

## Minister

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## Services

**April 2020—all services temporarily suspended during the covid-19 pandemic**

For (nearly) up to the minute news, visit our new website:  
**[www.sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](http://www.sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)**

If you're on Facebook—then 'like' our Facebook pages—  
and join in the conversation -  
**Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church**  
And **Babes and Tots—Sandhurst**

And if you tweet, we're there too:  
**@SandYMethChurch**

To get in touch email:

**Stewards:** steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk  
**Hall hire:** halls@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk  
**Weekly notices:** notices@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk  
**Monthly Newsletter:** newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk  
**Multimedia:** multimedia@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk  
**Website:** siteadmin@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk  
**Anything else:** info@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk



## *Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church Newsletter April 2020*

## The Minister writes...

Dear friends,

These are strange and troubling times indeed in which we find ourselves. In a move unprecedented in our nation's history the churches are having to close their doors in a time of national crisis. We, too, at Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church have had – for the time being – to cease meeting together for public worship.

During this time our regular meetings and activities will also cease. This includes our prayer meetings, Bible study groups, house groups, coffee mornings, Praise & Prayer, Rejoice, film nights, Club 15 and our biggest outreach and community group: Babes & Tots. Please remember all these groups and the people connected with them in your prayers.

Nevertheless, we continue to worship and pray and share Bible study in whatever ways we can. Most importantly, we continue to support one another through phone calls, emails and social media. Not everyone will have access to the latter of course but for those who do, Facebook is proving to be not such a bad thing after all (who'd have thought?!) and sending messages of hope and encouragement via WhatsApp and Messenger is another way to remind people they are not forgotten.

For those who are self-isolating and especially those who live alone, this is a particularly difficult time. The stewards, pastoral visitors and myself have been working out ways we can best support you and we are in the process of setting up a network of people who can keep in touch with each other on a regular basis to check that all is well. We have also been thinking about how we can support our neighbours and are producing a flyer to be distributed in the local residential roads, giving a contact email for those who may need practical or emotional help or prayer.

Barbara will still be producing a weekly noticesheet and I invite any of you who have readings, poems or stories to send them to her - even jokes providing they are suitable for a church noticesheet! Sue will also be looking for items for the May newsletter to replace the reports from our regular groups so dig out anything you've been saving for a rainy day.



Acts of Worship Available with **limited tech savviness**. Usually web radio or the BBC Sounds app. Limited to English Language Provision.

Service	Station/Channel	Time	Notes
"Celebration" Sunday Morning worship broadcast on radio	BBC Radio Wales	Sunday 7:30am	FM and Digital Radio for those in Wales.  Available on the BBC Radio Website and the Sounds App  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cphq">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cphq</a>
"Morning Service" Sunday Morning worship broadcast on radio	BBC Radio Ulster	Sunday 10:15am	Available on the BBC Radio Website and the Sounds App  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cphq">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007cphq</a>
"Sunday Service"	BBC Radio Devon	Sunday 6:30am	FM and Digital Radio for those within Radio Devon's broadcast range.  Available on the BBC Radio Website and the Sounds App  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p001d7h5">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p001d7h5</a>
"New Every Sunday"	BBC Radio Scotland	Sunday 6:30am	FM and Digital Radio for those in Scotland  Available on the BBC Radio Website and the Sounds App  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gcv">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gcv</a>
"In Praise of God"	BBC Stoke	Sunday 06:30 and 14:30	FM and Digital Radio for those within Radio Stoke's broadcast range.  Available on the BBC Radio Website and Sounds App  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p082zy96">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p082zy96</a>
"Prayer for the Day"	BBC Radio 4	05:43	103 – 104 FM and DAB Digital Radio  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gd8q">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gd8q</a>

## Radio and TV services

In response to the Corona virus, many churches are "streaming" their services online. This means that you can watch them on either YouTube or Facebook. If you are online, then watch out for posts about worship from Wesley's Chapel, London. Services at Wokingham and Bracknell Methodist Churches are also recorded and are available via their respective websites (they are not live).

