

Services



March 2021

NOTE This is correct at the time of publication. Please confirm on our website or Facebook page in case we're open for in person services again.

7th	online	Kim Tame
14th	online	Rev Sharon Gardner
	online	SCT Service hosted by St Georges
21st	online	David Morgan
28th	online	Rev Sharon Gardner

For (nearly) up to the minute news, visit our new website:
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

Musicians: musicians@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Website: siteadmin@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Anything else: info@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk



Sandhurst and Yateley Methodist Church Newsletter March 2021

The Minister writes...

Dear friends,

I came across an idea the other day which I thought I'd share with you. It's something I'm planning on doing myself and I invite you to join me in it.

It's called an A – Z of blessings and the idea is to give thanks to God each day for the blessings he has given you which begin with that day's letter. So, for instance, for 'A' I might thank him for the Awesomeness of nature, for close family members whose names begin with 'A', even for Age because it brings experience and wisdom.

You can think of one blessing or several, but the point is to give thanks. Thus, we cultivate an attitude of gratitude which will help us through when times are tough.

My thinking was that if we started on the 1st March and did one letter per day, we would finish just as we are about to go into Holy Week which is when we reflect on the last week of Jesus' life, his passion, his death and his resurrection – surely the greatest of all blessings for us and all who believe.

I also thought it would be good if some of you were willing to share your lists of blessings with me and I could compile a list of some of the most popular – and the most unusual! – and publish them in next month's newsletter. To do that I'd need you to send them through before you quite got to the end of the alphabet but that's OK, it would leave me to come up with something for X,Y and Z – and I already have some ideas in mind!

Whilst it is a light-hearted thing to do, it isn't trivial. So often we find ourselves in a downward emotional spiral, dwelling on the difficulties of our lives and fretting about our problems. Though we can't just dismiss those thoughts, we are urged to take everything to God in prayer and thus to receive his comfort and his strength. *Don't worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray and give thanks to him.* (Philip 4: 6 – 7 NIRV)

Note those last words about giving thanks to God. That can be hard to do when life is challenging but that is probably when it is most necessary. Paul, writing his first letter to the Thessalonians, bids them (and us) to: *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (1 Thess. 5: 16 – 18 NIV)



March 2021 Rotas

Flowers

We're using the silk flowers for now

Funtime Worship

No separate provision for Funtime worship this month. Please feel free to bring children, but they will have to stay with you in church.

Cleaning

w/c 1/3/21 Sandra F and Mary A
w/c 22/3/21 Alison F and Alison B

Welcome

Coffee

No welcome person for now No coffee after the service for now

Lifts to Church on Sunday morning

If you require a lift to church and you live in Sandhurst or Yateley, please ring through the listed names. They are happy to give lifts if they are available. Please alternate between the names if using the service regularly.

Please do take advantage of this service—people really do want to help.

Yateley

Pam Hardy 01252 870468
Tricia Needes 01252 658350

Sandhurst

Graham Fradgley 01276 36631
Barbara Rush 01252 876051
Douglas Brown 01252 655419

Spiritual Development Group



The spiritual development group organise:

Regular Prayer meetings and evening Bible Study, every Tuesday evening

Tuesday Praise and Prayer (2nd Tuesday)
Rejoice! (4th Tuesday)
Daytime Bible Study (1st and 3rd Tuesday)

Please join us
—or speak to Keg, Sharon or Sue for more details.

Due to the latest lockdown, Tuesday afternoon Bible Study/Praise and Prayer/Rejoice won't start yet.

Sharon is leading a **course during Lent**. This started on **Tuesday 23rd February 2021** at 7.30pm and will take the place of our regular Bible Study. We will be holding this course via Zoom and the link is the same as for the Bible study i.e., <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84061192040pwd=d1p0MlVXZDRlTFdpZTlZLzc0OEEdjdz09>
Meeting ID: 840 6119 2040
Password: 526263

All are welcome to join us

Lent course dates 23/2, 2/3, 8/3 (Monday), 16/3, 24/3 (Wednesday), 30/3

March	2021		
2nd 7:30 pm	Lent Course		Zoom
Monday 8th 7:30 pm	Lent Course		Zoom
16th 7:30 pm	Lent Course		Zoom
Wednesday 24th 7:30pm	Lent Course		Zoom
30th 7:30pm	Lent Course		Zoom

When we reflect on the blessings that God has showered upon us, it changes our mindset, it changes our hearts and it changes us. In the praise and gratitude, we find we are uplifted.

