampard, Director of Social Justice & Social Action for The Methodist Church

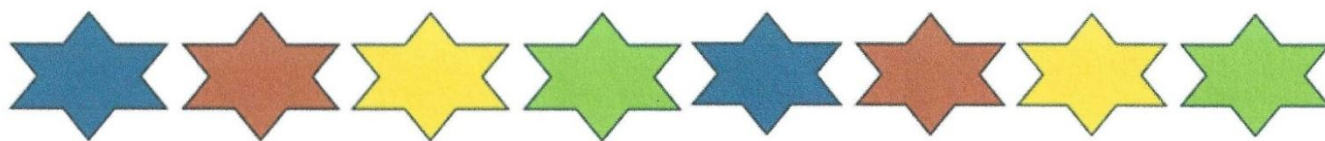
Rachel Lampard has worked for many years to help churches to engage with issues of social justice, particularly through the Methodist Church and the ecumenical Joint Public Issues Team. She is currently the Director for Social Justice and Social Action for the Methodist Church and served as the elected Vice-President of the Methodist Conference in Britain between 2016-17.

Rachel has also spent over a decade working for the Gambling Commission, seeking to regulate the industry to prevent gambling harm, and received an MBE for services to gambling regulation. She is a trustee of the youth work charity, Worth Unlimited, and Chair of Governors at an east London secondary school. She lives in Walthamstow, east London, where she spends much of her time trying, and failing, to keep up with the rest of her cycling-mad family.

Right Reverend Nick Holtam. He served as Bishop of Salisbury from 2011 until his retirement in 2021.

Nicholas Holtam was ordained deacon in the Church of England in 1979 to a curacy at St Dunstan's Stepney and retired from stipendiary ministry in 2021 as Bishop of Salisbury and the Church of England's lead bishop on the environment. In between he taught Ethics and Mission at Lincoln Theological College and was the vicar of two parishes – the Isle of Dogs in East London and St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, where he was a regular broadcaster of worship, mostly on BBC Radio 4 and the World Service. He has therefore preached in a wide variety of contexts and will talk about the purpose and context of preaching, drawing on a variety of examples and issues from his experience.

Please contact Steve Preston steve.preston@brightonhovemethodistcircuit.org.uk to register attendance and if you have any questions.



**Saturday morning events at the
Addlestone Methodist Church Café on
Station Road**



***Come along between 10am and
12 to enjoy tea/coffee and cake
and join in with activities***

EVERY MONTH

1st Saturday – Fun Bingo

*Donations to Sam Beare Hospice or
Open Doors Charity*



**2nd Saturday – A time to sing – favourite
hymns & songs**

3rd Saturday – give popular games a go



**4th Saturday – Hymns, songs
and time for prayer**

Check notice board for any changes