This came from a colleague of Sharon's. He has not listened to all of these programmes and is not responsible for their content. Exactly what each service will like will depend on that act of worship. Please suggest edits or updates to [sharon.gardner@methodist.org.uk](mailto:sharon.gardner@methodist.org.uk) and feel free to share/adapt as you need.

For those who are looking for a low-tech option, here is a summary of services that are **easy to access on TV or Radio**.

Service	Station/Channel	Time	How to get it
Choral Evensong: sung evening prayer, usually with an anthem, in a Cathedral style.	BBC Radio 3	Wed 3:30pm  Repeated Sunday 3pm	92 – 95 FM and DAB Digital Radio
Sunday Worship: Radio broadcast of worship from a church; the closest to "a normal Sunday service"	BBC Radio 4	8.10am Sunday	103 – 104 FM and DAB Digital Radio
Daily Service; a 15min service of music, prayers and scripture	BBC Radio 4 <b>Long Wave</b> or Radio 4 Extra	09:45 Mon - Saturday	Long Wave: 198  or to get Radio 4 Extra on DAB: After tuning to Radio 4 DAB, select "Daily Service" (from your display, shortly before it is due to start) with the tuning wheel and press the selector button.
Songs of Praise. A religious magazine TV programme; interviews, prayers and hymns/songs. Words appear on the screen so you can join in singing.	BBC One, (TV)	usually 1:15pm	

On a weekly basis there will be a message up on the website, sometimes from me, sometimes from one of our Local Preachers. Please do access this if you can.

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges for us as Christians is that Easter Sunday this year will be very different. However, the message of Easter does not change according to circumstances. It is still a message of hope-fulfilled, of death-defeated, of love-triumphant! How we proclaim it may call for imagination and ingenuity but we have some ideas already – keep reading the notices to find out more nearer the time. It is a timeless message and needs to be heard more than ever.

I want to close by assuring you of my prayers for each of you always, but never more so than during this time of separation and anxiety and to share some words from Psalm 46 with you:

### Psalm 46: 1 – 7

- <sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength,  
an ever-present help in trouble.*
- <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way  
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*
- <sup>3</sup> though its waters roar and foam  
and the mountains quake with their surging.*
- <sup>4</sup> There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy place where the Most High dwells.*
- <sup>5</sup> God is within her, she will not fall;  
God will help her at break of day.*
- <sup>6</sup> Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;  
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.*
- <sup>7</sup> The LORD Almighty is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

With love and prayers,

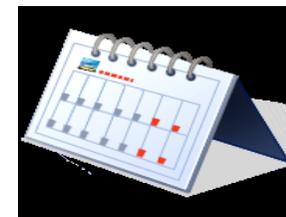
Sharon

## What's on?

**There will be no scheduled services or group meetings at Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church during this covid-19 pandemic.**

Stay home.

Stay safe.



**Correction**—the article about the visit by Rev Dr John Amankwatia in February—was written by Heather, not Hilary

## Letter

Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I have to inform you, that following Methodist Connexional advice, our Sunday Worship is suspended until further notice and all our Church meetings have been cancelled.

Thankfully, our church is more than just its buildings and we are thinking of ways in which we can continue to support each other and worship together.

I know this is a time of anxiety and fear for many and I would ask that we keep in contact with each other via phone calls/ Skype/ emails to cheer and uphold one another in the love of God.

Please feel free to contact me on 01344 774967 or by email: [sharon.gardner@methodist.org.uk](mailto:sharon.gardner@methodist.org.uk) if needed.

There will be weekly messages and updates on our website and via our notice sheets which can be emailed out or posted. If you are not sent them already and wish to receive them, please let Barbara Rush or one of the stewards know.

Remember, we have a great God who is bigger than all our fears.

