

Dear Christian Friends,

A Preacher at a Valentine's Day retreat in 2016 pronounced from a pulpit "Divorce has no place in God's kingdom." Four years later, that same preacher separated from his wife.

This is not a story of irony. It is a story of humanity.

Marriage, divorce, and remarriage are not just theological concepts. They are lived realities—complex, painful and beautiful. And while Scripture offers guidance, it also invites us to wrestle with the concept of grace.

What Did Jesus Say?

In Matthew 19:1-11, the Pharisees posed a question to Jesus about divorce. Jesus responded by affirming the sacredness of marriage: "What God has joined together, let no one separate." But He also acknowledged the reality of dashed dreams and hopes: "Moses permitted divorce because your hearts were hard." This was not a loophole. It was a lament.

Their legalism did not trick Jesus. He pointed them back to the heart of God: covenant, compassion, and truth. And He did not condemn those who were facing difficulties and pain. He offered them a way forward.

Divorce is never easy. It can bring grief, guilt, and sometimes relief. It affects children, families, and communities. And yet, it happens among the faithful just as with any other group.

Some marriages die quietly. Others explode in violence. And some, tragically, become places of abuse. Let it be said clearly: no one should endure an abusive relationship. **NEVER.** The God of love does not ask His children to suffer in silence. To stay in a marriage that destroys your soul is not holiness; it is harm.

What About Remarriage?

For some, remarriage is a second chance. A new beginning. A healing of what was lost. For others, it is complicated emotionally, spiritually, socially and financially. The church must walk gently here. Not with rigid rules, but with discerning love. Not with shame, but with wisdom. Every story is different. Every heart deserves to be heard.

A Personal Word

I have been married for 39 years. It has not been easy, cosy, or smooth. It has had its own ups and downs. But it has been a personal choice—a daily decision to make it work, no matter what. Not because it is perfect, but because it is precious.

I do not speak as one untouched by struggle. I speak as someone who has seen the valleys and the mountaintops. And I know that grace is needed in both.

So, what do we say to the divorced? To the remarried? To those still holding on?

We say: You are not defined by your past. You are loved. You are welcome. You are not alone.

Let us stop using Scripture as a weapon. Let us start using it as a balm of healing. Let us honour marriage, yes, but let us also honour healing, safety, and truth. Let us be a church that reflects the heart of Christ: full of grace and truth.

“Divorce has no place in God’s kingdom,” some say. But I believe the kingdom is bigger than our failures. It is a place of restoration, not rejection. A place where broken things are made whole. Praise God.

A Final Thought

Jesus did not come for the perfect. He came for the weary, the wounded, and the wandering. The woman at the well had five husbands, and yet, He offered her living water. The woman caught in adultery was surrounded by stones, and yet, He provided her dignity and a new beginning.

So let us be careful not to build walls where Jesus built bridges. Let us not confuse holiness with harshness. The gospel is not a checklist; it is a lifeline. To those who have loved and lost, who have tried and failed, who have stayed too long or left too soon: you are not beyond grace. You are not beyond redemption. You are not beyond belonging.

The church must be a place where broken hearts are mended, not judged, where stories are honoured, not silenced. Where the **ethics of Jesus Christ**, mercy, justice, and truth, guide us more than tradition or fear.

There is no marriage in heaven. But there is love. There is healing. There is God.

And here on earth, may we reflect that kingdom not by perfection, but by grace.

Loving God,

We thank You for the gift of relationship and the beauty of every season of life.

Bless those who are married with unity and strength.

Comfort widows and widowers with Your peace and presence.

Uplift the single with purpose and joy.

May each heart find belonging in You,

And may Your love be the anchor in every journey.

Thank you, and God bless.

Devotedly yours,

Rev George K. Quarm

Resources/Good News

3Generate 2025

From Friday 3 to Sunday 5 October more than 1,700 children and young people aged between 4 to 18 years old went on “The Journey of a Lifetime” at 3Generate, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly held at the NEC, Birmingham.

You can read more about the event [here](#) and below is a link to a short video of the event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MhY7M54mpkA>

SAM'S ZOOM AROUND GREECE

Back in May, as a large part of my Sabbatical, I went on a 10-day pilgrimage around Greece.

I'd now like to offer friends around the Circuit the chance to share some of the sights and experiences I had, as I travelled with my fellow pilgrims, in the footsteps of St Paul.

To that effect, please find below some Zoom link details for **THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER at 7.30pm** (I'll open the meeting at 7.25pm), for about an hour or so.

You'd be very welcome to join me!

Yamas! (That's 'Cheers!' in Greek)

Sam.



