

Dear Friends,

Have you ever had an experience where one of the stories that you've read in scripture suddenly comes to life in a very real and yet unexpected way?

I had one of these just last week when I met the Good Samaritan and his name was Peter. Well, I suppose 'A' Good Samaritan would be more accurate, but he was well named, wasn't he? If THE Peter, the disciple, that first friend of Jesus, was someone that Jesus felt he could build his church upon; then this Peter could be a good/solid Samaritan I'm quite sure...Except he's probably quite an unlikely 'Good Samaritan' and would, I guess, never call himself by such a name.

Let me explain...

I met Peter in the hotel foyer of The Elliott Hotel, whilst in Gibraltar on District duties. I was there to lead worship one Sunday and then welcome the new minister on the following weekend. Peter was on holiday with his wife, celebrating his birthday and meeting up with his buddies from his naval service days and it was going to be a 'heavy day' in the pubs, according to his missus.

He greeted me with a broad Sunderland inflexion 'Heh – here's the Vic-ar! She'll knaa what t'do!' whilst wearing the t-shirt (see below).



Peter had been out for an early morning stroll (before he attacked the pubs!) and found a lonely little lady called Lucy wandering and lost outside of the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Originally from the Philippines, she was in Gibraltar visiting friends and thought she'd attend church but got there rather too early and then couldn't find her way back. All she had was a scrap of paper with a flat number but no address. She was lost, alone and vulnerable.

And, I've no doubt some people must have walked past her: too busy, too distracted, too 'I'm not getting involved!', but not Peter – this 'Good/Grumpy Samaritan', he was the one who came to her aid.

He brought her back to the hotel and was talking with the reception staff to see if they could track her way back to her accommodation, when I joined the group and got the cheery, if misplaced greeting above.

I didn't have much to bring to the party, as they say – certainly not in terms of helping her find her way home but with some expert detective work on behalf of the Receptionist and Peter and I looking at her little scrap of paper, eventually we managed to identify sufficient

details to give her a name of a tower block that she recognised and could tie that in to the name of the owner, who Lucy recognised as the friend she was staying with.

Now Lucy had where she needed to be, but without a map or even a mobile phone and seemingly quite confused with directions, Peter offered to walk her all the way to her accommodation.

What a kind man: what a Good Samaritan.

He may not have looked like the one I imagine as I read Luke 10:25-37 but there he was – helping someone that others had ignored; someone vulnerable and in need; going out of his way to make sure she was safe, cared for and brought to a place of security and provision and then extending that care to ensure her longer term restoration to where she needed to be.

It just shows you (or maybe it just shows me!) that these stories of scripture aren't just ancient tales of yester-year, or even many thousands of years but around us all the time, when we have eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts/minds to understand – God's Story breaks in, all over the place – even in people like Peter, Lucy's Good Samaritan from Sunderland in Gibraltar... 'Canny job, bonny lad!'

Have a good week.

Sam

P.S. Apologies to anyone that comes from Sunderland for my appalling dialectical offerings – blame Google! 😊

Notices

Church Chairs Seeking a New Home

Guildford St Mary's has about 30 upholstered wooden chairs, some Blue and some Teal green, which we are retiring and need to dispose of before late February when the Methodist Art exhibition is being set up.

If your church would like some or all of them, or if you can think of any other good home for them, please get in touch with Nigel as soon as possible (contact details below).

They are in good condition and comfortable. They have book racks on their backs and a shelf underneath. Some have arms.

Nigel Campion-Smith

Nigel.campion-smith@outlook.com

07836 206774

Pudding and Praise Service at Walton-on-Thames, Sunday 15 February

Dear Friends

Just a note to tell you about our next Pudding and Praise service.

This will be on the cusp of Lent on Sunday 15 February at 4pm for Tea and Puddings, and then 4.30pm to 5.30pm for the time of Praise led by Breeze and a short reflection led by Ross Richardson.



The theme for the service is: **“A Time for Letting Go and a Time for Embracing.”** It will act as a gateway into our Lent experience, and All are Welcome to come along.

If you have any questions, please contact Ross Richardson at:

r.richardson952@btinternet.com

Additionally, our contemplative group that meets on a Thursday night will have Lent focussed meditations in the sessions between Thursday 19 February and Thursday 2 April.

If you would like further information about this, please speak to Ross or email him at r.richardson952@btinternet.com for further information.

This group meets each Thursday evening at the Church for 30 minutes for a short Ignatian styled meditation on a gospel story (drawn from the Taketime organisation www.taketime.org.uk), a lot of which is simply spent in quiet.

The meeting is also streamed live on Zoom so if you fancy joining in from the comfort of your couch at home – feel free to do this.

The current Zoom link is below:

Topic: Contemplative Oasis

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/82202518784?pwd=mfgoixs2bLfF8qIg7Xlgp8UzMwt2wb.1>

Meeting ID: 822 0251 8784

Passcode: qU5mks

Every blessing,

Ross Richardson

Resources/Good News

Light in the omni-crisis: One man's story of faith, resilience and hope

Sunday 1 March 2026

14:30 to 16:30

Serop Ohanian is the Director of The Karagheusian Centre, in Beirut. Driven by deeply held Christian faith, the Centre offers healthcare, dignity and a beacon of hope to a community on the margins, in a country gripped by conflict, economic collapse and displacement of people.