I end with some words from Revd. Catherine Bowstead:

***This time of crisis will pass, and our God will remain the same.***

With love and prayers,

*Sharon*

Philippians 4: 6-7

*The Lord is near.*

*Do not be anxious about anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*



## Camberley & District funeral directors

Here for you when  
you need us most

- 24 hour service
- Free bereavement advice and support
- Pre-paid inflation proof funeral plans
- Wide choice of memorials for burials

### Sandhurst

337 Yorktown Road,  
College Town, GU47 0QA

**01276 33241**



[www.camberleyanddistrict.co.uk](http://www.camberleyanddistrict.co.uk)



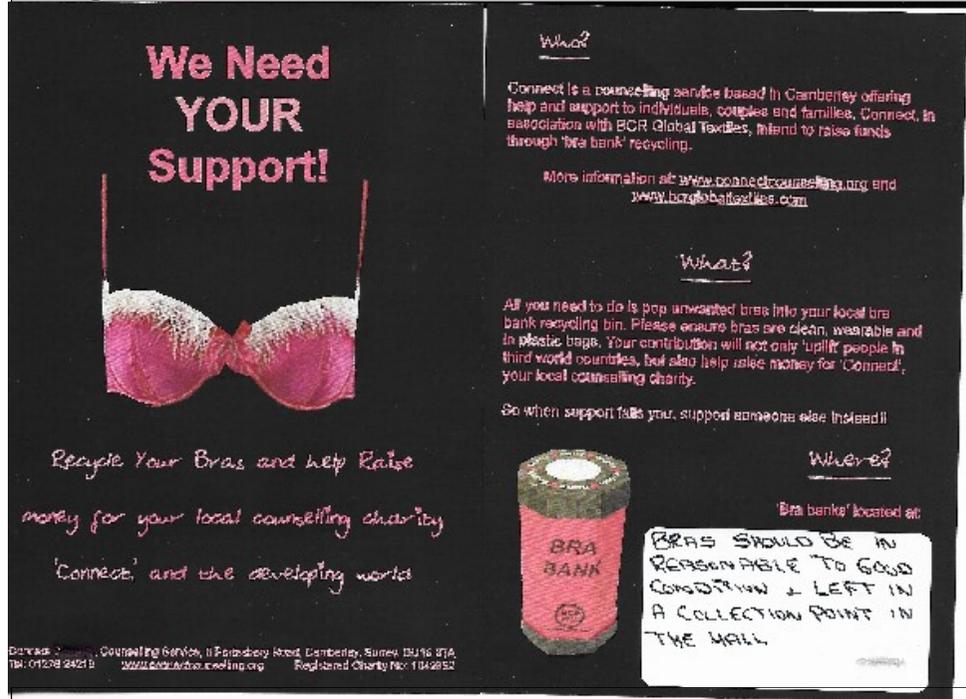
A donation to the church of £50 is suggested but not required.

## In memori- am plaques

I am delighted to be able to tell you that **Camberley and District Funeral Directors** (Yorktown Road, College Town) are now sponsoring our memorial plaques.

Just talk to Sue Truby about the words you'd like and they will provide the plaque for free! Douglas W has been attaching them to the seats once done. Thanks Douglas!

## Recycled bras



**We Need YOUR Support!**

*Recycle Your Bras and help Raise money for your local counselling charity 'Connect' and the developing world*

**What?**  
Connect is a counselling service based in Camberley offering help and support to individuals, couples and families. Connect, in association with BCR Global Textiles, intend to raise funds through 'bra bank' recycling.

More information at [www.connectcounselling.org](http://www.connectcounselling.org) and [www.brcglobaltextiles.com](http://www.brcglobaltextiles.com)

**What?**  
All you need to do is pop unwanted bras into your local bra bank recycling bin. Please ensure bras are clean, wearable and in plastic bags. Your contribution will not only 'uplift' people in third world countries, but also help raise money for 'Connect', your local counselling charity.

So when support fails you, support someone else instead!!

**Where?**  
Bra banks' located at:  
**BRAS SHOULD BE IN REASONABLE TO GOOD CONDITION & LEFT IN A COLLECTION POINT IN THE MALL.**

Connect is a Counselling Service, 11 Faldesley Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3JA  
Tel: 01276 24211 | [www.connectcounselling.org](http://www.connectcounselling.org) | Registered Charity No: 1182852

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So when support fails you, support someone else instead. Bras should be in reasonable to good condition.