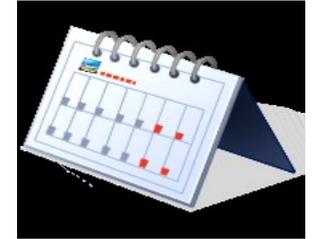
I do hope you will join me in this venture and I look forward to reading some of your lists.

With every blessing,
Sharon

What's on?

March 2021

Tuesday evenings (one Monday, one Wednesday): Lent course under way
6th: Zoom coffee morning
14th: SCT service
15th: Club 15 Zoom quiz
18th: Connect Quiz
23rd: Brian Gennery and David Morgan talk



April 2021

1st: Maundy Thursday service
2nd: Good Friday online service
4th: Easter Day service—we hope to be in church!

Church finances

Dear friends

Over the last year we have not been able to let our premises in the usual way and have therefore received a greatly reduced income. In addition, with so few church services taking place in the building there has been no opportunity for people to give via the weekly offering.

We are now in a situation where we are having to use some of our reserves money to keep the church afloat. Whilst that is exactly why we have reserves and no one need panic, if you would like to make a donation—perhaps because you have not been able to give in your usual way—then it would be very gratefully received. Our church bank details are:

Bank Account Name Sandhurst Methodist Church
Sort Code 20-16-99
Account Number 90795410
Payment can be made online or via a local bank.

Whether you are able to give financially or not, we appreciate your continued prayerful support.

Thank you and God bless you
Sharon and the stewards

Moving Forward with Christian Aid



Christian Aid is a charity sponsored by the Methodist Church that aims to fight global poverty. On their website Christian Aid state:

Everyone is equal in the sight of God. For over 70 years, this truth has inspired us to stand together in solidarity with our most

marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none. Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. We seek to eradicate extreme poverty by tackling its root causes. Together with people living in poverty, we amplify our voices to speak truth to power and create lasting change.

Over the years tackling the root causes of poverty has involved:

1960s....addressing racism and poverty in the USA

1970s....educating UK supporters on the root causes of poverty & campaigning for the UK to increase foreign aid to UN recommended levels.

1980s....mass lobby of Parliament to restore foreign aid cuts. Actively supporting the Anti-Apartheid movement.

1990s....calling for the debt burden on poor countries to be reduced and for giving them Fair Trade terms.

2000s....lobbying for international corporations to pay their fair share of tax in the poorest countries.

2010s onwards.....action on climate change

Many in our Church will have signed petitions and sent off postcards to support the campaigns above. Some will have joined protests and rallies.

Over the past years I've been a speaker for Christian Aid at various events from Church services, prayer groups and breakfast clubs. In doing these talks it became obvious that the money Christian Aid raised was being used to tackle the impact of climate change, whether it be floods in Bangladesh or drought in Malawi. Underlying poverty issues were not able to be tackled.

With the UK jointly hosting the COP 26 Climate Change conference in Glasgow this November there will be further Christian Aid campaigning on climate change. The key actions Christian Aid wants are:

- Increase financial support to the world's poorest countries and push for their debts to be cancelled so they can better confront the climate crisis and other urgent priorities that they face.

- Invest in a green recovery that leaves no-one behind – either in the UK or in the world's poorest communities.

-

Stop the expansion of fossil fuel energy and step-up support to clean energy. So be prepared to again sign petitions, contact your MP or even go to Glasgow !

Wilf Hardy

Minister

Rev Sharon Gardner

minister@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk
01344 774967

Pastoral leader
Margaret Picken
pastoral@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Church Stewards—steward@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Karen Glossop	01344 762407	Senior Steward
Sandra Wooledge	01344 775177	
Heather Brown	01252 655419	
Matt Rowell	01344 775744	

House Fellowship groups providing a friendly platform for discussion ...

Thursday House Group:

Robert Godden, 11 Scotland Hill, Sandhurst. 01252 872503

No March meeting

Wednesday House Group:

Diana Middleditch
—hosted at Alison and Graham Fradgley's
3 Forbes Chase, Sandhurst

No March meeting.



Newsletter and Website

newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

Contributions for the **April** Newsletter (in church on Sunday 28th March 2021 or website) should be with Sue Truby by **Wednesday March 17th 2021.**

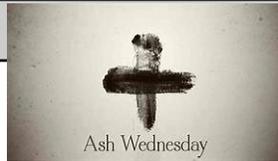
Contributions should either be:

Handed to Sue at Church,

Emailed to: newsletter@sandhurstyateleymethodist.org.uk

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

Ash Wednesday



On Wednesday 17th February our new Minister, Rev Soba, held an Ash Wednesday service. This service is not one that is usually held by the Methodist Church although during Keith's time with us I did attend an Ash Wednesday service led by him and Sharon Wright at High Cross. Afterwards several of us marched into Wetherspoons for drinks afterwards with ash crosses on our forehead!