Image of St Paul - Taken at Hosias Loukas, in the 11th century church

ZOOM LINK:

Topic: Circuit Zoom - Sam's Sabbatical Travels in Greece

Time: Nov 6, 2025 07:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84676600289?pwd=wxk4b8JLdfYYZkSgzRgXTeGTxThMyO.1>

Meeting ID: 846 7660 0289

Passcode: 600496

THREADS THROUGH THE CROSS

25 SEPTEMBER – 3 NOVEMBER 2025

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL



Talented textile artist

Jacqui Parkinson

presents

‘Threads through the Cross’

- a stunning series of panels
exploring the life and teachings of
Jesus, from his birth to his final weeks,
culminating in Pentecost.

Jacqui’s intricate stitching and vibrant
design bring Christ’s story to life.

The exhibition is free to view
– please don’t miss it!

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

Practical Aspects of Spirituality

Catherine Lomas

Priest and Iconographer

Saturday 25 October 2025

09.30 – 12.00

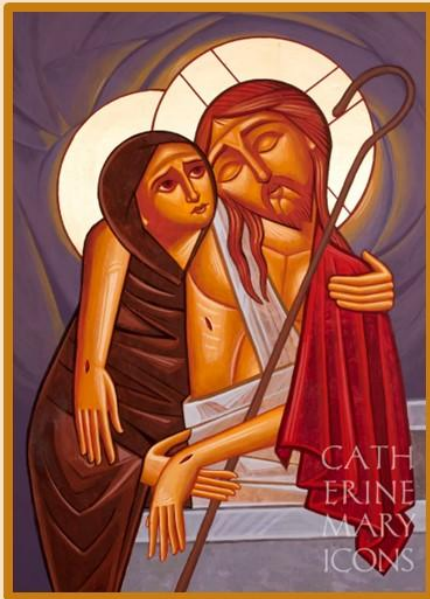
Refreshments from 09.15

PLUS

Optional Workshop (booking required)

13.00 – 15.00

*with practical demonstrations
and insights into icon design*



St. Mary's Church Guildford GU1 3UP

If you would like to attend please email gmc.info@hotmail.co.uk

POP-UP PLAY CAFÉ

Wednesday 29 October 9.30 – 11.30

... call in at

ST. MARY'S

Quarry St
Guildford GU1 3UP

- space to play
- time to relax
- coffee and cake

All ages welcome



Saturday 25 October at Knaphill:



MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING AND SALE

BOOKS, DVDs, JIGSAWS, CAKES, BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

4th Saturday every month (except December)

10am to Noon

STOUGHTON METHODIST CHURCH

(On the corner of Stoughton Road and Grange Road)

COFFEE CORNER

Tuesdays from 10 am – 12 noon



7th October

14th October

21th October

28th October

4th November

11th November

18th November

25th November



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

The choice is yours!

Everyone welcome – bring a friend!



Woking People of Faith

Diverse Beliefs: United Action

Interfaith Walking Pilgrimage (Knaphill)

Join us for a journey of friendship and faith through
Knaphill!

Saturday 15th November, 10 am till 2 pm

Start: Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, GU21 2DR

Stops include: Dhammakaya Buddhist Temple and local churches

Finish: St Hugh of Lincoln Catholic Church (GU21 2AA) – with other
faiths represented

P Free parking at Englefield Road Car Park



🚶♀ Refreshments along the way

🧥 Dress for the weather

♥ Just turn up – all welcome!

💰 Donations appreciated



70 years at
MERROW METHODIST CHURCH

COME TO THE

MERROW CHURCH CONCERT

SATURDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 7PM

*MERROW
METHODIST
SINGERS*

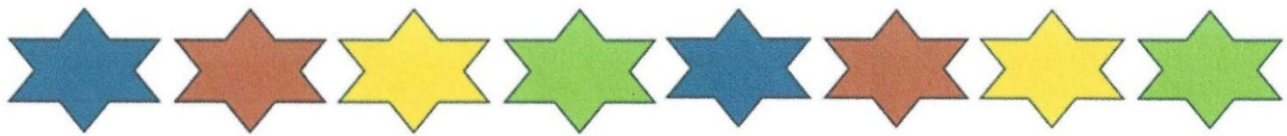
Sketches

Piano

Poetry

Surprises!

There is no charge but donations will be invited on the night to be
made to
The Matrix Trust.



**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

A joyful start to Christmas

Carols for All



Saturday Nov 29th

7.00 - 9.00pm

**Horsley Methodist
Church**

(next to W. Horsley Village Hall)

**Come and sing your favourite
carols with a break for
refreshments and mince pies.**

Phone requests to

01483 282474