## Club 15 Theatre trip in March—report

### Educating Rita by Willy Russell

**Starring Stephen Tompkinson as Frank and Jessica Johnson as Rita**



Twelve members and friends of Club 15 ascended to the Circle of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford in anticipation of a polished performance as it was the last of the run at this Theatre. Perhaps with memories of the Oscar nominated and BAFTA winning original film with Michael Caine and Julie Walters we expected great things, especially from well-known TV, Film and Stage actor Stephen Tompkinson in this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary production of Educating Rita.

EDUCATING RITA tells the story of married hairdresser Rita, who enrolls on an Open University course to expand her horizons, and her encounters with university tutor Frank. Frank is a frustrated poet, brilliant academic and dedicated drinker, who is less than enthusiastic about teaching Rita. However, Frank soon finds that his passion for literature is re-ignited by Rita, whose technical ability for the subject is limited by her lack of education, but



whose enthusiasm Frank finds refreshing. The two soon realise how much they have to learn from each other.

With just two actors the amount of dialogue delivered in this story was huge and both characters produced flawless, stunning performances rewarded by warm and enthusiastic applause from the audience at the end. A production we all agreed was well worth seeing.  
Graham

## Become a coronavirus super-preventer from The Independent and Dr. Rita Issa

Covid-19 is spreading exponentially but you can help save lives by slowing its growth so that it doesn't overwhelm our health system.

Here's how you can become a super preventer.

### 1. **Change your behaviour.**

For up to date official advice visit: UK [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus), Global [www.who.int/coronavirus](http://www.who.int/coronavirus)

This advice is based on UK Government as of **16th March** but please check official up to date advice.

Coronavirus is a respiratory illness which means it's mainly spread by somebody coughing and then someone else inhaling those droplets, or touching an infected surface and transferring it to your mouth.

So you can prevent transmission by:

- catching coughs in a tissue and chucking it away
- washing your hands regularly with soap for 20 seconds
- avoiding shaking hands with others
- wiping down surfaces
- You can also remind others by putting up posters around sinks along with soap

### 2 **Practice social distancing.**

Spending 15 minutes within 2 metres of somebody with the virus poses a significant risk. As we've started to see higher cases of the virus we've seen measures introduced to reduce the amount of time that we socialise with each other, so that's social distancing.

- Stop non-essential contact with others
- Avoid unnecessary travel
- Work from home wherever possible
- Avoid pubs, clubs and social venues

This is especially the case for at risk groups including:

- People over 70
- People with underlying health conditions

## Newsletter and Website

[newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

Contributions for the **May** Newsletter (paper version available on Sunday 26th April) or website should be with Sue Truby by **Wednesday April 15th**

Contributions should either be:

Handed to Sue at Church,

Emailed to: [newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk)

Or posted to 58 Crowthorne Road, Sandhurst GU47 9EP (01252 879236)

## The Four Candles

Four candles slowly burned

The ambiance was so soft, one could almost hear them talking

The first candle said:

**"I am Peace!"**

"The world is full of anger and fighting. Nobody can keep me lit."

Then the flame of Peace went out completely.

The second candle said:

**"I am Faith!"**

"I am no longer indispensable. It doesn't make sense that I stay lit another moment."

Just then a breeze softly blew out Faith's flame.

Sadly the third candle began to speak:

**"I am Love!"**

"People don't understand my importance so they simply put me aside. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them."

And waiting no longer Love's flame went out.

Suddenly...

A child entered the room and saw the three unlit candles.

"Why aren't you burning? You're supposed to stay lit till the end."

Saying this, the child began to cry.

Then the fourth candle answered:

**"Don't be afraid, I am Hope!"**

"While I am still burning we can re-light the other candles."

With shining eyes the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

The Greatest of These is Love...

... but the flame of Hope should never go out of your life!

With hope each of us can live with Peace, Faith and Love.

**Prayer:**

"Dear God, You are my light and my salvation. You are my hope. Please come into my heart, forgive all my wrongs and give me Your wonderful gift of eternal Life. Help me be an instrument of Your Love and cause Your light to shine on others through me. Amen"



## Prayer in a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced,  
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,  
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home,  
remember those who must choose between  
preserving their health or paying their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children  
when their schools close, remember those with no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips,  
remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our surplus money  
in the midst of economic turmoil,  
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home,  
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our nation, let us choose love.  
During this time when we cannot physically  
wrap our arms around each other,  
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace  
of God to our neighbours.