Ash Wednesday comes after Shrove Tuesday and is the first day of Lent. There is no mention of this in the Bible but the wearing of sackcloth and ashes predates Jesus and is found in the Old Testament books of Esther, Samuel, Isaiah and Jeremiah as a sign of penitence. There are also references to covering oneself in sackcloth and ashes in the New Testament again as signs of penitence or mourning.

By the 10th century, the monk Aelfric tied the practice, which dates to the eighth century, to the period before Easter, writing:-

"Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast."

By the 11th century, the practice was widespread throughout the church — until Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer, threw the practice out in the 16th century because it was not biblically based.

Although there is no mention of this practice in the Bible, Christians attend Ash Wednesday services to mark the start of the 40 day period of Lent. This is associated with the 40 days that Jesus was in the wilderness, fasting and praying and undergoing temptation from the Devil.

Normally the ashes are made from the palm crosses from the previous year and then the minister draws a cross in the ash onto the forehead.

However this year things were different.....

Our new Minister, Soba, led our Ash Wednesday service to which the whole circuit was invited and which had several participants from several members of the churches. We could not meet together but it was fantastic that 56 people from our circuit tuned into the service which was held by Zoom.

Soba encouraged us all to think about what it cost Jesus to follow the path he did in order to redeem us from sin and to restore us all in relationship with our Heavenly Father, and with this in mind, to re-examine ourselves and to prepare ourselves with to walk with Jesus over the next six weeks, feel what he felt, walk where he walked and observe the end of his journey, on the cross.

It was an enlightening and encouraging service at this time of Lent which is traditionally a time for sombre reflection.

Let us all pray that we may find Jesus a reality in our lives this Lent and Easter period and that we have the courage to be witnesses to his suffering, death and subsequent glorious resurrection.

God bless each and every one of us this Lenten period. Keg

Connect Quiz (online)

Please join us for our online Quiz via Zoom on **Thursday 18th March** from 7.15pm.



As we are unable to hold our very popular, live, Annual Quiz this year, we would like to invite you to an Online alternative to raise much needed funds for Connect, but also to enjoy some time together and keep our quizzical brains in tip top condition!

The Online Quiz will help Connect Counselling Service provide counselling sessions for adults within the community at a time when mental health issues are even more challenging with the isolation and anxieties of Covid 19.

Before the Quiz night, form a team of up to 6 people. Email your Team Name and team members names with the email address of each person that will be logging in (Zoom Device) from the different locations to join your team to; cathie.russell@btconnect.com

You will then receive the ID and passcodes for the evening.

This is a fundraising evening of fun, so don't forget to make a donation!

We would normally request £10 per person to join our annual quiz, but as we have taken to an online version this year, we request a minimum of £5 per person.

However, do feel free to give as you are able and if an online quiz is not your thing, please consider a donation to Connect in order to NOT participate in the Quiz!

There are 3 ways to give your donation;

1. Through our Paypal account on our website www.connectcounselling.org.uk
2. A BACS transfer -CAF Bank LTD ACCT Number – 00006970 Sort Number – 40-52-40
3. By Cheque made payable to Connect Counselling Service
Send to 8 Portesbery Road Camberley. GU15 3TA, Camberley. GU15 3TA

Don't have a Team? Individual quizzers are more than welcome or you can email cathie.russell@btconnect.com and we will try to find you a team of like-minded fun quizzers.

Please share this email with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you on the night.

Thank you for your generosity,
Cathie and Graham

Find out more about Connect by visiting our Website:
www.connectcounselling.org.uk

Coming back to church services—some guidelines for when we're open again—hopefully Easter Day