In this free event, Serop will share how steadfast resilience and compassion can transform lives and inspire us all to act with courage in a fractured world.

To book tickets for the livestream or to attend the event in London, follow this link:

[Light in the omni-crisis: One man's story of faith, resilience and hope — Embrace the Middle East](#)

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



3rd February
10th February
17th February
24th February

2026

3rd March
10th March
17th March
24th March
31st March



Enjoy Coffee & a Chat, Coffee & a Game, or Coffee & a Book
The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!

FROM DARKNESS



... TO LIGHT

Explore stunning works
from internationally renowned artists such as
**Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Frink,
Patrick Heron and Maggi Hambling**

at

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

9 March to 5 April 2026

Free public opening times will include
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
9 March – 5 April 11.00 – 15.00

St Mary's
Church

Events open to all:

Wednesday 11 March * Ticketed event	19.00	A Journey through the Passion: Prof. Ben Quash in conversation with Rev. Karen Case-Green
Thursday 12 March	12.30	A Lunchtime Lent Reflection: Rev Sarah Hutton introduces three water-themed images
Saturday 14 March	09.30 to 11.30	Practical Aspects of Spirituality: Dark ... Light ... the Spirit in paint: Rev. Paul Glass
Thursday 19 March	12.30	A Lunchtime Lent Reflection: Rev. Karen Case-Green introduces Lee-Elliott's Crucified tree-form – the Agony.
Friday 20 March * Ticketed event	19.30	From Darkness ... to Light: Reflections in music and poetry, with poet Alwyn Marriage and 'cellist Annelies Terry.
Wednesday 25 March * Ticketed event	19.00	A Door to the Holy: Contemporary Art & Faith A talk by Laura Moffatt
Thursday 26 March	12.30	A Lunchtime Lent Reflection: Rev. Brian Roberts introduces Cazalet's Fool of God and Brokenshire's Pentecost
Sunday 29 March	18.00	Shadows of the Cross - a Palm Sunday Reflection including music from <i>In Nomine</i> Choir
30 March – 5 April		Programme of events for Holy Week to be published on the website

* Ticketed events: £10 each
see Eventbrite for
MMAC Guildford

More details at
www.htsmguildford.org/mmac-2026
For further enquiries:
MMAC2026@htsmguildford.org.uk



Mark Cazalet: Fool of God. Lee-Elliott: Crucified tree-form – the Agony. Richard Bavin: The Empty Tomb.

Images from the Methodist Modern Art Collection © TMCP, used with permission.
www.methodist.org.uk/artcollection



Circuit Mission Supper

Saturday 14th March 2026

6pm for 6:30pm

At Trinity Methodist Church, Woking

Fish and Chips (battered sausage
/vegan options available)

Cost £10 – tickets available from
the Church Stewards

Bring your own crockery and cutlery



Speaker: Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman

Grace is a former mission partner, who has worked alongside her husband Daniel, in Cameroon, Italy and Uganda. Grace and her family have now settled in the Northampton Circuit.

Grace will be sharing about her experience as a mission partner and the subject of the talk will be 'Unusual Kindness'.

FREE FUN AND GAMES THIS MONTH



ADDLESTONE METHODIST CHURCH

71 Station Road (next to Subway)

10.30am-12pm (Doors Open 10am)

Sat 7th Feb – Free Bingo in Coffee Lounge, Tea, Coffee and Cake

Sat 14th Feb – Sing-a-long in church to popular hymns and songs,
Tea, Coffee and Cake

Sat 21st Feb – Free Games morning in Lounge, Scrabble is game of the month,
Tea, Coffee and Cake

Sat 28th Feb – Time to Sing, Discuss and Pray, Tea, Coffee and Cake

**Play.
Laugh.
Connect.**



Woking People of Faith

The WPOF Environmental Working Party invite you to

HELP THE HEATHER

**JOIN US TO HELP THE HEATHER
SURVIVE ON HORSELL COMMON!**

Saturday 14th of February



10 am - 12 pm



Horsell Common

(meet at Heather Farm at 9.45 am)



Bring Boots and Gloves!

All welcome!

For more information email John West:

westjohn630@gmail.com

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS!?!

*Do you have a conversation in your church
that goes something like this?*

PERSON 1: "We've got a (or two, or three!) Local Arrangement(s)
on the Plan this quarter. What are we going to do?"

PERSON 2: "Oh no! I don't know! Do you think we could get away
with another 'Songs of Praise' service? Or can we find someone
else to do it for us?"



Well... DON'T PANIC! Help is at hand!

We've finally got round to planning a session to help you with
some ideas, resources and encouragement.

(Apologies for the delay, someone was a bit poorly!)

Who it's for? Stewards, Worship Leaders;
anyone in the Congregation that it's interested really!

Where? TRINITY, WOKING

When? Sat 30th May, 2.30-4.30pm

**SAVE THE DATE - MORE INFORMATION TO
FOLLOW NEARER THE TIME!**