Amen

## Crowthorne Foodbank



Heather has delivered what we collected  
and the foodbank are now requesting **any  
tinned and non perishable food  
items** as their stocks are depleted  
and the demand will surge in the present  
difficult climate.

## Contributions

At the moment, there are few events to report on and not many events to advertise—so please, if you happen to have something squirrelled away at home, now is the time to make that contribution to the newsletter.

I'm relying on you for the May edition!  
Sue

- Pregnant women

You can also encourage your workplace to take on healthy policies such as implementing sick leave and encouraging people to work from home.

### 3 Know the symptoms and what to do

The most common symptoms of coronavirus are:

- New continuous cough
- High temperature (37.8 degrees or higher)

In the UK, if you or anyone at home has symptoms:

- Stay at home for 14 days
- Check the NHS online assessment tool to find out what to do:  
[111.nhs.uk/covid-19](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19)

### 4 Be prepared to self-isolate

Self-isolating means staying at home, that's:

- Not going to work
- Not socialising
- Not getting on public transport
- Not going to the shops

We can prepare for this by stocking up with a food order and making sure that others around you are also prepared. But don't order more than you need. Nobody needs 50 rolls of toilet paper. And after all, if not everybody can get access to the stuff that they need, then more people are going to be at risk.

### 5 Share the right information

We understand that Coronavirus is really scary but you can take action and help others by becoming a super preventer by following the official advice.

Coronavirus shows us that the health of the world is interconnected. As the world shuts down, now more than ever, we need to come together and support each other to find global solutions including developing a vaccine that's available for all. Our global crises can't be faced by working alone. This needs everyone.

If you're on Facebook, you can watch the video that the above summarises here:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheIndependentOnline/videos/590902048303134/>

## Lockdown

Yes there is fear.  
Yes there is isolation.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
Yes there is sickness.  
Yes there is even death.

But,  
they say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
you can hear the birds again.  
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
the sky is no longer thick with fumes  
but blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi  
people are singing to each other  
across the empty squares,  
keeping their windows open  
so that those who are alone  
may hear the sounds of family around them.



They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.

Today a young woman I know  
is busy spreading fliers with her number  
through the neighbourhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.

All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting.  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way.  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality -  
to how big we really are,  
to how little control we really have,  
to what really matters.  
To Love.

So we pray and we remember that  
yes there is fear.  
but there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation.  
but there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying.  
but there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness.  
but there does not have to be disease of the soul  
Yes there is even death.  
but there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.

Today, breathe.  
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic  
the birds are singing again  
the sky is clearing,  
spring is coming,  
and we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
and though you may not be able  
to touch across the empty square,  
Sing.

*Fr. Richard Hendrick, OFM*  
March 13th 2020



## Keeping in touch

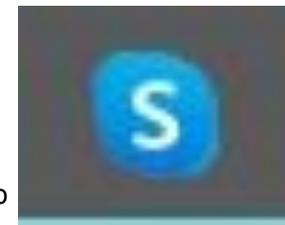
Yes I know we can just pick up the phone (and I hope we will), but wouldn't it be better if we could each see each others' faces?

If you have a computer or a smart phone, you might like to try Skype. This is a free piece of software. It works on any smartphone/computer, and allows you to see as well as hear the person or people at the other end. There are of course alternatives such as Facebook Messenger and Facetime among others.

If you would like to know more, just get in touch and I (or someone else from the congregation) will help you get it up and running.

I really do recommend it.

Sue



## Easter Witness at The Meadows

Sadly this service will not be going ahead this year because of the covid-19 pandemic.

## All Night Café needs

The **all night café** on the A30 is in need of:  
Roll mats, sleeping bags, new men's socks, new men's pants/boxers/trunks and any full size toiletries

The **Whitechapel Mission** is in need of:  
Individual size toiletries (such as provided in hotels).

Please bring in and give to Keg