- If you are feeling unwell we request that you do not come to church.
- Each individual will need to wear a face mask/covering unless you are medically exempt.
- The Church **will open at 1020** for the service to begin at 1030.
- Please enter the Church through the entrance on Scotland Hill Road. The door at the back of the hall will be closed by the car park. You will be asked to wait outside if there are too many people in the welcome area. Please use one of the hand sanitisers in the welcome area.
- Then go on through into the main worship area and sit down on a chair not marked with a red cross.
- If the main worship area is full the steward will direct you to a chair in the crèche where you will be able to hear the service through a speaker.
- The Service will last 30 – 40 minutes. I'm afraid during the service there will be no communal singing.
- If you need the toilet please use the toilet in the welcome area. Please use hand sanitiser before/after and please clean the toilet/wash basin with the wipes provided.
- If you feel ill during the service please let the steward know.
- At the end of the service please remain seated until the steward asks you to leave.
- Please exit the church through the entrance onto Scotland Hill Road.
- Please can we request you do not congregate outside the entrance onto Scotland Hill Road as people are leaving.
- If you wish to talk to friends please walk round to the car park where you can have a social distance chatter there.
- There will be no refreshments.
- At all times we must try to keep a social distance of 1-2 metres while entering, leaving and being in the church.



Matt Rowell

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

Journeying through Lent

Lent and Easter

The Methodist Church website has resources all year round.

Check out their Lent and Easter pages here www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/worship/lent-and-easter/



Upcoming Sandhurst Churches together services

March 14th - hosted by St George's (Mothering Sunday)

The Zoom details for SCT service 14th March at 6.00pm

<https://zoom.us/j/95686686498?pwd=aWJmYndWYkZBRU0zL3lwNktKNVpoZz09>

Meeting ID: 956 8668 6498
Passcode: 144576

April 11th - Sandhurst & Yateley Methodist Church
May 9th - St Michael's
June 13th - Sandhurst Baptist Church
July 11th - St George's

In memoriam 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!

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



A Reflective Evening on COVID

A Christian perspective on the pandemic
exploring the moral and ethical issues emerging from it
presented by

Dr Brian Gennery

Mr David Morgan

on ZOOM

23.03.2021

7.00pm

Everyone is welcome

Further information will be given nearer the time

The Leprosy Mission—Donations



If you were thinking of making a donation to The Leprosy Mission, then now is the perfect time.

From now until their deadline of **April 24th**, the government is matching all donations, so if you were thinking of donating £5000 in the near future, it would only cost you £2500!

Just visit their website and follow the links to donate (<https://www.leprosymission.org.uk>).

Many thanks,

Robert

Club 15 March

Following on from the successful November Club 15 Zoom Quiz night, we are holding another on **Monday 15 March** at 7 p.m.

The 'Cup' was won last time by Julia and Charles.

If you are interested please respond to me at cebaker@btconnect.com and I'll then send out your invites. As before, those of you who are unable to access Zoom can be emailed a copy of the Quiz questions to be filled in prior to the zoom call for return later in the evening.

It'll be lovely to 'see' everyone again if only on the screen.

Club 15 February

There were very few takers for this nature walk, so it didn't happen.

However the people who would have come along did, on different occasions, manage to see this Tawny Owl in a tree alongside the river Blackwater :-)



Smile

You might remember Spike Milligan most as a actor and comedian—but he wrote many books and poems. This one is particularly lovely.

Smiling is infectious

You can catch it like the flu

When someone smiled at me today

I started smiling too

I walked around the corner

And someone saw me grin

When he smiled I realised

I had passed it on to him

I thought about the smile

And then realised its worth

A single smile like mine

Could travel round the earth

So if you feel a smile begin

Don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic

And get the world infected!

Vinyl Records Wanted

50s/60s 70s 80s 90s

Dance Soul Rock Chart Disco Blues Punk Reggae

Thank you!

I am looking for vinyl records from pop to punk, soul to funk and reggae to dance: Singles (7 & 12") and LPs. Happy to collect, will make a donation to church funds in return.

Contact: Margaret Picken: 01252 879802 or Ian: ianpicken@yahoo.co.uk / 07737 003891

Club 15

Club 15 is an informal social group within the Church that meets on the 15th of most months for a variety of social events: walks, theatre, barbecues to name but a few. Food often features!

Young adults, older adults, indeed anyone who feels 'young at heart' from our congregation - and their friends - are all welcome to join us.

Don't be shy! We have no leader as such, just a planning meeting each January, and somehow it all manages to happen.

Praise and Prayer and Tuesday afternoon Bible Study

Due to the uncertainty of the current situation with Covid, plus the 'rule of 6' restrictions, we are unable to recommence either of these activities for the time being. Rest assured, that as soon as they become viable, Sharon will be in touch to see how regular attenders feel about coming back into the hall.

In the meantime, some of the afternoon Bible study group are joining with the Tuesday evening Bible study group via Zoom to which anyone is welcome (whether you've been part of one of the study groups previously or not). Please check the weekly notices for the Zoom details or contact Sharon.

Maundy Thursday service

by Zoom 1st April 7pm

There will be a Circuit service on Maundy Thursday at 7pm via Zoom (with an opportunity for conversation and fellowship from 6.45pm).

This will be hosted by Crowthorne Methodist Church and all are welcome to attend.

It will be based around the idea of a Methodist Love Feast adapted for Maundy Thursday.

Please look out in the notices and on the website for more details and the Zoom link nearer the time.

Film night—upcoming ...

Please join us for a film, fellowship but no pizza this time (we usually order in).

No film night for the time being—we'll wait until we can have our film, coffee, cake and pizza as usual!

The next one will be chosen by Sharon though :-)



Crowthorne Foodbank



Current shortages -

Tinned sponge puddings, carton juice, Fray Bentos meat pies, tinned custard, Tomato Ketchup, Peanut Butter, Chocolate Spread, Marmite, Lunchbox Snacks. Adult Toothbrushes, Nappies Size 5 & 6 Toilet cleaner, Bathroom cleaner, Washing up liquid.

Note: the foodbank update their needs weekly here: [Crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/](https://crowthorne.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/)

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Note—they currently have plenty: soup, breakfast cereal, beans, pasta, pasta sauce, tea bags, long life milk, rice, baby powder milk.

Please do consider the food bank when you do your food shopping. There are collection points in most of the major supermarkets.

Coffee mornings



Coffee Mornings every **second Thursday** in the month

We have started a monthly Coffee Morning at church for members and visitors. The first one was held in January and we had a dozen people attend. It was a lovely opportunity to catch up over coffee and cakes.

Do put the date in your diary and pop along if you are free between 10:30 and 12 midday.

No in person coffee mornings yet but.....

Lockdown Coffee Morning 6th March 10.30 to 12

Why not join us for a virtual coffee morning on Saturday **6th March** via zoom. We are all missing seeing each other and chatting, so get your own coffee and cake ready for this get together.

Stay safe, Sandra

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87896019919?pwd=TWpoVkn1dThSY01lMkpHT1djWjJOUT09>

Meeting ID: **878 9601 9919**
Passcode: **393985**



Easter Eggs!

We would love to be able to give a chocolate Easter Egg to each of the 20 residents and all the staff at Fourways Residential Home in Sandhurst. This is the residential home just up the road from our Church. We couldn't go and sing Christmas Carols with the residents at Christmas so let's give them some Easter cheer!

If you would like to donate a small basic boxed Easter Egg, then please drop these off to Alison Bone. If you would like to donate an Easter Egg but are unable to drop it off, then just ring Alison and she has kindly offered to pick them up. Alison's telephone number is 01344 780703.

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 and www.bcrglobaltextiles.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:

BRA BANK
BRAS SHOULD BE IN REASONABLE TO GOOD CONDITION & LEFT IN A COLLECTION POINT IN THE HALL

Connect - Counselling Service, 11 Fairsley Road, Camberley, Surrey GU15 3TA
Tel: 01276 24211 www.connectcounselling.org Registered Charity No: 1042852

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. Bras should be in reasonable to good condition and left in the collection point in the vestibule.

Dial-a-Prayer



The **Methodist Church**

**Free
Dial-a-Prayer**

If you know someone who is not on the internet but would like to keep up with our news and hear prayers please share with

them this free phone service, updated weekly - more details are here: <http://ow.ly/ut1K50Cci7v>

All Night Café needs

The **all night café** (was 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—see updates elsewhere in this newsletter.

Give someone the needle

I feel guilty and relieved. Relieved, that hopefully, I will receive my initial Covid-19 vaccination before Easter. Guilty in the knowledge there are many people in the world much more in need of the injection than me. As a relatively fit and healthy 65 year old, I am uncomfortable that I will be protected first against the virus rather than say an 80 year old grandmother living in a township in South Africa.

I can't physically transfer my vaccine to South Africa or somewhere else it is needed, but I could make a donation to those who can. A link to the UNICEF website is below ,so when you have your vaccination, please consider making a donation to help those who are still waiting in the poorest parts of our world. Until we are all vaccinated we are all at risk.

https://www.unicef.org.uk/donate/coronavirus/?gclid=Cj0KCCQIA6t6ABhDMARIsAONIYyYHA-fpymYf9UUKIWIEL1zCwjQ_07_6TxtVRRrtaGvjksvoLKRSSw4aAkIVEALw_wcB

Wilf Hardy